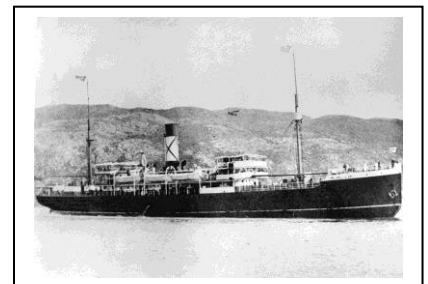




Private Frederick Bennett Rice (Regimental Number 3181) is buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery – Grave reference IV. I. 11.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman earning an annual \$400.00, Frederick Bennett Rice was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. He presented himself for medical examination on October 27 of 1916, and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's – engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and attested on that same day.



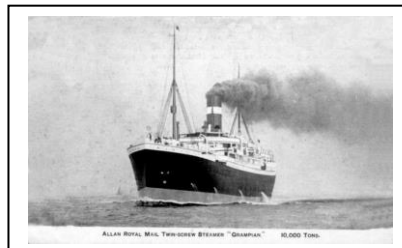
Private Rice was one of the approximately three hundred twenty *all ranks* to leave St. John's for *overseas service* on the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (right), bound for Halifax, on January 31, 1917, from there to take ship to the United Kingdom.

(continued)

Immediately upon its arrival in Nova Scotia, however, this detachment was forwarded to accommodation in the town of Windsor where it was soon to be quarantined because of an epidemic of measles and mumps.

It was not before a lapse of some two-and-a-half months after its arrival that transport could be arranged for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom for the so-called *Windsor Draft* – minus the twenty-five or so personnel still unable to travel.

On April 16, Private Rice embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Grampian* (right), one of a trio of ships carrying the Newfoundlanders which were to sail two days later, in a convoy from Halifax. The vessels were also carrying Canadian re-enforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



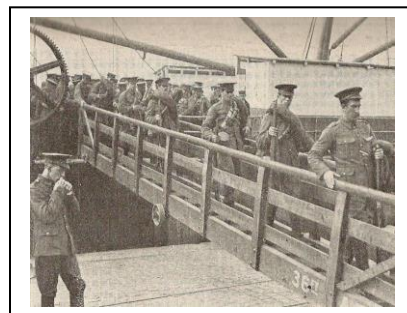
Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from Newfoundland were to be despatched in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1st Battalion.



By the time that the Windsor Draft arrived at the Regimental Depot, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion was becoming critically short of personnel.

(Right above: *the new race-course at Ayr – opened in 1907 – where men of the Regiment were billeted and where they replaced some of the turf with a vegetable garden; part of the present grandstand is original – photo from 2012*)

On June 11, 1917, the 25th Re-enforcement Draft – Private Rice among its ranks - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on its way to France. On the following day, June 12, the contingent disembarked in the Norman capital, Rouen, where time was spent at the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, to be organized and to undergo final training* before moving onward to its eventual rendezvous with 1st Battalion.

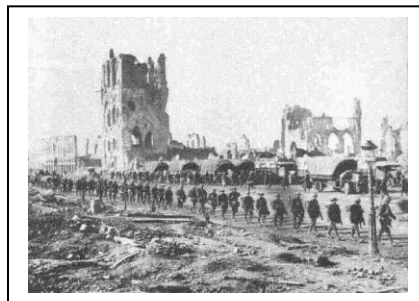


(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

**Apparently, the standard length of time for this final training at the outset of the war had been ten days – although this was to become more and more flexible as the War progressed - in areas near Rouen, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

The records show that was on July 2 – the Regimental War Diary says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Squires' contingent of two-hundred fifty *other ranks* reported *to duty* at *Caribou Camp*, behind the lines near Woesten – to the north-west of Ypres - in Belgium. For the next few days – and nights – 1st Battalion supplied working parties for road-mending and for the construction of infantry tracks.

Only days prior to Private Squires' arrival, at the end of June, the Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion had once again moved north into Belgium and once again to the area of *the Ypres Salient*. This had been selected by the High Command to be the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917. Officially designated as the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, adopting that name from a small village on a ridge that was one of the British Army's objectives.



(Right above: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

1st Battalion remained in Belgium until October 17, a small cog in the machinery of the British Army which floundered its way across the sodden countryside of Flanders. Notably it fought in two major engagements, at the *Steenbeek* on August 16, and at the *Broembeek* on October 9.



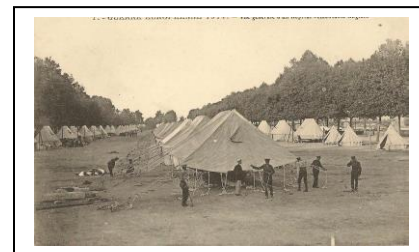
(Right above: *an unidentified – perhaps unidentifiable – part of the Passchendaele battlefield in the autumn of 1917 – from Illustration*)

It was during that action at the *Steenbeek* that Private Rice was wounded while serving with 'C' Company, incurring gunshot wounds to his back. He was evacuated from the field to be sent on that same day to the 4th Casualty Clearing Station in the northern French community of Lozinghem.



(Right above: *This is the area of the Steenbeek – the stream runs close to the trees - and also close to where 1st Battalion fought the engagement of August 16, 1917. It is some eight kilometres distant from a village called Passchendaele. – photograph from 2010*)

(Right: *a British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card*)



(continued)

The son of John Rice and Harriett Rice – to whom he had allotted the daily sum of sixty cents from his pay - of Point Leamington, Notre Dame Bay - he himself born on Pilley's Island, also Notre Dame Bay - he was also brother to at least Stanley and Beulah.

Private Rice was reported as having *died of wounds* on August 19, 1917, in the same 4th CCS. At home it was Captain Cornick of the Salvation Army who was requested to bear the news to his family.

Frederick Bennett Rice had enlisted at the age of twenty-one years and three months – date of birth, July 15, 1895.

(Right above: *The War Memorial on Pilley's Island honours the sacrifice of Private Frederick B. Rice.* – photograph from 2014)

Private Frederick Bennett Rice was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

