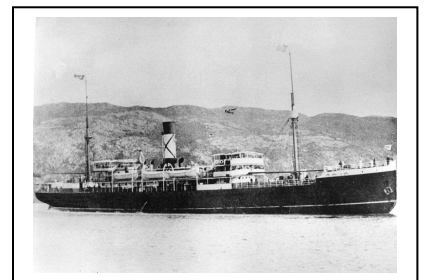




Private Samuel Thomas Lodge (Regimental Number 165) lies in Azmak Cemetery at Suvla Bay on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*. – Grave reference IV. D. 20.

His occupation recorded as that of a *storekeeper* with an income of \$600.00 per annum, Samuel Thomas Lodge was a recruit of the First Draft. He enlisted – at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 (including a daily ten-cent field allowance) - on September 2^{*}, 1914, a recruit of the First Draft, at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland.

Having attested almost a month later on October 1, Private Lodge embarked on October 3 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 1st Canadian Division across the Atlantic.



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

(continued)

In the United Kingdom Private Lodge 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.

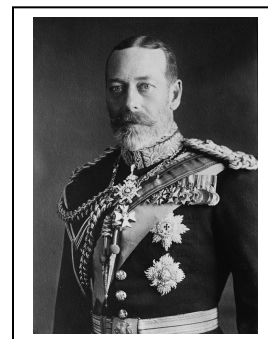


(Right above: *Fort George, constructed in the latter half of the eighteenth century, still serves the British Army to this day. – photograph from 2011*)

(Right: *The Newfoundland Regiment parades at Stobs Camp and is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. – 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 2nd (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 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, comprising those four Companies, ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’, was thereupon attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.*

It had then been during that period spent at Aldershot that Private Lodge 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.*



(continued)

(Preceding page: Some of the men of 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies of the 1st 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 Lodge and his comrades-in-arms embarked 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 1st Battalion at *Suvla Bay* on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.



(Right: *Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1st 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*)

Private Lodge was to serve at *Gallipoli* for just one dozen days.

(Right: *An unidentified Newfoundland soldier in the trenches at Suvla Bay – from the Provincial Archives*)



The son of George Lodge, fisherman, and of Grace Lodge (née *Smart*) of Catalina – later of Port Union – he was youngest brother to Nathaniel-George; Tobias; Heber; James^{**}; Jabez; John; Edmund; Marriah (sic); Phoeb (sic); and to Elizabeth^{***}.

**Nathaniel George Lodge enlisted in May of 1916 to become a Private of the 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, Number 2810. He left Newfoundland on August 28, 1916, and later crossed to active service on the Continent of November 30 of that same year. Wounded on April 14, 1917, at Monchy-le-Preux, he was eventually admitted into the 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth.*



(Right above: *The village of Monchy-le-Preux as seen today from the western – in 1917, the British – side of the community. The Newfoundlanders advanced, out of the ruins of the place, to the east, away from the camera. – photograph from 2013*)

Private Nathaniel Lodge returned to France in August of that year only to be hospitalized at Rouen. Having returned to his unit in November – at the time preparing for the upcoming Battle of Cambrai – it was to be only two days before he was returned to medical care, his problem diagnosed as myalgia.

Back in England at Wandsworth, he was to return to Newfoundland at the end of January, 1918, arriving there in February for demobilization and discharge on April 19 as ‘medically (permanently) unfit’.

(Right: The main building of what became 3rd London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1, 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010)



****Brother James Lodge was drafted under the Military Act (conscription) in Lethbridge, Alberta, in March of 1918. He was to serve in England with the 78th Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery (Number 2663520) but did not see active service on the Continent. After the War he returned to Canada in July of 1919.**

*****Private Samuel Thomas Lodge was also nephew to Mr. E. Lodge of 82, Bond Street, in St. John’s, to whom as of March 20, 1916, he had allocated a daily sixty cents from his pay.**

His own place of residence recorded as being both Catalina and Bell Island, Private Lodge was reported by his commanding officer, Captain Carty, as having *died of wounds* in the field - of a bullet to the chest – while serving with ‘A’ Company in the trenches at about seven o’clock on the evening of October 1, 1915.

Born on June 20, 1891, Samuel Thomas Lodge was twenty-three years and two months of age at the time of his enlistment.

(Right: Almost a century later and little changed since October of 1915, this is the area of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla Bay and where Private Lodge was killed. - photograph from September 2011)



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

Dear Timewell*,

I am sending you a few personal effects of 165 Pte S. Lodge ‘A’ Coy found on him. He died about 7 pm October 1st 1915 also his Service Pay Book.

Oct 2nd 1915

Geog T. Carty
OC A Coy
1st Nfld Rgt



**Timewell was an administrative officer who served mostly in St. John's. He apparently crossed to the United Kingdom and to France on several occasions although usually on 'pay matters' and not to the forward area.*

Private Samuel Thomas Lodge 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).



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 – February 13, 2023.