



Serjeant (sic) Richard Kennedy (Number 715690) of the 106th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery: Grave reference, S. 438.

(continued)

The third of Richard Kennedy's and his wife Mary's children, their daughter Mary, is recorded as having been born in the year 1911 in Nova Scotia. The previous two, both sons, were born in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, thus suggesting that the family emigrated from the Dominion of Newfoundland, in or about the years 1910-1911 to where the 1911 Census places them, at 105, Laurier Street, in the Whitney Pier area of Sydney, Nova Scotia.

There was a fourth child to arrive, the family being by that time having returned to Newfoundland. Alas, the birth of Alice Catherine on or about May 24 of 1912, resulted in the death of her mother on that same date.

Since, at the time of his enlistment, Richard Kennedy registered his place of residence at the time as Sydney, Nova Scotia, it may be presumed that he returned to there after the death of his wife – but exactly when is not clear. His children by that time he had left in the guardianship of perhaps only his mother, who subsequently died on April 14 of 1916*.

**While his father may also previously have been a guardian, this information is not documented in Private Kennedy's papers until July 1 of 1916.*

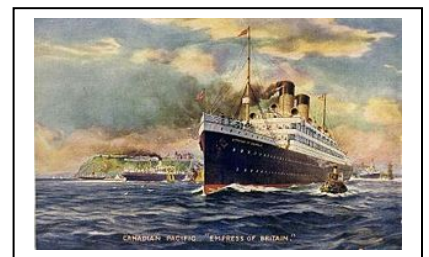
His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a clerk, Richard Kennedy presented himself for enlistment in the Nova Scotian town of Truro on January 10 of 1916. On his pay records this is the first date on which the Canadian Army remunerated him for his services. On the same small card it is also noted as the date on which he was *taken on strength* by the 106th Battalion (*Nova Scotia Rifles*) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Two days later, Private Kennedy underwent attestation, also at Truro where he likely then remained for training as the town was the base of the 106th Battalion. It was then not until March 7 that the formalities of enlistment were brought to a conclusion when the Officer Commanding the Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Innes, declared – on paper – that... *having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.*

During this period while he was at Truro, Private Kennedy, as of July 1, chose to allocate to his father – in trust for his children – the monthly sum of fifteen dollars from his pay. Ten days later, on July 11, he also made out his will: he left his everything to his father, once again as the guardian of his son's children.

Training continued into the second week of July of that year when Private Kennedy's Battalion was transported to the harbour at Halifax where, on the 15th, the unit embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Empress of Britain* for passage to the United Kingdom.

(Right above: *The image of the Empress of Britain is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)



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The 106th Battalion was not the only military formation making the Atlantic crossing: on board the *Empress* were also the 93rd and 105th Battalions of the Canadian Infantry; the 5th Draft of the Royal Canadian Dragoons; the 1st Draft of the 63rd Regiment (Halifax Rifles); and the 1st Draft of 'C' Battery of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

Having sailed on either July 15 or 16 (the *same* source contradicts itself), *Empress of Britain* arrived in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool on July 25, some ten days later. From there the 106th Battalion was transported to the south-east of England.

There the Canadians had by that time established the military complex of Shorncliffe, a number of subsidiary camps and training facilities adjacent to the English-Channel town and harbour of Folkestone.

(Right: *The old gymnasium as seen from Shorncliffe Cemetery: It and the Cemetery are among the few vestiges of the military complex, apart from the Barracks now assigned to the Gurkhas, left to remind us of the events of a century ago.* – photograph from 2016)



(Right: *A view of the coastal town of Folkestone almost a century later as seen from the top of the white cliffs of nearby Dover* – photograph from 2009)



It was less than a month later that Private Kennedy (perhaps Serjeant, see end) was admitted into the Moore Barracks Military Hospital at Shorncliffe. The following is an excerpt from a medical report which recorded his history as a patient:

23-8-16 Went to bed early feeling perfectly well. Awoke at 12.00 midnight with pain in middle of chest, on breathing of moving; pain severe. Had shortness of breath at same time. Pain continuing all night, but was less next day, now only felt if he turns on side...

Sergeant Kennedy was diagnosed at first as...*seriously ill*...suffering from pericarditis, an acute or chronic inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart. His condition grew worse during the days that followed.

He died in hospital from myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscles, the cause at first having been diagnosed as simply pneumonia. Sergeant Kennedy of 'D' Company of the 106th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, was reported at having *died of sickness* at five minutes past six on the morning of September 8, 1916.

(Right: *The photograph of Private – or Sergeant – Kennedy, as well as some of his family information, is from the Ancestry.ca. web-site.*)



The son of Terrence Kennedy, fisherman, and of Mary Kennedy (née Joy, deceased 14/4/1916) of Water Street and Cochrane Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Nicholas, John-J., William, Patrick-James, Terrence, Julia, Elizabeth, Mary-Joseph and to Thomas-Dennis.

Richard Kennedy was married to Mary Kennedy (née *Pumphrey*, deceased 24/5/1912) and was father to Francis-Anthony, to William-Gerard, to Mary and to Alice-Catherine (also found as Alexis-Clara).

(Some family information was also found on 'Kennedy Families at Harbour Grace and Carbonear, Newfoundland', web-site.)

Richard Kennedy had enlisted at the apparent age of thirty-four years: date of birth in Carbonear, Newfoundland, 20/1/1881 (attestation papers). The Carbonear Roman Catholic Parish Records have the year of his birth as 1880.

Sergeant Richard Kennedy was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.



While his head-stone bears the rank Serjeant, as do his hospital records, his pay files until his death and afterwards show not only his rank as being that of a private but also his pay as well: one dollar a day plus ten cents per day field allowance. Nowhere in his service files seems there to be any mention of promotion.

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 26, 2023.

