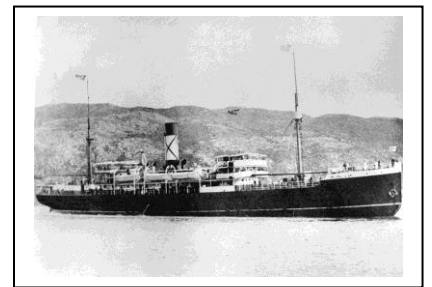




Private Patrick Joseph Farrell (Regimental Number 3044) lies in Brookwood Military Cemetery – Grave reference X. B. 3.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a school teacher and earning an annual \$420.00 dollars, Patrick Joseph Farrell was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. Having been examined at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on August 28 of 1916, he then both enlisted – *for the duration of the war* and engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and attested on that same August 28.

Private Farrell was one of the approximately three hundred twenty *all ranks* to leave St. John's for *overseas service* on the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (right), bound for Halifax, on January 31, 1917, from there to take ship to the United Kingdom.



(continued)

Immediately upon its arrival in Nova Scotia, however, this detachment was forwarded to accommodation in the town of Windsor where it was soon to be quarantined because of an epidemic of measles and mumps.

It was not before a lapse of some two-and-a-half months since its arrival that transport could be arranged for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom for the so-called *Windsor Draft* – minus the twenty-five or so personnel still unable to travel.

On April 17, Private Farrell embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Ausonia* (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the next day in a convoy from Halifax. The vessels were also carrying Canadian reinforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



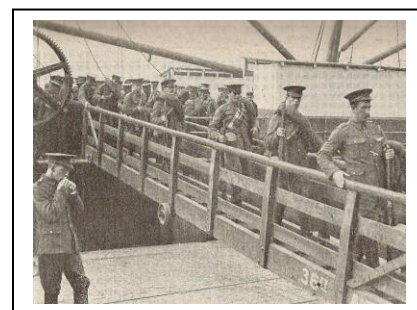
Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers had been despatched in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1st Battalion.



By the time that the Windsor Draft arrived at the Regimental Depot, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion was becoming critically short of personnel.

(Right above: *the new race-course at Ayr – opened in 1907 – where men of the Regiment were billeted and where they replaced some of the turf with a vegetable garden; part of the present grandstand is original – photo from 2012*)

On June 11, 1917, the 25th Re-enforcement Draft – Private Farrell among its ranks - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on its way to France. On the following day, June 12, the contingent disembarked in the Norman capital, Rouen, where time was spent at the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, to be organized and to undergo final training* before moving onward to its eventual rendezvous with 1st Battalion.



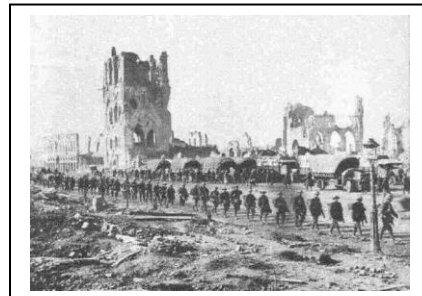
(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

**Apparently, the standard length of time for this final training at the outset of the war had been ten days – although this was to become more and more flexible as the War progressed - in areas near Rouen, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

(continued)

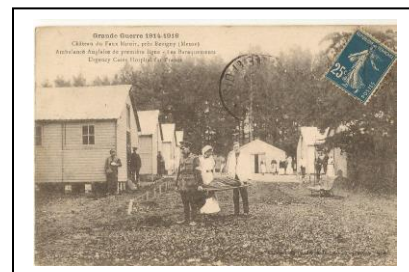
His records show that it was on July 2 – the *Regimental War Diary* says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Farrell’s contingent of two-hundred fifty *other ranks* reported to duty at Caribou Camp, behind the lines near Woesten in Belgium. For the next few days – and nights – 1st Battalion supplied working parties for road-mending and for the construction of infantry tracks.

Only days before, at the end of June, the Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion had once again moved north into Belgium and once again to the area of Ypres. This had been selected by the High Command to be the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917. Officially named the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was one of the British Army’s objectives.



(Right above: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

On August 4, Private Farrell was admitted into the 46th Field Ambulance suffering from a common complaint: PUO (*Pain of Unknown Origin*). Transferred on that same day to the 58th Scottish General Hospital in the commune of St. Omer in northern France, he was there diagnosed as suffering from a severe case of pleurisy.



(Right above: *a British field ambulance, of a more permanent nature than some – from a vintage post-card*)

On September 1 he was embarked onto His Majesty’s Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth* (right) for the short Channel-crossing back to the United Kingdom.



Once having arrived in England, he was transported and admitted on September 2 into the 3rd General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth where his condition was considered as *serious*, as by now he had probably also been diagnosed as having contracted tuberculosis.

(Right: *The main building of what became 3rd London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1st, 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010*)



(Above far right: *Newfoundland patients, unfortunately unidentified, convalescing at the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

The son of Patrick Farrell, fisherman, and of Winnifred (*Wineford* often appears) Farrell (née *Kinsella*) – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Ferryland, he was also brother to Mary-Margaret, to Thomas-Joseph, to Catherine-Frances, to Anne-Gertrude, to Catherine-Joseph, to Mary-Joseph, to Helena, to William-Michael, to Patrick and to Vincent-John.

Private Farrell – a soldier of ‘D’ Company - was reported as having *died of sickness* in the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, from *general consumption (miliary tuberculosis)* on October 1, 1917. At home, it was the Reverend Father Vereker of Ferryland who was requested to bear the news to his family – a second source names the Reverend Father McGrath of Cape Broyle.

He was buried on October 4 with full military honours, his coffin shrouded by the Newfoundland flag: the firing-party and bearers were from the 1st South African Reserve Battalion.

Patrick Joseph Farrell had enlisted at the age of eighteen years and four months (date of birth: April 6, 1898).

(Right: *This stele in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Ferryland, honours the sacrifice and commemorates the life of Private Farrell.* – photograph from 2012)



Dear Sir

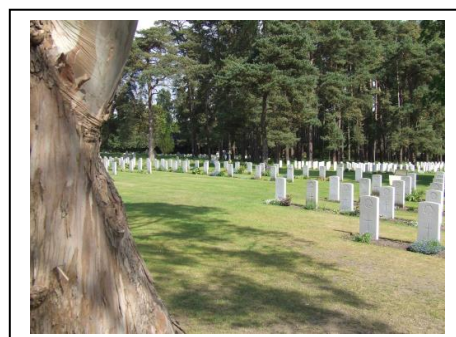
I have the honour to acquaint you that a report has now been received from the Newfoundland Pay and Record Office, London, with respect to the burial of the late Private Patrick J. Farrell. This report states that Private Farrell was buried with full military honours at Brookwood Cemetery on October 4th last, his grave being numbered 179839

**Yours faithfully
xxxxx Colonial Secretary**

**Mr PJ Farrell, Sr,
Ferryland**

(Right: *The Newfoundland Great War Plot at Brookwood Military Cemetery comprises the further graves in the middle of the photograph* – from 2011)

(continued)



Private Patrick Joseph Farrell was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

