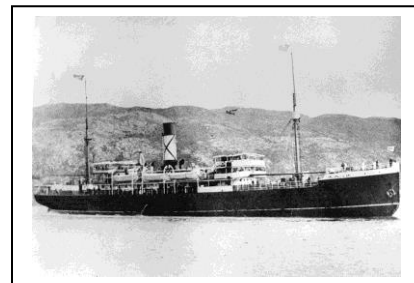




Private Dominic Foaley (Regimental Number 3272) is buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery – Grave reference IV. G. 22.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a labourer, Dominic Foaley was a Russian subject and as such, had also previously served in the Russian Army. A recruit of the Twelfth Draft, he presented himself at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's for medical examination on November 24, 1918. He then both enlisted – *for the duration of the war* and at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and also attested, on the same November 24.

Private Foaley 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.

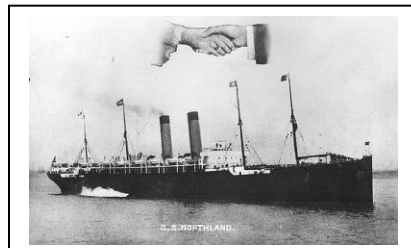


(continued)

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 after 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 Foaley embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Northland* – originally the *Zeeland* - (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the next day in a convoy from Halifax. The vessels were carrying Canadian re-enforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



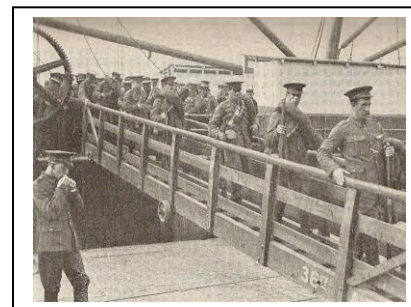
Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and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



By the time that the Windsor Draft arrived at the Regimental Depot, 2<sup>nd</sup> (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 25<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft – Private Foaley 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

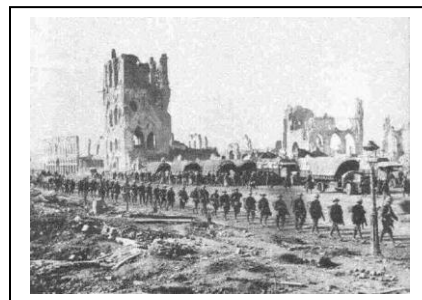


(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

*\*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, Étaples, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

The records show that it was on July 2 – the *Regimental War Diary* says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Foaley'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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion supplied working parties for road-mending and for the construction of infantry tracks. For that purpose, several of the Newfoundlanders were attached temporarily until July 20 to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Company of the Royal Engineers.

Only days before, at the end of June, the Newfoundlanders of 1<sup>st</sup> 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*)

Only eight days after the arrival of Private Foaley at the front, on July 10, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was in positions on the east bank of the Yser Canal to the north of Ypres, the Regimental War Diarist making note of just a single wounded. On the evening, however, of the day before, the 9<sup>th</sup>, he had made mention of the following... *At about 11.30 pm, Germans open a heavy Barrage on Trout & Support Trenches and Canal Bank Total Killed 6 wounded nineteen*



Given the lateness of the hour, the casualties were undoubtedly left un-noted until the following day, the 10<sup>th</sup>, on which day that single *wounded* was also recorded.

(Right above: *the Yser Canal to the north of the city of Ypres (today Ieper) – In July of 1917 the Newfoundlanders were stationed near to this spot, 'A', 'C' and 'D' Companies in the front line and the immediate reserve on the east bank (to the right in the photograph), with 'B' Company and HQ on the western side. – photograph from 2013*)

Private Foaley was wounded – date recorded: July 10 - being struck by shrapnel in the left hand. He was immediately evacuated to the 88<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and, later on the same day, sent on to the 4<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearance Station at Lozingshem\*. Presumably the injury was slight as he was released to his unit on July 31, and was back *in the field* on August 2.



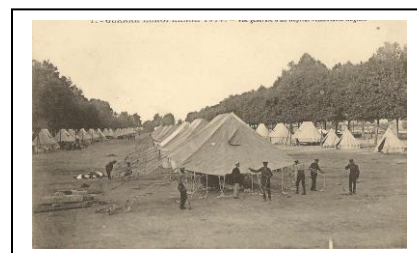
(Right above: *transferring sick and wounded from a field ambulance to the rear through the mud by motorized ambulance and man-power – from a vintage post-card*)

(continued)

*\*Several names such as Mendingham, Bandagehem and Dozinghem were invented by the British troops as they resembled the Belgian and northern-French fashion of naming villages. These sites were occupied by medical facilities only – and the inevitable cemeteries which today remain. But Lozinghem seems to be an exception in that it is a real place – however much the name lends itself to the morbid spirit of the British soldier.*

Less than two weeks later, on August 14, as 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was once again at the front, to the south-west of the village of Langemarck and, on this occasion, preparing for the infantry assault at the Steenbeek two days hence, Private Foaley was once more wounded. Enemy artillery battered the Newfoundland positions: the result, eight killed and twenty-five wounded.

Evacuated again for medical treatment, Private Foaley was taken to the 61<sup>st</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, also a part of the medical complex at Lozinghem. He had suffered injuries from shell-fire to his face and abdomen.



*(Right: a British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card)*

The son (maybe brother) of Mr. Stanislov Foaley of 1 Cave Street, Moscow, he was also apparently brother to Martin, living at 1, Barter's Hill in St. John's, and to another – anonymous - killed while fighting in the Russian Army. Private Foaley had allocated the sum of forty cents per diem to a Mrs. William Hollett of 1, Duckworth Street... *this amount to be paid for 4 months and then cancelled.*



Private Foaley, a soldier of 'D' Company, was reported as having *died of wounds* on August 23, 1917, in the same 61<sup>st</sup> CCS.

Dominic Foaley had enlisted at the age of twenty-eight years and five months.

*(Right above: This is the area of the Steenbeek – the stream runs close to the trees - and also close to where 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was in the line on August 14, 1917. It is some eight kilometres distant from a village called Passchendaele. – photograph from 2010)*

Private Dominic Foaley was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

(continued)



**3272 Pte. Dominic Foaley – deceased**

**I will be glad if you will communicate with the proper authority at the War Office in connection with disposal of War Medals, of the above mentioned soldier and in accordance with K.R. para. 1764. This man came to Newfoundland in 1912 and worked here for about five years. On joining the Royal Newfoundland Regiment he gave his home address as Warsaw. While he was living in St. John's, he stayed with Mrs. William Hollett of 1 Duckworth Street. From her it is learned that Foaley stated that his father had died before he came to this country, and that his mother died when he had been here about three months. He had one brother who is supposed to have been killed while fighting with the Russian Forces. Foaley was wounded in action and later died of wounds. This department is therefore unable to dispose of his war medals, and it is requested that the instructions of the War Office may be obtained, please, in relation thereto. The only individual to whom they might be sent appears to be Mrs. Hollett, his landlady and friend. Otherwise, presumably, they must be retained with his army records, or returned to the War Office for disposal\*.**

*W. F. Rendell*

**Lieut.-Col. Chief Staff Officer**

\*The medals were sent back to the War Office.