



Private James Yetman (Regimental Number 2634) is interred in Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. John's, in the Naval and Military Plot.

His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a *seaman* earning twenty-six dollars per month – he had also served in the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve – James Yetman was a volunteer of the Ninth Recruitment Draft. He presented himself for medical examination on April 24 of 1916 at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

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

On the day of that medical assessment, April 24, and at the same venue, James Yetman would enlist, and 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.***

Four days were now to follow before there then came to pass, again at the **CLB Armoury** on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On the twenty-eighth day of April he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, James Yetman became...*a soldier of the King.*

Following his enlistment it is likely that Private Yetman reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established since 1915 in the St. John's curling rink and the *Prince's Skating Rink* in the eastern end of the city.



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

However, only days after his enlistment into the Regiment, on May 5 Private Yetman was involved in a street fight: he had reportedly been...*on leave & was drinking when he was kicked in the back.*

On May 7 he was admitted into the St. John's General Hospital with an injury to the spine. Private Yetman...*could not use arms or legs, nor could he pass water. Had to be catheterized for several days.* He was to remain in hospital until June 20.

An extract of a report submitted by Major Patterson on August 17 reads: *I am of the opinion that this man is unfit for Military Service. His condition is not due to Military Service.* In December a Medical Board concurred with this opinion and recommended his discharge from the Regiment on the grounds of his being...*permanently unfit.*

Private Yetman was thus released from service on December 29, 1916.

In the meantime, however – so it was later determined -, during the time spent in the Military Hospital, Private Yetman had contracted tuberculosis. By July 12, 1920, James

Yetman was a patient of the *Jensen Camp* on Blackmarsh Road for tubercular cases. He was also married by then. Due to these circumstances it was decided at the time to award James Yetman a monthly pension of twenty-five dollars.

The son of Andrew Yetman of Battery Road, the Southside, and of Ellen Margaret Yetman (née *Cochlen** – also found as *Coughlin* – deceased of cancer on September 5, 1902, in Bryant's Cove, Harbour Grace), he was also brother to Michael-Andrew, John-Patrick, Winnifred-Mary, Agnes and Mary-Joseph.

**The couple had been married in St. John's on September 2 of 1879. After Ellen's passing, Andrew was to marry again, to Mary Anne Snow, on April 26 of 1906. The couple was to parent a number of children – thus half-siblings to James: Joseph, Henry, Peter, Patrick, Marcella, Bernard and Kevin-J..*

After his discharge James Yetman was to become husband of Frances (née *Harvey*), she of 40, Gilbert Street in St. John's, although a copy of the Newfoundland Vital Statistics has them both residents of Battery Road in the city at the time of their wedding. The couple was married in the St. John's Presbytery on May 28 of 1917.

There appears to be little further information of him – or *them* – during the period that followed.

Subsequently James Yetman was reported to have...*died of sickness*...in the St. John's Sanatorium – built on Topsail Road outside the city to replace the aforementioned *Jensen Camp* - on May 24, 1921*.

James Yetman had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-two years and two months: date of birth in Bryant's Cove, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, August 11, 1894 (from a copy of the Newfoundland Vital Statistics and from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

**Vital Statistics cites the year as having been 1921. On the same day in 1920 – the year of death engraved on his headstone – James Yetman was at the Jensen Camp and was in fact writing and receiving letters – to be found in his file in the Provincial Archives – in August of that same year. The Jensen Camp had then apparently closed in January of 1921.*

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 – January 30, 2023.