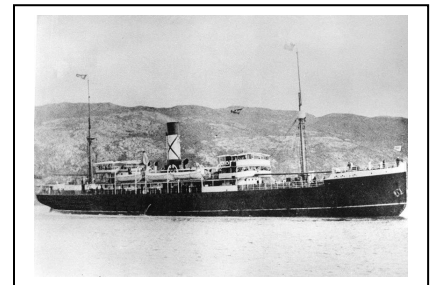




Private John Myrick (Regimental Number 99) lies in Portianos Military Cemetery*, Mudros Bay, on the Greek island of Lemnos – Grave reference V. D. 167.

****It should be noted that the Newfoundland Regiment was granted the title 'Royal' in January of 1918, well after the time of Private Myrick's death.***

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a baker earning \$7.00 a week, John Myrick enlisted at the CLB Armoury on September 2, 1914, having been recruited during the First Draft. Having attested on October 1, he embarked for England on October 3, 1914, onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel*.



(continued)

The ship sailed on October 4, the following day, to the south coast of the island, in order to join the convoy carrying the 1st Canadian Division overseas.

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



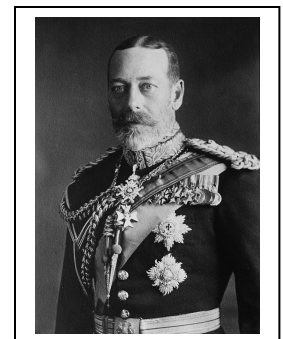
In the United Kingdom Private Myrick trained with the Newfoundland contingent: firstly in southern England, then in Scotland at Fort George – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness -, at Edinburgh Castle – where it provided the first garrison from outside the British Isles -, and later again at Stobs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

(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, 'E' and 'F', were sent to Scotland's west coast, to Ayr, where they were to form 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 was to be during that final period of training spent at Aldershot that Private Myrick – and not only he - had been prevailed upon, likely on August 13, to re-enlist *for the duration of the war**.

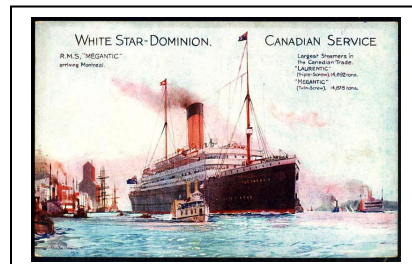
**At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.*

(continued)

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



On August 20, 1915, Private Myrick 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*.

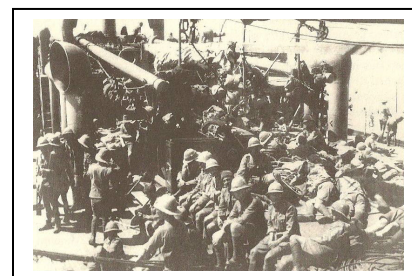


(Right above: *The image of Megantic, in peace-time a 'White Star Line' vessel, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.)*

(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)*



(Right: *A century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Myrick was to serve during the early weeks of the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)*



Private Myrick was admitted to the 26th Casualty Clearing Station at Suvla on December 1, 1915, diagnosed as suffering from tonsillitis, and the following day was evacuated to Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos, some fifty kilometres distant. Once there he was immediately taken to the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital*.



**No Canadian troops were to serve in the Gallipoli Campaign, the 3rd Stationary Hospital being perhaps the only Canadian presence in the eastern Mediterranean during this period. The hospital's matron and a nursing sister also lie in Portianos Cemetery, victims of dysentery.*

(Preceding page: *That part of Portianos Military Cemetery in which are to be found the graves of Nursing Sister M.F.E. Munro and Matron J.B. Jaggard of the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital. – photograph from 2011*)



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

The son of Patrick Myrick, contractor and carpenter - to whom he had allotted a daily seventy cents from his pay - and of Mary Josephine (also found as *Joseph*) Myrick (née *Deegan* or perhaps *Deacon*)* of 12 1/2 Nunnery Hill in St. Johns before Pilot's Hill - 15, Monkstown Road was a later-again family address at some time after 1918 - he was also brother to Bridget-Aloysius and to Ellen-Joseph.



**The couple was married on August 8, 1894.*

A soldier of 'A' Company, Private Myrick was reported as having *died of sickness - of diphtheria - in the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital, Mudros Bay, on December 10, 1915.*

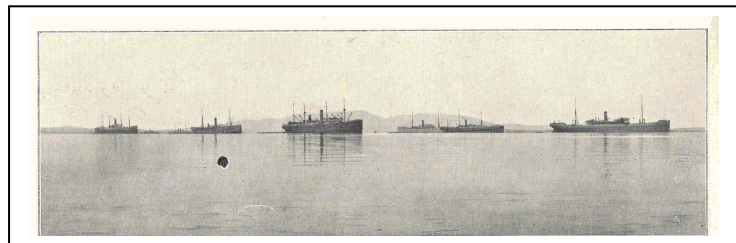
(*The photograph of Private Myrick is by courtesy of the Provincial Archives.*)

John Myrick had enlisted at a *declared* nineteen years of age – the monument in Mount Carmel Cemetery cites him dying at age nineteen years and three months: date of birth in St. John's, Newfoundland, August 31, 1896 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).



(Right above: *Mudros Bay almost a century after the time of the Gallipoli Campaign – photograph from 2011*)

(Right: *Mudros Bay – its tiny harbour full to capacity with Allied shipping during the Gallipoli Campaign – was the base of a great number of medical facilities. – from Illustration*)



(Right: *A family memorial which stands in Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. John's, Newfoundland, commemorates the sacrifice of Private John J. Myrick. – photograph from 2015*)



(continued)

Private John Myrick 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.