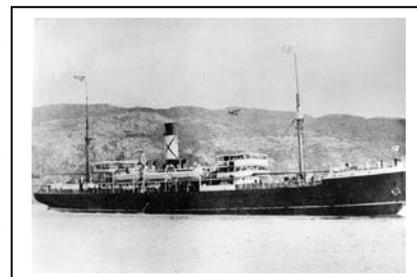




Private William Frank Hardy (Regimental Number 179) lies in Hill 10 Cemetery at *Suvla Bay* – Grave reference IV. A. 15.

His occupations prior to military service recorded as both those of *fisherman* and *truckman*, working as the latter for *G. Brownrigg, Publican* (proprietor of a public house – a *pub*) in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, for a wage of nine dollars a week, William Frank Hardy enlisted – engaged for a single dollar per diem plus a daily ten-cent field allowance - at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on Harvey Road in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland on September 4, 1914. He was a recruit of the First Draft.

It was now to be some four weeks after his enlistment before Private Hardy attested on October 1. He then embarked for passage to the United Kingdom on October 3, two days later again, onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel*. The ship sailed on the morrow to its rendezvous off the south coast of the Island where she was to join the convoy transporting the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division across the Atlantic.



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

In the United Kingdom Private Hardy trained with the Newfoundland contingent: firstly in southern England; then in Scotland at Fort George – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness; at Edinburgh Castle – where it provided the first garrison from outside the British Isles; and later again at the tented *Stobs Camp* near the town of Hawick to the south-east of Edinburgh.



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

(Right: *The Newfoundland Regiment parades at Stobs Camp and is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)



At the beginning of that August of 1915, the four senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', were then sent south to undergo a final two weeks of training, as well as an inspection by the King, at Aldershot; meanwhile the two junior Companies, the later-arrived 'E' and 'F\*', were sent to Scotland's west coast, to Ayr, where they were to provide the nucleus of the newly-forming 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.



(Right: *George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India – photograph from Bain News Services via Wikipedia*)

*\*On July 10, 1915, 'F' Company had arrived at Stobs Camp from Newfoundland, its personnel raising the numbers of the unit to battalion establishment strength, and thus permitting it to be ordered to active service. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, comprising those four Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', was thereupon attached to the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.*

It had then been during the period spent at Aldershot that Private Hardy of 'A' Company – he was not alone in doing so - had been prevailed upon, he on August 14, to re-enlist *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.*



(Preceding page: *Some of the men of 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment at Aldershot in August of 1915 – from The Fighting Newfoundlander by Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D.*)

(Right: *The image of Megantic, in peace-time a 'White Star Line' vessel, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)



On August 20, 1915, Private Hardy and his comrades-in-arms embarked in Devonport onto the requisitioned passenger-liner *Megantic* for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting against the Turks where, a month later – having spent two weeks billeted in British barracks in the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, he disembarked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at *Suvla Bay* on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.

(Right: *Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is to be seen in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on 'A' Beach. – photograph taken in 2011*)



(Right: *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*)



(Right: *An unidentified Newfoundland soldier poses for an unofficial photographer in the trenches at Suvla Bay. – from Provincial Archives*)



The son of George Hardy, variously fisherman, labourer, porter and storekeeper, and of Elizabeth Hardy (née Reed) of Casey Street before 60, and later 24, Monroe Street in St. John's - he was also brother to Edward (died 1915), Gertrude (died 1909), Marion (also found as Miriam) (died 1918), and to Lilian Beatrice.

Private Hardy of 'A' Company was reported as having been *killed in action* – his death reported as due to a sniper's bullet through the chest - while serving with 'A' Company on September 23, 1915, only three days after the arrival of the Newfoundland Battalion at *Suvla Bay*.



He was only the second soldier of the Newfoundland Battalion to be killed in action.

(continued)

(Preceding page: *Almost a century later, this is the approximate area of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla Bay and close to where Private Hardy died on September 23. - photograph from September 2011*)



William Frank Hardy had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-one years: date of birth in Saint John's, Newfoundland, September 22, 1893 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

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

Private William Frank Hardy was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).

