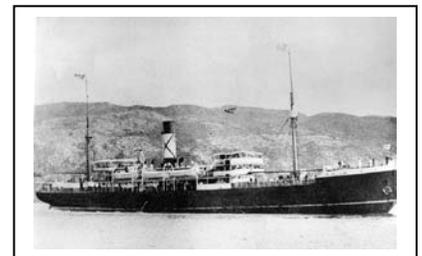




Private Henry Joseph Frizzell (Regimental Number 3310) lies in Marcoing British Cemetery – Grave reference II. E. 12.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman earning four hundred dollars per annum, Henry Frizzell was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. He enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury on Harvey Road in St. John's – engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and also attested, both on the same December 9, 1916.

Private Frizzell 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.



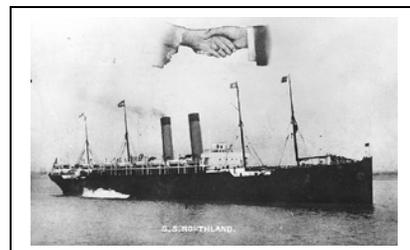
(continued)

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*.

**Two lie in the cemetery in Windsor.*

On April 17, Private Frizzell embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Northland* – originally the *Zeeland* - (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the next day in a 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.



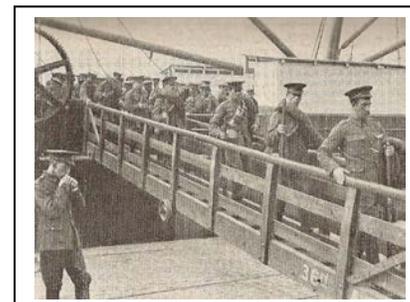
(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

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



(Right: *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 Frizzell 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 the 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment.

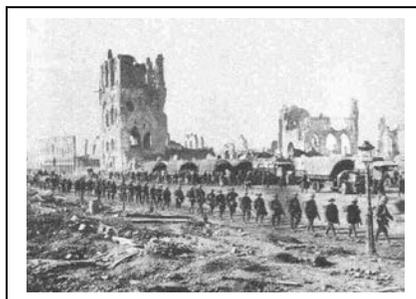


(Previous page: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

**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.*

The records show that it was on July 2 – the *Regimental War Diary* says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Frizzell's contingent of two-hundred fifty *other ranks* reported to duty at *Caribou Camp*, behind the lines near Woesten in Belgium. For the next few days – and nights – the 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.

Only days before, at the end of June, the Newfoundlanders of the 1st Battalion had once again moved north into Belgium and once again to the area of Ypres. 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*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was ostensibly 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 Newfoundlanders were to remain 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. By that date, 1st Battalion had fought in two major engagements: at the *Steenbeek* on August 16, and then at the *Broembeek* on October 9.



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

A week after the encounter of October 9 at the *Broembeek*, the Newfoundlanders were withdrawn from the *Passchendaele* campaign in order to prepare for yet another upcoming offensive: *Cambrai*. They were ordered back south from Belgium into northern France on October 17 to re-enforce, to organize and to train in the vicinity of *Berles-au-Bois*, a small rural community a dozen or so kilometres to the south-west of Arras – some personnel even having been granted at the time a ten-day furlough back to the United Kingdom.



(Preceding page: *the Canal St-Quentin at Masnières, the crossing of which and the establishment of a bridgehead being the first objectives for the Newfoundlanders on November 20, the first day of the Battle of Cambrai – photograph from 2009*)

The so-called *Battle of Cambrai* was to officially last for just two weeks and a day, from November 20 until December 4, the Newfoundlanders directly involved at all times during that period.

The battle began well for the British who used tanks on a large scale for the first time; but opportunities were squandered and by its close the British had relinquished as much territory as they had gained. The 1st Battalion was again dealt with severely, both at Marcoing and at Masnières - where a Caribou stands today: of the total of five-hundred fifty-eight officers and men who went into battle, two-hundred forty-eight had become casualties by the end of the second day.



(Right above: *An early tank – the weapon used for the first time in battle at the Somme in 1916 – in a rear area somewhere in France – from Le Miroir*)

The son of Charles Frizzell, fisherman and farmer – apparently the first to settle in the Goulds to farm, and to whom his son had allotted a daily fifty cents from his pay - and of Mary Frizzell (née *Doyle*, deceased before 1921) of Bay Bulls Road in the Goulds, he was also brother to William (see below* and right) and Patrick.



Private Frizzell was reported as having been *killed in action* on November 20, 1917, while serving with 'D' Company in the first day of the fighting near the French villages of Marcoing and Masnières.

At home, it was the Reverend Father Tierney of Petty Harbour who was requested to bear the news to his family.

Henry Frizzell had enlisted and attested on at the *declared* age of eighteen years and five months. However, a further source, St. Kevin's (the Goulds) Parish Records, documents his birth as having been on October 22, 1900*. It would seem, therefore, that Henry Frizzell was but sixteen years and seven weeks old on that December 9, 1916, when he reported to the recruiting office.

(Right above: *Private Frizzell sits next to his brother William, Private, Regimental Number 3279, who was to survive the War. The photograph is from the Provincial Archives.*)



(Right: *The Caribou at Masnières stands on the high ground to the north of the community. The seizure of this terrain was the final objective of 1st Battalion on November 20; however, whether this was ever achieved is at best controversial. – photograph from 2012*)

(continued)

Private Henry Joseph Frizzell was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

**This birth date – not to be found among Private Frizzell’s Papers – has recently been kindly contributed to this history by Mr. Christopher Shelley. The photograph of the two Frizzell brothers was originally donated to the Rooms by Marie Frizell (sic), the only family member to spell her name thus.*

