

Private Julian Joseph Gorman (Regimental Number 794) is interred in Mount Vernon Cemetery in Edinburgh – Commemorated on the Screen Wall: G. 209.

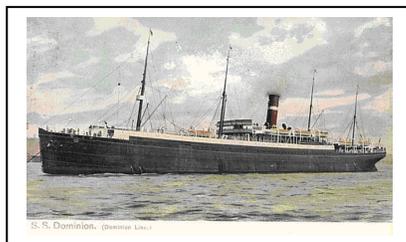
His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a *mineralogist* earning ten dollars per week, Julian Joseph Gorman presented himself for medical examination in his hometown community of Harbour Breton on December 14 of 1914. He was a recruit of the Second Draft.

Julian Joseph Gorman then travelled to St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, to there enlist eight days later at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on Harvey Road. He was engaged at the private soldier's rate of a daily single dollar plus a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance on December 22 (*not December 12 as appears on some of his papers*), on which date he also attested.

(continued)

Now for Private Gorman, Number 794, there was to be a seven-week waiting period. How he occupied himself during that period is not recorded among his papers; he may, of course, have returned to work but this is only speculation.

On the fourth day of February of 1915, the first reinforcements – this was ‘C’ Company - for the Newfoundland contingent – it was not yet at battalion strength - which by this time was serving in Scotland (see further below), were to embark via the sealing tender *Neptune* onto the SS *Dominion* – the vessel having anchored to the south of St. John’s, off Bay Bulls, because of ice conditions.



The vessel was then to sail - and Private Gorman thus departed Newfoundland for overseas service - a day later again, on February 5, for trans-Atlantic passage to the United Kingdom.

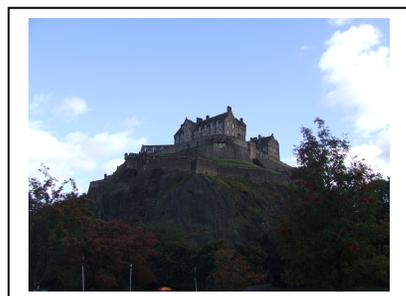


(Right above: The image of the steamer ‘Dominion’ - launched in 1894 as the ‘Prussia’ - is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. An older vessel, she was to be requisitioned during the latter part of the Great War as a store and supply ship. She survived the conflict to be scrapped in 1922.)

**There appears to be some confusion in some sources as to whether these troops were ‘C’ or ‘D’ Company. However, ‘D’ Company was to go overseas some time later on ‘Stephano’ to Halifax and then on ‘Orduña’ to Liverpool.*

(Right above: The photograph of personnel of ‘C’ Company on board the ‘Neptune’ on the way to the harbour at Bay Bulls is from the Provincial Archives.)

Having disembarked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool, the Newfoundlanders entrained for Edinburgh, the first Newfoundland Regiment contingent having by this time been posted to the historic Castle in Scotland’s capital city. There they were to provide the garrison, thus being the first unit from overseas ever to do so.



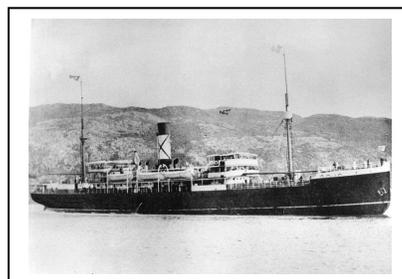
Private Gorman and the other new-comers reported to duty at Edinburgh Castle on February 16.

(Right above: Edinburgh Castle dominates the city from its position on the summit of Castle Hill. – photograph from 2011)

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Five to six months before that time, in the late summer and early autumn of 1914 there had been a period of training of some five weeks on the shores of *Quidi Vidi Lake* in the east end of St. John’s for the newly-formed Newfoundland Regiment’s first recruits - to become ‘A’ and ‘B’ Companies - during which time the authorities had also been preparing for the Regiment’s transfer overseas.

This first Newfoundland contingent was to embark on October 3, in some cases only days after enlistment and/ or attestation. To become known to history as the *First Five Hundred* and also as the *Blue Puttees*, on that day they had boarded the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting in St. John's Harbour.



The ship would sail for the United Kingdom on the morrow, October 4, 1914, to its rendezvous with the convoy carrying the 1st Canadian Division overseas, off the south coast of the Island.

(Right above: *The image of Florizel at anchor in the harbour at St. John's is by courtesy of Admiralty House Museum.*)



(Right: *Fort George, constructed in the latter half of the eighteenth century, still serves the British Army to this day. – photograph from 2011*)

In the United Kingdom this first Newfoundland contingent was to train in three venues during the late autumn of 1914 and then the winter of 1914-1915: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at *Fort George* – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness; and lastly at Edinburgh Castle – where, as recorded beforehand, it was to provide the first garrison from outside the British Isles – and where 'C' Company and Private Gorman, as also cited beforehand, would arrive from Newfoundland on February 16 of 1915.

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Born on the French possession of *St-Pierre et Miquelon* off the southern coast of Newfoundland, he was the son of James Bernard Gorman, customs officer – to whom he had allotted an allowance of 50 cents per day from his pay - and of Marguerite Gorman (née *Kavanaugh*, also found as *Kavanagh*, deceased of tuberculosis on June 28, 1906) of Harbour Breton, Fortune Bay. He was also brother to at least John-Stafford-Kavanagh, to Lizzie, to Paul, to Lawrence and to adopted Genevieve.



(Right above: *The main entrance to Mount Vernon Cemetery, Edinburgh – photograph from 2011*)

Private Gorman was reported to have *died of sickness* in the City Fever Hospital in Edinburgh - where the Regiment was stationed at the time - of measles, and also likely of pneumonia, on March 30, 1915.

He was buried on the following day in a black and white coffin born to the cemetery on a gun-carriage, the proceedings undertaken by *Messrs. George Harbers & Sons* of Edinburgh.



(The photograph of Private Gorman on the preceding page is from the Provincial Archives.)

Julian Joseph Gorman had enlisted at a *declared* nineteen years of age – although the list of...*WW1 veterans from the Port au Port Peninsula...*compiled by Bill O’Gorman has him dying at age 17.

Private Julian Joseph Gorman was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.



The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 30, 2023.