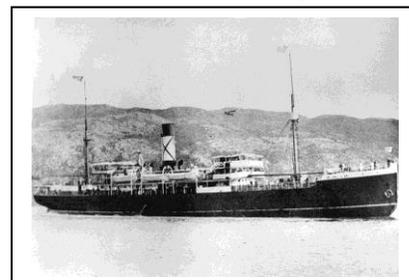




Private Maxwell Scott (Regimental Number 3379) is interred in Dozinghem Military Cemetery – Grave reference II. E. 11.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a clerk and earning an annual \$600.00, Maxwell Scott was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on January 2 of 1917, he then enlisted – *for the duration of the war* and at the private soldier's daily rate of \$1.10 – and also attested on the same January 2.

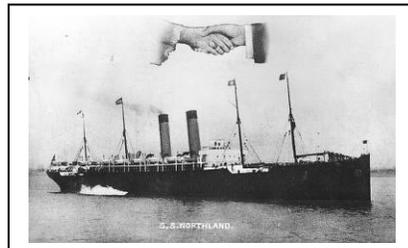
Private Scott was one of the approximately three hundred twenty *all ranks* to leave St. John's for *overseas service* on the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (right), bound for Halifax, on January 31, 1917, from there to take ship to the United Kingdom.



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 17, Private Scott embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Northland* – originally the *Zeeland* - (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the following day in a trans-Atlantic convoy from Halifax. The vessels were carrying Canadian re-enforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



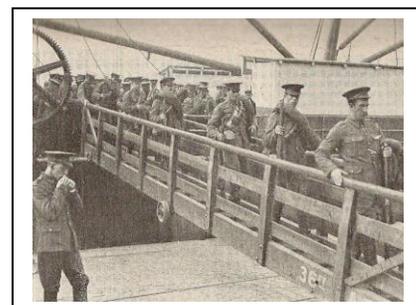
Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and up until 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: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

On June 11, 1917, the 25th Re-enforcement Draft – Private Scott among its ranks - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on its way to France. On the following day, June 12, it 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.



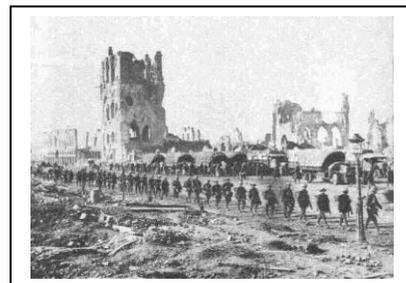
(Right: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

****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, Étaples, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.**

(continued)

The records show that was on July 2 – the Regimental War Diary says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Scott's 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. For that purpose, several of the Newfoundlanders were attached temporarily – until July 20 - to the 173rd Company of the Royal Engineers.

By the time of Private Scott's arrival, 1st Battalion had just once again moved north into Belgium – at the end of June - and once again to the area of the *Ypres Salient*. This had been selected by the High Command as the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917. Officially named the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, borrowing 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*)

The son of Robert Scott (former general merchant, deceased January 1913) and Elizabeth Scott – to whom he had allocated a daily seventy cents from his pay and to whom he had willed all his other monies – of Fogo, he was also brother to at least Annie, Jacqueline-Therese and to Robert Jr..

Private Scott of 'C' Company was reported as having been *found dead* on July 31, 1917. The *Regimental War Diary* makes no mention whatsoever of the incident.

At home it was the Reverend H. Scott of Fogo who was requested to inform his family; however, there was no mention at the time as to the nature of the death.

Maxwell Scott had enlisted at the age of twenty-four years and seven months.

The following from Private Scott's personal records:

2433 Pte. C. Stevens states: - About 7.25 pm yesterday I happened to go into the scrub behind D Coy. lines, and I saw a man lying down. I thought at first he was asleep but on going up to him I saw that he was dead. He was lying on his face, and his rifle was there. I did not touch him but went straight off to report to the officers who were sitting around a table in the officers lines.

S/d. C. Stevens Pte.

...shot passed through base of heart and the upper portion of the left lung...

(continued)

Opinion – I think there is no doubt that it was a case of suicide and from some papers which were found in his possession, and which I have examined, he seems to have been of a somewhat morbid disposition.

Note: The fact that a shot went off would not attract attention as the scene was not far from the incinerator into which rounds occasionally found their way.

**S/d. A. L. Hadow Lt.-Col.
Comdg. Newfoundland Regiment**

Private Maxwell Scott was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and also the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

