

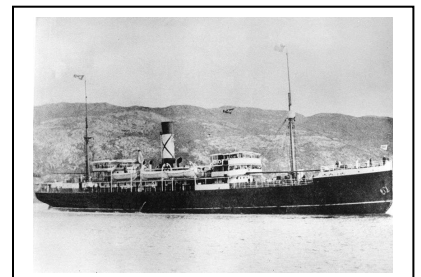


Private Josiah Squibb (Regimental Number 243) lies in Hill 10 Cemetery at *Suvla Bay, Gallipoli* – Grave reference III. A. 6.

His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a *miner* earning a weekly forty dollars, Josiah Squibb presented himself for medical examination at Doctor Bayle's Surgery (Carbonear?) on August 31, 1914, four weeks less a day after the *Declaration of War*. It was a procedure which pronounced him...*fit for Overseas Service*.

There was then likely to be a train journey from Carbonear to St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, where Josiah Squibb was to enlist at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 (this included a ten-cent Field Allowance) - on September 2. He was a recruit of the First Draft.

Following a four-week wait – although training was to be ongoing – Private Squibb would attest on October 1 and then, after a further two days, was to embark on October 3 with the others of the *First Five Hundred* onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting the contingent in St. John's Harbour.



The ship sailed on the morrow to its rendezvous off the south coast of the Island where she was to join the convoy transporting the 1st Canadian Division across the Atlantic.

(Preceding page: *The image of Florizel at anchor in the harbour at St. John's is by courtesy of Admiralty House Museum.*)

In the United Kingdom Private Squibb trained with the Newfoundland contingent: firstly in southern England; then in Scotland at Fort George – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness; at Edinburgh Castle – where it provided the first garrison from outside the British Isles; and later again at the tented *Stobs Camp* near the town of Hawick to the south-east of Edinburgh.

(Right above: *Fort George, constructed in the latter half of the eighteenth century, still serves the British Army to this day. – photograph from 2011)*

(Right above: *The Newfoundland Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp and about to be presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915 – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)*

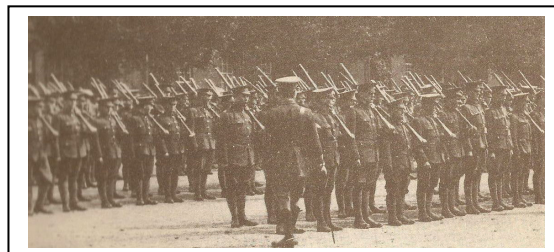
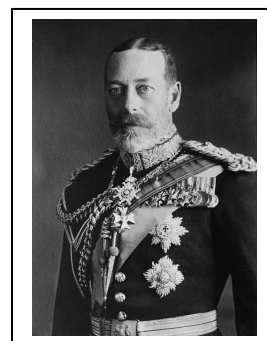
At the beginning of that August of 1915, the four senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', were then sent south to undergo a final two weeks of training, as well as an inspection by the King, at Aldershot; meanwhile the two junior Companies, the later-arrived 'E' and 'F', were sent to Scotland's west coast, to Ayr, where they were to provide the nucleus of the newly-forming 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

(Right: *George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India – photograph from Bain News Services via Wikipedia)*

**On July 10, 1915, 'F' Company had arrived at Stobs Camp from Newfoundland, its personnel raising the numbers of the unit to battalion establishment strength, and thus permitting it to be ordered to active service. The 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, comprising those four Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', was thereupon attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.*

It had then been during that period spent at Aldershot that Private Squibb of 'A' Company – he was not alone in doing so - had been prevailed upon, he on August 14, to re-enlist *for the duration of the war*.*

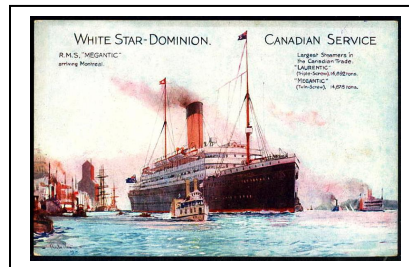
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***At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.**

(Preceding page: Some of the men of ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ Companies of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment at Aldershot in August of 1915 – from *The Fighting Newfoundlander* by Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D.)

(Right: The image of Megantic, in peace-time a ‘White Star Line’ vessel, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.)



On August 20, 1915, Private Squibb and his comrades-in-arms embarked in the Royal Navy Harbour of Devonport onto the requisitioned passenger-liner *Megantic* for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting against the Turks. There, a month later – having spent two weeks billeted in British barracks in the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, he and the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment disembarked at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(Right above: Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is to be seen in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on ‘A’ Beach. – photograph taken in 2011)



(Right: An un-identified Newfoundland soldier in the trenches at Suvla Bay – from Provincial Archives)

(Right: Newfoundland troops on board a troop-ship anchored at Mudros: either *Megantic* on August 29, *Ausonia* on September 18, or *Prince Abbas* on September 19 – Whichever the case, they were yet to land on Gallipoli. – from Provincial Archives)



The son of Charles Squibb, former labourer and fisherman deceased October 7, 1921, and of Elizabeth Jane Squibb* (née Snook) of Bunker’s Hill, Carbonear*, he was also brother to George-Seymour, Eleazer, William-John and to Charles.

***Elizabeth Jane Squibb died in May of 1909. Charles then remarried, to Lavinia with whom he had had five more children as of 1921 when he also passed away (see above).**

(continued)



Private Squibb was reported as having been *killed in action*, struck on October 19, 1915, while serving with 'A' Company, only for Battalion's arrival at *Suvla Bay*. At home, it was the Reverend Holla to bear the news to his family.

(Preceding page: *This is the area in which the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment spent most of its time at Suvla, dominated by Turkish forces occupying the high ground, and where Private Squibb was killed: another British cemetery wherein lie Newfoundland dead, Azmak, may just be discerned – a white horizontal line - in the very centre of the photograph - photograph from 2011*)



Josiah Squibb had enlisted at the *declared* age of nineteen years: date of birth in Carbonear, Newfoundland, September 29, 1995 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).



(Right above: *The Carbonear Cenotaph honours the sacrifice of Private Squibb. – from 2010*)

(*The photograph of Private Squibb is from the Provincial Archives.*)

Private Josiah Squibb was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



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. Last updated – February 12, 2023.