

no photograph of the grave available as yet

Private Frederick Ernest Ebsary (Regimental Number 1138), lies buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery – Grave reference D. 112.

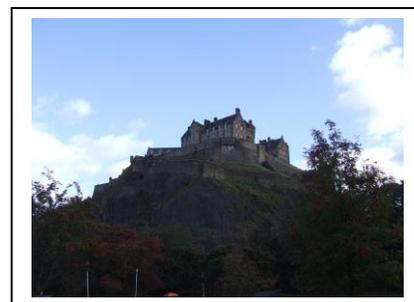
His occupation at the time of his enlistment being that of a cooper working for a weekly wage of \$6.00(?), Private Ebsary presented himself for medical examination on February 16 of 1915 at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's. He then enlisted – engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem - on the following day, February 17, before attesting ten days later, on February 27.

Private Ebsary then embarked with Number 7 Platoon of 'D' Company, just three weeks later again, onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Stephano* (right above – from *Provincial Archives*) on March 20, 1915, for passage to Halifax and for overseas service. From Halifax he took ship on His Majesty's Transport *Orduna* (right) for the trans-Atlantic crossing to Liverpool.



(continued)

Sailing from Nova Scotia on March 22 for Liverpool, the draft landed there eight days later, on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and entrained to Edinburgh, arriving at the historic Castle on the same day. For the next six weeks, having been united with 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies already stationed there, the Newfoundlanders formed the garrison – the first troops from outside the British Isles to do so - of the guardian of Scotland's capital city.



(Right above: *The venerable bastion of Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline of the Scottish capital city from the summit of Castle Hill. – photograph from 2011*)

On May 11 the Newfoundlanders were transferred to Stobs Camp, near Hawick, to the south-east of Edinburgh. There they remained for some three months until the beginning of August when the senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' – now to become 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Newfoundland Regiment - were sent south to Aldershot in the south of England. There they received final training – and a royal inspection - to prepare for active service in Gallipoli.

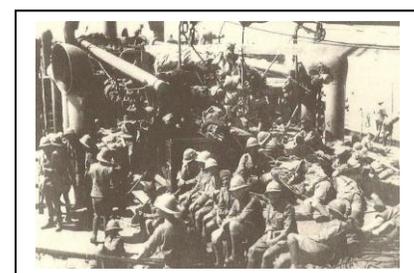


(Right above: *the Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp on June 10, the day it received its Colours – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

The later arrivals, 'E' and 'F' Companies, were sent to the new Regimental Depot recently being established at Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland. There they were to become the nucleus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.



It was during this period at Aldershot, on August 15, that Private Ebsary was prevailed upon to re-enlist, on this occasion for the duration of the war\*.



*\*At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.*

On August 20, 1915, Private Ebsary took ship on board the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (right above) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli. A month later – of which two weeks had been spent billeted at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

(Previous page black & white: *Newfoundland troops on board a troop-ship anchored at Mudros, either Megantic on August 29, Ausonia on September 18, or Prince Abbas on September 19 – Whichever the case, they were yet to land on Gallipoli. – from Provincial Archives*)

However, well before then, Private Ebsary had been hospitalized. On August 31, upon arrival at the Abbassia Barracks, Private Ebsary was admitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital. He was there diagnosed as suffering from tubercular meningitis.



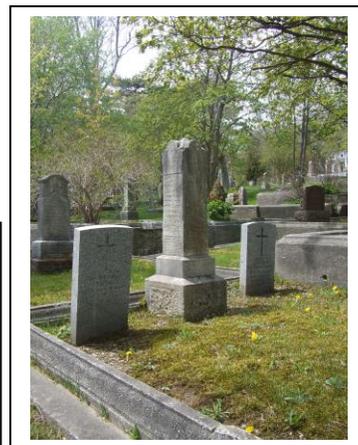
(Right: *the Egyptian capital city, Cairo, at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

The son of Newman Ebsary, a fireman, and Sarah Ebsary – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of seventy cents from his pay - of 89, the Southside in St. John's, he was reported as having *died of sickness*, passing away in hospital on September 23, 1915.

His brother, Lieutenant Samuel Ebsary, Regimental Number 501, was to die of wounds, incurred at Gueudecourt, in hospital at Rouen on October 15, 1916.

Frederick Ernest Ebsary had enlisted at nineteen years of age.

(Right: *A family memorial which stands in the General Protestant Cemetery in St. John's commemorates the sacrifice of Private Frederick Ernest Ebsary and of his brother, Lieutenant Samuel Ebsary. – photograph from 2015*)



(The photograph of Private Ebsary is from the Provincial Archives.)

Private Frederick Ernest Ebsary was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

