



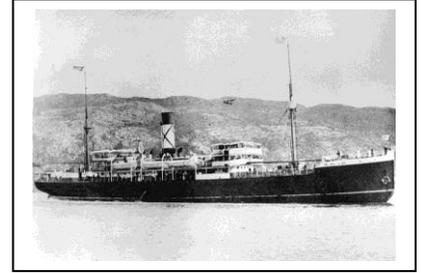
Private Frederick T. Seward (Regimental Number 4982) is interred in St-Sever Cemetery Extension in Rouen – Grave reference S. IV. I. 3.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Fred Seward presented himself for medical examination at Headquarters at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on May 10, 1918. He then enlisted - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and also attested, all on that same day.

Private Seward did not leave for overseas service until June 11, of 1918, when he boarded a train* en route for Halifax, Nova Scotia, via Port aux Basques and North Sydney. From there he sailed on an unspecified troop-ship to the United Kingdom.

(continued)

****Up until the early part of 1918, since the spring of the previous year, the re-enforcements had been sent to Halifax on board the Bowring Brothers vessel Florizel (right). She had been wrecked in February of that year, en route to Halifax, with a large loss of life, and there was no replacement for her.***

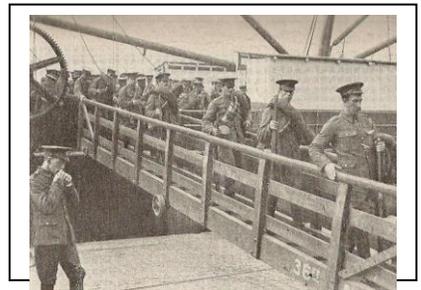


In the New Year of 1918, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had moved quarters from the Royal Borough of Ayr in Scotland to southern England, to Hazely Down, Hampshire, not far distant from the historic cathedral city of Winchester. This transfer was finalized during the latter part of January, 1918, and it was to there that Private Seward reported upon arrival in England some six months later, and it was from there that he was despatched to join the British Expeditionary Force.



(Right above: a bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp at some time during the winter of 1918 – from The War Illustrated)

It was on or about October 26 – the day on which 1st Battalion was in the firing line for the final time - that the 55th Re-enforcement Draft – Private Seward one of this contingent - left Hazely Down, and passed through the English-Channel town of Folkestone en route to France where it disembarked on or about the 28th, possibly in the port of Le Havre. The Newfoundlanders proceeded to the British Expeditionary Force Depot near Rouen for final training and organization*.



(Right above: British troops, arriving in France, disembark in Rouen. – 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.***

On October 29, he was admitted into the 11th Stationary Hospital in Rouen, suffering from the 'flu. Apparently his case was not deemed serious at the time and Private Seward was discharged to the 2nd Convalescent Depot on November 6, and then back to Base Depot on November 11, the day on which the Armistice came into effect.

When he reported for duty in the field on November 26 to the parent unit, 1st Battalion the Royal Newfoundland Regiment was posted in the liberated capital of Belgium, *Bruxelles* – or had just departed - having paraded days before as representatives of all Colonial and Dominion troops, in front of the Belgian Royal Family.

(continued)



(Above: *The caption has it that included in this contingent of British Army troops are... English, Scottish and Newfoundlanders. This is the victory parade held in the city of Brussels on November 22, 1918. – from Illustration*)

On December 4, 1st Battalion traversed the frontier between Belgium and Germany. The Newfoundlanders were to be a unit in the Allied Army of Occupation. On December 8, they reached the Rhine at Cologne, from where they continued their march to their destination, Hilden, in-between the large industrial centres of Mulheim and Dusseldorf.



(Right: *the Rhine river flowing through the city of Köln (Cologne) – with the spires of its gothic cathedral showing – in the area where 1st Battalion was stationed in late 1918 and early 1919 - photograph from 2012*)

1st Battalion was withdrawn from Germany in February of 1919 and sent back to Rouen. Private Seward seems somehow to have preceded the main body as he is recorded as having been admitted into the 6th General Hospital in that city, suffering once more from influenza and now also pharyngitis – he was considered on this occasion to be *dangerously ill* - on February 2.

The adopted son of James Wells, fisherman, and of Jessie Wells of Cupids (and perhaps son of Thomas Seward, deceased 1897, and Mary Anne Seward, née *Wells*, deceased in 1908(?) having remarried*), he was also brother (likely by adoption) to Alex, George and Florence – this last to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay – and nephew to Mr. James Walsh.



Private Seward was reported as having *died of sickness* – of influenza – in hospital in Rouen on February 11 or 12, 1919.

Frederick Seward had enlisted at the declared age of twenty years – although his monument (preceding page) commemorates his death at twenty-five years.

(Preceding page: *This memorial stone erected to commemorate the sacrifice of Private Frederick T. Seward stands in the United Church Cemetery in Cupids – photograph from 2012*)

**Only a single document in the files appears to support this latter information.*

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

**His medal card records his name as Seaward.*

