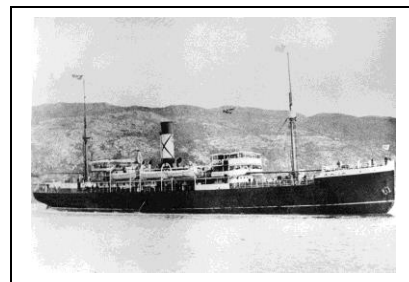




Private Francis Thomas Lind (Regimental Number 541) is interred in Y Ravine Cemetery – Grave reference D. 21.

His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of an accountant working for an annual sum of \$700.00, Frank Lind was a recruit of the First Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination in Fogo on September 10 of 1914, he then enlisted almost a week later at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 - on September 16.



Attesting some two weeks later again, on October 1, he embarked on October 3 onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (right above – courtesy of *Admiralty House Museum*). The ship set sail on the following day, the 4th, in order to join the convoy carrying the 1st Canadian Division overseas. The Newfoundlanders arrived in the south-coast English port of Devonport on October 14 and then sat on board the ship until the 20th.

Having disembarked in the United Kingdom, Private Lind trained with the Battalion: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at Fort George (right); at Edinburgh Castle - during which time he was hospitalized for treatment to venereal disease; and for some three months at Stobs Camp near the Scottish town of Hawick.



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

At the beginning of August, Private Lind was transferred with the four senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', to southern England, to Aldershot, for some two weeks of final training - and a royal inspection - in preparation for active service at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea at Gallipoli.

'E' and 'F' Companies, the last arrivals, were instead sent to the new Regimental Depot. There they were to form the nucleus of the newly-formed 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

It was while at Aldershot that, on August 14, Private Lind was prevailed upon to re-enlist, 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.*

On August 20, 1915, Private Lind took ship on board the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (right above) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – of which two weeks had been spent billeted at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1st Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(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)



(continued)

(Right: 'Kangaroo Beach', where the men of 1st 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)

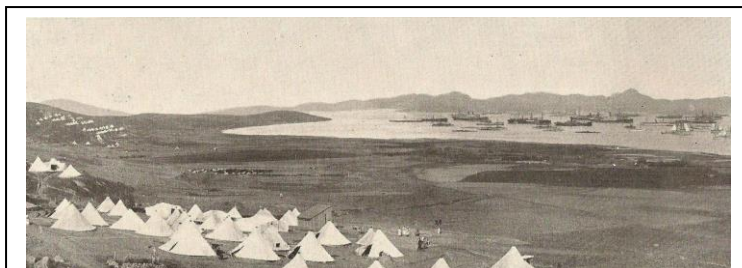


(Right adjacent: a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Lind served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)

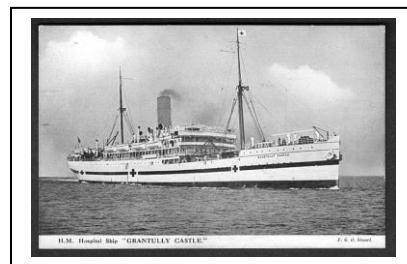


On December 8, 1915, Private Lind was admitted into the 54th Casualty Clearing Station at Suvla suffering from jaundice and frost-bite and, on the following day, the 9th, was transferred from there to the 27th General Hospital at Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos.

(Right: Allied medical facilities, a great number of them under canvas, almost totally surrounded a busy Mudros Bay and its small harbour towards the end of the summer and during the autumn of the year 1915. – photograph from Illustration)



On January 18 of the New Year, 1916, Private Lind was embarked onto His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* (right) and evacuated from there to the British-held Mediterranean island of Malta. Admitted on Malta into the Military Hospital, Floriana, two days later, on the 20th, it was a little over five weeks later again, on February 28, that Private Lind was transferred to the All Saints Convalescent Camp, also on Malta.



An old acquaintance, His Majesty's Transport *Megantic*, carried him from Malta back to active service in Egypt, where he arrived the British Base at Alexandria on March 4. He embarked once more, from Port Said at the northern end of the Suez Canal, aboard HM Transport *Lake Manitoba*, on March 18, for the voyage to France where it had finally been decided to station the 29th Division – and thus 1st Battalion. Private Lind landed at the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles eight days after sailing, on the 26th.

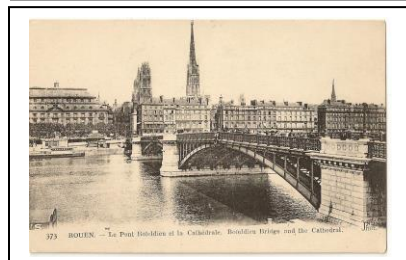


(Right above: some of the several now-disused medical facilities of the Royal Navy which still stand on the island of Malta, independent since 1964 – photograph from 2011)

(Right: *British troops march through the port area of the French city of Marseilles. – from a vintage post-card*)

Private Lind apparently re-joined 1st Battalion at some time during the month of April. It was likely that he, as was the case with several other Newfoundland personnel had, upon reaching Marseilles, travelled to the British Expeditionary Force Base Depot at Rouen on the Atlantic coast.

(Right above: *The River Seine flows through the French and Norman city of Rouen – the spires of the venerable gothic cathedral dominating the sky-line – at or about the time of the Great War. – from a vintage post-card.*)



The 3rd Re-enforcement Draft from the Regimental Depot at Ayr reported to the Base Depot for final training and organization on March 30 before leaving to rendezvous with the parent body by then arrived from the Middle East and on its way to the *Western Front*. The re-enforcements – which by then included various personnel who had served in the Middle East but who had not travelled to France with the main unit - reported *to duty* with 1st Battalion on April 15 in the community of Englebelmer with Private Lind most likely one of its number*.

**If not, he must have reported with the following draft which arrived to join 1st Battalion in the trenches on April 26.*

On April 13, two days prior, 1st Battalion itself had marched into the village of Englebelmer – thus bringing to a conclusion its month-long journey from Egypt - where it had been billeted and had welcomed those re-enforcements from Rouen on April 15. On the evening of that same day, the entire Battalion was introduced into the British communication trenches of the *Western Front* where the Newfoundlanders were immediately put to work improving communications.



The Newfoundlanders were also soon to be preparing for the British campaign of that summer, to be fought on the ground named for the river which flowed through the region, *the Somme*.

(Right above: *part of the re-constructed trench system in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel – photograph from 2007(?)*)

The son of Henry Lind, former general dealer deceased February 29, 1908, and Elizabeth Lind (née *Walker*) of Little Bay, Notre Dame Bay – he was also brother to Jane who died in infancy, to Mabel, to Ernest and to three other brothers. Private Lind was at first reported *missing in action* while serving with 'B' Company in the fighting at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916, the first day of *the Somme*. Some six months later, on December 31, he was officially *presumed dead*.

However, a subsequent report filed by the officer commanding an unspecified Army Mobile Grave Registration Unit and dated almost a year later, June 17, 1917, reported the identification of his remains and the whereabouts of their burial place. The original report of July 1, 1916, was thus amended so as to read *killed in action 1/7/16*.



Francis Thomas Lind* had enlisted at thirty-four years of age.

(Right above: at *Beaumont-Hamel* looking from the British lines down the hill to *Y Ravine Cemetery*, wherein lies *Private Lind*, which today stands atop part of the German front-line defences - *The Danger Tree* is to the right in the photograph. – photograph taken in 2009)

He shares a grave marker with an unknown comrade-in-arms of the Newfoundland Regiment.

(Right: a grim, grainy image purporting to be Newfoundland dead awaiting burial after *Beaumont-Hamel* – from ...)



(The photograph of *Frank Lind* is from the *Provincial Archives*.)

**Frank Lind* also provided copy for the *Twillingate Sun* which thus allowed its readers to follow, in part at least, the progress of the Newfoundland Regiment.

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



(continued on following page)

Little Bay N D Bay
Nov 12th/16

Honourable J. R. Bennett
Colon Secty

Dear Sir:-

Pardon me for the liberty I take in writing you but I would like to draw your attention to an item which appeared in the Twillingate Sun under date of Oct 21st and later in the Daily News of Nov 3rd as follows

Frank Lind Dead;

A correspondent writing from Botwood says that a returned soldier is sure he saw Frank Lind dead on the field on July 1st. He passed him going out and noticed he was doubled up as though he had been hit in the stomach. The same man was later wounded and in crawling back passed the same place again and was sure there is no doubt that it was Lind and that he was dead.

As Frank is my brother and we are anxious for any news we may get of him I thought perhaps you may be able to get in touch with the returned soldier and further vouch for the truth of such. If you can do anything in this I shall feel very grateful I shall be glad if you can give me the name and address of returned soldier so I may communicate direct with him. Thanking you for any assistance you can give me

I Remain

Yours Respectfully

J M Lind