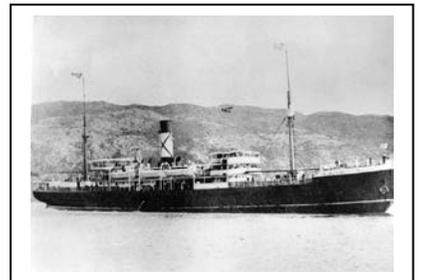


**Private Patrick Holden (Regimental Number 555) lies in Santa Marija Cimiterju (Addolorata) on the island of Malta – Grave reference E. EA. E. 685.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a sailor working for a monthly wage of \$25.00, Patrick Holden was a recruit of the First Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination on September 15 of 1914 at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury on Harvey Road in St. John's, he then enlisted a single day later, on September 16. He attested some two weeks later again, on October 3.**



**(continued)**

Private Holden embarked for England on October 3 of the same year onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel*. On the following day the ship sailed to its rendezvous off the south coast with the convoy carrying the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division overseas.

(Preceding page: *The photograph of Florizel in St. John's Harbour is by courtesy of Admiralty House Museum in Mount Pearl.*)

In the United Kingdom Private Holden trained with the Battalion: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at Fort George; at Edinburgh Castle; and at Stobs Camp near the Scottish town of Hawick.



(Right: *Fort George, close to the Scottish town of Inverness – and its well-known loch - was home to the Newfoundland Regiment during much of the winter of 1914-1915. – photograph from 2011)*

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

At the beginning of August, Private Holden was transferred with the four senior Companies – 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' – from Stobs to southern England, to Aldershot, for some three weeks of final training in preparation for *active service* at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. The two Companies last to arrive, 'E' and 'F', were ordered to the new Regimental Depot on the west coast of Scotland.



It was while he was at Aldershot, on August 13, that Private Holden re-enlisted – as did the large majority of those there – on this occasion 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.*



(Right above: *The image of the White Star passenger-liner Megantic is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

On August 20, 1915, Private Holden took ship on the liner-converted-to-troopship *Megantic* for the Middle East and for the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – of which two weeks had been spent at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay.



(continued)

(Preceding page: 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 - In either case they were yet to land on Gallipoli. – from Provincial Archives)



(Right above: 'Kangaroo Beach', where the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is 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 from 2011)



(Right: A century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Holden served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)

On Sunday, December 12, while serving with 'B' Company at Suvla – and a day on which the Turks heavily bombarded the Newfoundland positions, using new heavy guns for the first time - Private Holden was wounded in the head and evacuated immediately from the front, likely to the 26<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at the time stationed at Suvla Bay.



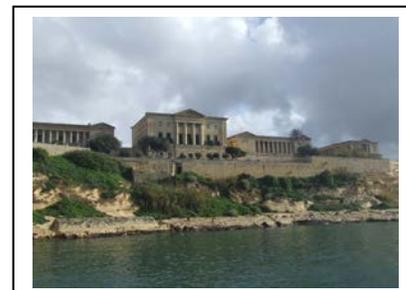
(Right: At Suvla Bay, Turkish artillery still stands on guard. – photograph from 2011)

On the following day - having been forwarded to the 24<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos - he was embarked onto His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* on or about December 15. It was while on board this vessel that he was now considered as dangerously ill on December 21.



(Right: The photograph of HMHS *Gloucester Castle* is from the *Old Ship Picture Galleries* web-site.)

The vessel carried Private Holden to the British-held Mediterranean island of Malta. It had by that time become an important medical centre – it was to remain so for the remainder of the war - and it was there that he was admitted for further treatment, into Valetta Military Hospital in the capital city, on December 22.

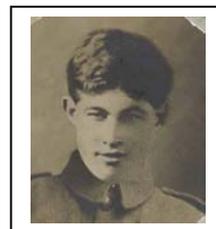


(Right above: One of the many former British Royal Navy medical facilities which still stand on Malta, the buildings mostly abandoned since the island's independence from Britain in 1964 – photograph from 2011)

The son of Joseph Holden (deceased in 1911) and of Mary Alice Holden – to whom he had allotted a weekly four dollars from his pay - of 446, New Road, Riverhead, (South Side Road) in St. John's, he also apparently had a younger brother, Richard, and three sisters – one of them Maud - whom he documented as *partial dependants*.

On December 26, the medical staff deemed him to be *dangerously ill*.

Private Holden was reported as having *died of wounds* a month later, on January 29, 1916 – a further source has the date having been January 31. He shares his tombstone and grave with Sergeant J. Prunty of the Yorkshire Regiment and Private T. Hewson of the South Wales Borderers.



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

Patrick Holden had enlisted at the age of nineteen years.

*(Right: A family memorial which stands in Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. John's commemorates the sacrifice of Private Patrick Holden and that of his brother, Gunner Richard Holden\*. – photograph from 2015)*



*\*Gunner Richard Holden died on April 23 of 1943 while serving with the 166<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment in North Africa during the Second World War.*

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

