



Private James Ford (Regimental Number 1955) is buried in Paisley (Hawkshead) Cemetery – Grave reference B.38.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, James Ford was a recruit of the Seventh Draft. He enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – on October 25, 1915, before then presenting himself for medical examination on the following day, the 26th. Two days later again he attested, on October 28.

****A second source has him attesting on the day of his enlistment.***

Private Ford was one of the one hundred men who comprised the first contingent of 'H' Company to travel overseas. The draft left St. John's by train for Port aux Basques on December 18, crossing the island and then the Gulf of St. Lawrence en route to Saint John, New Brunswick.



The Atlantic voyage was effected from there on His Majesty's Transport *Corinthian* (preceding page) and the draft reached the Regimental Depot at Ayr on January 4 of the New Year, 1916.

Transferred to 'G' Company, the new arrivals were quartered in the barracks of the Royal Scots Fusiliers who had not yet vacated the premises, due to an epidemic of measles at the time. It was not long before the disease had also taken its toll on the Newfoundlanders.

The Regimental Depot had been established during the summer of 1915 in the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland, there to serve as a base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers arriving from home were despatched in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1st Battalion.



(Right above: an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr)

Private Ford was admitted into the *Bladda Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in Paisley on February 5 of 1916 and was diagnosed there as suffering from measles and broncho-pneumonia.

The son of Henry Ford and Christiana Ford (she later *Lyll*) of Port Burwell, Cape Chidley (also *Chudleigh*), the northernmost point of Labrador, and born at Ford Harbour, Paul's Island, close to Nain, Private Ford was also step-brother of Miss Wealthiness Lyall – she living with the family of Thomas and Margaret Boone of South River, Conception Bay. Wealthiness was apparently the niece of Margaret – and it was to this step-sister that he had allocated a daily allowance of fifty cents from his pay.



Considered *dangerously ill* by the medical staff on February 22, Private Ford was reported as having *died of sickness* in hospital in Paisley, Scotland, on February 26, 1916.

James Ford had enlisted at twenty-one years and two months of age.

A subsequent auction of his effects held on March 6 realised the sum of £2/8/1 (two pounds, eight shillings and one pence).

(Right above: *Paisley (Hawkshead) Cemetery, Scotland* – photograph from 2012)

Private James Ford was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

