



**Private Patrick Parrell (Regimental Number 8393) is buried in the Military Plot of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery, in the capital city.**

**His occupations prior to military service recorded as those of both *carpenter* and *farmer*, Patrick Parrell presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury*\* in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland on May 24, 1918. It was a procedure which was to find him...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

***\*The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

**(continued)**

It was on the day of that medical assessment, October 20, and at the same venue, that Patrick Parrell was now to be enlisted. He was engaged...*for the duration of the war*\*...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.

*\*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. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.*

A further several hours were then to go by before there came to pass, again at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same twentieth day of October\* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Patrick Parrell officially entered the service of the King.

*\*It was now five months since the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription) came into effect. From May 11 through to the end of the War, the Department of Militia called a total of 1,470 men into active service. However, nothing amongst his papers appears to suggest under which circumstances – as a volunteer or a conscripted man – Patrick Parrell was to be taken into service – or if Newfoundland Forestry recruits were ever conscripted at all.*

At least some of the time he was now to spend in St. John's was likely to have been in the temporary barracks in the curling rink and the Prince's Skating Rink, quarters which had been established in 1915 in the eastern end of the city, although some of the recruits appear to have stayed in various boarding-houses.

(Right: *This photograph of the Prince's Rink in St. John's with military personnel, apparently attired in uniforms of Great War vintage and on parade is from the Ice Hockey Wiki web-site.*)



Only some two weeks after his enlistment, on November 4 Private Parrell married Rosa Murphy\*, a widow. Perhaps it was because of this that he absented himself from the re-enforcement draft with which he was supposed to voyage overseas on December 11 of that same year. It was an action which resulted in a punishment of twenty-eight days of *Field Punishment Number 2*.

*\*The couple was apparently to have no children.*

When exactly Private Parrell was to eventually reach the United Kingdom seems not to be recorded on his files.

Having reached Scotland, the Forestry men were to work at first in the hilly area of Dunkeld to the north of Perth and just below the first of the highlands. The site to be felled was a part of the estate of the *Duchy of Atholl*, a part of that forest being the *Birnam Wood* which...*shall come to Dunsinane...*, made famous in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.



Later, as the forests on the Duke of Atholl's estate began to become depleted, the operations of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps were moved further up the Tay Valley to the area of Kenmore and onto the estate of the Marquis of Breadalbane.

(Right above: *The River Tay as it flows through Dunkeld. The Forestry Corps worked on the hills that one sees in the distance.* – photograph from 2011)

It was not easy work and three men accidentally died in Scotland during this time. Private Parrell was not one of those; nevertheless, the effort required of him was such that a report dated August 13, 1918, documents him as being discharged from Kenmore, to be repatriated because of an unspecified disability.



(Right: *Dalguise Castle, within a distance of two or three kilometres or so of the logging operations – and apparently associated with the Beatrix Potter stories – was offered by its owner as an infirmary for the Newfoundland loggers.* – photograph from 2011)

(Right below: *Kenmore Churchyard wherein lie two privates of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps. Private Parrell and other Corps personnel worked in the hills shown in the background.* – photograph from 2011)



The son of Patrick, farmer, and of Theresa Parrell (née *Oliver*\*) of Thorburn Road (*Thorburn Line* and *Thorburn Lane* are also cited) in the District of St. John's West, he was also brother to Catherine-Mary, Edward, Annie, Joseph, Theresa and to Mary-Hannah.

*\*The couple had been married in St. John's on October 3 of 1881.*

There is no records among his files which report the details of his passage back to Newfoundland. It may have been on '*Corsican*' in which case he would have travelled via Québec, but that is only speculation. On the other hand, there do not appear to have been any direct sailings from the United Kingdom to Newfoundland during this period.

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Then, having been repatriated to Newfoundland, he passed away in St. John's, a victim of influenza, on October 24, 1918.

Patrick Parrell had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-five years and six months: date of birth on Boncloddy Street in St. John's, Newfoundland, April 23 of 1892 (from the Roman Catholic Basilica Baptismal Records).

Private Patrick Parrell was entitled to the British War Medal for his *overseas service*.



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](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 30, 2023.