

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
FINAL EXAMINATION



First Newfoundland Regiment

ATTESTATION PAPER

Regimental No. 1547

Name in full William Leslie Ross Age 19

Address Water St., St. John's

~~Married~~
Single Yes Height _____ Weight _____
Color Fair Hair Brown Eyes Blue

Other distinguishing marks _____

Nearest relative Father Joseph

Address St. John's

Dependents _____

Occupation Clerk Present Wage 120¢ per month

Previous service _____

Decorations _____

General Remarks _____

Date of Enlistment April 29th 1915

I, William Leslie Ross, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, and that I will faithfully serve His Majesty in any place where I may be needed (or in the Colony of Newfoundland, as the case may be), against all His enemies and opposers whatsoever, according to the condition of my service.

William Leslie Ross

Declared before me this 18 day
of _____ 1914

M. J. Kinnear
Lieut.

Regimental Number 1547 Company _____

THE
1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

I hereby enlist for service at home or abroad in the King's Forces under the following conditions :

For the duration of the present war, or until my discharge.

Subject to the Army Act, the King's Regulations, and to such ordinances as may apply or may be made to apply to the British Regular Army.

Subject to the Newfoundland Volunteer Act, 5 George V., Chapter IV.

Signed William L Ross.

Witness Robertson

Dated at  _____

Ross, W.L.

1547

Sept

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

DEMOBILIZATION

CIVILIAN CLOTHING

I, No. 1547 Rank. Private Name Ross, William

acknowledge that I have received civilian clothing in accordance with Demobilization Regulations, viz:—Suit of Clothes, Cap, Collar, Tie, Overcoat, in lieu of Clothing Allowance and that I am satisfied with same.

Date 4-1-19

St. John's. Nfld

W. L. Ross
Signature of Soldier

J. W. Chancey CSM
Signature of Witness

Joseph H. [unclear]
Discharge Officer
Lieut.
Newfoundland

Deputy Paymaster
for information.



Minister of Militia.

Extract from Code telegram from Major Timewell
received August 30th.1917
Absentee from 1st.Battalion since Aug.20th.
1547 Ross.

noted
J. P. Darnall

Statement of Accounts

OF

No. 1547 Rank Private Name W. L. Ross
 Company, etc. Repatriated 19/1/18 S. S. ~~Classification~~
 From 9/6/17 to 19/8/17 (dates).

DEBITS				CREDITS			
Date				Date			
	Period.			18/6/17	Balance	35	15 8
	9/6/17-19/8/17				Pay.		
	72 days @ 50/0	36.00	7 7 11		9/6/17-19/8/17		
	Acq. Rolls		4 11 8		72 days @ \$1.10	16	5 6
	P. & R.O. Payments		34 10 0		\$79.20		
					Ration Allow.		
					26/6/17-5/7/17	17	6
					10 days @ 1/9		
	Creditor Balance		6 9 1		Debtor Balance		
	Total £		52 18 8		Total £	52	18 8

Checked
 This account is in accordance with information received at the Pay & Record Office to 18/1/18 and is therefore subject to amendment if, and as may be found necessary.

CHECKED.
[Signature]
 1/1/18



Certified correct
 NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.
[Signature]
 PAYMASTER & OFFICER IN CHARGE RECORDS.
 Paymaster.

Station _____
 Date 18 JAN 1918

Statement of Accounts

OF

No. 1547 Rank Private Name W. L. Ross
 Company, etc. Repatriated 19/1/18 S. S. ~~Classification~~
 From 9/6/17 to 19/8/17 (dates).

DEBITS				CREDITS			
Date				Date			
	Period,			8/6/17	Balance	35	15 8
	9/6/17-19/8/17				Pay.		
	72 days @ 50/9	36.00	7 7 11		9/6/17-19/8/17		
	Acq. Rolls		4 11 8		72 days @ \$1.10	16	5 6
	P. & R.O. Payments		34 10 0		\$79.20		
					Ration Allow.		
					26/6/17-5/7/17	17	6
					10 days @ 1/9		
	Creditor Balance		6 9 1		Debtor Balance		
	Total £		52 18 8		Total £	52	18 8

CHECKED.
[Signature]
 11/11



Certified correct
 NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.
[Signature]
 CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER IN CHARGE RECORDS.
 Paymaster.



1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

ALLOTMENTS

I, William L Ross, Regl. No. 1347
 hereby agree, until further notification by me, and in similar official form to make an Allotment of
 Dollars and 50 Cents, per diem, from my Pay,
 to, and for the benefit of the undermentioned Person ^{and} _{or} Persons, such payment to be made on proof
 of identity of, and production of the relative Identity Certificates by the Person ^{and} _{or} Persons
 concerned, viz.:

Identity Certificate No.	Whether Wife, Child, other Relative or Friend	NAME (in full)	ADDRESS	AMOUNT (each person)
1	mother	Mr Joseph Ross	H ^o Grace C.B.	50
2				
1				
5				
<p>Commenced June 12th</p>				
Total Allotment, \$				<u>50</u>

NOTE.—This form must be completed by the Officer Commanding Company, signed by the Volunteer, counter-signed by the Officer Commanding Company and handed to the Paymaster as authority to make the required payments on application.

(Sig.)

Officer Commanding
Company

(Sig.) William L Ross

(Rank) Plt

[Signature]
 June 12th 1915

Mr. Grace
Jan 17/19

Capt. Howley
Paymaster
militia Dept.
St. Johns.
3751

Dear Sir:-

Could you please give me any information as to my allotment. was it stopped after it came on the strength of the Regiment last January? I knew it was stopped while I was absent, but I understood my allotment would start when it came on the strength again. I shall be very much obliged if you can give me any information regarding this matter. awaiting your earliest possible reply.

I am

Yours very truly
Wm L. Ross.

address

Water Street

Mr. Grace:

1547 Ross allotment cancelled Sept 30/17

REGIMENTAL CONDUCT SHEET.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment of _____

Number of sheets }
(in words) }
Signature of G.O. }
of Adjutant }

One
Adj. Capt
of Adjutant
Regiment.

Regimental Number) 1547 Pte. William Leslie Ross Attested 29-4-1915 19 .
and Name) Joined 19 .

Place	Date of Offence	Rank	Cause of Punishment	OFFENCE	Names of Witnesses	PUNISHMENT awarded	Date of award, or of order dispensing with trial	By whom	Date of Commencement	Date of Expiration	REMARKS
London	5-1-18			When on active service absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 pm on 5-1-18	Y A R T	WITHOUT					
Section 15 (1a)											
France	20-8-17			When on active service in France deserting from the 1st Batt. Royal Nfld. Regt. on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London England	E M E N T	IMPRISONMENT HARD LABOUR	October 23rd, 1918	DISTRICT COURT Lt. Col. H. Knox-Niven Capt. J. Clift, MC. Lieut. C. B. Dicks			
Section 12 (1a)											
Southampton, England	15-10-17			When proceeding overseas under escort from London to join 1st Batt. Royal Nfld. Regt. in France, escaping from Transport	D O C U M E N T	TWO YEARS HARD LABOUR					
Section 22											

To be carried over

P.T.O.

R.H. Jait

Discharge Inspector
Captain
Commanding
Despatch Depot-
Newfoundland

Place	Date of Offence	Rank	Cases of Drunkenness	OFFENCE	Names of Witnesses	PUNISHMENT awarded	Date of award, or of order dispensing with trial	By whom	Date of Commencement	Date of Expiration	REMARKS
				at Southampton England, on 15-10-17 until he surrendered to the G.M.P. at London on 5-1-18							
				The Confirming Officer (His Excellency the Administrator) remits nine months of above sentence and commutes the remainder of the sentence to detention in Military Custody with the Prisoner's Unit on active service. (Authority letter from Administrator 25-10-18)							RJA
				His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Newfoundland, directs that he be discharged with ignominy. (Authority letter from District Officer Commanding, Jan. 2nd, 1919).							RJA
				Discharge with ignominy carried out Jan. 4th, 1919.							RJA

DAILY Parade State.



Royal Newfoundland Regiment

E Company.

Depot Princes RK Headquarters St. John's Date Aug 5 1918

Distribution	Officer	W. O.	N. C. O's	Men	Remarks
On Parade.....			4	72	
Light Duty.....				1	
Guard.....			1	5	
Regimental and garrison employ.....			3	14	
Other Duties.....					
Sick in Quarters.....					
Furlough—Pending disposal.....					

7 N.C.O's 18
40

must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office Station

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICES
26 AU
17
S.W. 130

the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1/2d.; and if it be found that there was any repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Instructions.

Charges to pay } 1 d.

of the Brigade
was reported

Handed in at

Received here at

TO

Syndical London

PAY RECORD
No. *4734*
Res'd. **AUG 27 1890**
Ask'd. *WV*
Ans'd.
File No.

*26 Ross absent without leave since
20th London 23rd Reported seen in
O-C Newfoundland Regt*

Mrs. K. M. [redacted] mde.

284 Wilberforce Road
Finsbury Park.

N.H.
London.

~~S~~

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
53, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir: Regarding 1547, Private W.L. Ross,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical. London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte W Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries
"O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m., after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8.0.0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed me that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report). A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

"Yours truly,
(Sgd) "W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J.A. Anderson 21

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
27th August, 1917.

3

Major H.A. Timewell,

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1.

Sir:

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547, Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station, where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two Buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door, 58 Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet

P.T.O.

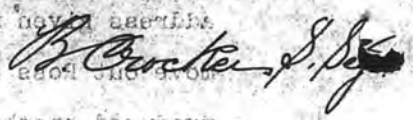
88, Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 1.
27th August, 1917.

either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of
them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned
to 985, Mayfair; Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police;
giving a description in both cases.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



I had leave to make the following report re 1887, the
Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria
two return tickets for Grouchy, the
just as the train was about to
what we were going to Grouchy, and
Mrs. W. Williams, 94 Wilberforce Road,
this rendered the two tickets already purchased
the Underground railway for
Wilberforce Road, Head Station
to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did
not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to his back
door and found the door open. I called to him
to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Williams
who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen
him. Rose had previously asserted that he had been there
before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying until
I asked Rose to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and
said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In
returning to the office, Rose intentionally missed two buses
and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached
the office door, 88 Victoria Street. Here Rose stoutly
refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and en-
deavored to get him to return, but this he would not do. I
walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet

C^G
D



4

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Government Despatch No.

1st Sept 1917

Given in at 88th Brigade *
 at 5.1 pm This message has passed through the hands of
 Received in SW DO at 7.56 pm A H Carke Telegraphist
 Sent out for delivery at Witer.

TO {

Synoptical Ldn

1st Ross
aaa reply my telegram re

O S Newfoundland Regt

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	4890
Rec'd.	SEP 2 1917
Acc'd.	
Ans'd.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
File No.	

Confidential.

9003/138
HA/JC

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
53, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1,
ENGLAND.

Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland R.,
RE- Barry, N.B.

Pay & Record Office,

3rd September, 7.

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

I beg to acknowledge your
telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram
"re Ross
(Sd) "O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram
No.213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last
"seen London 27th still
"at large police search-
"ing letter follows
(Sd) "Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the
statement made by 2/Lieut.
H.A. Anderson to the Chief
Paymaster, & Officer in Charge
of Records together with
1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's
report.

over

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette". I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O.I/c Records.

A
S
M

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.
 (Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Counter
 Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.	For Postage Stamps. <i>To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form.</i> <i>(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)</i>
						To.....	
						By.....	

Notice.—The following Telegram is accepted by the Postmaster-General for transmission subject to the Regulations as to Foreign Telegrams made pursuant to the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1911, provided that the *Request* at the foot of the Telegram is previously signed by the Sender.

The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

COMMANDING

NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
 FRANCE

2132/9/17

26 AAA 1547 ROSS LAST SEEN LONDON 27th STILL AT

LARGE POLICE SEARCHING LETTER FOLLOWS

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)..... **58 Victoria St. S.W.1**

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

28th September, 7.

9990/41

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

30/9/17: With reference to my telegram No. 797/9,

"Military, St. John's.
". Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since-
"August 20- 1547- Ross- full stop-
Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being
still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of
the following documents relating to his case:

- A.F. B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
- Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
- Report by Staff-Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in
view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's
report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

8

HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON DISTRICT,
HORSE GUARDS,
WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

.....22nd September 1917.....

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Headquarters,
London District,
Horse Guards, S.W.,
and the following number quoted :—
C.R., L.D.....2/57872/A.....

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W.

With reference to the case of No. 1547, Private W.L.Ross, 15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

15th N.W. REGIMENT	
RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	5446
Recd.	SEP 24 1917
Ass'd.	✓
Ans'd.	✓
File No.	9991/2

*C. Blundell Capt
Staff Capt*

for Brigadier-General.

D.A. & Q.M.G. LONDON DISTRICT.

9990/41

9

28th September,

7.

D.A. & Q.M.G.,

9991/2

Headquarters, London District,

Horse Guards, S.W. 1

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. W.L. ROSS, 1st NEWFOUNDLAND R.
DESERTER.

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

A S
M

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.

(Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

10
Counter
Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	For Postage Stamps.	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.		<p><i>To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form.</i></p> <p><i>(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)</i></p>	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.		
						To.....		
						By.....		

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The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

COMMANDING NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

FRANCE

234

3/10/17

26 AAA 1547 PTE W ROSS DESERTER APPREHENDED LONDON TELEGRAPH

INSTRUCTIONS

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)..... 58 Victoria St. S

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
4th October, 1917. //

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. Ross.

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week, to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

B. Crocker

Staff-Sergt.

OBPY

12

2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Nfld Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St.,
London, S.W.

Dear Sir,

Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hour's time, thanks to a good friend and I shan't bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.P.s. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done my two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say Good-bye to old Crocker, poor devil.

Well sir, best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) W. L. ROSS.

4771

28/8/17.

10262/1./Records./HA-JC.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER i/c RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
53, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1
ENGLAND.

13

5th October, . 7

D.A.&Q.M.G., London District, H.Q., London District,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, Deserter,
1/1st Newfoundland Regiment.

With reference to your Memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A. of 22/9/17: ^{and telephone communication date} I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17, has been informed, and The Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

To Pay & Record Office 14

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. ROSS who has been listed as a deserter since Aug. 90th 1917.

2-10-17

A. L. Hadow.

LIEUT. COL.
COMMD. 1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

✓ 5697
6 OCT 1917

A S M

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.

(Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

 Counter
 Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	For Postage Stamps.	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.			
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M. To..... By.....	To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form. <i>(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)</i>	

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TO

COMMANDING NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

FRANCE

236
9/10/17

REFERENCE YOUR MEMORANDUM SECOND AS TELEGRAPHED YOU THIRD INSTANT 1547

ROSS APPREHENDED LONDON AND YOUR INSTRUCTION ASKED AAA NOW IN CIVIL CUSTODY

REMANDED UNTIL THURSDAY ELEVENTH

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)..... 58 Victoria St. S.W. I.

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

BRANCH

Rob.

ACTED UPON

BY

DATE

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. I.

16

Sir, 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H. A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this Office by Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

B. Crocker

Staff-Sergt.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
RECORD OFFICE
No. *5829*
12 OCT 1917

58, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1,

12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1.

Sir: With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58 Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted
"when seventeen rush particulars cable-- Ross--"

I informed Mrs Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H.A. Anderson

2nd Lieut.

18

Officer i/c
Newfld Pay Record Office
London



Sir, Co. Down
Ireland

I have heard that Pt. William
L. Ross 1st Newfld Regt. has got into
some trouble in London and has
been arrested by the Civil police
and will be tried on 11th inst,
but I do not know in what
part of London or on what
charge.

This boy is a nephew of mine
He is not yet 20 and has been
nearly two years at the front.
He was with me for a few

18

1917 WASHINGTON D.C. 1917

RECORDED

✓ 5724

9 OCT 1917

12/10/17
1050

days on leave in Sep. and left
to go back to the front. I am afraid
he got into bad company in
London.

Joseph Ross
This father's address is Harbor
Grace, Newfld.

I hope you will in some way
look after the boys interests
and if possible have him sent
back to his Regt.

I shall feel very grateful if you
can let me know if I can be of any
help to him in any way and what
is the charge against him
Yours truly

J. Ross
Dist. Inspector R. I. C.

19

12th October, 7.

10601/1 J. Ross, Esq.,
Dist. Inspector, R.I.C.,
Newry.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man ~~was~~ was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B.E.F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major,

HT/NW

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

CABLEGRAM

Line No.

No. of M. **981**



Prefix.	Code	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.					
Words.	Charge.							
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>£</td> <td>s.</td> <td>d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	£	s.	d.				Sent At
£	s.	d.						
		To	By					
			This form will be accepted at any Post Office.					

To **MILITARY**

ON NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

STJOHNS (Newfoundland)

**UNJOYOUSLY 1547 ROSS ABSENTEE FROM BEF SABLATOTE FRANCE
ELYTROGLE**

SYNOPTICAL

Translation:-

Reference my telegram 4th October- 1547- Ross- absentee- from-
France B.E.F.- being sent to- France- under escort-

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.

Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature

Address, **59 Victoria St. S.W. I.**

**CABLE ADDRESSES. REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY).
ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.**

[For List of Stations p.p.o.]

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

BRANCH

Rds

Office Stamp.

ACTED UPON



Handed in at

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

gc

owns

Horse Gas Ltd

BY

Words

Charges to pay

DATE

21

26

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

Received here at

TO

*O Gc Newfoundland Records
Office 58 Victoria St Sw*

938

L D 5147a 11th Oct 1917 aad

following absence from P F 7 being

sent to Southampton under escort

*tomorrow aad 1547 pte
Btm Newfoundland Regt aad
Washed*

RECORDED	<i>5846</i>
INDEXED	<i>12 OCT 1917</i>
FILED	
NOV 1917	

PAYMA
NEWFO
53.

OFFICER IN CHARGE RECORDS,
1st CONTINGENT
NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.
B.E.F.

22

Officer Commanding,
1/1st. Newfoundland Regt.
B.E.F.

13th, October 7

(10)

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.

I confirm my telegrams as follows,-

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France
"234, 3/10/17, 26 AAA 1547 Pte
"W. Ross deserter apprehended
"London telegraph instructions.
Synoptical."

"236, 9/10/17
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.-
"Reference your memorandum
"second as telegraphed you third
"instant 1547 Ross apprehended
"London and your instructions
"asked AAA now in civil custody
"remanded until Thursday eleventh.
Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose

(1) Copy of the report made by
2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together
with Ross' statement referred
to therein,

(2) Copy of a telegram from
(i.e. H.Q. London Dist)

received here 12/10/17;
(3) Copy of letter from
District Inspector Ross of
the Royal Irish Constabulary,
with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

Pay & Record Office
Newfoundland Regt.

(12)

Reference to our telegram re # no: 1547 Pte.
W. Ross now under arrest in London -
Please take the necessary steps to have him
sent back home for trial under a charge of
desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re
preventing his escape en route.

The following documents should be sent
with him -

- (a) a certificate signed by the constable,
A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the
arrest was made, stating the fact, date
& place of such surrender or arrest -
- (b) The letter which he is said to have
written to the Pay & Record Office after
his escape -

Please inform me as soon as he is
despatched, & by what route -

A. L. Hadrow.

RECORDED	NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.
RECORD OFFICE	
25073	
RECORDED	17 OCT 1917
ACK'D.	
ANS'D.	
FILE NO.	

14.10.17.

LIEUT. COL.
COMDG. 1st. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

40240

Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
SOUTHAMPTON.

24

14 Oct. 1917.

Officer i/c *Newfoundland* Records,
..... *58 Victoria St. London*

Please note the following details embarked at
Southampton on *16 Oct.* 1917, to join
British Expeditionary Force:-

C O R P S	Ofs.	Other Ranks	Remarks
<i>1. Newfoundland Regt</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1544</i>	<i>Plt W. Ross. Pheonier</i>

Noted. Records
Pay
Postal.



J. M. [Signature]

Major,
D.A.A.G.,
Embarkation Post No. 1.

Foreign No.....

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Counter No.....

A_M^S FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY. (Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Prefix	Words	Code	Charge			Sent	For Postage Stamps.
			£	s.	d.		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.	To be affixed by the Sender. Any stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form. (A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained for One Penny.)
						To.....	
						By.....	

Notice.—The following Telegram is accepted by the Postmaster-General for transmission subject to the Regulations as to Foreign Telegrams made pursuant to the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1904, provided that the *Request* at the foot of the Telegram is previously signed by the Sender.

The Sender's Name and Address, or either of them, if to be telegraphed, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO {

COMMANDING NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
FRANCE

257
18/10/17

REFERENCE YOUR MEMORANDUM 14/10/17 1547 ROSS EMBARKED

SOUTHAMPTON 16/10/17 UNDER ESCORT *aaa documents*

posted you 13/10/17

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via * _____] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*) _____ **58, Victoria St. S.W. I**

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

Office Stamp



Handed in at

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Words

Charges to pay

11:50. OHMS SOUTHAMPTON. 33 =

26

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM.

Received here at

TO

OFFICER I / C RECORDS 58 VICTORIA ST

LONDON SW =

Ref. No.

5997

Rec'd.

18 OCT 1917

Ask'd.

Ans'd.

R. -5399 . 18/10/17 AAA NUMBER.

1547

PTE RO PS

W. ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGT ESCAPED FROM DOCKS.

15 TH INST AAA PLEASE TAKE NECESSARY ACTION. =

COMMANDANT REST CAMP SOUTHAMPTON :

28

18th October,

7.

The Garrison Sergeant Major,
Great Scotland Yard,
S.W. 1

10848/1

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. W. ROSS, NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

In confirmation of telephone message of date the
following telegram is quoted, please:

"OFFICER i/c RECORDS, 58, VICTORIA ST., LONDON, S.W
"R-5399 18/10/17 ^{this}aaa NUMBER 1547 PTE. ROSS W. 1ST
"NEWFOUNDLAND REGT. ESCAPED FROM DOCKS 15TH INST.
"aaa PLEASE TAKE NECESSARY ACTION.
COMMANDANT REST CAMP, SOUTHAMPTON,"

10888/184

29

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

HT/NW

(134)

Pay & Record Office,

19th October, 7.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, Np. 257.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Reference your memorandum
"14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked
"Southampton 16/10/17 under
"escort aaa documents posted
"you 13/10/17.

Synopticalz"

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Following telegram received
"today begins number 1547 Pte.
"Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
"escaped from Docks 15th inst.
"aaa please take necessary
"action Commandant Rest Camp
"Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities
were particularly advised to keep
Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of
telegram reporting his escape, the
Garrison Sergeant Major, Great
Scotland Yard, was notified
accordingly.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

11022/1./Records./HA-JC.

(87401) Wt. W12893/M1408 12,000,000 2/17. J.C.&S. (E828)

Forms
C. 348

BRANCH

Army Form C. 348

ACTED UPON

BY

From **DAI** Adjutant,
Rest Camp,

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C **MEMORANDUM.**
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,

From 58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

To Commandant, **30**
Rest Camp,
Southampton.

To O.i/c Records, **32**
London S.W.1.
ANSWER.

Pay & Record Office,

Southampton.

23rd October, 1917

24-10-17. 191

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross,
1st Newfoundland R.

Reference preceding minute.

With reference to your
telegram:

Nothing further has been heard
of Pte Ross.

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa
"number 1547 Pte Ross W.
"1st Newfoundland Regt
"escaped from Docks 15th
"inst aaa please take
"necessary action-"

will you kindly say if any
thing further has been
heard of this man?

A. A. Dehman
Captain,
Adjutant Rest Camp Southampton.

On receipt of your telegram
The Garrison Sergt.-Major,
Gt. Scotland Yard was informed.

[Signature]
Major,
Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	<i>622</i>
Rec'd.	25 OCT 1917
Act'd.	
Ans'd.	
File No.	

31

(11)

23rd October, 7

11021/71./Records./HA-JG.

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir: 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

With reference to my telegram No.1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547-
"Ross- escaped- at- Southampton- en route to-
"France- October 15-"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted from France on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No.10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

Harbor Grace
Sept-19th-1917

33

Hugh Anderson Esq
Dear Sir

(17)

Am writing to ask you if you could give me any information about my son (Plt W. L. Ross. No 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the Army, he never meant to desert but I believe while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced, he doesn't seem to know what happened the last thing he remembered was being hit by a soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad. he wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous troubles and should not have been sent in the trenches.

I have gone through the bitterness
of death today he is our only
child and only nineteen years
old he enlisted two years ago
in April past and has been
in France eighteen months.
When he came to himself he
would have gone back but he
thought it meant being shot.
Of course we do not know
what the military punishment
is. But I would feel extrem-
ely grateful if you could
give me any information about
him and on account of his
youth intercede for him if it
is in your power. He has done
his part up to the present time.
I hope I am not asking for
great a favour. Will be anxiously
awaiting a reply.

Mrs. Joseph Ross
Box 24
Water Street
Harbor Grace.

NEW FOUNDLAND REGISTRY PAY & RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	6000
Rec'd.	1917
Ack'd.	24/10/17
Ans'd.	24/10/17

Yours very sincerely
W. Habel Ross.

34

18

24th October,

7.

/1119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.

Madam, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030),
addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to
state that your son has again deserted and so far as
I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as
to what is at present available and what may be revealed
in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the
Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars
are submitted from time to time.

I am,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,

Major,

HT/NW

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

35

24th October, 7.

/1120/76

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Further to this office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official ~~xxx~~ matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place, Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

MEMORANDUM.

36

Nov 2 1917

From

Office of Records
No. 1. Infantry Section, G.H.Q. etc.

To

Office of Newfoundland Records London

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

Have you any information
re above named soldier, please.

He cannot be traced as
having arrived in
country.

BRANCH
Rds.
NOTED
DATE

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
PAY & RECORD OFFICE
Ref. No. 6614
Rec'd. - 7 NOV 1917
ACK'D. 11/25/17 8 17

W. L. Ross
No. 1. Inf. Section

W. L. Ross

11945/63./R.&C.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
83, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

37
8th November,

7

Officer i/c Records, Reg. Inf. Sect. No. 1,
G. H. Q., 3rd Echelon, B. E. F.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross;
1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to your enquiry dated 3/11/17,
(6614) for the above-named man: Ross escaped from
the Docks at Southampton, on the 15/10/17, when
proceeding to France under escort, please. He
has not been heard of since so far as this Office
is concerned.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

HA/JC

Assistant Provost-Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Rob.

14.11.17

1514/17.

[Handwritten initials]

38a

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regiment,
38 Victoria street
London. S.W.

The attached Military Police
Report and Soldier's Pay Book
(A.B.64) are forwarded to you,
please.--

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

James Lindsay

..... LT. COLONEL

ASST. PROVOST MARSHAL,
No. 9 (PORTSMOUTH) AREA,
SOUTHAMPTON.

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
PAY & RECORD OFFICE
No. <i>6856</i>
15 NOV 1917
<i>[Handwritten signature]</i>
File No.

To The Assistant Provost Marshal.

38

Sir.

The pay Book handed in to orderly
Room by me was given to me by
the Landlord of the Old Ship Inn,
Commercial Road, who stated that
he had found it on a seat in the
Bar after some Soldiers had left
the premises.

Southampton

9/11/17.



RECORDED
15 NOV 1917
P.S. KENNEDY
M.F. Police

No 1544

Pte William Ross

10. Coy

1st Newfoundland
Regt.

AO, Nov. 1917. 12

ACI. 1665 of 1917.

12305/1./R.&C.

(57404) Wt. W12893/M1408 12,000,000 2/17. J.O.&S. (E828)

Army Form C. 348

Forms
C. 348
68

MEMORANDUM.



PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
From 88, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

From

To Paymaster & Officer i/c
Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.
ANSWER. London. S.W.

Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,

Southampton

15th November, 1917

27th November 1917

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross,
1st Newfoundland Rgt.

Reference minute I.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14/11/17 (6856), the A.B.64 relating to the above-noted man has been received, please, together with the Military Police Report.

Inquiries have been made at all likely places in Southampton & District for No. 1547 Pte W.L. Ross

1st Newfoundland Rgt. but up to the present no trace can be found.

ACTED UPON
BY *W. J. [Signature]*
DATE *28 Nov 1917*

Pte. Ross deserted from his regiment in France 20/8/17, was apprehended on 3/10/17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks in Southampton, 15/10/17.

(over

NEWFOUNDLAND RECORDS... LT. COLONEL,
PAY & RECORDS ASST. PROVOST MARSHAL,
No. 9 (PORTSMOUTH) AREA,
SOUTHAMPTON.
Ref. No. *722*
No. 28 NOV 1917
Ack'd.
Ans'd.
Encl. No.

As he appears to be still
in the vicinity of Southampton
will you please exercise every
effort to apprehend ^{him} Copy
of A.F. B. 124 is enclosed.

J. A. Munnell
Major,

Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

HA/JC

you not heard
anything - how
he fared since?
Has he had his
court martial? Can
you tell me what
happened? My
uncle & I are both
anxious to know.

The enclosed letter
came from Newfoundland
but I don't know
who from.

I remain
yours sincerely
(Mrs) Kathleen Miller

1 Victoria Villa
Bayview Park.
Kilkeel
Co. Down.
Nov. 14

181 N. W. F. I. N. D. L. A. N. D. I. S. L. A. N. D. S.	PAY & RECORD OFFICE
Ref. No. 6889	16 NOV 1917
Acc'd. 15/11/17	
File No.	

Capt. Andrewon
Pay & Record Office
58 Victoria St. Rd
London

BY: JAS
DATE

Dear Sir,
I am enclosing
a letter addressed
to ¹⁵⁴⁷ Mr. Will Ross
that came in an
envelope to my
address. Will
you please forward

it as I do not know where my cousin is as he has not written as he promised when he was sent back to France.

I am living here in Kilkenny now. Expect to be here for two or three months. Left London the ^{first} of this month.

had intended going down to see you before I left the city but had no opportunity. I wanted to tell you this I feared on my way to Burlington Road & the Police Court where I saw reports to Phil. In fact had a long talk to him. Please

42

16th November,

7.

12352/1

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.

Madam,

1547, Pte, W. L. Ross.

In reply to your letter of 14/11/17 (8889); I beg to inform you that Private Ross escaped at Southampton while on his way, under escort, to France on 15/10/17. He is still at large and I am therefore returning the letter to you. I had a communication some time ago from Pte. Ross's Mother and the handwriting on the envelope enclosed appears to resemble hers.

I am,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,

HA/NWV

Chief Paymaster &.O.i/c Records.

General. Will you
kindly attend to this.
My cousin doesn't
know I have
moved or I guess
she would have
written the office
herself. I remain
yours sincerely
- Kathleen Mills

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PAY & RECORD OFFICE
Ref. No. 7192
Rec'd. 26 NOV 1917.
Acc'd. _____
Ans'd. _____
File No. _____

BRANCH Ado.
ACTED UPON
BY _____
DATE _____


M.P.

Victoria Villas
Bayview Park
Kelkeil Nov. 22nd

Capt Anderson. **43**
Pay & Record Office.
58 Victoria St
London

Dear Sir

I received your
kind reply to my
letter. Was very
much shocked to
hear such bad
news about Will
Ross. Have had a

letter from his
mother and I judge
from it that she
is in a very low
& dangerous condition
of health X Would
it be asking too
much of you to
report to me any
further news you
get regarding Will.
I would consider
it a great favor
as his people 

to think it is up to me to be
his guardian or get or something
of that sort.

• Had a letter from my cousin
Thurman from yesterday who
asked me to drop into 58

Victoria & ask you to change

His address on his letters &
parcels from He - 50th -
Hospital to He - 67th -

Telegram SR 13, 2/11/14.

Synoptical, London.

Represent to - Premier - Morris - Case of - 1547 -

Ross. full stop - request him - take what

action you properly can in the matter -

When - Ross - has been captured - Military.

CABLEGRAM

No. _____



20 NOV 1917

GOVT

No. of Message _____

Date, _____

44

✓ 45 a

The following CABLEGRAM received, at

M. "Via Commercial Cables."

AM SR 13 PJ GOVT STJOHNS NF 15

SYNOPTICAL LDN

REPINTEMOS PRIMER MORRIS CANTEEDER

1547 ROSS SILVERGOD REPROVA ABRIPOM

WHEN ROSS CANDLEBOMB

MILITARY

BRANCH

C

ACTED UPON

BY *Mu*

DATE _____

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

PAY & RECORD OFFICE

Ref. No. *6987*

Rcd. *20 NOV 1917*

ACK'd. _____

ACK'd. _____

File No. _____

No Inquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper. Repetitions of doubtful words should be obtained through the Company's Offices, and not by *direct* application to the Sender.

12501/15

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

45

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris-
"case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action
"you properly can in the matter-
"when-Ross-has been captured-
Military."

Copies of correspondence etc.
relating to the case are enclosed for
your information, please.

Yours faithfully,

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

1547

No. 12691/144

From
PAY & RECORD OFFICE **46**
56, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.
21st November, 1917.

To The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

HT/NW

SUBJECT: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Dated December 20th, 1917. 101

Reference Nos. 11120/76, 24/10/17.

Please return ORIGINAL and retain DUPLICATE.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.

Received 18/11/17 (6940).
"Synoptical, London.
"Has 1547- Ross- returned-
"keep me informed- as to
"particulars- in his case-
Military."
Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).
"Military, St. John's.
"Reference your telegram 17
"November- Ross-
"still- at large-
Synoptical."
Received 20/11/17 (6987).
"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris-
"case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what
"action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has
"been captured-
Military."

Your 13050/167 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

W. A. Rudzee
Major C.S.O.
for
Minister of Militia.

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the case sent to him.

R. A. Dunnington
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
440
11 JAN 1918
N.M.



DURRANT'S HOTEL,
George Street
Manchester Sq.
W. (1)

23rd November 1917.

47

Dear Major Timewell,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 20th November in reference to No.1547, Private W.L. Ross. I note the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should take action in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am in a position to show, I think conclusively, that when he deserted he was not of sound mind.

Yours faithfully,

A. Morris

P.S. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important

Major W.A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent Pay &
Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, S.W.

BLANCH

C

ACTED UPON

BY

DATE

NEWFOUNDLAND PAY & RECORD OFFICE

Ref. No. *17176*

Rec'd.

Ack'd. *26 NOV 1917*

Ans'd. *26/11/17*

File No. *125076*

48

26th November, 7.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office,
S.W. 1

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte, W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister of Militia, St. John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (8940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to-
"particulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still-
"at large-

Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (8987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present on a visit to this Country, I was requested by him to take such steps as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representations may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major,

HT/NW

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

12858/16

49

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

I have to acknowledge receipt
of your letter 23/11/17 (7176)
and enclose copy of this office
No. 12857/243 of this date to the
Secretary of the War Office.

Yours faithfully,

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 13050/167

60

From

PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

58, VICTORIA STREET,

50

LONDON, S.W.

28th November, 1917.

To The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,

Newfoundland.

HT/NW

SUBJECT: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Dated December 14, 1917

Reference Nos. 12691/144, 21/11/17.

Please return ORIGINAL and retain DUPLICATE.

Further to above quoted Nos. copies of the following letters are enclosed for your information, please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15, 20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176),

P. & R.O. letter No. 12857/243, 26/11/17, to the Secretary of the War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16, 26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris.

Attached copies of letters received. I am glad the Prime Minister has undertaken to interest himself in this case, and of course you will keep me notified of any happenings, as previously requested in my wire of 18/11/17.

W. G. Rudall
Major, C.S.O.
for
Minister of Militia.

R. A. Curran
Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
OFFICE
449
11 JAN 1918
M.W.
P.S.

51

14140/1/R.&.C.

19th December, 7.

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park, Kilkiel, Ireland.

Dear Madam, 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

In reply to your request sometime ago (7192) I have to inform you that ~~there has been further news of Pte. W. L. Ross, of the 1st Newfoundland Regt., and he is still at large.~~

Yours faithfully,



2/Lieut.

HA/JC



NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
PAY & RECORDS

Pos No. 8191
27 DEC 1917

Guano's Hotel 52
London 28/12/17

Ref. Nos. 001

Dear Major Innes

ASST
SEARCH
COND
PAID
REGD
B. E.
P.S.

You will remember
 the case of the soldier
 Ross of the West Regi-
 ment. I'm asking you
 when a report made for
 me on this matter - your
 reply. How does this
 case now stand I want
 information to report
 by outgoing mail for
 Department of Militia
 I'm sorry to hear you have not been
 well - wish you complement
 of season. Yours fully
 E. J. Morris

1447

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1
27th December, 1917.

53

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

In the absence of Major Timewell, who has gone away for a few days, I opened your letter addressed to him this morning.

So far as is known here No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, is still at large and no information whatever can be obtained concerning him. As soon as any news comes to hand, you will be communicated with in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. 52

Line No.



Prefix.	Code.	(Office of Origin and service instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.
Words.	Charge.		This form will be accepted at any Post Office.
	£ s. d.	Sent At To By	

On Newfoundland Government Service

7/1/18.
To 7/4/18

MILITARY,
ST. JOHN'S.
(NEWFOUNDLAND)

54

1547 ROSS AMBRASS TOUCHPIECE RELICTION CATTLEYARD CAPTAIN
OGRADY BHORTLY RICINGE THIS ANCHORUST CORBASTI SIR EDWARD
MORRIS.

SYNOPTICAL.

Translation: 1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be-
repatriated- under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly-
returning by transport- this has been arranged- in consultation
with- Sir. E. P. Morris-

NOT TO BE
TELEGRAPHED.

Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature

Address,

58, Victoria St., S.W. 1

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY).
ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.

[For List of Stations P.T.O.]

299/2/0

53-
7th January,

8.

The Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to the above named man whom you advise as having been apprehended: it is understood that you will be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of this month by which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military authorities at St. John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

56

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace,
S.W.1.

8th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster &
Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

No.1547, PTE.ROSS, W.L.

Receipt of your memo. 299/2/C, dated 7-1-18, concerning the above-named man, is acknowledged.

He will be held in close custody, according to your wishes, until an escort is provided to convey his back to Newfoundland.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
RECORDS
303
- 9 JAN 1918

Lieut. Ross

Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.

300/24/C

Forms
O. 348
338

MEMORANDUM.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
From Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

From Officer Commanding
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment

To Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland R.,
Ayr., Scotland.

To The Paymaster
Newfoundland Contingent
ANSWER. London, S.W.

HT/NW

57

Pay & Record Office,

7th January, 1918.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
PAY & RECORD OFFICE,
AYR, N.B.
10 JAN 1918
1918
Nos. 601

It is regretted that none
of the men awaiting repatriation
are considered fit enough for
this duty.

This man who was an
absentee from France some time
ago and escaped from two
distinct escorts has been re-
captured. By a special
arrangement with the A.P.M.
he will be allowed to return
to Newfoundland under escort
to be dealt with by H.Q., and
will proceed under charge of
Capt. O'Grady. Having regard
to the case and Ross's previous
record an escort will be
necessary. Can you provide
two reliable men from those
you have at the Depot waiting
repatriation to take him over
from the Imperial authorities
here for embarkation on the next
transport?

It may be added that this
special arrangement has been
made on the distinct under-
standing that Ross is removed
from the United Kingdom and it

*It is not understood how
he is being dealt with
and why he is not
disposed of in the
orderly manner.*

E. Kamm
LIEUT. COLONE
COMMANDING 2nd BN. NEWFOUNDLAND REG

is therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

A. A. D. D. D.
Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

59

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous conversations and correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intercede and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and on my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of Capt. O'Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt. O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for naturally it is inadvisable to risk originals overseas, whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the military authorities here.

Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarially certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,

573/14/C

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Rds.,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland R.,
B. E. F.

62

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

12th January, 8.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

With reference to
previous correspondence with
regard to the above named
Soldier: Ross has now been
apprehended and is in
custody pending transport to
H.Q., St. John's, for trial.
This arrangement has been
made with the AMP.M., London
District, at my request and
with the entire support of
Lord Morris, please.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1104/6/R & C

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

Officer i/c Records,
Reg. Inf. Section Q,
G.H.Q., 3rd Ech.,
B. E. F.

HT/AW

Pay & Record Office, London,

22nd January, 8.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS,
1st Bn. THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND R.

Telegrams confirmed, please:
No. 18, 13/1/18.
"D.A.G., Base, France. 63
"Please express A.Fs. B.103
"and 122 of 1547 Ross New-
"foundland Regt.

Synoptical."

No. 19, 14/1/18.
"D.A.G., Base, France.
"Please express all documents
"relating to 1547 Ross New- 64
"foundland Regt. especially
"proceedings Court of Enquiry
"mailed you 11/10/17.

Synoptical."

So far the documents, with
the exception of A.F. B103, have
not been received here and I
shall be glad if you will kindly
expedite them as they are
urgently required from H.Q.,
St. John's, where Ross has been
sent for trial.

Received

Submitted

**A^s
M**

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.
 (Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Counter
Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			At.....M.			For Postage Stamps. <i>To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form.</i> (A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)	
			To.....				
			By.....				

Notice.—The following Telegram is accepted by the Postmaster-General for transmission subject to the Regulations as to Foreign Telegrams made pursuant to the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1911, provided that the *Request* at the foot of the Telegram is previously signed by the Sender.

The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

D. A. G.,

BASE,

FRANCE.

 18
 13/1/18

63

PLEASE EXPRESS A.Fs. B.103 AND 122 OF 1547 ROSS NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

**A^S
M**

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.**
(Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Counter
Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.	For Postage Stamps. <i>To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form.</i> <i>(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)</i>
						To.....	
						By.....	

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The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

D. A. G.,

BASE,

FRANCE

64

19
14/1/18

~~PLEASE EXPRESS ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO 1547 ROSS NEWFOUNDLAND REG
ESPECIALLY PROCEEDINGS COURT OF ENQUIRY MAILED YOU 11/10/17.~~

SYNOPTICAL.

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)..... **58, Victoria**

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

576/2/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

65

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own Country and at the same time mete out adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of military discipline, for I think it is mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Apart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly

pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit: but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
ADJECTION, LONDON.
TELEPHONE 6484 } MAYFAIR.
(2 LINES) 6485 }

Jan 14th 1918

DURRANTS HOTEL,

66

MANCHESTER SQUARE, W.1

Dear Major Inneswell
No 1547 Pte W. T. Ross

In this case I concur with
you the course taken is the
best under all the circumstances
It seems especially in view of
the mans mental infir-
mity. I think you would
do well to obtain & follow
the advice of the department
at the war office dealing
with this class of case.
and procure from them
a list of the evidence you
ought to send out to
Newfoundland in re

Pay & Record Office
Newfoundland Reg't.

Re. 1547 Pte. W. Ross.

The following is a copy of letter
received from General Superintendent,
Midland Railway, Derby

To Officer Commanding
1st Bn. Newfoundland Regt.
etc etc.

Dear Sir

Sergt. W. Ross 1547

This man presented himself at our
Derby Station on Dec. 29th and stated
that he had lost the return half of his
France to Derby free ticket.

In accordance with the instructions
a fresh ticket was issued to him without
charge, from Derby to St. Pancras,
and I shall be glad to know if you
can confirm that a free ticket was
issued to him from France to Derby
and back.

3/1/18.

Yours faithfully
for General Superintendent

and

Ross is evidently masquerading as a sergeant, and I shall be glad if you will communicate this to the Military Police authorities, as Ross may still be at large in London.

11/1/18.

W. Woodhouse

COMM. 1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGT. LIEUT. COL.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
RECORD OFFICE

569
14 JAN 1918

RECORDED

Pay & Record Office,

14/1/18

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/o Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

59, Victoria Street,
London, S. W. 1.

68

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, which are lying at this Office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they may contain articles which would enable him to do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

A/Sergeant.

also 23/1/18
30/3/18 2930

ACK'D	23/1/18	No. 11
Received	1/4/18	3018
REPLY dated		

775/52/0

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

69

15th January,

HT/NW

S.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

13050/167, 28/11/17.

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18,
confirmed, please:

"Military, St. John's.
 "1547- Ross- has been apprehend-
 "ed- he will be- repatriated-
 "under charge of- Captain-
 "O'Grady- shortly- returning by
 "transport- this has been
 "arranged- in consultation with-
 "Sir- Edward- Morris-
 Synoptical."

Ross is at present at Hunter
Street Police Station awaiting
repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst.
Provost-Marshal, London District,
Ross was brought before me last
week under escort and it was
explained to him that it had been
possible to intervene and have him
sent back to Newfoundland instead
of his being returned to France
where he knew what would have
taken place. This action had been
taken not to save him from the
punishment he deserved but in the
interests of the Regiment and to
allow of his being tried in his
own Country.

When he was first brought in
he attempted to make an explanation,
but was checked. It was also
impressed upon him that if he made
any further attempt to escape ordinary
military procedure would be allowed
to take its course. before being
dismissed he was asked whether he
had anything to say and replied in
the negative.

Captain O'Grady and myself
have subsequently visited the
A.P.M. and gone into further
details, all of which together
with copies of documents relating
to the case generally will be
carried by Capt. O'Grady.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

It was found that the
statements to make an examination
but was checked. It was also
expressed upon this that he made
and further advised concerning ordinary
military procedure which he follows
to take his course. He also said
claiming he was asked what he
had written to see one called in
the morning.

778/51/C

Forms
O. 348
388

MEMORANDUM.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

From Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street
S.W. 1

From Officer Commanding

2/1st Newfoundland Regiment

To Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regt.
Winchester

To The Paymaster

Newfoundland Contingent
ANSWER. London, S.W. **72**

HT/NW

70

Pay & Record Office,

15th January, 1918.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose who will take Ross over from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter to you, please.

W. L. Ross
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
Hazelley Camp, Winchester

Jan 16th 1918
8161 NVF 81

It is regretted that there is no authority for the release of two fit men to be away from their Unit several weeks on escort duty and therefore they cannot be furnished by this Unit.

Cham

LIEUT. COLONEL
COMMANDING 2nd BN. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Prefix Code m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.	Sent		Service.
.....	At.....m.			From.....
.....	To.....		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By.....
.....	By.....			

TO { **Newfound,** /
Winchester.

71

Sender's Number. * 28	Day of Month. 17/1/18	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------	-----

Reference	memorandum	51	please	furnish
two	competent	men	with	side
arms	to	report	this	office
2	p.m.	tomorrow	Friday	to
escort	prisoner	Ross	for	embarkation
aaa	escort	will	return	to
you	after	embarking	prisoner.	
			Synoptical.	

From			
Place			
Time			

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.	Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
---------	---

* This line should be erased if not required.

CHARGE.

1st Newfoundland Regt.

BATTERY, SQUADRON, TROOP OR COMPANY.

76

CHARGE against No.

1547 Pte Ross. W.

Place.	Date of Offence.	Offence.	Names of witnesses.	Punishment awarded	By whom awarded.
<i>London</i>	<i>5-1-18</i>	When on Active Service <i>Absent unnoted Apprehended by the Military Police at Kings Cross London about 8.30 P.M. the 5th of January. 1918.</i>	<i>Serjt H. W. White Serjt J. Wingard Sergeant Military Police</i>		

W. Ross Comp.
~~please return~~
~~Assistant Provost Marshal~~
~~The Hut~~
~~Grosvenor~~

NEWFOUNDLAND BATTALION
RECORD OFFICE.
JAN 1918
ACK'D
Ref. Nos. UUT
ACTED UPON BY
Comd
P & A. ✓
R. & C
B. & E
P. S.

Althea Lewis, Lt Col.

ASSISTANT *Commanding Battery* PROVOST MARCHAL
Squadron, Troop or Company.
LONDON DISTRICT.

~~Statement~~ Statement of Evidence
Against No. 1547. Pte W. L. Cross

Sir, At London on the Night of the 5th of January 1918.
I was on duty at Kings Cross in company with Sergh Fingard
G. M. P. when about 8.30. P. M. we saw the above named
Soldier. I ask him to produce his Pass and he then stated
that his name was Pte. W. L. Cross of the 1st Newfoundland
Regt and that he was absent with sick leave. We then
conducted him to Hunter Street Police Station where
he was detained.

H. Wabley Sergh.
Garrison Military Police

Sir,
I have read over and corroborate the above Statement
F. Fingard. Sergh.
G. M. Police.

~~77~~
77

18th January, 8.

969/3/C

Capt. J. J. O'Grady,

Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No. 56

HT/NW

No. 1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS (PRISONER)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland; the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return railway warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all data available to date and which have been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M, there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23 2 18
30 3 18 2930

78

988/42/C

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

19th January, 1918.

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS
(PRISONER)

775/32/C, 15/1/18.

Further to above number,
copies of following documents are
enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of
telegrams, letters, reports etc.
numbered from 1 to 76,

2. This office No. 969/3/C,
18/1/18, to Capt. J. J. O'Grady,
i/c of Prisoner.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

79

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace,
S.W.1.

25th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster and
Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W.1.

No.1547, PTE. W. ROSS.

With further reference to my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated
18-1-18, the attached bill for subsistence, incurred by the
above-named man, is forwarded for favour of settlement, please.

Lieut. Keown,

Captain, 923
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

26 JAN 1918

8/2/18

17/3 9/2/18

P54
12
17/4

[Handwritten signature]

2/2/18

[Handwritten note]

1777/3/P&A

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

80
A. P. M.
London District,
11, Carlton House
Terrace.

3rd, February . . . 8 .

1547, PTE. W. ROSS.

With reference to your memorandum
A.P.M.L.D.7383/S, 25/1/18 (923) enclosing bill
in respect of subsistence incurred by the above
Soldier: Cheque 12s. 3d. has been forwarded .
to the Army *Center* ~~Centre~~ Committee C.R.D, Whitehall,
please.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

. FM/WF

X

2638/5/R.&C.

17th February, 8

The Rt. Hon. Lord Morris,
Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square,
London, W.

My Lord: 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

The following code telegram (1647) has been received
at this Office to-day from *the Hon. Minister of Militia.*

"68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins- reference your
"letter 23rd November- can you- produce-
"evidence to show that- 1547- Ross- insane-
"when he- deserted- please- ends-
Military-"

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross is the man who deserted from
France in August last, and who was sent home under escort
in January with Capt. J. J. O'Grady's draft.

Will you kindly supply me with the information to
enable me to reply?

I am,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

HA/JC

2797/123/Com.

ACK	263 18	No. 110
Received	22/4/18	3614
REPLY dated		
Received		
LAST Ref No.		
NEXT		

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

30th February, 8

No. 1547, PTE. W.L. ROSS.

April 27th 1918

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please.

Wheat

"18/2/18- 88- Following for-
 "Lord- Morris- immediate
 "action- necessary- begins-
 "Reference your letter 23rd
 "November- can you- produce-
 "evidence to show that- 1547-
 "Ross- insane- when he-
 "deserted- please- ends-
 - Military-

*Sign'd W.F. Penhall
 Major C.F.O.*

For Acting Min of Militia

"18/2/18- 253- Reference your
 "telegram 18th February-
 "Lord- Morris- advised that-
 "if- military authorities-
 "tried- Ross- in England- we
 "should- set up- plea of-
 "insanity- only- evidence-
 "to support- this- plea is-
 "what might- reasonably- be-
 "inferred from- his- having-
 "suffered- severely- from-
 "shellshock- and from- his-
 "subsequent- extraordinary-
 "conduct-
 - Synoptical-

*4989
 3/6/18
 Haa*

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/JO

WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

2nd April, 1918.

83
No. 110/Infantry/8336(A.G.3.L).

84
5155

The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to return this letter as early as possible, with a statement in the margin showing all information in your possession regarding the case of Private ROSS.

Reference the attached copy of telegram received in this Department through the Colonial Office.

Copies of documents relating to No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regt. enclosed, please.

Available originals thereof are in this Office should they be required.

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. & c Records,

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

4th April, 1918.

✓
3082

3/4/18.

C O P Y.



TELEGRAM from the Governor of Newfoundland to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Dated 25th March)

83a

(Received Colonial Office 10.45 p.m. 25th March 1918.)

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention
of Lord Morris I am in doubt whether special warrant is not
necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special warrant
necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number
of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient
suggest that prisoner should be tried by District Court Martial
which ^{(could} be managed. Very important that trial should be
~~tried~~ here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster Newfoundland
Record Office has all details suggest reference to him also
Judge Advocate General War Office for his instructions and
advice as to the case. Prisoner has already been under arrest
some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS.

85
WAR OFFICE,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

All further communications on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W. 1.
and the following number quoted.

110/Infantry/9336.(A.G.3.L).

27th April, 1918.

Sir,
I am directed to forward herewith for your information and necessary action, with a view to your communicating with the Military Authorities in Newfoundland, a copy of correspondence regarding the proposed trial of No. 1547, Private W. L. ROSS, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Am. Henderson *Col. d'Almeida*
Adj. G.

for Brigadier General,
Director of Personal Services.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
Ref. Nos. *5833*
29 APR 1918
Ack'd Ans'd
Ref. Nos. 007

NOTED UPON
The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W.

C O P Y.

86

110/Infantry/8336.(A.G.3.L).

27th April, 1918.

Sir,

In continuation of the letter from this Department of the 22nd instant, Number as above, I am commanded by the Army Council to forward herewith a Court Martial Warrant for transmission to the Governor of Newfoundland together with a copy of the Judge Advocate General's advice on the evidence required in the case of No.1547, Private W. L. ROSS, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I am to add that copies of this letter and of the Judge Advocate General's advice have been forwarded to the Newfoundland Record Office in London, in order that they may communicate with the Military Authorities in Newfoundland with a view to arranging between themselves for the production of the necessary original documents and witnesses at the trial.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) B. B. Cubitt.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
S.W.

215718

86a

215718

Dear Major Timewell

I have looked at
the Ross papers - there is
no reason why you should
not communicate with Alfred
as desired by W.O.

Yours sincerely

Henry Lambert

We sent a copy of the W.O. letter of
27 April (which you have) to
you in a despatch dated 30
April

Extract from Minute of the Judge Advocate General.

2. The following charges may be preferred against Private Ross:-

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1st Charge.
Sec.12 (1a),
Army Act.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service,
in that he,
in France on the 20th August, 1917, absented himself from the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, until apprehended in London on the 3rd October, 1917, by the Civil Power.</p> |
| <p>1st alternative charge.
Sec.12 (1a)
Army Act.
Alternative.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he,
in France on the 20th August, 1917, absented himself from the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, until calling at the Newfoundland Record and Pay Office London on the 27th August, 1917.</p> |
| <p>2nd alternative charge.
Sec.12 (1a)
Alternative</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service, in that he,
in London on the 27th August, 1917, absented himself from the Newfoundland Record and Pay Office until apprehended in London on the 3rd October, 1917, by the Civil Power.</p> |
| <p>2nd Charge.
Sec.12(1a)
Army Act.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service, in that he,
at Southampton on the 15th October, 1917, when proceeding under escort to rejoin his Regiment in France absented himself until surrendering himself in London on the 5th January 1918, to the Military Authorities.</p> |

The two alternative charges to the first charge have been inserted in case the Court might take the view that the absence was broken by the visit of the accused to the Record Office, though on the facts before me I do not think this would be the correct view as the accused did not visit the Office for the purpose of surrendering himself or ending his illegal absence and he does not appear to have been placed under arrest.

3. It is assumed that the following evidence would be available in Newfoundland in support of the first charge and charges alternative thereto:-

Maj. P. P. Court

- (a). Original confessions of accused Documents No.12 and 75.
- (b). Original letter of the accused to the Newfoundland Record Office dated 27/8/17 referred to in Document No.2. ✓
- (c). Army Form B.115 to prove the commencement of the absence of the accused certified in accordance with Army Act, Section 163 (h). Document No.79 contains a reference to a Court of Inquiry and it is therefore assumed that this is available.
- (d). Original Army Form O.1618 to prove the arrest of the accused by the Civil Power on the 3rd of October, 1917, admissible under Army Act, Section 163 (i).
- (e). A witness who can identify the accused as being No.1547 Private W.L.Ross, 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment. ✓

- 87(1)
- ✓ (f). Original attestation signed by the accused.
 - ✓ (g). Evidence of handwriting expert to prove that the signature on the attestation and the confession and Army Form B.115 are by the same person or the evidence of persons familiar with the handwriting of the accused who can prove that the signature on all these documents are those of the accused.
 - ✓ (h). evidence of the escort who took over the accused from arrest in London and brought him to Newfoundland.
 - ✓ (i). A witness who would produce on oath (a), (b), (c) and (d) and prove that he had received them from the Record Office in London.

As it would appear from some of the documents that only copies have been sent to Newfoundland I desire to call attention to the fact that it is essential that the originals of (a), (b) and (g) and a properly certified copy of (c) should be available at the trial. Attention is called to Chapter VI of the Manual of Military Law dealing with evidence at Courts-Martial.

If (c) Army Form B.115 is not available it would hardly be safe to rely upon the confessions alone without having available a witness who could speak to the circumstances under which at least one of the confessions was made. The confessions are stated on the face of them to have been made voluntarily but it is possible that a case might be set up at the trial that they were not in fact voluntary.

It would be desirable if possible that Sergeant Crocker should also be sent over as a witness at the trial to prove the incidents which occurred on the 27th August, 1917, and the taking over from the civil power after arrest on the 3rd October, 1917, though I do not think this is absolutely essential if the other evidence above referred to can be obtained.

- ✓ (4). With regard to the second charge it is assumed the following evidence would be available:-
Original Certificate of Surrender to the A.P.M. on the 5th January, 1918, admissible under Section 163 (j) of the Army Act as amended by the Army (Annual) Act 1917.

Unless a Court of Inquiry was held and a properly certified Army Form B.115 is available it will be necessary to call as a witness at the trial the escort from whom the accused escaped at Southampton.

- (5). As it appears from the documents that a plea of insanity is likely to be raised at the trial it will be a matter for consideration of the prosecution whether it will be necessary for them to be prepared with medical evidence as to the fitness of the accused to plead and his sanity at the time of the commission of the offences charged.

The usual medical certificate in pursuance of King's Regulations 580 must in any case be obtained.

Sgd. F. Cassel,

J. A. G.

15/4/18.

88

7985/337/G

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,

St. John's,

Newfoundland.

21st May, 8.

1847, PTE. W. L. ROSS.

With reference to W.O. Letter 110/Infantry/8336(A.G.S.B) 27/4/18 to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of which was forwarded by the Colonial Office to H.E. the Governor: the following original documents are enclosed, please:

- (3) (a) 1. Copy of confession (12)
- 2. Original " (75)
- Original of (1) was retained by the Police, only the copy now enclosed being in possession of this Office. On application to the Police, I was informed that original had been destroyed as customary after a certain lapse of time.
- (b) 3. Letter from Ross to 2/Lt. Anderson received 28/8/18.
- (c) 4. Proceedings of Court of Inquiry (A.F. A.2) 21/9/17 and annexures 4a & 4b.
- (d) 5. This office 7817/1dR&G, 17 & 18/5/18 exchanged with Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
- (e) Witness: presumably available in Newfoundland.
- (f) Original attestation, not in this office, presumably retained by you.
- (g) Presumably will be provided in Newfoundland.
- (h) Capt. J.J. O'Grady.
- (j) " " " /or
- (d) 6. A.F. B.252, 5/1/18 (76)
- 7. Also enclosed Met. Police Form Sch. 1. 64.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

To be used only for Special Reserve Recruits, and for Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Surname

Ross

OR

Christian Name

William

Table 1.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace:—Parish

St. John's

County

Newfoundland

SPECIAL RESERVE.

REGULAR ARMY.

Examined

on *23* day of *March* 191*5*

on day of 191

at *St. John's*

at

Declared Age

18 years days

years days

Trade or Occupation

Height

5 feet *8* inches

inches

Weight

140 lbs.

lbs.

Chest Measurement

Girth when fully expanded...
Range of expansion..

36 inches
3 inches

COPY SENT TO
O.C. H.Q.
ST. JOHNS, N.F.L.D.
N.F.P.38. NO. *9587*
DATED *18 JAN 1916*

Physical Development

Right

Left

Right

Left

Vaccination Marks

Arm
Number

When Vaccinated

8 yrs. ago.

Vision

R.E.—V=*5/6*
L.E.—V=*6*

R.E.—V=
L.E.—V=

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease

(a)

(a)

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to Cause Rejection

(b)

Test had. had plate made.

(b)

Approved by (Signature)

(Rank)

Frederic Burden
Lieut.

Medical Officer.

Medical Officer.

Enlisted

at *St. John's*

at

on *29* day of *Apr* 191*5*

on day of 191

Corps.

Regtl. No.

Corps.

Regtl. No.

Joined on Enlistment

Kennerly

1547

Transferred to

Became non-effective by

on day of 191

on day of 191

(Signature)

(Rank)

Table III.—Boards: Courts of Inquiry, Vaccination, Inoculations, &c.: Examinations for Field or Foreign Service, Extension, Re-engagement, or Prolongation of Service; Issue of Surgical Appliances; Particulars of Dental Treatment, &c.

Date	Brief Details, and Signature
May 25 th	1 st inoculation typhoid. 500 million
June 7 th	2 nd " " 1000 "
June 25 th 15	Vaccinated at sea J.

TABLE IV.—SERVICE TABLE.

Station or Troopship	Date of Arrival or Embarkation	Date of Departure or Disembarkation.	Station or Troopship	Date of Arrival or Embarkation	Date of Departure or Disembarkation
St. John's by					

COPY.

Regimental No. 1547.

Company _____

THE

1 ST. NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

I hereby enlist for service at home or abroad in the
King's Forces under the following conditions:

For the duration of the present war, or until
my discharge.

Subject to the Army Act, the King's Regulations,
and to such ordinances as may apply or may
be made to apply to the British Regular Army.

Subject to the Newfoundland Volunteer Act,
5 George V., Chapter IV.

Signed William L Ross.

Witness S. Robertson.

Dated at

2/1st Newfoundland Regiment,

Orderly Room,

1st Feb., 1916.

PROCEEDINGS of a* Court of Enquiry

*N.B.—The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

assembled at Proven, Belgium.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

on the Twenty first day of September, 1917.

by order of Major A.E. Bernard, M.C.

Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.

for the purpose of enquiring into the illegal absence
of No. 1547, Private W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland
Regt.

PRESIDENT.

Capt. J. A. Ledingham, 1st Newfoundland R.

MEMBERS.

Lieut. K. J. Keegan, 1st Newfoundland R.

Lieut. J. F. Edens, do.

IN ATTENDANCE.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to
take evidence.

1st Witness. No. 1256, Corporal Francis Somerton, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, being duly sworn, states:

I am Acting Platoon Sergeant of ^{No. 7 Platoon} 'B' Company, Newfoundland Regt. On the 20th of August 1917 when I called the roll of the platoon before going into the trenches I found No. 1547 Private W. Ross to be absent. I last saw him on parade about five minutes previous without his equipment. He was sent by the Platoon Commander to get his equipment but did not return. I reported his absence to the Platoon Commander before moving off for the trenches.

2nd Witness. No. 404 Acting Regimental Sergeant Major Frederick P. Le Grow, 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th of August 1917 when the Battalion marched off to the trenches Acting Company Sergeant Major Field of B Company reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. He is still absent.

3rd Witness. No. 161 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Francis Walsh 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Company Quartermaster Sergeant of 'B' Company, 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th August 1917 Acting Company Sergeant Major Field reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. I went to his tent to take an inventory of his Kit and Equipment and found the following deficiencies:

- 1 jacket, S.D.
- 1 pr. Trousers, S.D.,
- 1 pr. putties
- 1 pr. Boots, ankle,
- 1 steel helmet,
- 1 belt, web.

DECLARATION. The Court declare that No. 1547 Private W. Ross, Newfoundland Regt. illegally absented himself without leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles:

- 1 jacket, S.D.,
- 1 pr. trousers, S.D.,
- 1 " putties
- 1 " boots, ankle
- 1 steel helmet
- 1 belt, web.

President: (Sgd) J. A. LEDINGHAM, Capt.
Newfoundland Regt.

Members: (Sgd) KEVIN J. KEEGAN, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

(Sgd) J. F. EDENS, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

1st Witness. No. 1256, Corporal Francis Somerton, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, being duly sworn, states:

To: 7. Section
I am Acting Platoon Sergeant of 'B' Company, Newfoundland Regt. On the 20th of August 1917 when I called the roll of the platoon before going into the trenches I found No. 1547 Private W. Ross to be absent. I last saw him on parade about five minutes previous without his equipment. He was sent by the Platoon Commander to get his equipment but did not return. I reported his absence to the Platoon Commander before moving off for the trenches.

2nd Witness. No. 404 Acting Regimental Sergeant Major Frederick P. Le Grow, 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th of August 1917 when the Battalion marched off to the trenches Acting Company Sergeant Major Field of B Company reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. He is still absent.

3rd Witness. No. 161 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Francis Walsh 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Company Quartermaster Sergeant of 'B' Company, 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th August 1917 Acting Company Sergeant Major Field reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. I went to his tent to take an inventory of his Kit and Equipment and found the following deficiencies:

1 jacket, S.D. 1 pr. Trousers, S.D., 1 pr. putties
1 pr. Boots, ankle, 1 steel helmet, 1 belt, web.

DECLARATION. The Court declare that No. 1547 Private W. Ross, Newfoundland Regt. illegally absented himself without leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles:

1 jacket, S.D.,
1 pr. trousers, S.D.,
1 " putties
1 " boots, ankle
1 steel helmet
1 belt, web.

President: (Sgd) J. A. LEDINGHAM, Capt.
Newfoundland Regt.

Members: (Sgd) KEVIN J. KEEGAN, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

(Sgd) J. F. EDENS, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

COPY

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Major Keston
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1 pr. trousers, S.D.,
1 " putties
1 " boots, ankle
1 steel helmet
1 belt, web.

President: (Sgd) J. A. LEDINGHAM, Capt.
Newfoundland Regt.

Members: (Sgd) KEVIN J. KEEGAN, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

(Sgd) J. F. EDENS, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

REPORT

OF

A DESERTER

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE

from the 1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,

British Expeditionary Force.

Newfoundland Contingent, P.&R.O.,

Dated at 58 Victoria St. London.S.W.

this 28th Day of August, 19 17.

Army Form B. 124.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From Regt.

London, S.W.

*Signature of Commanding
Officer*

1/1st Newfoundland Regt., B.E.F. (Unit)

REPORT OF A DESERTER or Absentee without leave from the above Unit
since 20/8/17 Dated at London this 28th day of
August, 19 17.

Number, Rank and Name ...	1547, Pte. Wm. L. Ross.		
Age 21 years 4 months	Trade.....	Clerk	
Height..... { Feet ... 5 Inches ... 8	Colour of... {	Complexion ...	Fair
		Hair	Brown
		Eyes	Blue
Date and Place of Enlistment	St. John's, Newfoundland, April 29, 1915.		
Parish and County in which Born*	Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.		
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....	B.E.F., 20/8/17.		
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)	He appears to be taller now than 5 ft. 8 ins. Possibly 5 ft. 9" or 10".		
See Note			
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)	Under three years service.		

Signature of Commanding Officer (Sgd) H. A. Anderson, 2/Lt.

* The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.

|| If the soldier deserted or absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).

† The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, or absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is, however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

REPORT

OF

A. DESERTER

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE

from the 11th Newfoundland Regt.
British Expeditionary Force

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From Regt.

London, S.W.

Dated at NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
58, VICTORIA ST.
LONDON, S.W.

this Day of 28/8/17

Signature of Commanding Officer

Army Form B. 124.

NOTE.—When this form is sent to any person other than the above, this address is to be erased, and the form enclosed in a stamped cover.

REPORT

OF

A. DESERTER

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE

from the 11th Newfoundland Regt.
British Expeditionary Force

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From Regt.

London, S.W.

Dated at NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
58, VICTORIA ST.
LONDON, S.W.

this Day of 28/8/17

Signature of Commanding Officer

Army Form B. 124.

NOTE.—When this form is sent to any person other than the above, this address is to be erased, and the form enclosed in a stamped cover.

Copy to Police Gazette 24/17
 Military Police 20/8/17

Copy

Army Form B. 124.

1/1 - Newfoundland Regt. B.E.F. (Unit)

REPORT OF A DESERTER or Absentee without leave from the above Unit
 since 20/8/17. Dated at London this 28th day of
 August 1917.

Number, Rank and Name...		1549 Pte. Wm L. Ross	
Age...	21 years 4 months	Trade.....	Clerk
Height.....	Feet ... 5	Colour of...	Complexion ... Fair
	Inches ... 8		Hair Brown
			Eyes Blue
Date and Place of Enlistment		St John's Newfoundland April 29 th 1915	
Parish and County in which Born*		St John's, Grace Newfoundland	
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....		B.E.F. 20/8/17	
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)		He appears to be taller now than 5ft. 8" - possibly 5ft. 9" or 10"	
See Note			
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)		Under three years service.	

Signature of Commanding Officer



- * The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.
- || If the soldier deserted or absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).
- † The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, or absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

MEMORANDUM.

From
The O.i/c No.1 Infantry
Section,
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon.

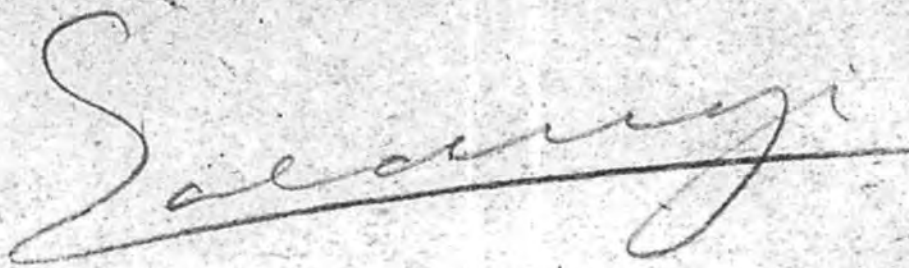
To
The Chief Paymaster
and O.i/c Records,
Newfoundland
Cont.

Date 14th Jany. 1918.

L O N D O N
S. W. 1.

Herewith Army Form-B.103 of
No.1547 Private William Ross as requested in
your telegram of to-day's date.

O.C. unit has been asked to
transmit A.F.B.122 which will be forwarded
when received.



MAJOR

Infantry Section
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT, PAY & RECORDS OFFICE.	
Ref. Nos.	690
Rec'd	18 JAN 1918
Ack'd	
Ref. Nos.	
BRAN	
Comd	
P & C	
R. & C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B & I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P.S.	

*Referred to in D.O. letter.
Not used in this case. 20*

RECORD of the Declaration of a Court of Inquiry assembled at
on the _____ day of _____ 19____, for the purpose of investigating
and recording the absence, without leave, from his duty, and deficiency, if any, in the Arms,
Ammunition, Equipments, Instruments, Regimental Necessaries, or Clothing of No.

DECLARATION.

The Court declare,

Names of President and Members.

Signature of Commanding Officer _____

Certified true copy.

Signature of Officer having custody of the
Original Record.

WILL.

656.

Name *Ross, W. L.*Regtl. No. *1547* Rank *Private*Regiment *NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT*Date of:— *3/7/17.*

Receipt

Transfer

Final disposal and
to whom sent ...

DUPLICATE

N.F. P/D

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT



VOUCHER

In A/c with Credit Lyonnais,
Cooksur Street.

Voucher No. 2/73
Cheque No. 2/73

A/c No. _____ Name 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross C.B. Folio No. _____

Date	Sub-Voucher No.	Particulars	Amount		
		<p>XXXXXXXXXXXX Remittance to O. G. 1/1 Newfoundland Regt. B.E.F. France For payment to No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross Charges included.</p> <p><i>Original in 802/c file</i></p>	£2	0	0
			£2	0	0

CERTIFICATION

Date November 30/16

Reference _____

[Signature]
Paymaster & Officer i/c Records. *caps*

Checked by F.H. Marshall

RECEIPT

191

Received from the NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT the sum of

Two Pounds _____ Shillings,

and _____ Pence, in payment as above stated

£ 2 0 0.

CREDIT LYONNAIS—LONDON,
WEST END BRANCH.

[Sig.] *[Signature]*
MANAGER.

NOTE: Please return this whole form intact to: -

PAY & RECORD OFFICE,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
88, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.

War file

4637/163.

O. O.,

1/1st. Newfoundland Regt..

B. E. F.,

Nov. 11, 1916.

F. M. M. F.

November 4th 6.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.

The enclosed cheque for \$2. 0. 0. has been received here from the Bank of Montreal. Kindly hand it to this soldier and obtain his receipt on the attached form. If the cheque is endorsed and returned here, subject to your approval, the equivalent may be remitted to him through the Credit Lyonnais, or placed to his credit at this office.

This cheque cannot be cashed here. Will you please get it changed at Credit Lyonnais.

(Sd.) A. Raley, Capt.,
Adjt.,
1st Nfld.

.. Capt.
Paymaster & O. 1/c Records.

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	4-374
Rec'd.	NOV 15 1916
Ack'd.	
Ans'd.	
File No.	

No. 1547 Rank Pte Name Ross. W.

Pay	F.A.	Weg	Total
100	10		110
Less: Allotment			50
Net Rate			60

M. P. 1/53.

DEBITS	Date	£ s d			CREDITS	Period		Days	Rate	£ s d						
						From	To									
Balance					Balance		9/6/17				35	15	8	✓		
Acquittance Rolls		2	18	8	✓ Pay @ net Rate	9/6/17	27/9/17	80	60	48	00	9	17	3	✓	
Hospital Advances					✓ Ration allowance									36	✓	
A.B. 34		1	13	0	✓ 2 days @ 1/9										✓	
P. & R.O. Payments	38-1-8	34	10	0	✓ Ration allowance									17	6	✓
Bleque 6443		8	00	0	10 days @ 1/9											✓

f 9-12-3

463311

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

COPIES

of

TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS etc.

relating to

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

CERTIFIED that the WITHIN DOCUMENTS
numbered from 1 (one) to 76 (seventy six) are
TRUE COPIES of ORIGINALS.

R. A. Munnell Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

J. O'Grady Esq Capt.,
Adjutant H.Q., St. John's, Nfld.

Pay & Record Office
56, Victoria Street
London, S.W. 1

18th January, 1918.

(Telegram received 27/8/17)

Synoptical, London.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th
aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.
O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

2.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir,

Regarding 1547, Private W. L. Ross, 1/1st Newfoundland R.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17
amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th
"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries.
O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m. after disposing
of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost
simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802,
L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8:0:0 drawn in favour of
1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it
and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-
examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special
leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was
for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe
he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3
days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have
the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only
arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his
intention to return to France that evening, i.e., 27/8/17. He then
made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at
his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In
the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was
quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement
I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office
to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in
which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass
back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and
informed me that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report). A
description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military
Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at
7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been
made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following
letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17,
and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in
that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an
hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you
any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I
had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated
decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done

(II)

two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,
(Sd.) W. L. ROSS."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

3.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
27th August, 1917.

Major H.A. Timewell,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1

Sir,

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547 Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door, 58 Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 985, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police; giving a description in both cases.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, S.Segt.

4.

(Telegram received 2/9/17)

Synoptical, London.
1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross

O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

(III)

5.
(Telegram despatched 2/9/17)

Commanding, Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
Police searching letter follows.

Synoptical.

No. 9903/138.

6.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regt.,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
3rd September, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross.
O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
"police searching letter follows.

Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette". I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

Confidential.

7.

9990/41

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30/8/17:

"Military, St. John's.

". . . Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20- 1547-

"Ross- full stop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following documents relating to his case:

(IV)

A.F.B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(8)

C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A.

Headquarters,
London District,
Horse Guards,
Whitehall, S.W. 1
22nd September, 1917.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

With reference to the case of No. 1547 Private W.L. Ross, 15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

(Sd.) C. BLUNDELL, Capt.,
Staff Capt.,
for Brigadier-General,
D.A. & Q.M.G. LONDON DISTRICT.

9.

9991/2

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

D.A. & Q.M.G.,
Headquarters, London District,
Horse Guards, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. Deserter

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

10.

(Telegram despatched 3/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aas 1547 Pte. W. Ross Deserter apprehended London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical.

(v)

11.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547 Pte. W. Ross

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, Staff-Sergt.

12.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 1917.

William Leslie Ross,
Private, Regt. No. 1547,
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passed in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a shilling to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He showed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to

meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table. Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose the money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45, Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent ~~it~~ to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens' brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens' brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month, I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she used to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head is sometimes very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. ROSS.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division,

4th October, 1917.

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13.

10262/1/Records/HA-JC

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
5th October, 1917.

D.A. & G.M.G., London District, H.Q., London District,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, Deserter, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A of 22/9/17 and to telephone communication this date: I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17 has been informed, and the Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

14.

To Pay & Record Office

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th 1917.

2-10-17.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.

15.

Telegram despatched 9/10/17

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.

Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instruction asked aas now in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical.

16.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this office by Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, Staff-Sergt.

(VIII)

17.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1

Sir: With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17, Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that he was indifficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when seventeen
"rush particulars cable Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt. Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to day that Ross would shortly be sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2nd Lieut.

18.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
8/10/17.

Officer i/c
Newfld. Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir,

I have heard that Pte. William L. Ross 1st Newfld. Regt. has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil Police, and will be tried on 11th inst, but I do not know in what part of London or on what charges.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet twenty and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in Sep. and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Josph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfld.

(IX)

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regt.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours f'fully,

(Sd.) J. ROSS
Dist. Inspector, R. I. C.

19.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

10601/1

J. Ross, Esq.,
Dist. Inspector, R.I.C.
Newry.

Sir, No: 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B.E.F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Records.

20.

(Telegram despatched 12/10/17)

Military, St. John's.

Reference my telegram 4th October- 1547- Ross- absentee- from- B.E.F.- being sent to- France- under escort-

Synoptical.

21.

(Telegram received 12/10/17)

O. 1/c Newfoundland Records Office 58 Victoria St. S.W.

L.D. 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 aaa following absentee from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aaa 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross 1st Btn. Newfoundland Regt. aaa

Usted.

22.

10635/179/HA.WF.

From: Paymaster & Officer 1/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(X)

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,
B. E. F.

13th October, 1917.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regta France.
"234, 3/10/17 26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended
"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"236, 9/10/17 Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed
"you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your
"instructions asked aaa now in civil custody remanded until
"Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose:

1. Copy of report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with Ross' statement referred to therein,
 2. Copy of a telegram from "Uted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.) received here 12/10/17,
 3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary with my reply thereto.
- Kindly acknowledge.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23.

Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now underbarrest in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing his escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

(a) A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and place of such surrender or arrest.

(b) The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay & Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Comdg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

14.10.17.

24.

Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
SOUTHAMPTON.
17 Oct. 1917.

Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
58, Victoria St., London.

Please note the following details embarked at Southampton on 16 Oct. 1917 to join British Expeditionary Force:-

Corps	Offs.	Other Ranks	Remarks
1 Newfoundland Regt.		1	1547 Pte. W. Ross, prisoner.

(Sd.) L.C.I. Knight, Major,
D.A.A.G.,
Embarkation Port No. 1

(XI)

25.
(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross ~~was~~ embarked
Southampton 16/10/17 under escort ~~and~~ documents posted you 13/10/17.
Synoptical.

26.
(Telegram received 18/10/17)

Officer i/c Records 58 Victoria St., London, S.W.
R 5399 18/10/17 ~~and~~ number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
escaped from docks 15th inst. ~~and~~ please take necessary action.
Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton."

27.
(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)
Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France
Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross W.
1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from docks 15th Inst. ~~and~~ please take
necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton. Synoptical."

28.
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
18th October, 1917.
10848/1
The Garrison Sergeant Major,
Great Scotland Yard, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment.

In confirmation of telephone message of this date the following
telegram is quoted, please:

"Officer i/c Records, 58, Victoria St., London, S.W.
"R-5399 18/10/17 ~~and~~ Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland
"Regt. escaped from docks 15th inst. ~~and~~ please take necessary
"action.
Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.,
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

29.
10888/184
From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
19th October, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Telegrams confirmed, please:
Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.
"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked
"Southampton 16/10/17 under escort ~~and~~ documents posted you
"13/10/17. Synoptical."

(X11)

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross,
"W, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment escaped from docks 15th. instant aaa
"please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
"Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland Yard was notified accordingly.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(30)

11022/1/Reeds.

October 23rd, 1917.

From: Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,

To: Commandant,
Rest Camp, Southampton.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

With reference to your telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross 1st. Newfoundland
"Regiment escaped from Docks 15th. inst. aaa please take necessary
"action".

Will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of
this Man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt. Major,
Great Scotland Yard was informed and others concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(31)

11021/71/Reeds.

23rd, October, 1917

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Sir,-

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th. October - 1547 - Ross - escaped -
"at - Southampton - on route to - France - October 15th -"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further
minutes and reports relating to this man who deserted from France
on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed together with a
letter from District Inspector J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary
and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my
No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland
Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(X111)
(32)

Southampton,
24/10/17.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W. 1.

Reference preceding minute: Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

(Sd) H. A. DENHAM, Capt
Adjutant Rest Camp Southampton.

(33)

Hr. Grace,
19th, September, 1917.

Hugh Anderson, Esq.,
Dear Sir,-

Am writing to ask you if you could give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the army. He never meant to desert but I believe while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced. He doesn't seem to know what happened. The last thing he remembered was being hit by a Soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad. He wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous troubles, and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death to-day. He is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past, and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the Military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him and on account of his youth intercede for him if it is in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sd) Isabel Ross.

(34)

24th, October, 1917.

11119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Harbour Grace Newfoundland.

Madam,- No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6050), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(35)

24th, October, 1917.

1120/76
The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Sr,- No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Further to this office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour

(XIV)

to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross may feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position; possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(36)

From: Officer i/c Records,
No. 1 Infantry Section, G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon.

To: Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
London.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Have you any information re. above named Soldier, please?
He cannot be traced as having arrived in this Country.

(Sd) Neary, 2/Lt. for Major,
Officer i/c No. 1 Infantry Section.

B. E. F.
3/11/17.

(37)

11945/63/R & C

8th. November, 1917.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W.

To: Officer i/c Records,
Regular Infantry Section No. 1,
G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon, B. E. F.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.
1st. Newfoundland Regiment.

With reference to your enquiry dated 3/11/17 (6614) for the above named man: Ross escaped from the Docks at Southampton, on the 15/10/17, when proceeding to France under escort, please. He has not been heard of since so far as this office is concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

SAs.

Assistant Provost-Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton,
14/11/18.

1514/17.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regiment,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

The attached Military Police Report and Soldier's Pay Book
(A.B. 64) are forwarded to you, please:
Kindly acknowledge receipt.

(Sd.) JAMES LINDSAY, Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

38.

To: The Assistant Provost Marshal.

Sir, No. 1547. Pte. William Ross, B Coy. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

The Pay Book handed into Orderly Room by me was given to me by the Landlord of the Old Ship Inn, Commercial Road, who stated that he had found it on a seat in the Bar after some soldiers had left the premises.

(Sd.) G. S. Keen, L/Cpl.,
M.F. Police.

Southampton,
9/11/17.

39.

12305/1/R. & C.

From: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,
15th November, 1917.

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14/11/17 (6856), the A.B. 64 relating to the above-noted man has been received; please, together with the Military Police Report.

Pte. Ross deserted from his regiment in France 20/8/17, was apprehended on 3/10/17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks in Southampton, 15/10/17. As he appears to be still in the vicinity of Southampton will you please exercise every effort to apprehend him. Copy of A.F. B.124 is enclosed.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

40.

1582/17.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal,
Southampton.

To: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

27/11/17.

Reference minute 1. Inquiries have been made at all likely places in Southampton & District for No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt., but up to the present no trace can be found.

(Sd.) F. H. FIMINOS, Capt.,
for Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

(XVI)

41.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.
Nov. 14.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to Pte. Will Ross that came in an envelope to my address. Will you please forward it as I do not know where my cousin is as he has not written as he promised when he was sent back to France.

I am living here in Kilkeel now. Expect to be here for two or three months. Left London the first of this month. I had intended going down to see you before I left the city but had no opportunity. I wanted to tell you how I fared in my visit to Brixton gaol and the Police Court where I saw and spoke to Will, in fact had a long talk to him. Have you not heard anything how he fared since? Has he had his court martial? Can you tell me what happened? My uncle and I are both anxious to know. The enclosed letter came from Newfoundland but I don't know who from.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) (MRS.) KATHLEEN MILLS

42.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
16th November, 1917.

12352/1

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.

Madam,

1547, Pte. W. L. ROSS

In reply to your letter of 14/11/17 (6889): I beg to inform you that Private Ross escaped at Southampton while on his way, under escort, to France on 15/10/17. He is still at large and I am therefore returning the letter to you. I had some time ago a communication from Pte. Ross's Mother and the handwriting on the envelope enclosed appears to resemble hers.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

43.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel,
Nov. 22nd.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind reply to my letter. Was very much shocked to hear such bad news about Will Ross. Have had a letter from his Mother and I judge from it that she is in a very low and dangerous condition of health. Would it be asking you too much

(XVII)

of you to report to me any more further news you get regarding Will. I would consider it a great favour as his people seem to think it is up to me to be his guardian angel or something of that sort.

I had a letter from my cousin Nurse Cron yesterday and she asked me to drop into 58 Victoria and ask you to change the address on her letters etc.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) KATHLEEN MILLS

44.

(Telegram received 20/11/17)

Synoptical, London.

Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when Ross- has been captured-

Military.

45.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-

"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-

"when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

12691/144.

46.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

21st November, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 11120/76, 24/10/17)

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to

"particulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/1/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still- at large-

Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to-Premier- Morris- case of- 1547-

Ross

(XVII)

of you to report to me any ~~more~~ further news you get regarding Will. I would consider it a great favour as his people seem to think it is up to me to be his guardian angel or something of that sort.

I had a letter from my cousin Nurse Cron yesterday and she asked me to drop into 58 Victoria and ask you to change the address on her letters etc.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) KATHLEEN MILLS

44.

(Telegram received 20/11/17)

Synoptical, London.

Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when Ross- has been captured-

Military.

45.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

12691/144.

46.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

21st November, 1917.

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Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to
"particulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/1/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to-Premier- Morris- case of- 1547-

Ross

(XVIII)

"full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured- Military."

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the
case sent him.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

47.

Durdant's Hotel,
George Street,
Manchester Sq., W. 1
25rd November, 1917.

Dear Major Timewell,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the
20th November in reference to No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I note
the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should
take in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will
take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken
in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am
in a position to show, I think conclusively, that when he deserted
he was not of sound mind.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

P.S.. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

Major W.A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

48.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office, S.W. 1

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister
of Militia, St. John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- particulars-
"In his case- Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross- still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- fullstop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured- Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the
Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present
on a visit to this Country, I was requested by him to take such steps
as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to
further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you

(XIX)

accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representations may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

49.

12858/16

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 23/11/17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,

50.

13050/167

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 28th November, 1917
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, (Ref. 12891/144, 21/11/17)

Further to above quoted No. copies of the following letters are enclosed for your information, please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15, 20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176).

P. & R.O. letter No. 12857/243, 26/11/17, to the Secretary of the War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16, 26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

51.

14140/1/R. & C.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
19th December, 1917.

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park, Kilkeel, Ireland.

Dear Madam, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

(XX)

In reply to your request sometime ago (7192) I have to inform you that there has been no further news of Pte. W.L. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regt., and he is still at large.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.

52.

Durrant's Hotel,
London,
26/12/17.

Dear Major Timewell,

You will remember the case of the soldier Ross of the Nfld. Regiment, and my asking you ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to have a report made for me on the matter and your reply. How does this case now stand. I want information to report by outgoing mail for Department of Militia. . . .

Tours f'fully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

53.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

27th December, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

In the absence of Major Timewell, who has gone away for a few days, I opened your letter addressed to him this morning.

So far as is known here No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross is still at large and no information whatever can be obtained concerning him. As soon as any news comes to hand, you will be communicated with in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON.

54.

(Telegram despatched 7/1/18)

Military, St. John's.

1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be repatriated- under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with- Sir- Edward- Morris-
Synoptical.

55.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
7th January, 1918.

299/2/C

The Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to the above named man whom you advise as having been apprehended: it is understood that you will be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of the month by which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the

(XXI)

Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military authorities at St. John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

56.

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1
8th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte Ross, W.L.

Receipt of your memo. 299/2/C, dated 7-1-18, concerning the above-named man, is acknowledged.

He will be held in close custody, according to your wishes, until an escort is provided to convey him back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.

300/24/C

57.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland R.,
Ayr, Scotland.

Pay & Record Office,
7th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

This man who was an absentee from France some time ago and escaped from two distinct escorts has been recaptured. By a special arrangement with the A.P.M. he will be allowed to return to Newfoundland under escort to be dealt with by H.Q., and will proceed under charge of Capt. O'Grady. Having regard to the case and Ross's previous record an escort will be necessary. Can you provide two reliable men from those you have at the Depot waiting repatriation to take him over from the Imperial authorities here for embarkation on the next transport?

It may be added that this special arrangement has been made on the distinct understanding that Ross is removed from the United Kingdom and it is therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

58.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment,

(XXII)

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Ayr, N.B.,
Jany. 9th, 1918.

It is regretted that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit enough for this duty.

It is not understood how he is being dealt with and why he is not disposed of in the ordinary manner.

(Sd.) C. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Bn. Newfoundland Regt.

59.

479/1/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With referance to previous correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intervene and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and on my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of

Capt. O. Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt. O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for naturally it is inadvisable to risk originals overseas whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the military authorities here.

Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

60.

From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 13050/167. Min. 50)
St. John's, Newfoundland. Dec. 14, 1917.

(Rec'd 11/1/18)

To: Pay & Record Office

Attached copies of letters received. I am glad the Prime Minister has undertaken to interest himself in this case, and of course you will keep me notified of any happenings as previously requested in my wire of 18/11/17.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.
for Minister of Militia.

(XXIII)

61.

From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 12891/144 Min.46)
St. John's, Newfoundland. December 20th, 1917.
(Rec'd 11/1/18)

To: Pay & Record Office

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.
Your 15050/187 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.,
for Minister of Militia.

573/14/C

62.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Rds.,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland R.,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
12th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named soldier: Ross has now been apprehended and is in custody pending transport to H.Q., St. John's, for trial. This arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., London District, at my request and with the entire support of Lord Morris, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

63.

(Telegram despatched 13/1/18.)

D.A.G., Base, France.
Please express A.Fs. B.103 and 122 of 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regiment.
Synoptical.

64.

(Telegram despatched 14/1/18)

D
D.A.G., Base, France.
Please express all documents relating to 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regt.
especially proceedings court of enquiry mailed you 11/10/17.
Synoptical.

576/E/C

65.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,
No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own Country and at the same time mete out adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of military discipline, for I think it is

mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Aspart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit: but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

66.

Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, W. 1
Jan. 14th, 1918.

Dear Major Timewell,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

In this case I concur with you the course taken is the best under all the circumstances especially in view of the man's mental infirmity. I think you would do well to obtain and follow the advice of the department at the War Office dealing with this class of case and procure from them a list of the evidence you ought to send out to Newfoundland in relation to this man.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

67.

To: Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Re 1547, Pte. W. Ross

The following is a copy of letter received from General Superintendent, Midland Railway, Derby-

"To Officer Commanding,
1st Battn., Newfoundland Regt. etc. etc.

Dear Sir,

Sergt. W. Ross 1547

This man presented himself at our Derby Station on Dec. 29th and stated that he had lost the return half of his France to Derby free ~~xxxx~~ ticket.

In accordance with instructions a fresh ticket was issued to him without charge, from Derby to St. Pancras, and I shall be ~~glad~~ glad to know if you can confirm that a free ticket was issued to him from France to Derby and back.

Yours faithfully,

3/1/18.

for General Superintendent."

Ross is evidently masquerading as a Sergeant, and I shall be glad if you will communicate this to the Military Police authorities, as Ross may still be at large in London.

(Sd.) J. S. WOODRUFFE, Lieut.-Col.
Commg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

11/1/18.

Pay & Record Office,
14/1/18.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, which are lying at this office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they may contain articles which would enable him to do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

(Sd.) W. PIGGOTT, a/Sergeant.

775/32/C

69.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 15th January, 1918.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 13050/167, 28/11/17)

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18, confirmed, please:

"~~Regiment~~ Military, St. John's.

"1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris.

Synoptical."

Ross is at present at Hunter Street Police Station awaiting repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District Ross was brought before me last week under escort and it was explained to him that it had been possible to intervene and have him sent back to Newfoundland instead of his being returned to France where he knew what would have taken place. This action had been taken not to save him from the punishment he deserved but in the interests of the Regiment and to allow of his being tried in his own Country.

When he was first brought in he attempted to make an explanation, but was checked. It was also impressed upon him that if he made any further attempt to escape ordinary military procedure would be allowed to take its course. Before being dismissed he was asked whether he had anything to say and replied in the negative.

Captain O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the A.P.M. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

776/51/C

70.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(XXVI)

To: Officer Commanding,
2/2 Newfoundland Regt.,
Winchester.

Pay & Record Office,
15th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose who will take Ross over from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter to you, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

71.

(Telegram despatched 17/1/18)

Newfound, Winchester.

Reference memorandum 51 please furnish two competent men with side arms to report this office 2 p.m. tomorrow Friday to escort prisoner Ross for embarkation and escort will return to you after embarking prisoners

Synoptical.

72.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment,

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Hazeley Down Camp, Winchester.
Jany. 16th, 1918.

It is regretted that there is no authority for the release of two fit men to be away from their Unit several weeks on escort duty and therefore they cannot be furnished by this Unit.

(Sd.) C. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Bn. Newfoundland Regt.

73.

A.P.M.L.D.7383/S

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1
18th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces.

No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

With reference to your 299/2/C dated 7-1-18, and in continuation of my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 8-1-18, the attached Army Form B-252, Form of Surrender and Statement in the case of the above named man, are forwarded for your information, please.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

Certificate under Army Act Section 165 (J)

I, Capt. Keith Trevor, an Assistant Provost Marshal, London District, certify that No. 1547, (Rank) Private (Name) W. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regts surrendered himself to 7505 (Rank) Sergt. (Name) H. Wakley of the Garrison Military Police at King's Cross Road at 8.30 p.m. on the 5th January 1918, as an absentee without leave. Dressed in uniform.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Capt.,
Asst. Provost-Marshal,
London District.

Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace., S.W. 1
15 Jan. 1918.

I, William L. Ross, wish to make the following statement. I deserted my Regiment on August the 20th 1917. The cause was due to my nerves. I was suffering from shell shock and partial loss of memory. It was not done intentionally but the thoughts of going back to the trenches after that happened was more than I could stand so I walked away from my Battalion and how I got to England is still a mystery to me. I was stricken with shell shock in October 1916 and was told by our medical officer that I was to report to the Quartermaster for duty in the Q.M. Department being temporarily unfit for the trenches. I worked in that department for 3 months and I was sent back to the trenches not by the doctor but by the C.O's orders. I went in for 4 days and found my nerves were just the same and when I came out I reported myself to the medical officer who told me without examination that there was nothing wrong with me. At nights the thoughts of the trenches nearly drove me crazy I could not sleep or eat but always thinking what I was going to do to get out of it. One ~~xxxxxxx~~ night the idea struck me to desert and the next day I went away. All my equipment I left in my Company Quartermaster's tent. I did not take anything with me but a belt which was stolen on me when I first arrived. I made this statement voluntarily.

(Sd.) WILLIAM L. ROSS

I was present when the above named soldier wrote this statement

(Sd.) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G.M. Police.

CHARGE.

1st Newfoundland Regt.

BATTERY, SQUADRON, TROOP OR COMPANY.

CHARGE against No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

Place.	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of witnesses.	Punishment awarded.	By whom awarded.
London	5/1/18	<p>When on Active Service.</p> <p>Absent until apprehended by the Military Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 p.m. the 5th of January, 1918.</p>	<p>Sgt.H. Wakley, Sgt. F. Lingard, Garrison Military Police.</p>		

(Sd.) A Lt. Col
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.
Commanding Battery,
Squadron, Troop or Company.

Statement of Evidence
against No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Sir,

At London on the night of the 5th of January, 1918, I was on duty at King's Cross in company with Sergt. Lingard, G.M.P., when about 8.30 p.m. we saw the above named Soldier. I ask him to produce his Pass and he then stated that his name was Pte. W.L. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regt and that he was absent without leave. We then conducted him to Hunter Street Police Station where he was detained.

(Sd.) H. WAKLEY, Sergt.
Garrison Military Police.

Sir,

I have read over and corroborate the above statement.

(Sd.) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G. M. Police.

969/3/G

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.

To: Capt. J.J. O'Grady,
Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No.56

No. 1547, PTE. WL L. ROSS (Prisoner)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland: the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return Railway Warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all date available to date and which has been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M. there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London S.W. 1.

To: Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

19th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W. L. Ross (Prisoner)
Ref. 775/32/G, 15/1/18.

Further to above number, copies of following documents are enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of telegrams, letters, reports etc., numbered from 1 to 76.
2. This office No. 969/3/G, 18/1/18, to Capt. J.J. O'Grady, i/c of Prisoner.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal, A.P.M.L.D.7383/S.
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1.
To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. 25th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W. Ross.

With further reference to my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 18/1/18, the attached bill for subsistence, incurred by the above-named man, is forwarded for favour of settlement, please.

(Sd) KEITH TREVOUR, Captain,
for Lieut. Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

80.
From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.
To: A.P.M., London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, 3rd February, 1918.

1547, Pte. W. Ross.

With reference to your memorandum A.P.M.L.D.7383/S, 25/1/18 (923) enclosing bill in respect of subsistence incurred by the above Soldier: Cheque 12s. 3d has been forwarded to the Army Canteen Committee, C.R.D., Whitehall, please.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

From Pay & Record Office, 81,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.
To: The Rt. Hon. Lord Morris,
Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, London, W.2 17th February, 1918.

My Lord:

1547, Pte, W.L. Ross.

The following code telegram (1647) has been received at this office to-day from the Hon. Minister of Militia:

"68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate action-
"necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce- evidence re show that-
"1547- Ross- insane- when he ~~was~~ deserted- please-
"ends-

Military."

1547, Pte, W.L. Ross is the man who deserted from France in August last, and who was sent home under escort in January with Capt. J.J. O'Grady's draft.

Will you kindly supply me with the information to enable me to reply?

Yr, I am,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

2797/123/Com.

20th February, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W.L. Ross.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

"16/2/18 - 68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce- evidence to show that-
"1547- Ross- insane- when he- deserted- please- ends-
Military."

"18/2/18 - 253- Reference your telegram 16th February-
"Lord- Morris- advised that- if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence- to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be- inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from- shell shock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary- conduct"

Synoptical."

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(100)

85.

No. 110/Infantry/8336(A.G.3.E).

From: War Office,
London S.W. 1.

2nd April, 1918.

The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to rethen this letter as early as possible, with a statement in the margin showing all information in your possession regarding the case of Private ROSS.

Reference the attached copy of telegram received in this Department through the Colonial Office.

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

83 a.

TELEGRAM from the Governor of Newfoundland to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Dated 25th March)

(Received Colonial Office 10.45 p.m. 25th March 1918).

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention of Lord Morris I am in doubt whether special warrant is not necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special Warrant necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient suggest that Prisoner should be tried by District ~~in~~ Court Martial which ~~can~~ could be managed. Very important that trial should be here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster Newfoundland Record Office has all details suggest reference to him also Judge Advocate General War Office for his instructions and advice as to the case. Prisoner has already been under arrest some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. 5155. 4th April, 1918.
To: War Office.

Copies of documents relating to No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regt. enclosed, please.

Available originals thereof are in this office should they be required.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

969/3/0

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.

To: Capt. J.J. O'Grady,
Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No.56

No. 1547, PTE. WL L. ROSS (Prisoner)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland: the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return Railway Warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all date available to date and which has been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M. there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

78.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London S.W. 1.

To: Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

19th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W. L. Ross (Prisoner)
Ref. 775/32/G, 15/1/18.

Further to above number, copies of following documents are enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of telegrams, letters, reports etc., numbered from 1 to 76.
2. This office No. 969/3/0, 18/2/18, to Capt. J.J. O'Grady, i/c of Prisoner.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(XXIX)

79.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1.
To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

A.P.M.L.D.7383/S.

25th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. Ross.

With further reference to my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 18/1/18, the attached bill for subsistence, incurred by the above-named man, is forwarded for favour of settlement, please.

(Sd) KEITH TREVOUR, Captain,
for Lieut. Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

80.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.
To: A.P.M., London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace,

3rd February 1918.

1547, Pte. W. Ross.

With reference to your memorandum A.P.M.L.D.7383/S, 25/1/18 (923) enclosing bill in respect of subsistence incurred by the above Soldier: Cheque 12s. 3d has been forwarded to the Army Canteen Committee, C.R.D., Whitehall, please.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From Pay & Record Office, 51,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.

To: The Rt. Hon. Lord Morris,
Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, London, W.2

17th February, 1918.

My Lord:

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

The following code telegram (1547) has been received at this office to-day from the Hon. Minister of Militia:

"68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate action-
"necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce- evidence to show that-
"1547- Ross- insane- when he ~~was~~ deserted- please-
"ends-

Military."

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross is the man who deserted from France in August last, and who was sent home under escort in January with Capt. J.J. O'Grady's draft.

Will you kindly supply me with the information to enable me to reply?

Yr, I am,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

2797/123/Com.

20th February, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W.L. Ross.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

"16/2/18 - 68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce- evidence to show that-
"1547- Ross- insane- when he- deserted- please- ends-
Military."

"18/2/18 - 253- Reference your telegram 16th February-
"Lord- Morris- advised that- if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence- to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be- inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from- shell shock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary- conduct"

Synoptical."

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(100)

55.

No. 110/Infantry/8336 (A.G.3.2).

From: War Office,
London S.W. 1.

2nd April, 1918.

The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to rethen this letter as early as possible, with a statement in the margin showing all information in your possession regarding the case of Private ROSS.

Reference the attached copy of telegram received in this Department through the Colonial Office.

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

83 a.

TELEGRAM from the Governor of Newfoundland to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Dated 25th March)

(Received Colonial Office 10.45 p.m. 25th March 1918).

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention of Lord Morris I am in doubt whether special warrant is not necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special Warrant necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient suggest that Prisoner should be tried by District Court Martial which could be managed. Very important that trial should be here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster Newfoundland Record Office has all details suggest reference to him also Judge Advocate General War Office for his instructions and advice as to the case. Prisoner has already been under arrest some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. 5155. 4th April, 1918.
To: War Office.

Copies of documents relating to No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regt. enclosed, please.

Available originals thereof are in this office should they be required.

(Sd.) H.W. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

110/Infantry/8336.(A.G.3.L).

War Office,

London, S.W., 1,

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT, PAY & RECORD OFFICE.	
Ref. Nos. I.	3626.
Rec'd	22 APR 1918
Ack'd	
Ref. Nos. UU	
April	1918.
ACTED	
BRANCH I	
Comd.	
P & A:	
H. & C.	
B. & E.	
P. S.	

Documents forwarded under cover of your Minute of 4th instant No.3062

Returned herewith. Kindly acknowledge receipt

No.1547, Pte
W. L. ROSS,
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

Amms

R. W. Wade

Received

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W.

191

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

COPIES

of

TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS etc.

relating to

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

* *

CERTIFIED that the WITHIN DOCUMENTS
numbered from 1 (one) to 76 (seventy six) are
TRUE COPIES of ORIGINALS.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

(Sd.) J.J. O'GRADY, Capt.,
Adjutant H.Q., St. John's, Nfld.

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.

18th January, 1918.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

1.
(Telegram received 27/8/17)

Synoptical, London.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.

O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

2.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir,

Regarding 1547, Private W. L. Ross, 1/1st Newfoundland R.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries.

O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m. after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8:0:0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e., 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed me that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report). A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Hadow I would not have deserted. I done

(II)

two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,
(Sd.) W. L. ROSS."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

3.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
27th August, 1917.

Major H.A. Timewell,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1

Sir,

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547 Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door, 58 Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police; giving a description in both cases.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, S.Sgt.

4.

(Telegram received 2/9/17)

Synoptical, London.
Enc. and reply by telegram re Ross

G.C. Newfoundland Regt.

(III)

5.
(Telegram despatched 2/9/17)

Commanding, Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
Police searching letter follows.

Synoptical.

No. 9903/138.

6.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regt.,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
3rd September, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross
O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
"police searching letter follows.

Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. "A.A.
Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records
together with 1529 Staff-Serjt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police
Gazette". I was informed by the authorities that it was very
unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will
be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

Confidential.

7.

9990/41

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30/8/17:

"Military, St. John's.

". . . Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20- 1547-

"Ross- full stop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being still at
large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following
documents relating to his case:

(IV)

A.F.B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(S)

C.R., L.D. 2/57972/A.

Headquarters,
London District,
Horse Guards,
Whitehall, S.W. 1
22nd September, 1917.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

With reference to the case of No. 1547 Private W.L. Ross, 15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

(Sd.) C. BLUNDELL, Capt.,
Staff Capt.,
for Brigadier-General,
D.A. & Q.M.G. LONDON DISTRICT.

9.

9991/2

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

D.A. & Q.M.G.,
Headquarters, London District,
Horse Guards, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. Deserter

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

10.

(Telegram despatched 3/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross Deserter apprehended London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical.

(v)

11.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547 Pte. W. Ross

In accordance with instructions from End Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROOKER, Staff-Sergt.

12.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 1917.

William Leslie Ross,
Private, Regt. No. 1547,
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

13.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a shilling to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He showed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to

meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £50 fell on to the table. Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose the money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45, Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent ~~it~~ to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month, I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she use to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head is sometimes very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. ROSS.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division,

4th October, 1917.

(VII)

13.

10262/1/Records/HA-JC

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
5th October, 1917.

D.A. & Q.M.G., London District, H.Q., London District,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, Deserter, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A of 22/9/17 and to telephone communication this date: I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17 has been informed, and the Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

14.

To Pay & Record Office

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th 1917.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.
2-10-17.

15.

Telegram despatched 9/10/17

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instruction asked aas now in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical.

16.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this office by Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, Staff-Sergt.

(VIII)

17.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1

Sir: With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17, Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills London:

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when seventeen
"rush particulars cable Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt. Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to day that Ross would shortly be sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2nd Lieut.

18.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
8/10/17.

Officer i/c
Newfld. Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir,

I have heard that Pte. William L. Ross 1st Newfld. Regt. has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil Police, and will be tried on 11th inst, but I do not know in what part of London or on what charges.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet twenty and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in Sep. and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Josph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfld.

(IX)

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regt.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours f'fully,

(Sd.) J. ROSS

Dist. Inspector, R. I. C.

19.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

10601/1

J. Ross, Esq.,
Dist. Inspector, R.I.C.
Newry.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B.E.F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

20.

(Telegram despatched 12/10/17)

Military, St. John's.
Reference my telegram 4th October- 1547- Ross- absentee- from-
B.E.F.- being sent to- France- under escort-

Synoptical.

21.

(Telegram received 12/10/17)

O. i/c Newfoundland Records Office 58 Victoria St. S.W.
L.D. 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 aas following absentee from B.E.F. being
sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aas 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross 1st
Btn. Newfoundland Regt. aas

Usted.

22.

10635/179/HA.WF.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(X)

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,
B. E. F.

13th October, 1917.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"234, 5/10/17 28 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"236, 9/10/17 Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed

"you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your

"instructions asked aaa now in civil custody remanded until

"Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose:

1. Copy of report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with Ross' statement referred to therein,

2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.) received here 12/10/17,

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23.

Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now underbarrest in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing his escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

(a) A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and place of such surrender or arrest.

(b) The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay & Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Comdg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

14.10.17.

24.

Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
SOUTHAMPTON.

17 Oct. 1917.

Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
58, Victoria St., London.

Please note the following details embarked at Southampton on 16 Oct. 1917 to join British Expeditionary Force:-

Corps	Offs.	Other Ranks	Remarks
1 Newfoundland Regt.		1	1547 Pte. W. Ross, prisoner.

(Sd.) L.C.I. Knight, Major,
D.A.A.G.,
Embarkation Port No. 1

(XI)

25.

(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross ~~was~~ embarked
Southampton 16/10/17 under escort and documents posted you 18/10/17.
Synoptical.

26.

(Telegram received 18/10/17)

Officer i/c Records 58 Victoria St., London, S.W.
R 5399 18/10/17 and number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
escaped from docks 15th Inst. and please take necessary action.
Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton."

27.

(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France
Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross W.
1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from docks 15th Inst. and please take
necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
Synoptical."

28.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
18th October, 1917.

10848/1

The Garrison Sergeant Major,
Great Scotland Yard, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment.

In confirmation of telephone message of this date the following
telegram is quoted, please:

"Officer i/c Records, 58, Victoria St., London, S.W.
"R-5399 18/10/17 and Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland
"Regt. escaped from docks 15th Inst. and please take necessary
"action.

Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.,
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

29.

10888/184

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
19th October, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Telegrams confirmed, please:
Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.
"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked
"Southampton 16/10/17 under escort and documents posted you
"18/10/17.
Synoptical."

(X11)

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross,
"W, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment escaped from docks 15th. instant aas
"please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland Yard was notified accordingly.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(30)

11022/1/Recds.

October 23rd, 1917.

From: Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,

To: Commandant,
Rest Camp, Southampton.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

With reference to your telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aas number 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross 1st. Newfoundland
"Regiment escaped from Docks 15th. inst. aas please take necessary
"action".

Will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this Man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt. Major, Great Scotland Yard was informed and others concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(31)

11021/71/Recds.

23rd, October, 1917

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Sir,-

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th. October - 1547 - Ross - escaped -
"at - Southampton - on route to - France - October 15th -"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man who deserted from France on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed together with a letter from District Inspector J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(X111)
(32)

Southampton,
24/10/17.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W. 1.

Reference preceding minute: Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

(Sd) H. A. DENHAM, Capt
Adjutant Rest Camp Southampton.

(33)

Hr. Grace,
19th, September, 1917.

Hugh Anderson, Esq.,
Dear Sir,-

Am writing to ask you if you could give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the army. He never meant to desert but I believe while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced. He doesn't seem to know what happened. The last thing he remembered was being hit by a Soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad. He wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous troubles, and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death to-day. He is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past, and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the Military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him and on account of his youth intercede for him if it is in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sd) Isabel Ross.

(34)

24th, October, 1917.

11119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Harbour Grace Newfoundland.

Madam,- No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

11120/76

(35)

24th, October, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Sir,-

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Further to this office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour

(XIV)

to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross may feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position; possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O 1/c Records.

(36)

From: Officer 1/c Records,
No. 1 Infantry Section, G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon.

To: Officer 1/c Newfoundland Records,
London.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Have you any information re. above named Soldier, please? He cannot be traced as having arrived in this Country.

(Sd) Neary, 2/Lt. for Major,
Officer 1/c No. 1 Infantry Section.

B. E. F.
3/11/17.

(37)

11945/63/R & C

8th. November, 1917.

From: Paymaster & Officer 1/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W.

To: Officer 1/c Records,
Regular Infantry Section No. 1,
G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon, B. E. F.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.
1st Newfoundland Regiment.

With reference to your enquiry dated 3/11/17 (6614) for the above named man: Ross escaped from the Docks at Southampton, on the 15/10/17, when proceeding to France under escort, please. He has not been heard of since so far as this office is concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O 1/c Records.

38a

1514/17.

Assistant Provost-Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton,
14/11/16.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regiment,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

The attached Military Police Report and Soldier's Pay Book
(A.B. 64) are forwarded to you, please:
Kindly acknowledge receipt.

(Sd.) JAMES LINDSAY, Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

To: The Assistant Provost Marshal.

Sir, No. 1547. Pte. William Ross, B Coy. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

The Pay Book handed into Orderly Room by me was given to me by the Landlord of the Old Ship Inn, Commercial Road, who stated that he had found it on a seat in the Bar after some soldiers had left the premises.

(Sd.) G. S. Keen, L/Cpl.,
M.F. Police.

Southampton,
9/11/17.

12305/1/R. & C.

From: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,
15th November, 1917.

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14/11/17 (6856), the A.B. 64 relating to the above-noted man has been received, please, together with the Military Police Report.

Pte. Ross deserted from his regiment in France 20/8/17, was apprehended on 3/10/17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks in Southampton, 15/10/17. As he appears to be still in the vicinity of Southampton will you please exercise every effort to apprehend him. Copy of A.F. B.124 is enclosed.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1582/17.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal,
Southampton.

To: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

27/11/17.

Reference minute 1. Inquiries have been made at all likely places in Southampton & District for No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt., but up to the present no trace can be found.

(Sd.) F. H. FIMINOS, Capt.,
for Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

(XVI)

41.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.
Nov. 14.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to Pte. Will Ross that came in an envelope to my address. Will you please forward it as I do not know where my cousin is as he has not written as he promised when he was sent back to France.

I am living here in Kilkeel now. Expect to be here for two or three months. Left London the first of this month. I had intended going down to see you before I left the city but had no opportunity. I wanted to tell you how I fared in my visit to Brixton gaol and the Police Court where I saw and spoke to Will, in fact had a long talk to him. Have you not heard anything how he fared since? Has he had his court martial? Can you tell me what happened? My uncle and I are both anxious to know. The enclosed letter came from Newfoundland but I don't know who from.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) (MRS.) KATHLEEN MILLS

42.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
16th November, 1917.

12352/1

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.

Madam,

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

In reply to your letter of 14/11/17 (6889): I beg to inform you that Private Ross escaped at Southampton while on his way, under escort, to France on 15/10/17. He is still at large and I am therefore returning the letter to you. I had some time ago a communication from Pte. Ross's Mother and the handwriting on the envelope enclosed appears to resemble hers.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

43.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel,
Nov. 22nd.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind reply to my letter. Was very much shocked to hear such bad news about Will Ross. Have had a letter from his Mother and I judge from it that she is in a very low and dangerous condition of health. Would it be asking ~~me~~ too much

(XVII)

of you to report to me any ~~more~~ further news you get regarding Will. I would consider it a great favour as his people seem to think it is up to me to be his guardian angel or something of that sort.

I had a letter from my cousin Nurse Cron yesterday and she asked me to drop into 58 Victoria and ask you to change the address on her letters etc.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) KATHLEEN MILLS

44.

(Telegram received 20/11/17)

Synoptical, London.

Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when Ross- has been captured-

Military.

45.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-

"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-

"when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

12691/144.

46.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

21st November, 1917

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 11120/76, 24/10/17)

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to

"particulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/1/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to-Premier- Morris- case of- 1547-

Ross

(XVIII)

"full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the
case sent him.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

47.

Durdant's Hotel,
George Street,
Manchester Sq., W. 1
23rd November, 1917.

Dear Major Timewell,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the
20th November in reference to No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I note
the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should
take in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will
take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken
in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am
in a position to show, I think conclusively, that when he deserted
he was not of sound mind.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

P.S.. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

Major W.A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

48.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office, S.W. 1

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister
of Militia, St. John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- particulars
"in his case-
Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross- still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- fullstop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the
Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present
on a visit to this Country, I was requested by him to take such steps
as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to
further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you

(XIX)

accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representations may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

49.

12858/16

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 23/11/17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,

50.

13050/167

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 28th November, 1917
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, (Ref. 12691/144, 21/11/17)

Further to above quoted No. copies of the following letters are enclosed for your information, please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15, 20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176).

P. & R.O. letter Nos 12857/243, 26/11/17, to the Secretary of the War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16, 26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

51.

14140/1/R. & G.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
19th December, 1917.

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park, Kilkeel, Ireland.

Dear Madam, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

(XX)

In reply to your request sometime ago (7192) I have to inform you that there has been no further news of Pte. W.L.. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regt., and he is still at large.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.

52.

Durrant's Hotel,
London,
26/12/17.

Dear Major Timewell,

You will remember the case of the soldier Ross of the Nfld. Regiment, and my asking you ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to have a report made for me on the matter and your reply. How does this case now stand. I want information to report by outgoing mail for Department of Militia. . . .

Yours f'fully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

53.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

27th December, 1917

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

In the absence of Major Timewell, who has gone away for a few days, I opened your letter addressed to him this morning.

So far as is known here No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross is still at large and no information whatever can be obtained concerning him. As soon as any news comes to hand, you will be communicated with in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON.

54.

(Telegram despatched 7/1/18)

Military, St. John's.

del
1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be repatriated- under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with- Sir- Edward- Morris-
Synoptical.

55.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
7th January, 1918.

299/2/C

The Asst. Provost Marshal,

London District,

11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

del
With reference to the above named man whom you advise as having been apprehended: it is understood that you will be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of the month by which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the

(XXI)

Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military authorities at St. John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

56.

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1
8th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte Ross, W.L.

Receipt of your memo. 299/E/C, dated 7-1-18, concerning the above-named man, is acknowledged.

He will be held in close custody, according to your wishes, until an escort is provided to convey him back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.

300/24/C

57.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
To: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland R.,
Ayr, Scotland.

Pay & Record Office,
7th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

This man who was an absentee from France some time ago and escaped from two distinct escorts has been recaptured. By a special arrangement with the A.P.M. he will be allowed to return to Newfoundland under escort to be dealt with by H.Q., and will proceed under charge of Capt. O'Grady. Having regard to the case and Ross's previous record an escort will be necessary. Can you provide two reliable men from those you have at the Depot waiting repatriation to take him over from the Imperial authorities here for embarkation on the next transport?

It may be added that this special arrangement has been made on the distinct understanding that Ross is removed from the United Kingdom and it is therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

58.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment,

(XXII)

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Ayr, N.B.,
Jany. 9th, 1918.

It is regretted that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit enough for this duty.

It is not understood how he is being dealt with and why he is not disposed of in the ordinary manner.

(Sd.) C. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Br. Newfoundland Regt.

59.

479/1/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intervene and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and on my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of

Capt. O'Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt. O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for naturally it is ~~advisable~~ inadvisable to risk originals overseas whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the military authorities here.

Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

60.

From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 13050/167. Min. 50)
St. John's, Newfoundland. Dec. 14, 1917.

(Rec'd 11/1/18)

To: Pay & Record Office

Attached copies of letters received. I am glad the Prime Minister has undertaken to interest himself in this case, and of course you will keep me notified of any happenings as previously requested in my wire of 18/11/17.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.
for Minister of Militia.

61.

From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 12891/144 Min.46)
St. John's, Newfoundland. December 20th, 1917.

(Rec'd 11/1/18)

To: Pay & Record Office

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.

Your 13050/167 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.,
for Minister of Militia.

573/14/C

62.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Rds. 1
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding, Pay & Record Office,
1/1 Newfoundland R., 12th January, 1918.
B. E. F.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named soldier: Ross has now been apprehended and is in custody pending transport to H.Q., St. John's, for trial. This arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., London District, at my request and with the entire support of Lord Morris, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Records.

63.

(Telegram despatched 13/1/18.)

D.A.G., Base, France.

Please express A.Fs. B.103 and 122 of 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regiment
Synoptical.

64.

(Telegram despatched 14/1/18)

D

D.A.G., Base, France.

Please express all documents relating to 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regt.
especially proceedings court of enquiry mailed you 11/10/17.
Synoptical.

576/E/C

65.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own Country and at the same time mete out adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of military discipline, for I think it is

(XXIV)

mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Apart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit: but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

66.

Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, W. 1
Jan. 14th, 1918.

Dear Major Timewell,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

In this case I concur with you the course taken is the best under all the circumstances especially in view of the man's mental infirmity. I think you would do well to obtain and follow the advice of the department at the War Office dealing with this class of case and procure from them a list of the evidence you ought to send out to Newfoundland in relation to this man.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

67.

To: Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Re 1547, Pte. W. Ross

The following is a copy of letter received from General Superintendent, Midland Railway, Derby-

"To Officer Commanding,
1st Battn., Newfoundland Regt. etc. etc.

Dear Sir,

Sergt. W. Ross 1547

This man presented himself at our Derby Station on Dec. 29th and stated that he had lost the return half of his France to Derby free ~~pass~~ ticket.

In accordance with instructions a fresh ticket was issued to him without charge, from Derby to St. Pancras, and I shall be ~~skilled~~ glad to know if you can confirm that a free ticket was issued to him from France to Derby and back.

Yours faithfully,

3/1/18.

for General Superintendent."

Ross is evidently masquerading as a Sergeant, and I shall be glad if you will communicate this to the Military Police authorities, as Ross may still be at large in London.

(Sd.) J. S. WOODRUFFE, Lieut.-Col.

Commg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

11/1/18.

(XXV)

68.

Pay & Record Office,
14/1/18.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, which are lying at this office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they may contain articles which would enable him to do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

(Sd.) W. PIGGOTT, a/Sergeant.

775/32/C

69.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 15th January, 1918.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 13050/167, 28/11/17)

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18, confirmed, please:

"~~Relegue~~ Military, St. John's.

"1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris.

Synoptical."

Ross is at present at Hunter Street Police Station awaiting repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District Ross was brought before me last week under escort and it was explained to him that it had been possible to intervene and have him sent back to Newfoundland instead of his being returned to France where he knew what would have taken place. This action had been taken not to save him from the punishment he deserved but in the interests of the Regiment and to allow of his being tried in his own Country.

When he was first brought in he attempted to make an explanation, but was checked. It was also impressed upon him that if he made any further attempt to escape ordinary military procedure would be allowed to take its course. Before being dismissed he was asked whether he had anything to say and replied in the negative.

Captain O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the A.P.M. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

776/51/C

70.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(XXVI)

To: Officer Commanding,
2/2 Newfoundland Regt.,
Winchester.

Pay & Record Office,
15th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Ptes W. L. Ross

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose who will take Ross over from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter to you, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

71.

(Telegram despatched 17/1/18)

Newfound, Winchester.

Reference memorandum 51 please furnish two competent men with side arms to report this office 2 p.m. tomorrow Friday to escort prisoner Ross for embarkation and escort will return to you after embarking prisoners

Synoptical.

72.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment,

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Hazeley Down Camp, Winchester.
Jany. 16th, 1918.

It is regretted that there is no authority for the release of two fit men to be away from their Unit several weeks on escort duty and therefore they cannot be furnished by this Unit.

(Sd.) C. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Bn. Newfoundland Regt.

73.

A.P.M.L.D.7383/S

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1
18th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces.

No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

With reference to your 299/2/C dated 7-1-18, and in continuation of my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 8-1-18, the attached Army Form B-252, Form of Surrender and Statement in the case of the above named man, are forwarded for your information, please.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

Certificate under Army Act Section 163 (J)

I, Capt. Keith Trevor, an Assistant Provost Marshal, London District, certify that No. 1547, (Rank) Private (Name) W. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regts surrendered himself to 7505 (Rank) Sergt. (Name) H. Wakley of the Garrison Military Police at King's Cross Road at 8.30 p.m. on the 5th January 1918, as an absentee without leave. Dressed in uniform.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Capt.,
Asst. Provost-Marshal,
London District.

Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace., S.W. 1
15 Jan. 1918.

I, William L. Ross, wish to make the following statement. I deserted my Regiment on August the 20th 1917. The cause was due to my nerves. I was suffering from shell shock and partial loss of memory. It was not done intentionally but the thoughts of going back to the trenches after that happened was more than I could stand so I walked away from my Battalion and how I got to England is still a mystery to me. I was stricken with shell shock in October 1916 and was told by our medical officer that I was to report to the Quartermaster for duty in the Q.M. Department being temporarily unfit for the trenches. I worked in that department for 8 months and I was sent back to the trenches not by the doctor but by the C.O's orders. I went in for 4 days and found my nerves were just the same and when I came out I reported myself to the medical officer who told me without examination that there was nothing wrong with me. At nights the thoughts of the trenches nearly drove me crazy I could not sleep or eat but always thinking what I was going to do to get out of it. One ~~xxxxxxx~~ night the idea struck me to desert and the next day I went away. All my equipment I left in my Company Quartermaster's tent. I did not take anything with me but a belt which was stolen on me when I first arrived. I made this statement voluntarily.

(Sd.) WILLIAM L. ROSS

I was present when the above named soldier wrote this statement

(Sd.) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G.M. Police.

CHARGE.

1st Newfoundland Regt.

BATTERY, SQUADRON, TROOP OR COMPANY.

CHARGE against No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

Place.	Date of Offence.	Offence.	Names of witnesses.	Punishment awarded.	By whom awarded.
London	5/1/18	When on Active Service. Absent until apprehended by the Military Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 p.m. the 5th of January, 1918.	Sgt.H. Wakley, Sgt. F. Lingard, Garrison Military Police.		

(Sd.) A Lt. Col.,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.
Commanding Battery,
Squadron, Troop or Company.

Statement of Evidence
against No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Sir,

At London on the night of the 5th of January, 1918, I was on duty at King's Cross in company with Sergt. Lingard, G.M.P., when about 8.30 p.m. we saw the above named Soldier. I ask him to produce his Pass and he then stated that his name was Pte. W.L. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regtz and that he was absent without leave. We then conducted him to Hunter Street Police Station where he was detained.

(Sd.) H. WAKLEY, Sergt.
Garrison Military Police.

Sir,

I have read over and corroborate the above statement.

(Sd.) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G. M. Police.

969/3/C

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.
To: Capt. J.J. O'Grady,
Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No.56

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS (Prisoner)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland: the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Opl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return Railway Warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all date available to date and which has been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M. there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London S.W. 1.
To: Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

19th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross (Prisoner)
Ref. 775/32/C, 15/1/18.

Further to above number, copies of following documents are enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of telegrams, letters, reports etc., numbered from 1 to 78.
2. This office No. 969/3/C, 16/2/18, to Capt. J.J. O'Grady, i/c of Prisoner.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal,
 Headquarters, London District,
 11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1.
 To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
 Newfoundland Forces,
 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

A.P.M.L.D.7383/S.

25th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W. Ross.

With further reference to my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 18/1/18, the attached bill for subsistence, incurred by the above-named man, is forwarded for favour of settlement, please.

(Sd) KEITH TREVOUR, Captain,
 for Lieut. Colonel,
 Assistant Provost Marshal,
 London District.

80.

From: Pay & Record Office,
 58, Victoria Street,
 London, S.W. 1.
 To: A.P.M., London District,
 11, Carlton House Terrace,

3rd February 1918.

1547, Pte. W. Ross.

With reference to your memorandum A.P.M.L.D.7383/S, 25/1/18 (923) enclosing bill in respect of subsistence incurred by the above Soldier: Cheque 12s. 3d has been forwarded to the Army Canteen Committee, G.R.D., Whitehall, please.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
 Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

From Pay & Record Office, 81.
 58, Victoria Street,
 S.W. 1.

To: The Rt. Hon. Lord Morris,
 Durrant's Hotel,
 Manchester Square, London, W.M

17th February, 1918.

My Lord:

1547, Pte, W.L. Ross.

The following code telegram (1647) has been received at this office to-day from the Hon. Minister of Militia:

"68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate action-
 necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
 November- can you- produce- evidence to show that-
 1547- Ross- insane- when he ~~was~~ deserted- please-
 ends-

Military."

1547, Pte, W.L. Ross is the man who deserted from France in August last, and who was sent home under escort in January with Capt. J.J. O'Grady's draft.

Will you kindly supply me with the information to enable me to reply?

Es, I am,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
 Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

2797/123/Com.

20th February, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte, W.L. Ross.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

"16/2/18 - 68- Following for- Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins- reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce- evidence to show that-
"1547- Ross- insane- when he- deserted- please- ends-
Military."

"18/2/18 - 253- Reference your telegram 16th February-
"Lord- Morris- advised that- if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence- to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be- inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from- shell shock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary- conduct"

Synoptical."

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

(XXX)

85.

No. 110/Infantry/8336(A.G.3.B).

From: War Office,
London S.W. 1.

2nd April, 1918.

The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to rethen this letter as early as possible, with a statement in the margin showing all information in your possession regarding the case of Private ROSS.

Reference the attached copy of telegram received in this Department through the Colonial Office.

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

85 a.

TELEGRAM from the Governor of Newfoundland to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Dated 25th March)

(Received Colonial Office 10.45 p.m. 25th March 1918).

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention of Lord Morris I am in doubt whether special warrant is not necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special Warrant necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient suggest that Prisoner should be tried by District Court Martial which could be managed. Very important that trial should be here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster Newfoundland Record Office has all details suggest reference to him also Judge Advocate General War Office for his instructions and advice as to the case. Prisoner has already been under arrest some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS.

From Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. 5155. 4th April, 1918.
To: War Office.

Copies of documents relating to No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regt. enclosed, please.

Available originals thereof are in this office should they be required.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

W. L. Pass.

C.R. 1347

P.H.O.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 775/32/C

From
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

15th January, 1918.

HT/NW

To
The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

SUBJECT: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Dated April 26th 1919

Reference Nos. 13050/187, 28/11/17.

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18,
confirmed, please:

Noted, please.

"Military, St. John's.
"1547- Ross- has been apprehend-
"ed- he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain-
"O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been
"arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris-
Synoptical."

J. R. Bennett
Minister of Militia

Ross is at present at Hunter
Street Police Station awaiting
repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst.
Provost-Marshal, London District,
Ross was brought before me last
week under escort and it was
explained to him that it had been
possible to intervene and have him
sent back to Newfoundland instead
of his being returned to France
where he knew what would have
taken place. This action had been
taken not to save him from the
punishment he deserved but in the
interests of the Regiment and to
allow of his being tried in his
own Country.

When he was first brought in
he attempted to make an explanation,
but was checked. It was also
impressed upon him that if he made
any further attempt to escape ordinary
military procedure would be allowed
to take its course. Before being
dismissed he was asked whether he
had anything to say and replied in
the negative.

RECEIVED
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
✓ 5793
21 MAY 1918

[Handwritten signature]

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

Captain O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the A.P.M. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

From
PAYEE RECORD OFFICE
18, VICTORIA STREET
LONDON, E.W.

W. Guinness Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

REPLY

SUBJECT: ...

1871

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Regis

N.F. P/41

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 988/42/C

From

PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

55, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

19th January, 1918.

To The Hon. the Minister of

Militia,

St. John's,

Newfoundland.

HT/NW

SUBJECT:

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS
(PRISONER)

REPLY

Reference Nos. 775/32/C, 15/1/18.

Dated **April 26th**

1919

Further to above number,
copies of following documents are
enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of
telegrams, letters, reports etc.
numbered from 1 to 76,

2. This office No. 969/3/C,
18/1/18, to Capt. J. J. O'Grady,
i/c of Prisoner.

Received with thanks.

J. B. Bennett

Minister of Militia

J. A. Dunwell

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

3794

*@
Pye*

Cables and Telegrams :
"SYNOPTICAL" London.

ENCLOSURE

ORIGINALTelephone :
VICTORIA 147.**NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.**Communications to be addressed to the
CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/O RECORDS,
and the following No. quoted :**MEMORANDUM.**

No. 7986/337/0

From

PAY AND RECORD OFFICE,

58, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

21st May, 1918..

To

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,

St. John's,

Newfoundland.

SUBJECT :

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.

REPLYDated **April 26th**

1919

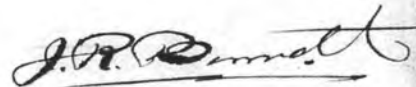
Reference Nos.

Please return **ORIGINAL** and retain **DUPLICATE.**

With reference to W.O. Letter 110/Infantry/8336 (A.G.3.E) 27/4/18 to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of which was forwarded by the Colonial Office to H.E. the Governor: the following original documents are enclosed, please:

Received. with thanks.

- (3) (a) 1. Copy of 'confession' (12)
2. Original " (75)
Original of (1) was retained by the Police, only the copy now enclosed being in possession of this Office. On application to the Police, I was informed that original had been destroyed as customary after a certain lapse of time.
- (b) 3. Letter from Ross to 2/Lt. Anderson received 28/8/18.
- (c) 4. Proceedings of Court of Inquiry (A.F. A.2) 21/9/17 and annexures 4a & 4b.
- (d) 5. This office 7817/1/R&C, 17 & 18/8/18 exchanged with Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
- (e) Witness: presumably available in Newfoundland.
- (f) Original attestation, not in this office, presumably retained by you.
- (g) Presumably will be provided in Newfoundland.
- (h) Capt. J.J. O'Grady.
- (j) " " " /or
- (4) 6. A.F. B.252, 5/1/18 (76)
7. Also enclosed Met. Police Form Sch. 1. 64.



Minister of Militia

3795



A. J. Donnell Major,
Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

DUPLICATE
MAIL COPY
dated 23 JAN 1918



775/52/C
The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,

St. John's,
Newfoundland.

I/WW
15th January,
No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

S.
April 26th 1919

13050/167, 28/11/17.

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18,
confirmed, please:

Noted, please.

"Military, St. John's.
"1547- Ross- has been apprehend-
"ed- he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain-
"O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been
"arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris-
Synoptical."

Minister of Militia

Ross is at present at Hunter
Street Police Station awaiting
repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst.
Provost-Marshal, London District,
Ross was brought before me last
week under escort and it was
explained to him that it had been
possible to intervene and have him
sent back to Newfoundland instead
of his being returned to France
where he knew what would have
taken place. This action had been
taken not to save him from the
punishment he deserved but in the
interests of the Regiment and to
allow of his being tried in his
own Country.

When he was first brought in
he attempted to make an explanation,
but was checked. It was also
impressed upon him that if he made
any further attempt to escape ordinary
military procedure would be allowed
to take its course. before being
dismissed he was asked whether he
had anything to say and replied in
the negative.

Captain O'Grady and myself
have subsequently visited the
A.P.M. and gone into further
details, all of which together
with copies of documents relating
to the case generally will be
carried by Capt. O'Grady.

REPUBLIC
COPY
8 8 MAR 1918

Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

CABLEGRAM

No. _____



70 FEB 1918

No. of Message _____

Date _____

7-30 P

The following CABLEGRAM received, at _____

M. "Via Commercial Cables."

T/S...SR 726 PJAM GOVT ST. JOHNS NF 21

SYNOPTICAL LONDON

68 FILTHINESS LORD MORRIS ABREJONRE
 NECESSARY BEGINS UNDERSCORE CALABASH
 PRODUCE ENHARBOUR 1547 ROSS INSANE FORTACCINE
 DESERTED PLEASE ENDS

MILITARY

7

DEPARTMENT	✓
Reference No.	1647
Date Rec'd.	17-2-18
" Ack'd.	
" Ans'd.	

BRANCH
ACTED UPON
BY
DATE

No Inquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper. Repetitions of doubtful words should be obtained through the Company's Offices, and not by direct application to the Sender.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

TELEGRAM ^{full text} ~~extract~~ from MINISTER OF MILITIA No. _____

Dated 16/2/18 (), Received 17/2/18 10am.

Decoded by HSJ Checked by HSJ

Branch _____ Acted upon (Initial) _____

Acknowledged per No. _____ dated / /

68

~~FILTRATED~~

FILTHINESS

Lord Morris

ABRETONDRE

Necessary

begins

UNDERSCORE

CALABASH

produce

ENHARBOUR

1547 Ross

hisane

TORTACCINE

deserted

please

Lud.

following for

immediate action

reference your letter 23 November
can you

evidence to show that

when he

Military

18/2/18

Form 1 F. (2/16.)

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. 253

Line No.



Prefix	Code	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.		
Words	Charge		This form will be accepted at any Post Office.		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>£</td> <td>s.</td> <td>d.</td> </tr> </table>		£		s.	d.
£	s.	d.			

ON NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT SERVICE

To **MILITARY**
STJOHNS (Newfoundland)

UNEBBING LORD MORRIS ADARCIIST IF MISONIEM TRIED ROSS
 EDRIASTOR WE SHOULD SAMPLINGS PLEA OF INSANITY ONLY
 EVIDENCE SOLAGINE THIS PLEA IS TOREUTIC REASONABLY BE
 INFERRED FROM HIS HAVING SUFFERED SEVERELY FROM SHELLSHOCK
 ALGICORN HIS SUBSEQUENT EYEGLANE CONDUCT

SYNOPTICAL

Translation:-

Reference your telegram 16th February- Lord- Morris- advised that- if- Military authorities- tried- ROSS- in England- we should- set up- plea- of- insanity- only- evidence- to support- this- plea- is- what might- reasonably- be- inferred from- his- having- suffered- severely- from- shell shock- and from- his- subsequent- extraordinary- conduct-

1547 Ross.

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.

Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature..... Address, **58 Victoria St. S.W. 1.**

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY). ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.

[For List of Stations P.T.O.]

Following extracted by
H. J. Anderson. Sent on 16/5/18

74

75

Orig. letter addressed to
Lieut. Anderson by Ross 27/8/17

Confidential



The Officer in Charge of Newfoundland Record



58 Victoria Street

S. W. 1

1547 Ross

Proceedings of Court of
Inquiry ret. to 3rd,
Secretary.

11/10/17

11/10/17

11/10/17

~~Telegram 3/10/17 O.C. 4/1~~

Self implied around
Ross

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

LONDON
OFFICE
15
12 JAN 1918

The Officer in Charge of ^{Records} ~~Records~~
Newfoundland ^{Office} ~~Office~~
58, Victoria Street
S. W. 1.



WAR OFFICE

Capt. Trevor.
A.P. 970

London District

N.O. 491. Advices
Capture of. 1547

Ross. 12. 20th

Pending again.

1. 20th

Asked Capt. Trevor not
to take any action
without first referring
to the office

Mr. M. ...

1547 Ste. N. L. Ross

will be charged as a
deserter at Old Street

Police Court 10 am

4th October

Remand in custody
will asked for pending
further enquiries
by Sgt Saunders

Telephone message
from Commercial
Police Station
6.30 pm

Please ring up
Vic. 7901/10 Extension

Re Pat Ross

~~57~~

FOOTING.S.W

On His Majesty's Service.

45 PM

45 PM

19 SEP 17

19 SEP 17



Regt. Paymaster

Newfoundland Contingent

58 Victoria St

S.W.

K

Ross.

The Commandant.

Rest Camp.

Southampton.

Mr. Ross will be sent to the
above address 12/16/17 to await
transport to France where he will
be sent ^{eventually} for trial.

Phone message from
Garrison Sept. 17th received

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.



RYER & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Office Stamp.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. being reckoned as $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Harbour Grace N7
9th 9. 31

Charges } s. d.
to pay }

Handed } = .M., Received }
in at } here at }

8.24

TO { Kathleen Mills 84 Wilberforce Rd
Hinsbury Park N4 Ldn


Born January seventeenth ninety eight
enlisted when seventeen rush particular
cable

Ross

1547

11021/71/Records.

23rd October, 7.


Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my letter No. 9990/41, 28/9/17
and my telegram No. 1026, 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547
"Ross- escaped- at- Southampton- en route to-
"France- October 15-"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further
minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted
from France 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is
enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector
J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply
thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in
my No. 10848/1, 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major,
Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

HA/BWV

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. 1026

Line No.



Prefix.	Code	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions)	For Postage Stamps.
Words.	Charge.		This form will be accepted at any Post Office.
	£	s. d.	
		<i>Via Commercial</i>	
		Sent At..... To..... By.....	

ON NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

To **MILITARY**

STJOHNS (Newfoundland)

**UNPAID 1547 ROSS ESCAPED AT SHAFTALLEY RIMUNIFY
FRANCE ODEMAKER**

SYNOPTICAL

Translation:-

With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547- Ross- escaped- at-
Southampton- en route to- France- October 15-

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED. } Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature,..... Address,..... **58 Victoria St. S.W. 1.**

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY). ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.

[For List of Stations p.r.o.]

12305/1./R.&C.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT
88, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

Aest. Provost Marshal,
No.9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,

15th November, 7

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross,
1st Newfoundland Rgt.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14/11/17 (6856), the A.B.64 relating to the above-noted man has been received, please, together with the Military Police Report.

Pte. Ross deserted from his regiment in France 20/8/17, was apprehended on 3/10/17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks in Southampton, 15/10/17.

(over

As he appears to be still
in the vicinity of Southampton
will you please exercise every
effort to apprehend him? Copy
of A.F. B.124 is enclosed.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

HA/JC

12501/15

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte, W. L. Ross

The following telegram has
been received this date from the
Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris-
"case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action
"you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

All the documents concerning
this case are on file at this office
and can always be referred to when
convenient to you.

Yours faithfully,

12691/144

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

21st November, 7.

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. F. L. ROSS

11120/76. 24/10/17.

Exchange of telegrams
confirmed, please:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).
"Synoptical, London.
"Has 1547- Ross- returned-
"keep me informed- as to
"particulars- in his case-
Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).
"Military, St. John's.
"Reference your telegram 17
"November- Ross-
"still- at large-

Synoptical."
Received 20/11/17 (6987).
"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris-
"case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what
"action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has
"been captured-
Military."

The last quoted has been
communicated to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence
giving a complete history of the
case sent to him.

Dec 20th 1917

*It is noted that
Sir Edward Morris has been
given a complete history
of the case.
No. 1305 of 167 was received
prior to the arrival of the
letter*

*Signed W. G. Hendon
Major C. S. D.
for Min. of Militia*

440

11/1/18

W. D.

Chief Paymaster & Co. i/c Records.

11022/1./Records./HA-JC.

PAYMASTER GENERAL OFFICER IN CHARGE,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
83, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

Commandant,
Rest Camp,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,
23rd October, 7

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross,
1st Newfoundland R.

With reference to your
telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa
"number 1547 Pte Ross W.
"1st Newfoundland Regt
"escaped from Docks 15th
"inst aaa please take
"necessary action-"

will you kindly say if any
thing further has been
heard of this man?

On receipt of your telegram
The Garrison Sergt.-Major,
Gt.Scotland Yard was informed.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. I. /

26th November, 7.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office,
S.W. 1

Sir,
No. 1547, Pte, W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the
Minister of Militia, St. John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).
"Synoptical, London.
"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to-
"particulars- in his case-
Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).
"Military, St. John's.
"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still-
"at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).
"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram
to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who
is at present on a visit to this Country, I was requested by
him to take such steps as might be practicable with a view to
preliminary precautions to further the desired object, and this
letter is addressed to you accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from
the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was
apprehended in London and while on his way back to France
escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not
been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great
Scotland Yard, is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being
understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind,
it is the special desire of those concerned that due representa-
tions may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his
apprehension.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

13050/167

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

HT/NW 28th November, 7.

No.1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

12691/144, 21/11/17.

Further to above quoted Nos
copies of the following letters
are enclosed for your information,
please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15,
20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir
E.P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176),

P. & R.O. letter No. 12857/243,
26/11/17, to the Secretary of the
War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16,
26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir
E.P. Morris.

Dec. 16th 1917
Attached copies of letters
received, I am glad the
Prime Minister has undertaken
to interest himself in the case,
and of course you will keep
me advised of any happenings
as previously requested in
my note of 15/11/17
Signed. D.F. Wendell
Major
C.S.O.
for Minister of Militia

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

300/24/c

Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland R.,
Ayr., Scotland.

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

7th January, 8.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

This man who was an absentee from France some time ago and escaped from two distinct escorts has been recaptured. By a special arrangement with the A.P.M. he will be allowed to return to Newfoundland under escort to be dealt with by H.Q., and will proceed under charge of Capt. O'Grady. Having regard to the case and Ross's previous record an escort will be necessary. Can you provide two reliable men from those you have at the Depot waiting repatriation to take him over from the Imperial authorities here for embarkation on the next transport?

It may be added that this special arrangement has been made on the distinct understanding that Ross is removed from the United Kingdom and it

is therefore most essential that his escort should be reliable and that you should be able to provide suitable men if necessary for the purpose. It is requested that you will be so good as to arrange to be kept advised of any developments in this matter as soon as you are known so that they may be taken into account in the course of the proceedings. It is requested that the escort should be reliable and that you will be so good as to arrange to be kept advised of any developments in this matter as soon as you are known so that they may be taken into account in the course of the proceedings.

Yours,

Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Records

is therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

200/20

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records
Newfoundland
Victoria Street
S.F. 1

Office Forwarding
S.F. 1
S.F. 1

Pay & Record Office

27th January

No. 1000

This man who was an
absentee from the
and escaped from two
distinct escorts has been re-
captured by a special
arrangement with the A.S. &
he will be allowed to return
to Newfoundland under escort
to be dealt with by S.F. 1 and
will proceed under escort of
Capt. O'Grady. Having regard
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CORRESPONDENCE: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

1. Telegram 27/8/17 (4734) from O.C. 1st Bn., Nfld Regt. to Pay & Record Office, London.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries.

2. Memo 9003/138 3/9/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross

(Sd) O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large police

"searching letter follows

(Sd) Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Andersen to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette" I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

3. Statement 28/8/17 by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson to Chief Pmr. & O. i/c Rds.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries

O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m., after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L/Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8:0:0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report).

3. A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17:

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the MRPs. If I had been treated decent by our G.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,

above (Sgd) W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of this letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

4. Statement B7/8/17 by 1539, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547, Pte. W. Ross. I left 58, Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station, where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84, Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked round to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two Buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door 58, Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police giving a description in both cases.

5. Letter No. 9990/41 28/9/17 from Chief Pmr. & O. I/c Records to Minister of Militia, St. John's.

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30/8/17:

"Military, St. John's.

" Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20-
"1547- Ross- fullstop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following documents relating to his case:

A.F. B.126 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

6. Report 12/10/17 by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson.

With regard to 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when

"seventeen rush particulars cable - Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

7. Statement by No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross 4/10/17.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement

7. concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 40 days, sleeping at various places and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Sepcial Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, three permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this city. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montréal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table. Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy

7. some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous breakdown to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she used to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I couldn't stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det. Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

8. Report 11/10/17 by 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. M. A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October, 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this Office by Military Police Department.

9. Telegram 12/10/17 (5846) from H.Q. London District to P & R.O.

L.D 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 aas following absentee from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aas 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross 1st Bn. Newfoundland Regt. aas

10. Memo. 10635/179, 13/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn. Nfld Regt.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.

"234, 3/10/17, 26 aas 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"236, 9/10/17

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant

"1547 Ross apprehended London and your instructions asked aas now

"in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose

1. Copy of the report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with Ross' statement referred to therein.

2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.) received here 12/10/17,

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary, with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

11. Letter 11021/71, 23/10/17 fro, P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547- Ross- escaped-

"at- Southampton- enroute to- France- October 15-

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted from France on 20/8/17.

A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector M. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

12. Memo 14/10/17 (5973) from O.C. 1st Bn. to P & R.O.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now under arrest

12. in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing him escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

- a. A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and place of such surrender or arrest.
- b. The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay & Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

13. Telegram 18/10/17 (5997) from Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton to P & R.O.

R 5399 18/10/17 aaa Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa please take necessary action.

14. Memo 10888/184, 19/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked Southampton

"16/10/17 under escort aaa documents posted you 13/10/17.

Synoptical."

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross

"W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa

"please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape, the Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, was notified accordingly.

15. Memo 11022/1, 23/10/17 from P & R.O. to Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton.

With reference to your telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland

"Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst aaa please take necessary

"action-"

will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Ft. Scotland Yard was informed.

16. Reply thereto 24/10/17 (6214).

Reference preceding minute. Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

17. Letter 19/9/17 (6030) from Mrs. J. Ross, Harbor Grace to Mr. Anderson.

Am writing to ask you could you give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the Army, he never meant to desert but I believed, while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced he doesn't seem to know what happened, the last thing he remembered was being hit by a soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad, he wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous trouble and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death today, he is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him, and on account of his youth, intercede for him if it's in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

18. Reply thereto 11119/1, 24/10/17.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

19. Letter 11120/76, 24/10/17 from P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

Further to this Office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence take place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place,

19. Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

CORRESPONDENCE: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

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Yours truly,
above (Sgd) W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of the letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

4. Statement 27/8/17 by 1539, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547, Pte. W. Ross. I left 58, Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station, where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84, Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked round to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two Buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door 58, Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police giving a description in both cases.

5. Letter No. 9990/41 28/9/17 from Chief Pmr. & O. I/o Records to Minister of Militia, St. John's.

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30/8/17:

"Military, St. John's.

" Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20-
"1547- Ross- fullstop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following documents relating to his case:

A.F. B.124 - Report of a Deserter,

Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,

Report by Staff Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

6. Report 12/10/17 by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson.

With regard to 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 Sgt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sgt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London."

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when

"seventeen rush particulars cable - Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sgt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sgt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sgt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

7. Statement by No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross 4/10/17.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement

7. concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, three permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this city. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table. Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy

7. some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £50. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous breakdown to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she used to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det. Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

8. Report 11/10/17 by 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H. A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October, 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this Office by Military Police Department.

9. Telegram 12/10/17 (5846) from H.Q. London District to P & R.O.

L.D 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 aas following absentee from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aas 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross 1st Btn. Newfoundland Regt. aas

10. Memo. 10635/179, 13/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn. Nfld Regt.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.

"234, 3/10/17, 26 aas 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"236, 9/10/17

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant

"1547 Ross apprehended London and your instructions asked aas now

"in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose

1. Copy of the report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with Ross' statement referred to therein.

2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.) received here 12/20/17,

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary, with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

11. Letter 11021/71, 23/10/17 fro, P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 13th October- 1547- Ross- escaped-

"at- Southampton- enroute to- France- October 15-"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted from France on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

12. Memo 14/10/17 (5973) from O.C. 1st Bn. to P & R.O.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now under arrest

12. in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing him escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

a. A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and place of such surrender or arrest.

b. The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay & Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

13. Telegram 18/10/17 (5997) from Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton to P & R.O.

R 5399 18/10/17 aaa Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa please take necessary action.

14. Memo 10888/184, 19/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked Southampton

"16/10/17 under escort aaa documents posted you 13/10/17.

Synoptical."

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross

"W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa

"please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape, the Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, was notified accordingly.

15. Memo 11022/1, 23/10/17 from P & R.O. to Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton.

With reference to your telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland

"Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst aaa please take necessary

"action-

will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt.-Major, St. Scotland Yard was informed.

16. Reply thereto 24/10/17 (6214).

Reference preceding minute. Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

17. Letter 19/9/17 (6030) from Mrs. J. Ross, Harbor Grace to Mr. Anderson.

Am writing to ask you could you give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the Army, he never meant to desert but I believe, while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced he doesn't seem to know what happened, the last thing he remembered was being hit by a soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad, he wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous trouble and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death today, he is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him, and on account of his youth, intercede for him if it's in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

18. Reply thereto 11119/1, 24/10/17.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

19. Letter 11120/76, 24/10/17 from P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

Further to this Office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence take place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place,

19. Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

CORRESPONDENCE: No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

1. Telegram 27/8/17 (4734) from O.C. 1st Bn., Nfld Regt. to Pay & Record Office, London.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries.

2. Memo 9003/138 3/9/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross

(Sd) O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large police

"seraching letter follows

(Sd) Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Andersen to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette" I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

3. Statement 28/8/17 by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson to Chief Pmr. & O. i/c Rds.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries

O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m., after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L/Opl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8:0:0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report).

3. A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17:

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the MPPs. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have noncasualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,

above (Sgd) W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of the letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

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Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,

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On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

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"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when

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I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

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I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

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Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous breakdown to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she used to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det. Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

8. Report 11/10/17 by 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. M. A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October, 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this Office by Military Police Department.

9. Telegram 12/10/17 (5846) from H.Q. London District to P & R.O.

L.D 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 aaa following absence from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aaa 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross 1st Btn. Newfoundland Regt. aaa

10. Memo. 10635/179, 13/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn. Nfld Regt.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.

"234, 3/10/17, 26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"236, 9/10/17

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant

"1547 Ross apprehended London and your instructions asked aaa now

"in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose

1. Copy of the report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with Ross' statement referred to therein.

2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.) received here 12/10/17,

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary, with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

11. Letter 11021/71, 23/10/17 fro, P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547- Ross- escaped-

"at- Southampton- enroute to- France- October 15-

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted from France on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector M. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

12. Memo 14/10/17 (5973) from O.C. 1st Bn. to P & R.O.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now under arrest

12. in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing him escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

- a. A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and place of such surrender or arrest.
- b. The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay & Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

13. Telegram 18/10/17 (5997) from Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton to P & R.O.

R 5399 18/10/17 aaa Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa please take necessary action.

14. Memo 10888/184, 19/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked Southampton

"18/10/17 under escort aaa documents posted you 13/10/17.

Synoptical."

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross

"W. 1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst. aaa

"please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape, the Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, was notified accordingly.

15. Memo 11022/1, 23/10/17 from P & R.O. to Commandant, Rest Camp, Southampton.

With reference to your telegram:

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland

"Regt. escaped from Docks 15th inst aaa please take necessary

"action-"

will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt.-Major, Gt.

Scotland Yard was informed.

16. Reply thereto 24/10/17 (6214).

Reference preceding minute. Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

17. Letter 19/9/17 (6030) from Mrs. J. Ross, Harbor Grace to Mr. Anderson.

Am writing to ask you could you give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the Army, he never meant to desert but I believe, while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced he doesn't seem to know what happened, the last thing he remembered was being hit by a soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad, he wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous trouble and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death today, he is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him, and on account of his youth, intercede for him if it's in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

18. Reply thereto 11119/1, 24/10/17.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

19. Letter 11120/76, 24/10/17 from P & R.O. to Minister of Militia.

Further to this Office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence take place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place,

19. Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

1. Telegram from O.C., 1st Newfoundland Regt., received Pay & Record Office 27/8/17 (4734).

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.

2. Memo. 9003/138, 3/9/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross

(Sd) O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large

"police searching letter follows

(Sd) Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's Report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette." I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please when Ross is apprehended.

REPORT

OF

A DESERTER

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE
from the 1/1st Newfoundland Regt.
British Expeditionary Force.

Dated at _____

this _____ Day of 28/8/17. 19

Army Form B. 124.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From

Regt.

London, S.W.

*Signature of Commanding
Officer*

REPORT

OF

A DESERTER

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE
from the 1/1st Newfoundland Regt.
British Expeditionary Force.

Dated at _____

this _____ Day of 28/8/17. 19

Army Form B. 124.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From

Regt.

London, S.W.

*Signature of Commanding
Officer*

1/1st Newfoundland Regt), B.E.F. (Unit)

REPORT OF A DESERTER or Absentee without leave from the above Unit
 since 20/8/17 Dated at London this 28th day of
 August 19 17 .

Number, Rank and Name...	1547 Pte. Wm. L. Ross		
Age.....	21 years 4 mths	Trade.....	Clerk
Height.....	Feet.....	Colour of...	Complexion ...
	Inches.....		Hair.....
			Eyes.....
Date and Place of Enlistment	St. John's, Newfoundland April 29th, 1915		
Parish and County in which Born*.....	Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.		
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....	B. E. F. 20/8/17		
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)	He appears to be taller now than 5 ft. 8" - possibly 5 ft. 9" or 10"		
See Note			
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)	Under three years service.		

Signature of Commanding Officer _____

* The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.

|| If the soldier deserted or absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).

† The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, or absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is, however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

COPY

Private & Confidential

28th September,

7.

9990/41

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

30/8/17: With reference to my telegram No. 797/9,

"Military, St. John's.

" Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since-

" August 20- 1547- Ross- full stop-
Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being
still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of
the following documents relating to his case:

A.F. B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in
view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's
report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir. 1547, Pte. W. Ross.

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt.
H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police
Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note
proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st
Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with
desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody
for one week, to enable authorities to make further
enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Staff-Sergt.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. I.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H. A.

Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this Office by Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Staff-Sergt.

C O P Y.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
8/10/17.

Officer i/c.,
Newfoundland Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir,-

I have heard that Pte. William Ross, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil police and will be tried on 11th. inst., but I do not know in what part of London or on what charge.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet 20 and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in September and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Joseph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regiment.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) J. Ross,
District Inspector R. I. C.

C.R.
5774

9th, October, 1917.

COPY.

10601/1

12th, October

7

J. Ross, Esq.,
District Inspector, R. I. C.
Newry.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B. E. F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

HT/NW

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

10888/184

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

19th October, 7.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Reference your memorandum
"14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked
"Southampton 16/10/17 under
"escort aaa documents posted
"you 13/10/17.

Synopticalz"

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Following telegram received
"today begins number 1547 Pte.
"Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
"escaped from Docks 15th inst.
"aaa please take necessary
"action Commandant Rest Camp
"Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities
were particularly advised to keep
Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of
telegram reporting his escape, the
Garrison Sergeant Major, Great
Scotland Yard, was notified
accordingly.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1. Letter 12501/15, 20/11/17 from Chief Pmr. A.O. 1/c Records to Sir E. Morris.

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

2. Reply thereto 23/11/17 (7176).

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 20th November in reference to No. 1547, Private W.L. Ross. I note the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should take action in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am in a position to show, I think cond usively, that when he deserted he was not of sound mind.

Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

3. Letter 12857/243 26/11/17 from P & R.O. to the Secretary, War Office.

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister of Militia, St. John's Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- particulars-
"in his case- Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross- still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier, Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present on a visit to this country, I was requested by him to take such steps as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representation may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

4. Letter No. 12858/16 from P & R.O. to Sir E. PL Morris.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 23/11/17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

8511 to Sergeant Percy Saunders.

Phone City 2651
Commercial Street Police Sta
where Ross is.

10 am ^{4/10/77} Old Street Police Court
Shoreditch.

479/1/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous conversations and correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intercede and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France, when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and on my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of Capt. O'Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt. O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for naturally it is inadvisable to risk originals overseas, whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the military authorities here.

Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter
which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good
enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous conversations and correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intercede and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

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Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,

573/14/C

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Rds.,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland R.,
B. E. F.

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

12th January, 8.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

With reference to
previous correspondence with
regard to the above named
Soldier: Ross has now been
apprehended and is in
custody pending transport to
H.Q., St. John's, for trial.
This arrangement has been
made with the AMP.M., London
District, at my request and
with the entire support of
Lord Morris, please.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

**A S
M**

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.

(Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Counter
Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	For Postage Stamps.	Date Stamp.
			s.	s.	d.			
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.	To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form. <i>(A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)</i>	
						To.....		
						By.....		

Notice.—The following Telegram is accepted by the Postmaster-General for transmission subject to the Regulations as to Foreign Telegrams made pursuant to the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1911, provided that the *Request* at the foot of the Telegram is previously signed by the Sender.

The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

D. A. G.,

BASE,

FRANCE.

18

13/1/18

~~PLEASE EXPRESS A.Fs. B.103 AND 122 OF 1547 ROSS NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.~~

SYNOPTICAL

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*)

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

**A^S
M**

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TELEGRAMS ONLY.
 (Telegrams for North America, Central America or West Indies excepted.)

Counter
Number

Prefix.	Words.	Code.	Charge.			Sent	Date Stamp.
			£	s.	d.		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						At.....M.	For Postage Stamps. <i>To be affixed by the Sender. Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed at the back of this form.</i> (A Receipt for the Charges on this Telegram can be obtained, price One Penny.)
						To.....	
						By.....	

Notice.—The following Telegram is accepted by the Postmaster-General for transmission subject to the Regulations as to Foreign Telegrams made pursuant to the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1911, provided that the *Request* at the foot of the Telegram is previously signed by the Sender.

The **Sender's Name** and **Address**, or either of them, *if to be telegraphed*, must be written at the end of the text of the Telegram.

TO

D. A. G.,

BASE,

FRANCE

19
14/1/18

~~PLEASE EXPRESS ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO 1547 ROSS NEWFOUNDLAND RE
 ESPECIALLY PROCEEDINGS COURT OF ENQUIRY MAILED YOU 11/10/17.~~

SYNOPTICAL.

I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded [via*.....] subject to the Conditions which are printed on the back hereof, and by which I agree to be bound.

Signature and Address of Sender (*not to be telegraphed*).....**58, Victoria**.....

* This space is to be filled up only if there are alternative routes. For routes, see the Table of Charges for Foreign Telegrams in the Post Office Guide.

576/2/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own Country and at the same time mete out adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of military discipline, for I think it is mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Apart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly

pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit; but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,

576/2/0

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

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pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit: but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,

On His Majesty's Service.



To. Paymaster & Co's Records,

Newfoundland Contingent.

58 Victoria Street

London SW1

W. P. Baker

Re. 1547 Ross

Lieut. Marshall.

The attached was
left in a pub in
Southampton by the
long-lost.

Slenth-like, I
am again on his
trail.

15th
1917

~~HAS~~

Thy

18th January, 8.

969/3/C

Capt. J. J. O'Grady,

Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No. 56

HT/NW

No. 1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS (PRISONER)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland: the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return railway warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all data available to date and which have been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M., there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

7817/1/R.&.C.

Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S. W. 1.

Commandant,
Rest Camp,
Southampton.

HA/NV

Pay & Record Office,
17th May, 8.

Southampton.

18/5/18

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram
R - 5399, 18/10/17 in regard
to the above-named man, who
escaped from Docks on 15/10/17:
can you say what became of
A.F. O.1618 in this case,
please?

A.F.O.1618 for Pte.Ross
was handed to Lieut.F.Hunt
54th.A.I.F. who was in
charge of a draft that es-
corted prisoners Overseas
on 15/10/17.

(Sgd) H.A.Denham,

Major,

Major
for Cmdt. Rest Camp
Southampton.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

Copy to M/8/17

21/5/18

7730

Officer in Charge.
Old Street Police Court



Will you kindly
furnish to bearer
Original A.F. 07618
relating to 1547 pte.
W. L. Ross, R. New-
foundland Regt, who
~~was~~ appeared at your
Court on 4/10/17? This
is wanted for the purpose
of a Court Martial, in
order to prove the arrest
of the accused by the
Civil Power on the
31/10/17, admissable
under Army Act, Sect.
163 (1)

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

H. J. Cornwall

CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS

16-5-18

Request for Discharge or other Documents.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W., 1,
and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W., 1,

_____ 191 .

SIR,

I am to request that you will be so good as to forward for inspection the _____ of the man named in the margin.

Regiment _____

Rank and Name } _____

Regtl. No. _____

Date of Discharge } _____

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

R. W. Wade

_____ 191 .

Forwarded herewith as requested _____

_____ [P.T.O.]

110/Infantry/8336 (A.G.3.L)

War Office,



London, S.W., 1,

23rd April 1918.

Private W. Ross
4

Reference telephone message of yesterday, remainder of documents
Returned herewith. Kindly acknowledge receipt.
Omission regretted.

R. W. Wade

MM

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.	
Ref. Nos. IN	368 Y
Rec'd	23 APR 1918
Ack'd	
Ref. Nos. OUT	
Received	
Comd ✓	
R. & C.	
S. & E.	
P. S.	

The Chief Paymaster,
Newfoundland Records Office,
58 Victoria Street,

191 .

7731

Officer in Charge.
Old Street Police Court.



Will it be possible
please to give bearer
the original letter
of which the enclosed
is a copy? It is
wanted for the purpose
of a Court Martial.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

H. D. Cunningham

CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS

1547 *to*



Cyril Sharwood
Missouri

13 end of Jan

last letter of inquiry
letter of inquiry

Missouri

Mr Edward
Grady
Powers

Made

Governor's arrival

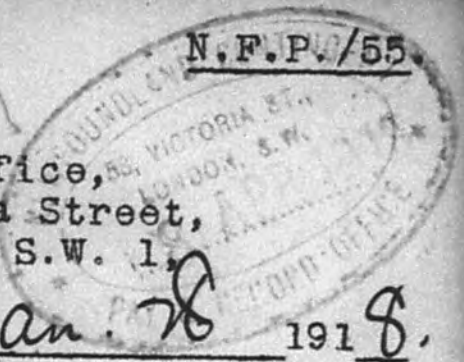
Following telephone message
from Capt. Hoover A.D.M. / S
W.O. 491. 12.20 p.m. 6/1/18.

154y Ross captured
in London today
Written communication follows.

Document will be found in
my suspense file J.M.

No. 1467 :

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT



To: Hon. Minister of Militia

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.

Jan. 8 1918.

Herewith Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry A.F. A 2
and A.F. B 22 relating to 1547 pte W.F. Ross

Please acknowledge receipt hereon.

(Sig.) W.F. Rendell

(Date) 21st Feb. 1918

W.F. Rendell Maj.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

↓
TRd5

7

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. 80

Line No.



Prefix.	Code.	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.
Words.	Charge.		This form will be accepted at any Post Office.
	£ s. d.	Sent At To By	

On Newfoundland Government Service

To **MILITARY,**
ST. JOHN'S (Newfoundland)

UNDERRATED 1547 ROSS WAS AMBLYSTOMA LIBRILE TODAY

SYNOPTICAL.

Personal file

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.

Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature.....

Address, **59, Victoria St., S.W.1**

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY), ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.

[For List of Stations P.T.O.]

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. **52**

Line No.



Prefix.	Code.	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.	
Words.	Charge.		This form will be accepted at any Post Office.	
	£ s. d.	Sent At		To

7/1/18.

On Newfoundland Government Service

To **MILITARY,
ST. JOHN'S.
(NEWFOUNDLAND)**

**1547 ROSS AMBRASS TOUCHPIECE RELICTION CATTLEYARD CAPTAIN
OGRADY BSHORTLY RICINGE THIS ANCHORUST CORBASTI SIR EDWARD
MORRIS.**

SYNOPTICAL.

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.

Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above Telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature,

Address, **58, Victoria St., S.W. 1**

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY). ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES.

[For List of Stations p.t.o.]

299/2/C

7th January, 1948.

The Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to the above named man whom you advise as having been apprehended: it is understood that you will be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of this month by which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military authorities at St. John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

MEMORANDUM.

From

To

Date

14-1-

1918

Major Timewell

In accordance to
your order ~~of~~ I telephoned Capt
Trevor, Ass A. P. M., & ask what should
be done with the letters & pels belonging
to P1547 Pte W. L. Ross, which are lying
at this office. He informed me to forward
the letters on to him, & to confiscate any
pels as they may contain articles which
would enable him to do injury to
himself. Ross is being detained at the
Central Recruiting Depot,
Great Scotland Yard
Whitehall

W. P. Pegg
Sergeant

Pay & Record Office,

14/1/18

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.
58, Victoria Street,
London, S. W. 1.

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, which are lying at this Office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they may contain articles which would enable him to do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

A/Sergeant.

Pay & Record Office,

14/1/18

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S. W. 1.

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Pay & Record Office,

14/1/18

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/o Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

58, Victoria Street,

London, S. W. 1.

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Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

A/Sergeant.

776/51/C

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regt.
Winchester.

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

15th January, 8.

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose who will take Ross over from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter, to you, please.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
 (in pads of 100).
 No. of Message

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/o of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent	Service.	Date.....
						At.....m.
.....			To.....	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By.....
			By.....			By.....

TO	Newfound,		
	Winchester.		

Sender's Number. * 28	Day of Month. 17/1/18	In reply to Number.	A A A
--------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------	-------

Reference	memorandum	51	please	furnish
two	competent	men	with	side
arms	to	report	this	office
2	p.m.	tomorrow	Friday	to
escort	prisoner	Ross	for	embarkation
aaa	escort	will	return	to
you	after	embarking	prisoner.	
			Synoptical.	

From		
Place		
Time		

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

988/42/C

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

19th January, 8.

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS
(PRISONER)

775/32/C, 15/1/18.

Further to above number,
copies of following documents are
enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of
telegrams, letters, reports etc.
numbered from 1 to 78,

2. This office No. 969/3/C,
18/1/18, to Capt. J. J. O'Grady,
i/c of Prisoner.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

Military

UNEBBING

Reppin your telegram 16 Feb

ADARCIAT

Lord Moun
advised that

MISONIEM

← militant
of Antimoun
true Ron

EDRIASTOR

in England

SAMPLINGS

← we should set up
plan of mainly

SOLAGINE

← only attendance
to support Ron
~~we had after the~~

TORUTIC

← Ron defence reasonably
is what ought to
inferred from
his training
suffered away from

ALCICORN

← Shell shock
and from his
subsequent

I have seen EYGLANCE ← extraordinary conduct.
Lord Moun ~~and~~ who says when he wrote "I am in
"as in his letter quoted."

as well as the reports on the same referred to
in the record.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENTTo _____

Notification of the fact of your being a Prisoner of War has been received, and which has been duly telegraphed to Newfoundland.

The Newfoundland War Contingent Association have also been notified by this Office, and will communicate with you direct with regard to food, arrangements of which are undertaken by them.

So far a direct notification from you has not been received, as in the case of other Prisoners of War, and which usually includes a request for clothing, with particulars of sizes, etc., especially as to boots: meanwhile with a view to avoiding what may entail considerable delay in your receiving supplies, this Office is drawing and transmitting to you through the Central Prisoners of War Committee, a first issue of clothing, based upon sizes implied by information stated in your attestation.

Any change of your address should be notified to this Office, which in turn will be transmitted to Newfoundland, and to the Newfoundland War Contingent Association.

Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,



2797/188

DUPLICATE
MAIL COPY
Posted 1 MAR 1918

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

20th February, 8

OK

No. 1547, PTE. W.L.ROSS.

April 27th 1918.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please.

"16/2/18- 68- Following for-
"Lord-Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins-
"Reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce-
"evidence to show that- 1547-
"Ross- insane- when he-
"deserted- please- ends-
- Military-"

Noted.

"18/2/18- 253- Reference your
"telegram 18th February-
"Lord-Morris- advised that-
"if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we
"should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence-
"to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be-
"inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from-
"shellshock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary-
"conduct-
- Synoptical-"

J.R.V. Bennett

Minister of Militia.

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.



Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

Cables and Telegrams :
"SYNOPTICAL," London.

Telephone :
VICTORIA 147.

Communications to be addressed to the
CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
and the following No. quoted :

2797/123/Com.

N. F. P.
ORIGINAL

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. _____

From
PAY AND RECORD OFFICE,
58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON. S.W.

20th February, 1918 .

To
Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

SUBJECT :

No. 1547, PTE. W.L.ROSS.

Reference Nos.

REPLY

Dated April 27th, 1918

Please return **ORIGINAL** and retain **DUPLICATE.**

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please.

"18/2/18- 68- Following for-
"Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins-
"Reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce-
"evidence to show that- 1547-
"Ross- insane- when he-
"deserted- please- ends-
- Military-"

"18/2/18- 253- Reference your
"telegram 16th February-
"Lord- Morris- advised that-
"if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we
"should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence-
"to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be-
"inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from-
"shellshock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary-
"conduct-
- Synoptical-"

The former was conveyed to Lord Morris, and he called here, when the latter was drafted by him and so coded at his personal request, please.

A.A. Murray Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/JC

Noted.

W. A. Lawrence
Major
C.S.O.

for Acting Minister of Militia.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

File No. 1 ✓ 4058

Rec'd 3 JUN 1918

Ack'd

Ref. Nos. 101

[Signature]

10597/56./Records./HA-JC.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/C RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
53, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1
ENGLAND.

~~Not Copied~~
Not Copied

Officer i/c Records,
No.1 Reg. Inf. Section,
3rd Echelon,
G.H.Q., B.E.F.

12th October, 7

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Herewith copies of reports and Minutes relating to the above-named man, of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, absentee from the B.E.F. since the 20/8/17. Originals are here if required.

It is understood that Ross will be sent to France to be dealt with.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1541

Pte Allen J F

1st Newfoundland Regiment

The Officer Commanding

Records

Newfoundland Regiment

58 Victoria St SW

Please note that the marginally named was transferred to the

Military Hospital

Warrington Surrey

on the 13-11-18

Rochester Row, S.W. 1.

15-11

1918

Major

for O.C. Military Hospital.

CBPY

2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Nfld Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St.,
London, S.W.

Dear Sir,

Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hour's time, thanks to a good friend and I shan't bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Hadow I would not have deserted. I done my two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Hadow and kill them both. Say Good-bye to old Crocker, poor devil.

Well sir, best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) W. L. ROSS.

4771

28/8/17.

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM.

PAYMASTER & OFFICE AT THE HEADQUARTERS
NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
53, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, W. 1.
16 OCT 1917

From

From

To Officer in Charge, Records,
No. 1 Reg. Inf. Section,
3rd Echelon,
G.H.Q., B.E.F.

To

ANSWER.

12th October, 1917.

191

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Herewith copies of reports and Minutes relating to the above-named man, of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, absentee from the B.E.F. since the 20/8/17. Originals are here if required.

It is understood that Ross will be sent to France to be dealt with *plac.*

A. A. Guinness
Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER i/c RECORDS,
NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
55, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1,
ENGLAND.

Officer i/c Records,
No.1 Reg. Inf. Section,
3rd Echelon,
G.H.Q., B.E.F.

12th October, 7

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Herewith copies of reports
and Minutes relating to the
above-named man, of the 1st
Newfoundland Regiment,
absentee from the B.E.F. since
the 20/8/17. Originals are
here if required.

It is understood that Ross
will be sent to France to be
dealt with.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1. Telegram from O.C., 1st Newfoundland Regt., received Pay & Record Office 27/8/17 (4734).
-

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.

2. Memo. 9003/138, 3/9/17 from B & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.
-

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross

(Sd) O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large

"police searching letter follows

(Sd) Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette." I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please when Ross is apprehended.

Confidential

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,

58, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1,

28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir: Regarding 1547, Private W.L. Ross,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical. London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte W Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries

"O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m., after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8.0.0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed me that Ross had escaped (vide Crocker's report). A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

"Yours truly,
(Sgd) "W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. M. [Signature]

COPY.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. I.
27th August 1917.

Major H.A. Timewell,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. I.

Sir:

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547, Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 ~~for Victoria~~ for Victoria Station, where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground Railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return at a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by these people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass, but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the Office. In returning to the Office, Ross intentionally missed two 'Buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the Office door, 58 Victoria St. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the Office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police; giving a description in both cases.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) B. Crocker, S.Segt.

REPORT
OF

A DESERTER
OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE

from the

Dated at

this Day of _____ 19

Army Form B. 124.

D. D. & L., London E.C.
P 2376. Wt. W2813/1046. 200,000. 5/15. W. 7.
G. No. 1705

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

17/8/88
By the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

New Scotland Yard,

London, S.W.

British Expeditionary Force.

From _____
Regt.

Scotland Regt.
Standards of Companies
Officer

NOTE.—When this form is sent to any person other than the above, this address is to be erased, and the form enclosed in a stamped cover.

1/1st Newfoundland Regt., B.E.F. (Unit)

REPORT OF A DESERTER *or* Absentee without leave from the above Unit
 since 20/8/17 Dated at London this 28th day of
August 1917 .

Number, Rank and Name...	1547 Pte. Wm. L. Ross		
Age.....	21 years 4 mths	Trade.....	Clerk
Height.....	{ Feet	Colour of... {	Complexion ... Fair
	{ Inches		Hair..... Brown
	5	Eyes	Blue
	8		
Date and Place of Enlistment	St. John's, Newfoundland April 29th, 1915		
Parish and County in which Born*.....	Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.		
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....	B. E. F. 20/8/17		
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)	* He appears to be taller now than 5 ft. 8" - possibly 5 ft. 9" or 10"		
See Note			
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)	Under three years service.		

Signature of Commanding Officer _____

* The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.

|| If the soldier deserted *or* absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).

† The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, *or* absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is, however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

5. Memo. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17 from D.A. & Q.M.G., London District, to C. Pmr. & O. i/c Records, Nfld Contingent.

With reference to the case of No. 1547, Private W. L. Ross, 15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

6. Reply No. 9991/2, 28/9/17 to above.

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

7. Memo No. 10262/1, 5/10/17 from P & R.O. to D.A. & Q.M.G., London District.

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A. of 22/9/17, and to telephone communication this date: I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17, has been informed, and the Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

8. Telegram No. 234, 3/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended London telegraph instructions.

9. Memo 2/10/17 (5697) from O.C. 1st BN. to P & R.O.

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th, 1917.

10. Telegram No. 236, 9/10/17, from P & R. O. to O.C. 1ST BN.

Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instruction asked aaa now in Civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

COPY

Private & Confidential

28th September,

7.

9990/41

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

30/8/17: With reference to my telegram No. 797/9,

"Military, St. John's.

" Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since-

"August 20- 1547- Ross- full stop-
Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being
still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of
the following documents relating to his case:

A.F. B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in
view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's
report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. Ross.

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week, to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Staff-Sergt.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/o Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H. A.
Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court
on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge
brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was
withdrawn. He was then taken over by the
Military authorities, and under escort taken to
Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further
proceedings will be furnished this Office by
Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Staff-Sergt.

58, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1,

12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1.

Sir,

With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58 Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted
"when seventeen rush particulars cable-- Ross--"

I informed Mrs Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

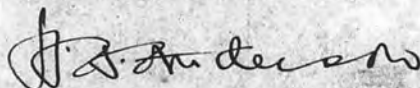
I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



2nd Lieut.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 7.

William Leslie Ross,
Private. Regt. No. 1547.
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name.. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table.

Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the Lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she use to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

Copy of Telegram from "Usted" 12/10/17.

"O i/c Newfoundland Records

"Office 58 Victoria St SW-

"L D 5145/a 11th Oct 1917 aaa following

"absentee from BEF being sent to

"Southampton under escort tomorrow aaa

"1547 Pte W L Ross 1st Btn Newfoundland

"Regt aaa

(Sgd) "Usted-"

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
12th October 1917.

Filed
7/11/19
H. G.

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

D. C. M. papers



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 26th. 1918

191

From Officer Commanding Depot
To District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland.

-6 I547 Pte. W.L.Ross

I enclose herewith proceedings of District Court Martial in connection with the above-named soldier.

The sentence was duly promulgated this date, and the necessary extracts taken for Part II Orders.

R.H. Lait

Captain,

O.C. Depot.



*Noted
A.M.*

*Passed to C.S.O.
for filing. Oct 26/18*



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

District Officer Commanding,
Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I am directed by His Excellency the
Administrator to return herewith the Court Martial
on No. 1547 Private W. L. Ross, duly confirmed,
for promulgation.

In an interview this morning with His
Excellency, the Minister of Militia approved of
the prisoner being returned to his Unit on service
and said that steps would be taken to do so.

Lieut. Col.

Private Secretary.

25th October, 1918.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

October 23, 1918.

Secret

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- His Excellency the Administrator and Commander
in Chief in and over the Dominion of Newfoundland.

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

I have the honour to forward proceedings of a Court-Martial held on the above noted soldier this date at the Barracks, Fort William, for your further action.

Court-Martial was convened by orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.V., C.V.O., Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland issued by virtue of a warrant from His Majesty the King, authorising the convening of Court-Martials in Newfoundland, the original order being issued by the District Officer Commanding on 12th August 1918.

Under the order calling the Court-Martial the proceedings were to be forwarded to the Convening Officer His Excellency the Governor.

McIntosh

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

2/047

C.R. 1547



Orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G. C.B., C.V.O., Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland issued, by Virtue of a Warrant from His Majesty The King authorising the convening of Courts Martial in Newfoundland.

St. John's, 12 Aug:/18

The detail of Officers as mentioned below will assemble at the Officers' Room at the Barracks, Fort William ^{at 10.30. am} on the 15th day of August, 1918, for the purpose of trying by a District Court Martial the accused person named in the margin.

CAH
No. 1547 Private
W.L. ROSS,
Royal Nfld.
Regiment.

In the opinion of the Convening Officer, officers of different corps are not, having due regard to the public service, available.

President.

Lieut. Colonel W. W. Knox-Niven is appointed President.

Members.

- Capt. J. Nunns, M.C., Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
- Capt. J. Clift, M.C., " " "
- Lieut. C.B. Dicks, " " "
- Lieut. H.L. Summers, " " "

Waiting Members.

- Capt. S. Robertson, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
- Lieut. J.H. Snow, " " "

Judge Advocate

John Fenelon, Esquire, is hereby appointed Judge Advocate

The accused will be warned and all witnesses duly required to attend.

The Proceedings will be forwarded to the Convening Officer, His Excellency the Governor.

Signed this 10th day of August 1918



Montgomery W. W. W.
District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland

Call.
~~postponed on medical certificate~~
that prisoner was ill. 010-8

~~Due to postponed indefinitely~~
owing to continued illness of
accused 010-9

Due to absence on military duty
following officers not now available
Capt. J. W. W. W.
Lt. A. S. W. W.
Lt. J. W. W.

Oct 17/18

Montgomery W. W. W.
District Officer Commanding



C.R.

1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 15th 1918

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Dept.

From O. C.,
Depot.

I enclose, herewith, a report from the Acting Medical Officer to the effect that #1547, Pte W.L. Ross, is unfit to undergo trial by D.C.M. today. I would ask, therefore, that his trial be postponed until a later date.

R. H. Lait

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

ENCLOSURE:

14/5/18

To. O.C. Depot

From.

actg. M.O.

Re

1547. Pte Ross W

I have examined
this man & find
that he is not in
sufficiently good
state of health to
attend D.C.M.

His indisposition
will probably last
about - 3 days!

For

Archibald

Royal Newfoundland Regiment

actg M.O.

ST JOHN'S, N.F.L.D.,

August 15th, 1918

DISTRICT ORDERS NO. 8

BY MAJOR MONTGOMERIE,

DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING,
NEWFOUNDLAND

1. Court Martial.

- 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross: 1. Owing to inability of prisoner
1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, to attend
through illness, certified to by
Medical Officer, the District
Court Martial called to assemble
on Aug. 15th, will not assemble
till Aug. 21st, 1918, at 10.30
a.m. in the Officers' Room, Barracks.
2. Lieut. C.B.Dicks is struck off the
list of members constituting the
District Court Martial above noted.
Lieut. J.H.Snow is appointed as a
member of the District Court Martial
above noted.

Major

District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

Arthur Andrew Lt Col
President
Army Form B. 116.

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

STATION St. John's, Newfoundland. Date March 16th., 19 18.

Application for a GENERAL Court Martial.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit 3 charge s against No. 1547

PRIVATE W. L. ROSS,

of the Battalion under my command, and request you will obtain the sanction of proper authority that a General Court Martial may be assembled for his trial at your convenience.

The Case was investigated by** Major G. T. Carty, O. C. Depot.

†† A Court of Inquiry was held on 21st. September, 1917 (date)

at Proven, Belgium. (Station).

As per copy certified by officer of Records London-England.

President Capt. J. A. Ledingham, 1st. Batt. NFLD. regt.

Members	<u>Lt. K. J. Keegan,</u>	"	Ranks, Names	"
	<u>Lt. J. F. Edens,</u>	"	and Corps.	"

Military Infectious

The accused is now at Hospital. His General Character is* GOOD.

I beg to enclose the following documents:—

1. † 3 Charge sheets (in duplicate).
2. § Summary of Evidence.
3. † The regimental and squadron, [troop, battery or company] conduct sheets of the accused.
4. † List of witnesses for the prosecution, and defence (with their present stations).
5. † Statement as to character, and particulars of service of the accused (Army

426

Form B. 296) to be proved by

Let C.C. only will act as prosecutor.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

To DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING?

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Signature of Commanding Officer } *George L. Carty Major*
O.C. Depot.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE.

I certify that No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment is in a good state of health, and able to undergo Imprisonment, and with or without hard labour; and that his present appearance and previous medical history both justify the belief that hard labour employment will neither be likely to originate nor to reproduce disease of any description.

Signature of the Medical Officer *W. Paterson Major*

** Here insert name of:—

- (a) Officer who investigated the charges.
- (b) Company, &c., Commander who made preliminary enquiry into the case.
- (c) Officer who took down the Summary of Evidence [R.P. 19. (B) (iii)].

†† To be filled in if there has been a Court of Inquiry respecting any matters connected with the charges; otherwise to be struck out [R.P. 19 (B) (iii)].

* To be filled in by the Commanding Officer.

† One copy to be sent to the president; one copy to be filed with the application for trial.

§ To be sent to the president.

‡ (3) (4) (5) To be returned to the Officer Commanding the unit of the accused with the notice of trial.

If the accused has elected to be tried under A.A. 46 (8) the fact should be recorded at the top of this form.

Secret.

D.O.C.

Proceedings of a Court Martial
on
No 1547. Pte W. L. Ross.

for favour of forwarding to the confirming
officer.

Arthur-Nathan Lt Col
President.

St. John's.

23.8.15.

All printed matter not applicable to the case should be struck out and initialed by the president.

A
Form of Proceedings for General, District and Regimental Courts-Martial.

Proceedings of a District Court-Martial held at St. Johns
on the 23rd day of October 1918 by order of Sir Charles Abchurch
Harris H. H. G. G. G. Commanding in Chief in Newfoundland
dated the 10th day of August 1918
President.

Lt. Col. H. W. Knox-Nutcr

Members.

Capt. J. Clift M.C. Royal Newfoundland Regt.
Lieut. C. B. Dicks

John Furlon Esq. Judge Advocate

Trial of No 1547 Private William Leslie Ross - Royal Newfoundland Regt.
At 10-45 o'clock the Trial commences.

(1) The order convening the Court is read, and is marked "X" signed by the president and attached to the proceedings.

[The order appointing... Lt. Col. Knox-Nutcr and Capt. J. Clift M.C. + C.B. Dicks as members of the Court is read, marked "X", signed by the president, and attached to the proceedings.]

The charge-sheet and the summary of evidence are laid before the Court.

* The Court satisfy themselves as provided by Rules of Procedure 22 & 23.

(2) Lieut. L. Hickey Royal Newfoundland Regt. appears as prosecutor, and takes his place.

The above named person, the accused, is brought before the Court.

..... appears as counsel for the accused.

The names of the president and members of the Court are read over in the hearing of the accused, and they severally answer to their names.

Do you object to be tried by me as president, or by any of the officers whose names you have heard read over?

Question by the President to the accused.

Answer by accused.

On separate sheet, marked "A."

(N. B.—If objection is made it should be recorded, together with the decision of the Court, on a separate sheet.)

*Here Insert No., Rank, full Name, Battalion and Regiment, and Appointment (if any).

M. F. B. 271.

4m, 2-15.
H. Q. 1772-33-221.
2749-1

* I have compared the names of the officers who served upon the Court of Inquiry respecting the matter on which the charges against the accused have been founded with those of the officers detailed to serve on this Court-Martial
H. W. Knox-Nutcr President

B

The president and members (and judge-advocate) are duly sworn.

The following officers under instructions are duly sworn.

Charge Sheet

(3) The charge-sheet is signed by the president, marked "B 2" and annexed to the proceedings.

Instruction.
If the accused has elected to be tried under Army Act, sec. 46 (8) the fact should be here recorded.

The accused is arraigned upon each charge in the above-mentioned charge-sheet.

Are you guilty or not guilty of the [first] charge against you, which you have heard read?

Question to the accused.

Guilty

Answer.

Are you guilty or not guilty of the second charge against you, which you have heard read?

Question.

Guilty

Answer.

Are you guilty or not guilty of the third charge against you, which you have heard read?

Question.

Guilty

Answer.

The accused having pleaded Guilty to *all three* charges the provisions of Rule of Procedure 35 (B) are here complied with.

If the trial proceeds upon any charge to which there is a plea of "Not Guilty," the Court will not proceed upon the record of a plea of "Guilty" until after the finding of those other charges, such finding being recorded on Sheet E.

Instruction.

Proceedings on Plea of Guilty.

*To be struck out in case no plea of "Not Guilty" has been proceeded.

(4). *[The Court having been re-opened, the accused is again brought before it, and the charge to which he has pleaded "Guilty" read to him again.]

The accused
is found Guilty of

*The summary of evidence is read, marked , signed by the president, and attached to the proceedings.

Question to the accused.

Do you wish to make any statement in mitigation of punishment?

Answer.

The accused in mitigation of punishment says:—

*On separate sheet marked "R"
signed & attached to proceedings*

[or hands in a written statement, which is read, marked , signed by the president, and attached to the proceedings.]

Instruction

*If there is no summary of evidence, sufficient evidence to enable the Court to determine the sentence, and to acquaint the confirming officer with the facts of the case will be taken on a separate sheet in the same manner as on a plea of "Not Guilty."

If from the statement of the accused, or from the summary or abstract of evidence or otherwise, it appears to the Court that the accused did not understand the effect of his plea of "Guilty," the Court shall alter the record, and enter a plea of "Not Guilty," and proceed with the trial accordingly.

D

Do you wish to give evidence yourself or to call any witnesses as to character?

Question to the accused.

I only wish to hand in extracts from
copies of my conduct sheet &
record of service

Answer.

Evidence as to character.

The Court read, note, & mark the
copies "D" which are signed by the
President & attached to the Proceedings.

E

Finding.*

(10) The Court is closed to consider their finding.

(10 and 11) The Court find that the accused

is guilty of all three charges.

PROCEEDINGS ON CONVICTION *before sentence.*

(12) The Court being re-opened, the accused is again brought before it.

Evidence of character, &c.

is duly sworn.

Question by the president.

Have you any evidence to produce as to the character and particulars of service of the accused?

Answer by the witness.

Yes. I produce a statement as to the character and particulars of service of the accused.

The above statement (with the schedule of convictions) is read, marked, signed by the president, and annexed to the proceedings.

Question.

Is the accused the person named in the statement which you have heard read?

Answer.

Question.

Have you compared the contents of the above statement with the Regimental books?

Answer.

Question.

Are they true extracts from the Regimental books, and is the statement of entries in the conduct sheet a fair and true summary of those entries?

Answer.

Cross-examined by the accused.

[Instruction—If by reason of the nature of the service of the accused in a departmental corps, or otherwise, the finding of the court renders him liable to any exceptional punishment in addition to that to be awarded by the court (for instance, forfeiture or reduction of corps pay) the prosecutor must call the attention of the court to the fact, and the court must inquire into the nature and the amount of such additional punishment.]

Question to the accused.

Do you wish to address the Court?

Answer by the accused.

The Court is closed for the consideration of the sentence.

no.

*To be omitted, except in cases of a plea of Not Guilty having been proceeded with.

Sentence.

The Court sentence the accused, No. 1547 Private William Sentence.

Leslie Ross - Royal Newfoundland Regt.
to 2 years imprisonment without hard
labour.

The Court recommend the accused to mercy
on the ground that at the time of the offence
he was still very young & that he has been ill, &
that he has been awaiting trial for a long time.
The Court suggests that the time he has been
awaiting trial be allowed to count in the total
sentence - if confirmed; furthermore the court
suggest that the prisoner be returned to his
regiment ^{in the field} at the first possible opportunity and that his
sentence may be further mitigated at the termination
of the war, on the recommendation of his Commanding
Officer in the field.

H. Knox. N.W. Regt. (C.O.)

President

John Seldon.
Supt. Advocate

Chft Capt. }
Capt. } Members
C. S. Dicks. }
Lieut. }



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

I confirm the finding and sentence
of the Court but remit nine months of the sentence
and commute the remainder of the sentence to de-
tention in military custody with the prisoner's Unit
on active service.

St. John's,
October 25th, 1918.

W. H. Horwood

Administrator &
Commander-in-Chief.

X
H. W. Knox, Lt. Col.
President
October 17th, 1918.

DISTRICT ORDERS.

By Major A. Montgomerie,

District Officer Commanding,

#13.

1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS.
ROYAL Nfld. REGIMENT.

In accordance with orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G. C.B. C.V.O. Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland, issued by virtue of a warrant from His Majesty the King authorizing the convening of Court Martials in Newfoundland and having reference to District Orders No 7 Of August 10th, 1918, No 8 of August 15th/18, and No 9 of August 20th/18,

The detail of Officers as mentioned below will assemble at the Officers Room at the Barracks Fort William, at 10.30.am, on the 23rd day of October 1918 for the purpose of trying By District Court Martial the accused person named in the margin.

In the opinion of the convening officer, Officers of different corps are not, having regard to the public service, available.

PRESIDENT.	Lieut. Col. H. W. Knox-Kniven.
MEMBERS.	Capt. J. Clift. MC. Royal Nfld. Regt. Lieut. C. B. Dicks " "
Waiting Members.	Capt. G. G. Byrne. MC " " " Capt. S. Robertson. " " "
Judge Advocate.	John Fenelon Esq. is appointed Judge Advocate.

The accused will be warned and all witnesses required to attend.

The proceedings will be forwarded to the D.O.C. for furtherance to the convening Officer His Excellency the Governor.

MAJOR.

DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING.

Am I

Counsel for the accused lodges an objection, that although no member of the Court is objected to personally, that the accused enters a plea "in bar" on the ground of improper delay in his being brought to trial.

The Court consider that the objection is not with upheld, having due to the fact that the delay is the result (1) of the accused having been transferred to Newfoundland for trial by special permission of the military authorities in England and such transfer has been to the advantage of the accused (2) That at the time of his return to Newfoundland there was no properly constituted authority in this country for the convening of Courts martial (3) That when a court was ordered to be assembled the prisoner went sick.

H. King - N. W. King
President.

" R "

The accused counsel states: -

That owing partly to the fact that the accused had just been sick, and also to the fact of his youth, he had an irresistible desire to get away from the terrible stress of the battle line. It was only after a year ^{of the front line} that his nerves gave way. His conduct was exemplary until this breakdown of his nerves.

Atkinson Nature of Col
President

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps *Newfoundland*

Rank *Private* Surname *Ross* Christian Name *William*

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) *29/4/15* Terms of Service (a) *War* Service reckons from

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b)
 or Corps Trade and Rate

Occupation Signature of Officer



CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
			Embarked ...		
			Disembarked	Marseilles 3/4/16	
	Unit	Joined Battalion	France	8/4/16	<i>A 213</i>
			With Battn.	23/1/17	
	89 F.A.	Ad Incised Wd.L. Hand		14/8/17	EXT. 9317
		acod. transferred	4th C.C.S.	14/8/17	E.D. 9317
	88 F.A.	Discharged to Unit		17/8/17	E.D. 9562

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) Signaller, Sheehy-Smith, & Co. W. 2127-M 2000 1000m 7117 (20000) C. F. & S. Ltd. Forms B. 103 E. 11558.

CHARGE.

1.

Hunt: Nuttall Co. B 2

Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547 Pte. Ross, William L.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
London Section 15(1a)	5-1-18	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross, London N. about 8.30 pm on the 5-1-18.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE Sergt. E.S.Hennebury Ord. Sergt.	<i>Remanded for Court-Martial</i>	<i>Gen. J. Carby Majol March 15th 1918</i>

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

Duplicate

1.

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547 Pte. Ross, William L.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
London Section 15(1a)	5-1-18	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross, London N. about 8.30 pm on the 5-1-18.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE Sergt. E.S. Hennebury Ord. Sergt.	<i>Remanded for Court-martial</i>	<i>Geo. L. Carby, Major March 15th 1918</i>

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

2. " B.2. - *Arthur. Stacey*

Army Form B 252.
(See Instructions Regulations)
Franklin

CHARGE.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547 Pte. W. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
FRANCE Section 12(1a)	20-8-17	When on active service in France deserting from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London, England.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	<i>Remanded for Court Martial</i>	<i>Gen J Carby Ingr March 15TH 1918</i>

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547 Pte. W. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
FRANCE Section 12(1a)	20-8-17	When on active service in France deserting from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London, England.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	<i>Remanded for Court-Martial</i>	<i>Geo. L. Carby, Major March 15th 1918</i>

.....Company,
The Royal Nfid. Regiment

CHARGE.

B.2
No. 3
1st Newfoundland Regiment

H. Hunt: N. W. King Col

Army Form B. 252.
(See King's Regulations)

President

COMPANY

CHARGE against No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of Witnesses.	Punishment Awarded	By whom Awarded.
Southampton, ENGLAND	15-10-17	When proceeding Overseas under escort from London to join 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment in France, escaping from Transport at Southampton, England, on 15-10-17 until he surrendered to G.M.P at London on 5-1-18		<i>Remanded for Court-Martial</i>	<i>Gen. J. Cashy Major March 15th 1918</i>

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Sec. 22

Company,
1st Newfoundland Regiment

CHARGE.

Army Form B. 252.
(See King's Regulations.)

No. 3
1st Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No. 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of Witnesses.	Punishment Awarded	By whom Awarded.
Southampton, ENGLAND	15-10-17	When proceeding Overseas under escort from London to join 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment in France, escaping from Transport at Southampton, England, on 15-10-17 until he surrendered to G.M.P at London on 5-1-18		Remanded for Court-Martial	Geo. J. Barkley Major March 15 th 1918

See No.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

.....Company,
1st Newfoundland Regiment

SUMMARY of EVIDENCE

*James Newell Lt Col
President*

In the case of No.1547 Pte.ROSS, WILLIAM L., of the ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT, taken at the Naval & Military Hospital, Military Road, St.John's, Newfoundland, the FIFTEENTH DAY of MARCH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN by

MAJOR G.T.CARTY,
COMMANDING.

The accused was charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No.1, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	OFFENCE	Names of Witnesses.
LONDON	5-1-18	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE ABSENT UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE MILITARY FOOT POLICE AT KING'S CROSS, LONDON N. ABOUT 8-30 PM ON 5-1-18	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. SERGT.E.S. HENNEBURY. Ord.Sergt.

Accused was warned by the O.C. that any statements he would make might be used in "Open Court" at his subsequent trial, if any.

Accused was then asked if he had anything to say to the charge and replied in the negative.

Capt. J.J.O'GRADY then made statement as attached.

4.26

A/N.
C

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte.
William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
March 15th 1918.

Capt. J.J. O'Grady's statement:-

" I am an officer in The Royal Newfoundland Regiment. I was in London on duty on January 15th 1918 and under orders to proceed Overseas to Newfoundland. I was informed by Major Timewell, Chief Paymaster of The Royal Newfoundland Regiment at London, that No.1547 Pte.Ross, W.L., -who was held as a prisoner by the Imperial authorities on a charge of being absent without leave from France- would be sent to Newfoundland under my charge. I reported to Capt. Trevor A.P.M on January 16th 1918 for further instructions. On the morning of January 18th 1918 I again reported to the A.P.M to make final arrangements for taking over prisoners. On the afternoon of January 18th 1918 I was present at the Pay & Record Office when all papers in connection with the prisoner's record were read over. The original papers were read by Major Timewell in my presence, and the copy which I now hand in was compared by me with the original. I then signed the papers, after which they were sealed and closed by Major Timewell in my presence and then handed over to me. On the evening of the same date, the prisoner No.1547 Pte.Ross, W.L., was handed over to the escort by the authorities at Scotland Yard Prison, and was conveyed to the transport. On my arrival at St.John's, Newfoundland, I delivered the prisoner No.1547 Pte.Ross, W.L., to Lieut.W.Pippy, Orderly Officer of the Depot."

(Certified Correct)

J. J. O'Grady
Royal Newfoundland Regiment

K.N.
C.S.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte.
William L.Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
March 15th 1918

The documents referred to were thereupon handed over
to the ^{O.C.} ~~Capt.~~ by Capt.O'Grady.

On perusal by the O.C they were found to be inscribed
as follows:-

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

Copies of
TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS, ETC.

Relating to
No.1547, PTE.W.L.ROSS.

1ST. NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN DOCUMENTS NUMBERED FROM ONE (1)
to SEVENTY-SIX (76) ARE TRUE COPIES OF THE ORIGINALS.

H.A.TIMEWELL,
Major
Chief Paymaster & Officer l/c Records.

J.J.O'GRADY,
Capt.
Adjutant, St.John's Newfoundland.

Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
18th January 1918.

O.C:- "Have you anything to ask Capt.O'Grady?"

ACCUSED:- "No!"

The O.C. then read to the prisoner several of the docu-
ments.

O.C:- "Have you any objections or statements to make
regarding these documents.

ACCUSED:- "No! I have heard them read before!"

G.L.B.

N.T.
C

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547 Pte William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th, 1918.

.....

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 2, as follows:-

Place.	Date of Offence.	OFFENCE.	Names of Witnesses
France.	20-8-17.	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN FRANCE DESERTING FROM THE 1ST BATTALION ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGT ON 20-8-17 UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE CIVIL POLICE ON 3-10-17 AT LONDON, ENGLAND.	Documentary Evidence.

SECTION 12 (1a).

Accused was not asked to plead.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 3, as follows:-

Place.	Date of Offence.	OFFENCE	Names of Witnesses.
Southampton ENGLAND.	15-10-17.	WHEN PROCEEDING OVERSEAS UNDER ESCORT FROM LONDON ENGLAND, TO JOIN 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT IN FRANCE, ESCAPING FROM TRANSPORT AT SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND ON 15-10-17 UNTIL HE SURRENDERED TO G.M.P. AT LONDON ON 5-1-18.	Docu-entary Evidence.

SECTION 22.

Accused was not asked to plead.

.....

PRISONER WAS THEN REMENDED FOR COURT MARTIAL.

G.L.6

R.N.
5

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in the case of No.1547 Pte.
William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
March 15th 1917

Lt.C.C.DULEY,
Asst.Adjutant.

Placed in evidence copy of Declaration
of Court of Enquiry held in France September 21st 1917,
certified as a true copy by 2/Lt.H.A.ANDERSON of the
Pay & Record Office, London, England.

The Declaration reads as follows:-

"DECLARATION: The Court declare that No.1547 Pte.W.Ross,
"Newfoundland Regiment, illegally absented himself without
"leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still
"so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was
"deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following
"articles:-

- "
- " 1 jacket, S.D.
- " 1 pair Trousers S.D.
- " 1 " Putties
- " 1 " Boots, ankle
- " 1 steel helmet
- " 1 Belt, web.
- "

" President: (sgd) J.A.LEDINGHAM, Capt.
Newfoundland Regiment.

" Members: (sgd) KEVIN J. KEEGAN, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regiment

" (sgd) J.F.EDEND, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regiment

G.F.B.



R.N.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte.
WILLIAM L. ROSS, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
March 15th 1916.

Sheets are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Certified that R.P. paragraph 4, (c), (d) and (e)
have been complied with.

Taken down by me in presence of the Accused at

The Naval & Military Hospital,
Military Road,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

This FIFTEENTH Day of MARCH, Nineteen Hundred
and Eighteen.

George Hart

MAJOR and
Q.C., DEPOT.

*Arthur Nuttall Col
President.*

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

COPIES

of

TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS etc.

relating to

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

* * *

CERTIFIED that the WITHIN DOCUMENTS

numbered from 1 (one) to 76 (seventy six) are

TRUE COPIES of ORIGINALS.

R. A. Dimwood Major,
Chief Paymaster per i/c Records.

J. J. Grady Capt.,
Adjutant, St. John's, Nfld.

Pay & Record Office,
53, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

13th January, 1918.

A.N.
C

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

1.
(Telegram received 27/8/17)

Synoptical, London.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th
aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.

O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

2.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir,

Regarding 1547, Private W. L. Ross, 1/1st Newfoundland R.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17
amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries.

O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m. after disposing
of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost
simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802,
L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8:0:0 drawn in favour of
1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it
and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-
examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special
leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was
for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe
he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3
days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have
the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only
arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his
intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then
made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at
his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In
the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was
quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement
I ordered 1529, Staff-Serjt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office
to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in
which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass
back. Staff-Serjt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and
informed me that Ross had escaped (vide Crocker's report). A
description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military
Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at
7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been
made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following
letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17,
and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in
that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an
hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you
any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I
had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated
decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done

(II)

two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,
(Sd.) W. L. ROSS."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

3.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
27th August, 1917.

Major H.A. Timewell,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1

Sir,

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547 Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door, 58 Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travcur; also Victoria Military Police: giving a description in both cases.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, S.Segt.

4.

(Telegram received 2/9/17)

Synoptical, London.

1st see reply my telegram re Ross

O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

(III)

HN.

5.
(Telegram despatched 2/9/17)

Commanding, Newfoundland Regiment, France.
28 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
Police searching letter follows.

Synoptical.

6.
No. 9903/138.
From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regt.,
E. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
3rd September, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross.
O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"28 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
"police searching letter follows.

Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. W.A.
Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer in Charge of Records
together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police
Gazette". I was informed by the authorities that it was very
unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will
be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

7.
Confidential.
9990/41
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30/8/17:
"Military, St. John's.
". . . Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20- 1547-
"Ross- full stop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being still at
large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following
documents relating to his case:

(IV)

A.F.B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergeant F. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in view of certain
personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

(8)

Headquarters,
London District,
Horse Guards,
Whitehall, S.W. 1
22nd September, 1917.

C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

With reference to the case of No. 1547 Private W.L. Ross,
15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will
you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the
circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

(Sd.) C. BLUNDELL, Capt.,
Staff Capt.,
for Brigadier-General,
D.A. & Q.M.G. LONDON DISTRICT.

9.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

9991/2

D.A. & Q.M.G.,
Headquarters, London District,
Horse Guards, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. Deserter

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A,
22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters
St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the
circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

10.

(Telegram despatched 3/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross Deserter apprehended London telegraph
instructions.

Synoptical.

(v)

11.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547 Pte. W. Ross

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, Staff-Sergt.

12.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 1917.

William Leslie Ross,
Private, Regt. No. 1547,
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

19.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passed in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a shilling to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to

meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial ~~St~~ where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table. Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose the money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45, Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent ~~it~~ to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month, I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she use to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could not stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head is sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. ROSS.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division,

4th October, 1917

(VII)

13.

10262/1/Records/HA-JC

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
5th October, 1917.

D.A. & Q.M.G., London District, H.Q., London District,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, Deserter, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A of 22/9/17 and to telephone communication this date: I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17 has been informed, and the Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

14.

To Pay & Record Office

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th 1917.

2-10-17.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.

15.

Telegram despatched 9/10/17

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instruction asked aaaa now in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical.

16.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bark of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this office by Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. CROCKER, Staff-Serjt.

(VIII)

A.N.
C

17.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1

Sir, With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 35116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17, Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58, Victoria Street and informed me that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted when seventeen
"rush particulars cable Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt. Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought in on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to day that Ross would shortly be sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2nd Lieut.

18.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland
8/10/17.

Officer i/c
Newfld. Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir, I have heard that Pte. William L. Ross 1st Newfld. Regt. has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil Police, and will be tried on 11th inst, but I do not know in what part of London or on what charges.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet twenty and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in Sep. and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Josph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfld.

(IX)

R.N.
C

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regt.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) J. ROSS
Dist. Inspector, R. I. C.

19.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
59, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

10601/1

J. Ross, Esq.,
Dist. Inspector, R.I.C.
Newry.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B.E.F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TILWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

20.

(Telegram despatched 12/10/17)

Military, St. John's.

Reference my telegram 4th October- 1547- Ross- absentee- from- B.E.F.- being sent to- France- under escort-

Synoptical.*

21.

(Telegram received 12/10/17)

O. i/c Newfoundland Records Office 59 Victoria St. S.W.
L.D. 5145/a 11th Oct. 1917 and following absentee from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow and 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross is Btn. Newfoundland Regt. and

Usted.

22.

10635/179/HA.WF.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
59, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(MI) (X)

H.N.

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt., 13th October, 1917
B. E. F.

Commanding Newfoundland Contingent, France.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.
"234, 3/10/17 26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended,
"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.
"236, 19/10/17 Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed
"you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your
"instructions asked aaa now in civil custody, remanded until
"Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose:
1. Copy of report made by 2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with
Ross' statement referred to therein,
2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.)
received here 12/10/17.

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal
Irish Constabulary with my reply thereto.
Kindly acknowledge.
Necessary action Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt. please take

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23. Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
78, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
18th October, 1917.

Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re. No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now under arrest
in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me
for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing his
escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:
(a) A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other
officer by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and
place of such surrender or arrest.
(b) The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay &
Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOM, Lieut.-Col.,
Comdg. 1st Newfoundland Regt. i/c Records.

14.10.17.

24. Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
SOUTHAMPTON.
17 Oct. 1917.

10888/194
From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
58, Victoria St., London.

Please note the following details embarked at Southampton on
18 Oct. 1917 to join British Expeditionary Force:-

Corps	Offs.	Other Ranks	Remarks
1 Newfoundland Regt.		1547 Pte. W. Ross, prisoner	Despatched 12/10/17, No. 237. Reference your memorandum 12/10/17 1547 Ross Southampton 18/10/17 (Sd.) L.C.I. Knight, Major, D.A.A.G., Embarkation Port no. 1

(X)

R.N.

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,
B. E. F.

13th October, 1917.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"234, 3/10/17 26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"236, 9/10/17 Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed

"you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your

"instructions asked aaa now in civil custody remanded until

"Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received to this date) and enclose:

1. Copy of report made by S/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together with
Ross' statement referred to therein,

2. Copy of a telegram from "Usted" (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.)
received here 12/10/17.

3. Copy of letter from District Inspector Ross of the Royal
Irish Constabulary with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23.

Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re No. 1547 Pte. W. Ross now underbarrest
in London - please take the necessary steps to have him sent back to me
for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing his
escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

(a) A certificate signed by the constable, A.P.M. or other
officer or by whom the arrest was made, stating the fact, date and
place of such surrender or arrest.

(b) The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay &
Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched, and by what route.

(Sd.) A. L. HADOW, Lieut.-Col.,
Comdg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

14.10.17.

24.

Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
SOUTHAMPTON.
17 Oct. 1917.

Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
58, Victoria St., London.

Please note the following details embarked at Southampton on
16 Oct. 1917 to join British Expeditionary Force:-

Corps	Offs.	Other Ranks	Remarks
1 Newfoundland Regt.		1	1547 Pte. W. Ross, prisoner

(Sd.) L.C.I. Knight, Major,
D.A.A.G.,

Embarkation Port No. 1

(XI)

HN.
CS

25.

(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.
Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross ~~mark~~ embarked
Southampton 18/10/17 under escort aaa documents posted you 18/10/17.
Synoptical.

26.

(Telegram received 18/10/17)

Officer i/c Records 58 Victoria St., London, S.W.
R 5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
escaped from docks 15th inst. aaa please take necessary action.
Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton."

27.

(Telegram despatched 18/10/17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France
Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross W.
1st Newfoundland Regt. escaped from docks 15th Inst. aaa please take
necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.
Synoptical."

28.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
18th October, 1917.

10848/1

The Garrison Sergeant Major,
Great Scotland Yard, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte. W. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment.

In confirmation of telephone message of this date the following
telegram is quoted, please:

"Officer i/c Records, 58, Victoria St., London, S.W.

"R-5399 18/10/17 aaa Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland

"Regt. escaped from docks 15th inst. aaa please take necessary

"action.

Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.,
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

29.

10888/184

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
19th October, 1917

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt., France.

"Reference your memorandum 14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked

"Southampton 18/10/17 under escort aaa documents posted you

"18/10/17.

Synoptical."

(X11)

K.N.

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.

Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross, W, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment escaped from docks 15th. instant aaa please take necessary action Commandant Rest Camp Southampton. Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland Yard was notified accordingly.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(30)

1022/1/Recds.

October 23rd, 1917.

From: Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,

To: Commandant,
Rest Camp, Southampton.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS, 1st. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

With reference to your telegram:

R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross 1st. Newfoundland Regiment escaped from Docks 15th. inst. aaa please take necessary "action".

Will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this Man?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt. Major, Great Scotland Yard was informed and others concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(31)

1021/71/Recds.

23rd, October, 1917

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Sir,-

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my telegram No. 1026 of 23/10/17:

With reference my telegram 12th. October - 1547 - Ross - escaped - at - Southampton - on route to - France - October 15th -"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man who deserted from France on 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed together with a letter from District Inspector J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt. Major Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(X111)
(32)

Southampton,
24/10/17.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W. 1.

Reference preceding minute: Nothing further has been heard of Pte. Ross.

(Sd) H. A. DENHAM, Capt
Adjutant Rest Camp Southampton.

(33)

Hr. Grace,
19th, September, 1917.

Hugh Anderson, Esq.,
Dear Sir,-

Am writing to ask you if you could give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross, No. 1547). I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the army. He never meant to desert but I believe while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced. He doesn't seem to know what happened. The last thing he remembered was being hit by a Soldier with a glass bottle who had gone mad. He wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous troubles, and should not have been sent in the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death to-day. He is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April past, and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the Military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you could give me any information about him and on account of his youth intercede for him if it is in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting a reply.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sd) Isabel Ross.

(34)

24th, October, 1917.

11119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Harbour Grace Newfoundland.

Madam,- No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

10/76

(35)

24th, October, 1917.

Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Further to this office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour

(XIV)

KN ✓

to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross may feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place he had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

(36)

From: Officer i/c Records,
No. 1 Infantry Section, G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon.

To: Officer i/c Newfoundland Records,
London.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

Have you any information re. above named Soldier, please?
He cannot be traced as having arrived in this Country.

(Sd) Neary, 2/Lt. for Major,
Officer i/c No. 1 Infantry Section.

E. F.
11/17.

(37)

945/65/R & C

8th. November, 1917.

From: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S. W.

To: Officer i/c Records,
Regular Infantry Section No. 1,
G. H. Q., 3rd. Echelon, B. E. F.

1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.
1st Newfoundland Regiment.

With reference to your enquiry dated 3/11/17 (6614) for the above named man: Ross escaped from the Docks at Southampton, on the 10/17, when proceeding to France under escort, please. He has not been heard of since so far as this office is concerned.

(Sd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

1514/17.

Assistant Provost-Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton,
14/11/16.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regiment,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

R.N.
C

The attached Military Police Report and Soldier's Pay Book
(A.B. 64) are forwarded to you, please:
Kindly acknowledge receipt.

(Sd.) JAMES LINDSAY, Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

(XV)

15

R.N.
C

38.

To: The Assistant Provost Marshal.

Sir, No. 1547. Pte. William Ross, B Coy. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

The Pay Book handed into Orderly Room by me was given to me by the Landlord of the Old Ship Inn, Commercial Road, who stated that he had found it on a seat in the Bar after some soldiers had left the premises.

(Sd.) G. S. Keen, L/Cpl.,
M.F. Police.

Southampton,
9/11/17.

12305/1/R. & C. 39.

From: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton.

Pay & Record Office,
15th November, 1917.

1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14/11/17 (6856), the A.B. 64 relating to the above-noted man has been received, please, together with the Military Police Report.

Pte. Ross deserted from his regiment in France 20/8/17, was apprehended on 3/10/17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks in Southampton, 15/10/17. As he appears to be still in the vicinity of Southampton will you please exercise every effort to apprehend him. Copy of A.F. B.124 is enclosed.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1532/17.

40.

From: Assistant Provost Marshal,
Southampton.

To: Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

27/11/17.

Reference minute 1. Inquiries have been made at all likely places in Southampton & District for No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Rgt., but up to the present no trace can be found.

(Sd.) F. H. FIMINOS, Capt.,
for Lt.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

(XVI)

K.N.
S

41.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.
Nov. 14.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
59, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to Pte. Will Ross that came in an envelope to my address. Will you please forward it as I do not know where my cousin is as he has not written as he promised when he was sent back to France.

I am living here in Kilkeel now. Expect to be here for two or three months. Left London the first of this month. I had intended going down to see you before I left the city but had no opportunity. I wanted to tell you how I fared in my visit to Brixton gaol and the Police Court where I saw and spoke to Will, in fact had a long talk to him. Have you not heard anything how he fared since? Has he had his court martial? Can you tell me what happened? My uncle and I are both anxious to know. The enclosed letter came from Newfoundland but I don't know who from.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) (MRS.) KATHLEEN MILLS

42.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
59, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
16th November, 1917.

12352/1

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down.

Madam, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

In reply to your letter of 14/11/17 (6889): I beg to inform you that Private Ross escaped at Southampton while on his way, under escort, to France on 15/10/17. He is still at large and I am therefore returning the letter to you. I had some time ago a communication from Pte. Ross's Mother and the handwriting on the envelope enclosed appears to resemble hers.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

43.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel,
Nov. 22nd.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
59, Victoria St., London.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind reply to my letter. Was very much shocked to hear such bad news about Will Ross. Have had a letter from his Mother and I judge from it that she is in a very low and dangerous condition of health. Would it be asking you too much

(XVII)

R.N.
C

of you to report to me any ~~more~~ further news you get regarding Will. I would consider it a great favour as his people seem to think it is up to me to be his guardian angel or something of that sort.

I had a letter from my cousin Nurse Cron yesterday and she asked me to drop into 58 Victoria and ask you to change the address on her letters etc.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) KATHLEEN MILLS

44.

(Telegram received 20/11/17)

Synoptical, London.

Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when Ross- has been captured-

Military.

45.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
20th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military.

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

12691/144.

46.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

21st November, 1917.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 11120/76, 24/10/17)

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to
"particulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/1/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross-still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to-Premier- Morris- case of- 1547-

Ross

(XVIII)

R.N.

"full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the
case sent him.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

47.

Durfant's Hotel,
George Street,
Manchester Sq., W. 1
25rd November, 1917.

Dear Major Timewell,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the
20th November in reference to No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I note
the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should
take in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will
take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken
in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am
in a position to show, I think conclusively, that when he deserted
he was not of sound mind.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

P.S.. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

Major W.A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W.

48.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office, S.W. 1

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland R. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister
of Militia, St. John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- particulars-
"in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military, St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross- still- at large
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- fullstop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the
Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present
on a visit to this Country, I was requested by him to take such steps
as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to
further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you

(XIX)

R.N.

accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representations may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

49.

12858/16

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1
26th November, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 23/11/17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,

50.

13050/167

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 29th November, 1917
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, (Ref. 12891/144, 21/11/17)

Further to above quoted No. copies of the following letters are enclosed for your information, please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15, 20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176).

P. & R.O. letter No. 12857/243, 26/11/17, to the Secretary of the War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16, 26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & C. i/c Records.

51.

14140/1/R. & C.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
19th December, 1917.

Mrs. Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park, Kilkeel, Ireland.

Dear Madam, 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

(xx)

HN.

In reply to your request sometime ago (7192) I have to inform you that there has been no further news of Pte. W.L.. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regt., and he is still at large.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lieut.

52.

Durrant's Hotel,
London,
26/12/17.

Dear Major Timewell,

You will remember the case of the soldier Ross of the Nfld. Regiment, and my asking you ~~whatsoever~~ to have a report made for me on the matter and your reply. How does this case now stand. I want information to report by outgoing mail for Department of Militia. . . .

Yours f'fully,

(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

53.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
S.W. 1

27th December, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

In the absence of Major Timewell, who has gone away for a few days, I opened your letter addressed to him this morning.

So far as is known here No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross is still at large and no information whatever can be obtained concerning him. As soon as any news comes to hand, you will be communicated with in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) H. A. ANDERSON.

54.

(Telegram despatched 7/1/18)

Military, St. John's.

1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be repatriated- under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with- Sir- Edward- Morris-
Synoptical.

55.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
7th January, 1918.

299/2/C

The Asst. Provost Marshal,

London District,

11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir, No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to the above named man whom you advise as having been apprehended: it is understood that you will be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of the month by which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the

(XXI)

Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military authorities at St. John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

56.

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1
8th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

No. 1547, Pte Ross, W.L.

Receipt of your memo. 299/2/C, dated 7-1-18, concerning the above-named man, is acknowledged.

He will be held in close custody, according to your wishes, until an escort is provided to convey him back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.

300/24/C

57.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland R.,
Ayr, Scotland.

Pay & Record Office,
7th January, 1918.

No. 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross

This man who was an absentee from France some time ago and escaped from two distinct escorts has been recaptured. By a special arrangement with the A.P.M. he will be allowed to return to Newfoundland under escort to be dealt with by H.Q., and will proceed under charge of Capt. O'Grady. Having regard to the case and Ross's previous record an escort will be necessary. Can you provide two reliable men from those you have at the Depot waiting repatriation to take him over from the Imperial authorities here for embarkation on the next transport?

It may be added that this special arrangement has been made on the distinct understanding that Ross is removed from the United Kingdom and it is therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, - Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

58.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment,

(XXII)

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

AVR, N.B.,
Jany. 9th, 1918.

It is regretted that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit enough for this duty.

It is not understood how he is being dealt with and why he is not disposed of in the ordinary manner.

(Sd.) G. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Bn. Newfoundland Regt.

59.
479/1/C Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
59, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
10th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th inst., when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District, on the subject: I may say that at the suggestion of this latter officer, Ross was brought before me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intervene and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and on my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of Capt. O'Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt. O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for naturally it is ~~advisable~~ inadvisable to risk originals overseas; whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the military authorities here.

Perhaps you may think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify them as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

60.
From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 13050/187. Min.50)
St. John's, Newfoundland. Dec. 14, 1917.

To: Pay & Record Office

(rec'd 11/1/18)

Attached copies of letters received. I am glad the Prime Minister has undertaken to interest himself in this case, and of course you will keep me notified of any happenings as previously requested in my wire of 12/11/17.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.
for Minister of Militia.

(XXIII)

61.

From: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, (Reply to 12691/144 Min. 46)
St. John's, Newfoundland. December 20th, 1917.
To: Pay & Record Office (Rec'd 11/1/18)

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.

Your 13050/167 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

(Sd.) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O.,
for Minister of Militia.

573/14/C

62.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Rds.,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
To: Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland R.,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office,
12th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named soldier: Ross has now been apprehended and is in custody pending transport to H.Q., St. John's, for trial. This arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., London District, at my request and with the entire support of Lord Morris, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

63.

(Telegram despatched 13/1/18)

D.A.G., Base, France.

Please express A.Fs. B.103 and 122 of 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regiment.
Synoptical.

64.

(Telegram despatched 14/1/18)

D.A.G., Base, France.

Please express all documents relating to 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regt. especially proceedings court of enquiry mailed you 11/10/17.

Synoptical.

576/2/C

65.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

Further to my letter No. 479/1/C, 10/1/18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own Country and at the same time mete out adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of military discipline, for I think it is

K.N.

mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Apart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his Unit: but I am confident that under all the circumstances the course taken is the best in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL

66.

Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, W. 1
Jan. 14th, 1918.

Dear Major Timswell,

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

In this case I concur with you the course taken is the best under all the circumstances especially in view of the man's mental infirmity. I think you would do well to obtain and follow the advice of the department at the War Office dealing with this class of case and procure from them a list of the evidence you ought to send out to Newfoundland in relation to this man.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) E. P. MORRIS

67.

To: Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Re 1547, Pte: W. Ross

The following is a copy of letter received from General Superintendent, Midland Railway, Derby-

"To Officer Commanding,
1st Battn., Newfoundland Regt. etc. etc.

Dear Sir, Sergt. W. Ross 1547

This man presented himself at our Derby Station on Dec. 29th and stated that he had lost the return half of his France to Derby free ~~pass~~ ticket.

In accordance with instructions a fresh ticket was issued to him without charge, from Derby to St. Pancras, and I shall be ~~glad~~ glad to know if you can confirm that a free ticket was issued to him from France to Derby and back.

Yours faithfully,
for General Superintendent."

3/1/18. Ross is evidently masquerading as a Sergeant, and I shall be glad if you will communicate this to the Military Police authorities, as Ross may still be at large in London.

(Sd.) J. S. WOODRUFFE, Lieut.-Col.
Commg. 1st Newfoundland Regt.

11/1/18.

(XXV)

68.

Pay & Record Office,
14/1/18.

H.N.
C-3

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross, which are lying at this office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they may contain articles which would enable him to do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

(Sd.) W. PIGGOTT, a/Sergeant.

775/32/C

69.

From: Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia, 15th January, 1918.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

No. 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 13050/167, 28/11/17)

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18, confirmed, please:

"~~Eligary~~ Military, St. John's.

"1547- Ross- has been apprehended- he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris.

Synoptical."

Ross is at present at Hunter Street Police Station awaiting repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst. Provost-Marshal, London District Ross was brought before me last week under escort and it was explained to him that it had been possible to intervene and have him sent back to Newfoundland instead of his being returned to France where he knew what would have taken place. This action had been taken not to save him from the punishment he deserved but in the interests of the Regiment and to allow of his being tried in his own Country.

When he was first brought in he attempted to make an explanation, but was checked. It was also impressed upon him that if he made any further attempt to escape ordinary military procedure would be allowed to take its course. Before being dismissed he was asked whether he had anything to say and replied in the negative.

Captain O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the A.P.M. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

776/51/C

70.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1

(XXVI)

R.N.
C

To: Officer Commanding,
2/T Newfoundland Regt.,
Winchester.

Pay & Record Office,
15th January, 1918.

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose who will take Ross over from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter to you, please.

(Sd.) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

71.

(Telegram despatched 17/1/18)

Newfound, Winchester.

Reference memorandum 51 please furnish two competent men with side arms to report this office 2 p.m. tomorrow Friday to escort prisoner Ross for embarkation and escort will return to you after embarking prisoners

Synoptical.

72.

From: Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment,

To: The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Hazeley Down Camp, Winchester.
Jany. 16th, 1918.

It is regretted that there is no authority for the release of two fit men to be away from their Unit several weeks on escort duty and therefore they cannot be furnished by this Unit.

(Sd.) C. KARN, Capt.,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Bn. Newfoundland Regt.

73.

A.P.M.L.D.7383/S

Assistant Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.1
18th January, 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Forces.

No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

With reference to your 299/2/C dated 7-1-18, and in continuation of my A.P.M.L.D.7383/s dated 8-1-18, the attached Army Form B-252, Form of Surrender and Statement in the case of the above named man, are forwarded for your information, please.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Captain,
for Lieut.-Colonel,
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

Rev. C

Certificate under Army Act Section 163 (J)

I, Capt. Keith Trevor, an Assistant Provost Marshal, London District, certify that No. 1547, (Rank) Private (Name) W. Ross of the 1st Newfoundland Regt. surrendered himself to 7505 (Rank) Sergt. (Name) H. Wakley of the Garrison Military Police at King's Cross Road at 9.30 p.m. on the 5th January 1918, as an absentee without leave. Dressed in uniform.

(Sd.) KEITH TREVOR, Capt.,
Asst. Provost-Marshal,
London District.

Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace., S.W. 1
15 Jan. 1918.

75.

Original here X

I, William L. Ross, wish to make the following statement. I deserted my Regiment on August the 20th 1917. The cause was due to my nerves. I was suffering from shell shock and partial loss of memory. It was not done intentionally but the thoughts of going back to the trenches after that happened was more than I could stand so I walked away from my Battalion and how I got to England is still a mystery to me. I was stricken with shell shock in October 1916 and was told by our medical officer that I was to report to the Quartermaster for duty in the Q.M. Department being temporarily unfit for the trenches. I worked in that department for 3 months and I was sent back to the trenches not by the doctor but by the C.O.'s orders. I went in for 4 days and found my nerves were just the same and when I came out I reported myself to the medical officer who told me without examination that there was nothing wrong with me. At nights the thoughts of the trenches nearly drove me crazy I could not sleep or eat but always thinking what I was going to do to get out of it. One ~~xxxxxxx~~ night the idea struck me to desert and the next day I went away. All my equipment I left in my Company Quartermaster's tent. I did not take anything with me but a belt which was stolen on me when I first arrived. I made this statement voluntarily.

(Sd.) WILLIAM L. ROSS

I was present when the above named soldier wrote this statement

(Sd.) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G.M. Police.

76

1918
Army Form B. 252.
(see King's Regulations).

D. D. & L., London E.C.
P2624 Wt. Ws 02/2305 2,000,000. 6/15 W 18.

Forms
D. 252.
31

1st Newfoundland Regt.

CHARGE.

BATTERY, SQUADRON, TROOP OR COMPANY.

CHARGE against No. 1547, Pte. Ross, W.

Place.	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of witnesses.	Punishment awarded.	By whom awarded.
London	5/1/18	When on Active Service. Absent until apprehended by the Military Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 p.m. the 5th of January, 1918.	Sgt. H. Wakley, Sgt. F. Lingard, Garrison Military Police.		

(Sd.) A
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.
Lt. Col.
Commanding Battery,
Squadron, Troop or Company

Necessary extracts taken
from the Condensed Sheet
of Records.

W.S.

JAN 29 1919

C.R. 1547

RECEIPT.

FOR ISSUE OF BRITISH WAR MEDAL 1914-1919.

I certify that I have received an issue of 2 inches
of Riband of British War Medal-1914-1919.

Name *W. Rice*

Date *15-11-19*

Place *James Cove*
Bell Island

RECEIPT FOR ISSUE OF
RIBAND OF BRITISH WAR MEDAL-1914-1919.

C.R. 1547

I certify that I have received a issue of 2 inches
of Riband of British War Medal-1914-1919

Name..... *Wm L Ross*

(Date)..... *Nov 15/19*

(Place)..... *St Grace*

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps Newfoundland
 Regimental No. C.R. 1547 Rank Pte Name William Ross
 Enlisted (a) 29.4.15 Terms of Service (a) War Service reckons from (a) _____
 Date of promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. }
 Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

853

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		<i>Dep. Marseilles</i>	<i>3.4.16</i>		
	<i>Sgt James Gallatin</i>		<i>Lance</i>	<i>8.4.16</i>	<i>B213</i>
	"		<i>With BATT.</i>	<i>28.1.17</i>	
	<i>89 F.A.</i>	<i>Ad. Incised w.d.l.</i>			
		<i>Hand acc. trans.</i>	<i>4 cert.</i>	<i>14.8.17</i>	<i>E.A. 9517</i>
	<i>88 F.A.</i>	<i>Discharged to Unit</i>		<i>17.8.17</i>	<i>E.A. 9562</i>

COPY SENT TO
 G.C. H.Q.
 ST. JOHNS, N.F.L.D.
 N.F.P.36. No. *9587*
 DATED **18 JAN 1918**



(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.



CR 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

DISCHARGE DEPOT

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

April 19th, 1919

From Officer Commanding,
Discharge Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

I am forwarding herewith under separate cover all papers at Depot connected with trial of 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross; also a file of miscellaneous papers and correspondence.

Captain

O.C. Discharge Depot

RHT/2.

C.R. 1547

Extract from Nominal Roll of 1st Regiment embarked
Devonport 13-3-16 for Egypt, transferred to B.E.F.
& disembarked Marseilles, 5-4-16.

1547 Pte. W. Ross.

Original letters and documents forwarded
to H. H. H. June 11/1918

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.No. 969/42/C

From

PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

58, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

19th January, 1918.

To

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

HJ/XW

SUBJECT:No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS
(PRISONER)**REPLY**

Reference Nos. 775/32/C, 15/1/18.

Dated **April 26th**

1919

Further to above number,
copies of following documents are
enclosed, please:

1. File of certified copies of
telegrams, letters, reports etc.
numbered from 1 to 76,

2. This office No. 969/3/C,
18/1/18, to Capt. J. J. O'Grady,
i/c of Prisoner.

Received with thanks.**Minister of Militia**

A. D. M. M. M.
Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

18th January, 8.

969/3/C

Capt. J. J. O'Grady,

Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No. 56

HT/NW

No. 1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS (PRISONER)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland: the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return railway warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all data available to date and which have been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M., there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 775/32/C

From
 PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
 58, VICTORIA STREET,
 LONDON, S.W. 1.

To
 The Hon, the Minister of
 Militia,
 St. John's,
 Newfoundland.

15th January, 1919.

HT/NW

SUBJECT No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Reference Nos. 13050/167, 28/11/17.

Dated April 26th 1919

Telegram No. 52, 7/1/18,
 confirmed, please:

Noted, please.

"Military, St. John's.
 "1547- Ross- has been apprehend-
 "ed- he will be- repatriated-
 "under charge of- Captain-
 "O'Grady- shortly- returning by
 "transport- this has been
 "arranged- in consultation with-
 "Sir- Edward- Morris-
 Synoptical."

Minister of Militia

Ross is at present at Hunter
 Street Police Station awaiting
 repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst.
 Provost-Marshal, London District,
 Ross was brought before me last
 week under escort and it was
 explained to him that it had been
 possible to intervene and have him
 sent back to Newfoundland instead
 of his being returned to France
 where he knew what would have
 taken place. This action had been
 taken not to save him from the
 punishment he deserved but in the
 interests of the Regiment and to
 allow of his being tried in his
 own Country.

When he was first brought in
 he attempted to make an explanation,
 but was checked. It was also
 impressed upon him that if he made
 any further attempt to escape ordinary
 military procedure would be allowed
 to take its course. Before being
 dismissed he was asked whether he
 had anything to say and replied in
 the negative.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

Captain O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the A.P.M. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

RAY & RECORD OFFICE

55, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, E.C. 1.

A. A. Dunne Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. 1/c Records.

REPLY

Date

DISTRICT COURT - MARTIAL.

C.R. 1547

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross was tried by Court Martial on 23rd. Oct., 1918 for:- When on active service, absent without leave, desertion breaking Military Escort was found guilty and sentenced to Two Years imprisonment without hard labor. Confirmed by conveying officer but remit nine months of the sentence and commute the remainder of the sentence to detention in Military Custody with the prisoners unit on

C.R.

1547.

Extract of Daily Orders Part II, Depot, St. John's,
dated Jan. 7th 1919.

DISCHARGE WITH Ignominy

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Discharged from Regimental Strength with ignominy, with
effect from 4-1-19. Authority K.R. & R. para. 392, su-
section (xiii).

C.R. 1547

Jan. 2, 19.

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot,
City.

1647 Pte. W.L. Ross.

I enclose communication from His Excellency The Governor and Commander in Chief dealing with the case of the above named soldier, from which you will note that he directs that this man be discharged from the service with ignominy.

Will you please arrange to have this instruction carried out in accordance with Kings Regulations & Orders of the Army Act and advise me in due course when this has been promulgated.

Private Ross will not be entitled to any of the allowances usually payable to soldiers on discharge, he should however, be provided with a civilian outfit and his uniform returned to Government Stores.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 1547

Dec. 30, 18.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to your communication of 12th instant in connection with the above noted man, I am directed to say that the Minister of Militia recommends that this soldier be discharged from the service with ignominy.

I shall be glad to receive the orders of His Excellency the Commander in Chief in relation to the case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major.

District Officer Commanding.

Newfoundland.

Private Secretary,
Government House.

C.R. 1547

Dec. 28th, 1918

From: Minister of Militia
To: District Officer Commanding

#1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to the attached correspondence, I should be glad if you will intimate to His Excellency the Governor that I recommend that this soldier be discharged with ignominy.

He would not, of course, be eligible for any of the allowances payable to soldiers honourably discharged; but I am of opinion that he should be provided with a civilian outfit and that his uniform be taken into stores.

Minister of Militia.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Dec. 28th, 1918

WHEN REPLYING
QUOTE No. 1547

From: Minister of Militia

To: District Officer Commanding

#1547, Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to the attached correspondence, I should be glad if you will intimate to His Excellency the Governor that I recommend that this soldier be discharged with ignominy.

He would not, of course, be eligible for any of the allowances payable to soldiers honourably discharged; but I am of opinion that he should be provided with a civilian outfit and that his uniform be taken into stores.

Minister of Militia.

*Dispatch Mr
discharged*



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S Dec. 27, 1918.
NEWFOUNDLAND

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Minister of Militia,
City.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

I enclose communication from the Governor in connection with the above noted soldier as a reply to my communication 18th instant copy of which I enclose.

I am not clear under the terms of the sentence as commuted by His Excellency the Administrator that we are in a position to hand Private Ross over to the Civil Authorities. If the second course is recommended it should be that Private Ross be discharged from the Regiment with ignominy and that he be not eligible for any of the allowances that may be now or at any future time payable to soldiers honourably discharged.

I shall be glad to know your wishes in the matter and what you consider should be recommended to His Excellency in the circumstances.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 1547

Dec. 27,

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Minister of Militia,
City.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

I enclose communication from the Governor in connection with the above noted soldier as a reply to my communication 18th instant copy of which I enclose.

I am not clear under the terms of the sentence as commuted by His Excellency the Administrator that we are in a position to hand Private Ross over to the Civil Authorities. If the second course is recommended it should be that Private Ross be discharged from the Regiment with ignominy and that he be not eligible for any of the allowances that may be now or at any future time payable to soldiers honourably discharged.

I shall be glad to know your wishes in the matter and what you consider should be recommended to His Excellency in the circumstances.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

CR 1547
Dec. 18, 18.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

I have the honour to enclose communication from the Officer Commanding Depot, with reference to the case of the marginally named soldier, at present a prisoner in detention.

AS it is impossible to give effect to the sentence under present conditions, I shall be glad to receive further instructions in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major.

District Officer Commanding.

Newfoundland.

His Excellency The Governor & Commander in Chief,

Government House,

City.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

18th December, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 18/11/18 on the subject of No. 1547 Private W. L. Ross, His Excellency directs me to inform you that if accommodation for prisoners is no longer available two courses appear to be open to the Militia Department. The Governor would be glad to receive a recommendation from the Department as to which of the following should, in their opinion, be adopted.

- (a) That Private Ross be handed over to the Penitentiary to be confined.
 - (b) That he be dismissed from the Regiment..
- Any more lenient course as to discharge would seem to be unfair to these other men who have served well and honourably. ?

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Lieut. Col.
Private Secretary.

District Officer Commanding,
Militia Department.

G.R. 7547



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S Dec 16 1918
NEWFOUNDLAND

To District Officer Commanding

#1547, Private W.L. Ross

With reference to your letter of Dec. 9th I should be glad if you will refer this matter to the confirming Officer pointing out that owing to the present conditions, it will not be possible to carry out that section of this soldier's punishment which refers to his being sent to his Battalion in the field to serve in detention there, and ask if further directions in this case might be given.

W. F. Russell
Minister of Militia.

C.R. 1547

Dec 16 18

To District Officer Commanding

#1547, Private W.L. Ross

With reference to your letter of Dec. 9th I should be glad if you will refer this matter to the confirming Officer pointing out that owing to the present conditions, it will not be possible to carry out that section of this soldier's punishment which refers to his being sent to his Battalion in the field to serve in detention there, and ask if further directions in this case might be given.

Minister of Militia.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S Dec. 9, 1918.
NEWFOUNDLAND

R

Sir:-

I enclose letter from Officer Commanding Depot in connection with #1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, prisoner in detention. Owing to the cessation of hostilities, it would appear that it will not be convenient to carry out the sentence confirmed by His Excellency The Administrator under the terms stated.

I would suggest that the matter be further dealt with by the proper authorities.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Montgomery

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

The Minister of Militia,
City.

C.R.

1547

Dec. 9, 19.

Sir:-

I enclose letter from Officer Commanding Depot in connection with #1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, prisoner in detention. Owing to the cessation of hostilities, it would appear that it will not be convenient to carry out the sentence confirmed by His Excellency The Administrator under the terms stated.

I would suggest that the matter be further dealt with by the proper authorities.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

The Minister of Militia,
City.

C.R.

1547

November 4, 1918.

Sir:-

I have your communication of 1st instant in connection with your son, #1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I regret that it is not in my power to deal with the matter as you suggest.

Mr. Higgins has doubtless advised you the result of the case and your son is now held in detention under the order of His Excellency The Commander in Chief, who is the only one who can now issue any instructions altering the decision.

Should you or Mrs. Ross come to St. John's, no difficulties will be placed in the way of your seeing your son, who is at present confined at the Barracks.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

Joseph Ross Esq.,
Harbour Grace.

St. Grace
Nov 2/18

Hon. J. R. Bennett
St. John

Dear Sir

Now that our boys Case has
been disposed of, and we have heard
his shortly to leave for the other side
would it be in your power to
allow him to come home, even if
for only a day, to see his mother
who has been very ill, and unable
to go over to see him. Dr. Parsons
called in on Saturday, to see her
he can tell you her condition
and if necessary, I can get a
Certificate from the medicine agent
Dr. Iron, after being away from home
so long we would wish if possible
he could get a run over. I have
already written Major Montgomerie
on the matter but have not yet
had reply, will thank you in
anticipation of a favourable
reply.

Yours very truly
Joseph Basso

D. O. B.

Would you kindly advise whether
there is any objection to this soldier visiting
his mother provided he is granted
if not will you arrange for him to go and
return forthwith
JRB
III (over) mid 18

~~III~~

Minister of Militia

Enclosed letter received from
Joseph Ross Esq and copy of my reply.

Permontgomery
He a/or



R

Harbor Grace
Nov 1/18

Mayor Montgomery
St Johns

Dear Sir

We would you some time ago regarding our boy getting leave to come home, and you answered he could not leave until his case was disposed of, ~~now~~ that we know through his Council Mr. Higgins his case has been dealt with we would wish very much if he could be allowed for even a short time, his mother has been ill for sometime and would wish very much to see him even if only for a few days. Knowing he has to go overseas again it will be pretty hard on the both of us not to see him, of course if he would not be allowed to come without an escort, we would much sooner not have him come awaiting your reply.

P.S.
We would also not wish the contents published in the local papers — J.R.

Yours truly
Joseph Row



C.R. 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 30th/18 1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

#1547, Pte W.L.ROSS

Will you kindly let me have the original Conduct Sheets of the above named soldier which are included with his Court Martial papers sent back to you after promulgation? I shall send down a Certified True Copy for filing with his C.M. Papers. The original copy is required for his file at the Barracks, please.

R.H. Sait

Captain,

O. C. Depot.

RHT/TJW

II

C.D.O.

For your attention please

Blaine Gomerie



III

D.O.C.

The attached certified copies of Conduct Sheets of this soldier are the only ones attached to D.C.M. papers. If these have D.C.M. entries made, and certified copies of same taken for regimental use, will you then have them returned please

21/11/18

W.F. Reade
Lieut. Col.
C.O.

IV

of Depot.

For your information, please
re-organise.
W.F.R.



D.O.C:

V

Papers returned herewith, particulars have been recorded.

11/18

Robertson
Depot The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
St. John's, Nfld.

C.R. 1547
Extract from Daily Orders part 11, Depot St. John's dated Oct. 28~~7~~ 1918.

DISTRICT COURT MARTIAL.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross was tried by Court Martial on 23rd. Oct. 1918 for When on active Service, absent without leave, desertion, breaking Military escort, was found guilty and sentenced to Two Years Imprisonment without Hard labor, confirmed by convening Officer but remit nine months of the sentence and commute the remainder of the sentence to detention in Military Custody with the Prisoners Unit on Active Service.

BC.,

14
C.R. 1547

October 26, 1918.

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot,
City.

#1547 Pte. W.L. ROSS.
District Court-Martial.

I enclose proceedings of District Court-Martial held at the Barracks, Fort William on 23rd inst., duly confirmed by the Convening Officer, His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

You will notice that in confirming the proceedings of the court His Excellency orders nine months of the sentence remitted and commutes the remainder of the sentence to detention in Military Custody with the prisoner's Unit on Active Service.

You will please arrange for promulgation of proceedings in accordance with King's Regulations and Orders, returning all papers when this has been done. You will further arrange to see that the sentence is carried out and arrange for the detention of the prisoner until an opportunity presents itself for forwarding him to his unit on Active Service.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 1547

October 23, 1918.

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- His Excellency the Administrator and Commander
in Chief in and over the Dominion of Newfoundland.

#1547 Pts. W. L. Ross.

I have the honour to forward proceedings in a Court-Martial held on the above noted soldier this date at the Barracks, Fort William, for your further action.

Court-Martial was convened by orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.V., C.V.O., Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland issued by virtue of a warrant from His Majesty the King, authorising the convening of Court-Martials in Newfoundland, the original order being issued by the District Officer Commanding on 12th August 1918.

Under the order calling the Court-Martial the proceedings were to be forwarded to the Convening Officer His Excellency the Governor.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 1547

October 18, 1918.

From:- District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot.
City.

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

I enclose District Order #13 covering the convening of District Court-Martial for the purpose of trying the accused person named above.

Will you notify the personnel of the Court-Martial and arrange all necessary preliminaries in accordance with the Army Act and Kings Regulations and Orders.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

October 17, 1918.

PERSONAL

My Dear Higgins,

Court-Martial, Ross.

If Court-Martial were ordered for Monday morning next, 21st instant, would it be convenient for you. Please let me know as early as possible as 48 hours notice is necessary in connection with issuance of orders.

Yours very truly,

W.J.Higgins Esq.

City.

October 17, 1918.

Dear Knox-Niven,

Court-Martial, Ross.

Would Monday morning, 21st instant suit you to deal with the above matter. I am dropping notes to Fenelon and Higgins asking them the same question, and shall be glad if you will let me know as early as possible so that I can issue the necessary orders.

Yours sincerely,

Lieut.-Col. Knox-Niven,
Government House,
City.

C.R. 1547

October 17, 1918.

Dear Fenelon,

Court-Martial, Ross.

If Court-Martial were ordered for Monday morning next, 21st instant, would it be convenient for you. Please let me know as early as possible as forty eight hours notice is necessary in connection with issuance of orders.

Yours very truly,

John Fenelon Esq.,

City.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 14th, 1918. 191

**From Officer Commanding,
Depot.**

**To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.
Militia Department.**

Sir ; 1547.PTE WILLIAM ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec 45 (1) I have to report the necessity for keeping this soldier in detention for safe-keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

R. H. Lait

RHT/JGO.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;

Your obedient servant.

C.R.

1547

October 9, 1918.

Dear Knox-Niven,

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

The above named man is now recovered
and ready for disposal by Court Martial. Will you
let me know if Monday morning next will suit you.

Yours very truly,

Lieut. Col. Knox-Niven,
Government House,
City.

from S.O.C.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 7th, 1918.

191

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.
Department of Militia.

SIR :

1547 Pte W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec 45 (1). I have to report the necessity for keeping this soldier in detention for safe-keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

R. H. Lait

I have the honour to be,

Sir ;

Your obedient servant.

RHT/JGO.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

September 1st, 18.....

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Above named soldier was discharged from M.I.D. Hospital on the
27th September. He is now in detention at Depot awaiting trial by
Court Martial.

R.H. Lait

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

RHT/TJW



C.R. 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

October 1st/18 1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

SIR:

1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R.H. Dait

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

RHT/TJB

C.P. 1547

Extract from Daily Orders part 11 Depot St..John's dated Sept. 30/1918

#1547 Pte. W. Ross.

Discharged from M. I. D. Hosp. 27-9-18



C.R. 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 17th/18 191

To District Officer Commanding,
Militia Department.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

1547, Pte W.L. Ross.

I enclose certificate from Medical Officer, M.I.D. Hospital concerning abovementioned man. I would ask, therefore, that his trial by D.C.M. be postponed again to a later date.

R. H. Jait

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

ENC:



C.R. 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

AUGUST 17th, 1918

191

From Medical Officer.
M.I.D. Hospital.

To Officer Commanding.
Depot.

1547.Pte.W.L.Ross.

The marginally noted man is
undergoing treatment at the M.I.D.
Hospital and will not be fit to leave the
above Hospital for at least two weeks
from date.

Sto Berden

C.R. 1547

Extract from Daily Orders Part 11 Unit The Royal Nfld.
Regt. St. John's, Dated August 15th 1918.

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Owing to inability of Prisoner marginally noted, to attend through illness, certified to by the Medical Officer, the District Court Martial called to assembly on Aug. 15th, will not assemble till Aug. 21st, 1918. at 10.30 a.m. in the Officers' Room, Barracks.

1547

Private W. L. Ross
Commanded

C.R. 1547

Government House.

August 10th, 1918.

Dear Montgomerie,

With reference to your letter dated August 9th I enclose herewith an Order by His Excellency the Governor convening a District Court Martial on the 15th instant for the purpose of trying Private W. L. Ross.

The Order should, in ^{his} ~~my~~ opinion, be signed by the correct Authority under the Ministry of Militia.

I return you herewith all the documents which I presume will be sent to me as President of the Court Martial.

I consulted Fenelon on this Order and he approved it.

Yours very truly,

Arthur. Newell

Major A. Montgomerie, O.B.E.,

District Officer Commanding,

Militia Department.

C.R. 1547

August, 10, 1918.

#7.

District Orders

by

Major A. MONTGOMERIE.

District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

District Court- Martial
#1547 Pte. W.L. ROSS.
The Royal Nfld. Regt.

Orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland issued, by virtue of a warrant from His Majesty The King authorising the convening of Courts Martial in Newfoundland.

St. John's, 12 August, 1918.

The detail of officers as mentioned below will assemble at the officer's room at the Barracks, Fort William at 10.30 a.m. on the 15th day of August, 1918, for the purpose of trying by a district court martial, the accused person named in the margin.

In the opinion of the convening officer, officers of different corps, are not, having regard to the public service, available.

President.

Lieut. Col. H. W. Knox- Niven is appointed President.

Members.

Capt. J. Nunns	M.C.	Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Capt. J. Clift	M.C.	" " "
Lieut. G. B. Dicks	#"	" " "
Lieut. A. L. Summers	"	" " "

Waiting Members.

Capt. S. Robertson	Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Lieut. J.H. Snow	" " "

Judge Advocate

John Fenelon Esq., is hereby appointed Judge Advocate.

The accused will be warned and all witnesses duly required to attend.

The proceedings will be forwarded to the Convening Officer, His Excellency the Governor.

Signed this 10th day of August

A. MONTGOMERIE

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

C.R. 1547

August 9, 1918.

Dear Knox-Niven,

Court Martial 31547 Pte. Ross.

This matter has been held over pending the arrival of a number of officers who would be eligible to constitute the Court. These have now arrived and the Court Martial can be convened at the pleasure of His Excellency.

I would suggest that about four days notice be given, so that Counsel for the accused may have an opportunity of preparing his defence.

I would suggest the following for the consideration of His Excellency for the personnel:-

President	Lieut.Col. Knox-Niven			
Members	Capt. J. Nunns M.C.	Royal Nfld. Regt.		
	Capt. J. Clift M.C.	"	"	"
	Lieut. C.B.Dicks	"	"	"
	Lieut. A.L.Summers	"	"	"
Waiting Members	Capt. S. Robertson	"	"	"
	Lieut. J.H.Snow	"	"	"
Judge Advocate	John Fenelon Esquire.			

It might be well to call the attention of the Convening Officer to R.P. 20 (A), Manual of Military Law, page 583.

I return documents in connection with the preliminary proceedings, which His Excellency will likely require for the convening. Court Martial should be ordered to con assemble at the Officer's Room at the Barracks, Fort William.

Yours very truly,

Lieut. Coll Knox-Niven,
Government House.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST. JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

C.R. 1547

9th, August, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of March 16th, 1918, concerning a General Courtmartial for the trial of No. 1547 Private W. L. Ross, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, I request that you will submit the names of a President and members of a District Court Martial, for the trial of the above prisoner, in order that I may convene that court at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

Alexander Stewart

Governor.

To the

District Officer Commanding in Newfoundland
Militia Department.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST. JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

C.R. 1547

Minister of Militia,
Militia Department,
Water Street.

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor
to enquire what steps are being taken to complete the
arrangements for the trial of Private Ross.

J. H. W. - V. C.

Lieut. Col.

Private Secretary.

phoned Melon

23/8/18

Oran to Conference
July 23rd, 1918.

Major Knox Mevin
Capt J. G. Bennett
Capt J. Byrne
Lt. C. Sicks

President

m. C. Rayner - R. P.

✓ ✓

3
Jno Deuel by Josh Advocate

C.R. 1547

July 17, 1918.

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 9th inst., with reference to the appointment of Mr. J. Fenwick as Judge Advocate in connection with the proposed Court Martial of #1547 Private W.L. Ross of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
City.



July 9, 1918.

M

Ans

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you that His Excellency the Governor, who holds a Warrant from His Majesty the King to Convene all Courts Martial, has been pleased to appoint Mr. John Fenelon as Judge Advocate in connection with the proposed Court Martial upon Private Ross of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. W. Halford

Colonial Secretary.

Lieut. Colonel W.F. Rendell,
Chief of Staff
Dept. of Militia.

ANSWERED

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST. JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

C.R. 1547

July 6th, 1918.

Dear Montgomerie,

Court Martial (Ross).

I regret there has been a delay in my answering your letter of June 28th, 1918 on the subject of the Court Martial on Private Ross. His Excellency's absence at the time delayed it somewhat.

1. His Excellency approves of Mr. John Fenelon or Mr. Warren or anyone who is the nominee of the Ministry of Justice in consultation with the Ministry of Militia.

2. His Excellency would very much like to know more about the question that has been raised lately with regard to the status of the officers here and as to the fact that no regulations have been made governing appointments or promotions as required under the old volunteer Act.

3. He is quite agreeable that I should be President of the Court Martial but it will have to be after the 20th instant as I am going away with him on tour on Monday 8th.

Yours very truly,

H. H. H. H. H.

Major Montgomerie,
D.O.C.
Dept. of Militia,

June 28, 1918.

Dear Knox-Niven,

Court Martial (Ross).

This matter has been hung up owing to Major Carty being on the sick list with Mumps? It is suggested that Mr. John Fenham be named as Judge Advocate, Mr. Warren being away at present, and other likely men being unavailable.

A question has been raised lately with regard to the status of the officers here, and I understand that promotion in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment may be legally attacked owing to the fact that apparently no regulations were ever made governing appointments to promotion by the Governor in Council as required under the old volunteer act. Owing to this, and in order that there may be no question raised, it may be necessary for you to be president of the court martial, you being the only qualified officer of field rank in the Colony.

Yours very truly,

Lieut. Colonel Knox-Niven,
City.

June 15, 1918.

Dear Madam:-

1547 Private. W.L.Ross.

I have your communication of 11th inst. It is expected that Court Martial will be convened in a few days to try the case of your son.

I regret the circumstances in which he has placed himself, and the matter is being dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

Should you be able to come to St. John's no objection will be made to your seeing your son, but I am afraid that until the matter is disposed of he cannot be permitted to leave here.

When the case comes up, I shall advise M. Ross, so that he can come over if he so desires.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Joseph Ross,
Harbour Grace.

Personal

Harbor Grace
June 11th 1918

Major Montmerie

Dear Sir

On April 8th my husband received a letter from you in reply to one written to the Minister of Militia in reference to our boy Jph. W. Ross (Ed 1547). You stated that his papers had been passed over to the authorities and his case would be attended to in a few days. Since then we have heard nothing further. It is four months to-day since he arrived in St. John's and it is hard that he cannot come home even for a week end after three years absence. I am pinedly torn out with suspense and anxiously waiting every day for news. Some of the boys home on leave say he has to go back again shortly and

May not be allowed to come home the
thought of it is breaking my heart -
I wish that I could find him going as I
know it is only his duty but I
could wish to see him it is all I
love and have give him willingly
and it is my deepest regret that this
unfortunate affair should have happened.
The boy was not responsible for this
action at the time he was absent -
otherwise it could not have happened,
hoping that something may soon be
settled and end this dreadful suspense.
Thanking you for past favours
Yours sincerely
Label Ross

Mr. Joseph Ross
Box 27
Water Street
Harbor Grace -

C.R. 1547

June 11, 1918.

His Excellency The Governor
And Commander in Chief,
City.

Your Excellency:-

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to an application forwarded to you some time ago, I have the honour to enclose communication from the Pay & Record Office, 58 Victoria St., under date of 21st May, 1918, referring to correspondence forwarded from the Colonial Office to His Excellency the Governor, and enclosing certain original documents.

I shall be glad if you will return Pay & Record Office letter for acknowledgement by this department.

I have also the honour to inform you that Captain Kevin J. Keegan, who was a member of the Board of Enquiry dealing with the absence of Pte. Ross, is now in this country. As he will be a material witness in the case, I would ask you to add his name to the list of witnesses.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's,

Obedient servant,

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

Cables and Telegrams :
"SYNOPTICAL," London.

Telephone :
VICTORIA 147.

Communications to be addressed to the
CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/O RECORDS,
and the following No. quoted :

2797/125/Com.

N. F. P/38A.

DUPLICATE.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. _____

C.R. 1547

From

PAY AND RECORD OFFICE,

58, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

20th February, 1918.

To

Hon. Minister of Militia,

St. John's,

Newfoundland.

SUBJECT :

No. 1547, PTE. W.L. ROSS.

Reference Nos.

REPLY

Dated April 27th,

1918

Please return ORIGINAL and retain DUPLICATE.

Exchange of telegrams
confirmed, please.

"16/2/18- 68- Following for-
"Lord- Morris- immediate
"action- necessary- begins-
"Reference your letter 23rd
"November- can you- produce-
"evidence to show that- 1547-
"Ross- insane- when he-
"deserted- please- ends-
- Military-"

"18/2/18- 255- Reference your
"telegram 18th February-
"Lord- Morris- advised that-
"if- military authorities-
"tried- Ross- in England- we
"should- set up- plea- of-
"insanity- only- evidence-
"to support- this- plea- is-
"what might- reasonably- be-
"inferred from- his- having-
"suffered- severely- from-
"shellshock- and from- his-
"subsequent- extraordinary-
"conduct-
- Synoptical-"

The former was conveyed to
Lord Morris, and he called here,
when the latter was drafted by
him and so coded at his personal
request, please.

A. S. D. M. W. C. Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/JC

Noted.

W. P. H.

Acting Minister of Militia.

April 8, 1918.

J. Ross Esq.,
Hr. Grace, Nfld.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Dear Sir:-

I am directed to acknowledge your communication of the 1st inst., I am to say that the papers have been forwarded to the proper authority, and action will likely be taken in the course of a few days.

With reference to supplying clothing for your son. This is quite unnecessary, as everything he requires is provided. He has also made no complaint with regard to his health, and is well looked after, being in hospital, and not in a prison cell where a man under such a charge would be kept.

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter. While the service of your son is appreciated, it is pointed out that he has been charged with a very grave Military Offence, and that in order to save him from suffering the ultimate consequences of his act, he has been brought to Newfoundland. There should be no suggestion on you part of unfairness in the treatment of your son, therefore.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major.

District Officer Commanding.

April 4th, 1918.

To - Officer Commanding Depot.
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Headquarters.

#1547 Pte. W.L.Ross.

I enclose communication from Mr.
Joseph Ross with reference to his son, Pte.
W.L.Ross.

I shall be glad to have your ex-
planation as to why such letters are permit-
ted to be sent from a prisoner in confine-
ment.

I shall also require full explanat-
ion with regard to matters mentioned in said
letter.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 15-47

Mar. 22nd. 18

The Hon. Dr. Lloyd, D.C.L.
Prime Minister.

Dear Dr. Lloyd,

I find that the original papers in the case of Private Ross were sent to His Excellency the Governor just before he left town, and are not procurable until his return tomorrow noon.

In the meantime, I am forwarding you a certified copy of the evidence from London, which I trust will serve your purposes.

I would be obliged if you would return this copy at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Actg. Minister of Militia.

March 19, 1918.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Batt. The Royal Wfld. Regt.

Sir:-

I have the honour to forward for necessary action, Army Form B 116 with documents attached covering application from the Officer Commanding Depot, for a General Court Martial to be assembled for the trial of the above named soldier. I also annex list of the officers now attached at the Depot with dates of commissions. This does not include officers attached to the personal ^{Staff} strength of His Excellency, who may be available.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major.

District Officer Commanding.

Newfoundland.

His Excellency,

Sir C. Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., etc., etc.

Governor and Commander in Chief,

Newfoundland.

March 12, 1918,

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Dr. Lloyd,

We have in custody a soldier who was brought out under arrest with the last draft, charged with desertion from the 1st Battalion, while on Active Service.

This man would have been sent to France where he would have received very drastic treatment, but for the efforts of Lord Morris, through whom it was arranged that he be sent out here to stand trial. This person will shortly come before the Officer Commanding to be dealt with and it is likely that a General Court Martial will be asked for.

I understand that the power of convening such Court Martial is vested in His Excellency the Governor, who also appoints a Judge Advocate to take care of the legal end of it.

I assume that if the Governor convenes this Court Martial, he will likely call upon you to name a Judge Advocate. I enclose copy of the Manual of Military Law dealing with Courts Martial and appointments and duties of the Judge Advocate etc., so that you may become familiar with the matter should you be asked to take action.

Yours very truly,

Acting Minister of Militia.

Dr. W.F.Lloyd,
Minister of Justice,
City.

ENCLOSURE.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S ~~March 11, 1918.~~
NEWFOUNDLANDCONFIDENTIAL.Acting Minister Of Militia,
City.#1547 Private W.L. Ross.

This soldier arrived here on February 13th, 1918 as a prisoner, in custody of Captain J.J.O'Grady, having been apprehended in London as a deserter from the 1st Battalion.

Shortly after his arrival the documents in the case came to hand, and, as they contained a suggestion from Sir Edward Morris that the man was possibly mentally unbalanced, due to nervous shock when he deserted, he was ordered by the Medical Officer at the Depot, to hospital for observation, where he now is.

I am advised privately by the doctor that there is nothing wrong with him at present, and that he is in a fit state to stand trial.

On the evidence which will be presented to the Officer Commanding, which will be documentary, it would look as if the man would be committed to stand trial before a General Court Martial, for desertion while on Active Service.

If this is done it will be necessary to forward the documents to the Governor, who, I think, is the only person here having authority at present to convene a General Court Martial. It will also mean the appointing by the Convenor of the Court Martial of a Judge Advocate, who I take it would be really appointed by the Crown to see that legal procedure is correctly followed.

I enclose copy of the Manual of Military Law, which covers the question of Courts Martial and duties of Judge Advocate etc.

Allont Jones
Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

C.R. 1547

March 11, 18.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Acting Minister Of Militia,
City.

#1547 Private W.L.Ross.

This soldier arrived here on February 13th, 1918 as a prisoner, in custody of Captain J.J.O'Grady, having been apprehended in London as a deserter from the 1st Battalion.

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I enclose copy of the Manual of Military Law, which covers the question of Courts Martial and duties of Judge Advocate etc.

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

*Military
St. John's.*

(Copy)

C.R.

1547

With reference to your telegram of 16th Feb. Lord Morris advises that if Military Authorities tried Ross in England we should set up plea of insanity. Only evidence of support to this plea is what might reasonably be inferred from his having suffered from shell shock and from his subsequent extraordinary conduct.


Synoptical.

Feb. 19th 1918.

C.R. 1547

Copy of telegram des atched to Synoptical, London, dated
February 16th, 1918.

Following for Lord Morris ~~immediate~~ action necessary
(begins) with reference to your letter of 23rd November
can you produce evidence to show 1547 Ross insane
when he deserted please.



C.R. 1547

Feb. 16th 18

Major Montgomerie.

District Officer Commanding.

Dear Major Montgomerie,

I am forwarding you reply of Lt. Colonel Knox-Niven to my communication of yesterday's date written him in relation to the case of desertion of Pte. Ross. You will notice, in the latter paragraph of his letter, he refers to the desirability of having medical observation of this man, which suggestion I submit to you for what action you may think proper.

I have asked Colonel Knox-Niven to come to my office on Monday morning at 11 o'clock and I would thank you to attend also at that hour, so that we may consider what steps should be taken in relation to this case.

Yours faithfully,

Actg. Minister of Militia.

Feb'y. 16th. 1913.

Lt. Colonel Knox-Niven.
Government House.

Dear Colonel Knox-Niven,

I duly received your reply to my communication of yesterday and I thank you for your readiness to do everything you can in the case of Pte. Ross.

As suggested by you, I am sending a cable to Lord Morris asking him for the evidence as indicated in document No. 47.

If you could find it convenient, I would be glad if you would call at this office on Monday morning at 11 o'clock: if that hour is not convenient then at any other hour on Monday morning that may suit you.

Yours faithfully,

Actg. Minister of Militia.

CR

1547

Feb'y. 15th. 1918.

Lt. Colonel Knox Niven.
Government House.

Dear Colonel Knox-Niven,

Herewith I beg to forward you certified copies of documents relating to the case of 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. After you have perused the same I would thank you to return them and, if you could find it convenient, I would like to discuss this matter with you in company with some of the staff of this Department.

If this meets with your views please drop me a note, or telephone me, and I will arrange it to suit you.

Yours faithfully,

Actg. Minister of Militia.

G.R. 1547

DUPLICATE MAIL COPY

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

No. 12

" " Company.

To:

Minister of Militia
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Posted 14 FEB 1918

MEMORANDUM of STOPPAGES/CREDITS on Account of
by Army Canteen Committee,

Meals supplied

NOTE:- Charge under
Credit

Column

Pay & Record Office, London

Regtl No.	Rank & Name	Particulars And Authority	AMOUNT							
			£	s	d	£	s	d		
1547	Pte W.L. Ross	Meals supplied whilst in arrest at the Central London Recruiting Depot, Whitehall, S. W. 12/1/18 - 18/1/18 7 days @ 1/9						12	3	
								12	3	

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

191

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

End February

CERTIFIED that the above Stoppages/Credits have been made in
the Pay Book of " " Company for Period / / to / /

Dated at _____

191

O.C. " " Company,
Battalion.

ORIGINAL of this FORM to be COMPLETED and RETURNED INTACT to Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.
DUPLICATE to accompany PAY BOOK as VOUCHER.



C.R. 1547

ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

FEBRUARY 13th. 1918.

From Adjutant,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Dept. of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

I enclose herewith documents with connection with the above mentioned soldier, which have been given me by Capt. O'Grady for transmission to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,


Adjutant
Depot, First Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.

C.R. 1547

Extract of Daily Orders part 11 from Unit the Royal
Newfoundland Regiment, Headquarters dated Feb 15/16.

The following man returned from overseas and is
attached to Headquarters with effect from February
15th, 1916.

No.1547, W.L. Ross (Prisoner)

C.R. 1547

Extract of Telegram received from London, dated
January 29, 1918.

Certified copy proceedings of court of enquiry
and Army Form B122 relating to 1547 Ross just
received sent by to-day's mail.

↓

C.R. 1547

Extract of telegram received from London, dated
January 29, 1918.

Certified copy proceedings of Court of Enquiry
and Army Form B122 relating to 1547 Ross just
received sent to-days mail.

18th January, 8.

969/5/C

Capt. J. J. O'Grady,

Officer i/c Repatriation Draft No. 56

HT/NW

No. 1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS (PRISONER)

With reference to the above named prisoner who has today been handed over to your charge for conduct to the O.C., H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland; the surrounding circumstances of the case have been reviewed with you by me and also with the A.P.M., London District, which latter named officer you have again consulted this morning when it is understood arrangements were made with regard to your finally taking over the prisoner for embarkation.

The Officer Commanding Regimental Depot at Winchester has furnished No. 2040, Cpl. A. Tansley and No. 985, Pte. F. Fowlow to escort the prisoner to the Transport, and you will please arrange that the escort will return to Winchester as soon as possible after embarkation takes place. Return railway warrant has been given to the escort.

As also explained, and indicated in correspondence, it is deemed inadvisable to risk original documents overseas, and you are therefore provided with copies of all data available to date and which have been read over and certified by you and me. It is possible that some of the documents may not directly affect the case, and therefore appear to be extraneous, but the object is to provide all available information that may be practicable in fairness to all concerned.

An additional set of copies will be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Militia by mail.

Ross's doings whilst at large are not referred to in the accompanying papers, but as stated to you and me by the A.P.M., there is no doubt but that he was associated with, if not leading, a gang of Y.M.C.A. hut and similar thieves in London, and by which coincidence he was apprehended by detectives.

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

C.R. 1547

Jan 8th, 1918.

Mrs. Isobel Ross,
Water Street,
Harbour Grace.

Dear Mrs. Ross:-

I have just received a cable from the
Pay & Record Office, London stating that your son has
been apprehended, but that he is being repatriated to
return to Nfld. at an early date with Capt. O'Grady

I am sure that you will be gratified
to find that you will have an opportunity of seeing him
again; and I trust his troubles are at an end.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Militia.

C.R. 1547

Copy of telegram received from London, dated January
7th, 1918.

2547 Ross has been apprehended he will be
repatriated under charge of Captain O'Grady
shortly returning by transport this being
arranged in consultation with Sir Edward Morris.

C.R. 1547

Copy of telegram received from London, dated
January 6, 1918.

In reference to your letter of November 18th,
1547 Ross was apprehended in London, today.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 13050/167

From
 PAY & RECORD OFFICE,
 55, VICTORIA STREET,
 LONDON, S.W.
 28th November, 1917.

To The Hon. the Minister of
 Militia,
 St. John's,
 Newfoundland.

HT/NW

SUBJECT No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Dated December 14, 1917

Reference Nos. 12691/144, 21/11/17.

Please return ORIGINAL and retain DUPLICATE.

Further to above quoted Nos
 copies of the following letters
 are enclosed for your information,
 please:

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15,
 20/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir
 E.P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23/11/17 (7176),

P. & R.O. letter No. 12857/243,
 26/11/17, to the Secretary of the
 War Office,

P. & R.O. letter No. 12858/16,
 26/11/17, to the Rt. Hon. Sir
 E.P. Morris.

Attached copies of letters
 received. I am glad the Prime
 Minister has undertaken to interest
 himself in this case, and of
 course you will keep me notified
 of any happenings as previously
 requested in my wire of 18/11/17.

W. L. R.
 Minister of Militia.

A. J. Munnell Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

DUPLICATE.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

C.R. 1547

No. 12891/144

From
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

To The Hon. the Minister of
Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

21st November, 1917.

HT/WW

SUBJECT: No.1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

REPLY

Dated December 20th, 1917. 191

Reference Nos. 11120/76, 24/10/17.

Please return ORIGINAL and retain DUPLICATE.

Exchange of telegrams confirmed, please:

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.

Received 18/11/17 (6940).
"Synoptical, London.
"Has 1547- Ross- returned-
"keep me informed- as to
"particulars- in his case-
Military."

Your 13050/167 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).
"Military, St. John's.
"Reference your telegram 17
"November- Ross-
"still- at large-

Minister of Militia.

Synoptical."
Received 20/11/17 (6987).
"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris-
"case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what
"action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has
"been captured-
Military."

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the case sent to him.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

1. Letter 12501/15, 20/11/17 from Chief Pmr. A.O. i/o Records to Sir E. Morris.

The following telegram has been received this date from the Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London.
"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

2. Reply thereto 23/11/17 (7176).

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 20th November in reference to No. 1547, Private W.L. Ross. I note the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should take action in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being taken in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter. I am in a position to show, I think cond usively, that when he deserted he was not of sound mind.

Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

3. Letter 12857/243 26/11/17 from P & R.O. to the Secretary, War Office.

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Minister of Militia, St. John's Newfoundland:

Received 18/11/17 (6940).

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- particulars-
"in his case- Military."

Despatched 18/11/17 (1175).

"Military St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November . . . Ross- still- at large-
Synoptical."

Received 20/11/17 (6987).

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier, Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop-
"request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
"when- Ross- has been captured- Military."

On communicating the contents of the last quoted telegram to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is at present on a visit to this country, I was requested by him to take such steps as might be practicable with a view to preliminary precautions to further the desired object, and this letter is addressed to you accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., as from 20/8/17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton Docks on 15/10/17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is the special desire of those concerned that due representation may be made at the Proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

4. Letter No. 12858/16 from P & R.O. to Sir E. PL Morris.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter 23/11/17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

C.R. 1547

Counter No. _____

Form No. 17

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.



Cable Connection with all the World

All Messages Sent are Subject to the Following Conditions:

The Management may decline to forward the Message, though it has been received for transmission; but in case of so doing shall refund to the Sender the amount paid for its transmission.

In case the Message shall never reach its destination by reason of any neglect or default of the N. P. T. or its Servants whilst the Message remains under the control of the N. P. T., they will refund the amount paid by the Sender for such Message.

The N. P. T. shall not be liable to make compensation beyond the amount refunded as above for any loss, injury, or damage arising or resulting from the non-transmission or non-delivery of the Message, or delay or error in the transmission or delivery thereof, howsoever such transmission, non-delivery, delay, or error shall have occurred.

The control of the N. P. T. over the Message shall be deemed to have entirely ceased for the purposes of these Conditions at any point where, in the course of the transit of the Message to its destination, it may be entrusted by the N. P. T. (and the N. P. T. shall have full power so to entrust the Message) for further transmission by or through any system, service, or line of Telegraph belonging to or worked by any administration or authority not controlled by the N. P. T. exclusively, although worked as part of or in connection with the Telegraphic system or service of the N. P. T.

I request that the following Telegram may be forwarded according to the foregoing Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

(NOT TRANSMITTED)

Signature of Sender _____ Address _____

Line Number	Rcd	By	Sent	by	Check

Dated November 19, 1917.

COPY.

To Synoptical. London.

REPINTEMOS PREMIER MORRIS CANTEEDER 1547 ROSS
SILVERGOD REPROVA ABRIPOM WHEN ROSS CANDLEBOMB.

MILITARY.

Nov. 19th, 1917

Mr. J. Ross,
Water Street,
Harbor Grace.

Sir:-

In answer to my enquiry made with reference to your son, I beg to say that I have received word that he is still absent from the Regiment. Upon receipt of any news I will immediately communicate with you.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Militia

C.R. 1547

Extract of Telegram received from Pay & Record Office,
London, dated November 18th, 1917.

Ross.

still at large.

In answer to your telegram of Nov 17th.

Nov. 17th. 1917.

Mr. Joseph Ross.

Harbor Grace.

Dear Mr. Ross,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., wherein you informed me that you received a letter from Major Timewell acquainting you of the fact that your son had absented himself from the Regiment and had not returned, up to the time of his writing. We also received a communication from the same source, giving us similar information. But we have heard nothing since and I shall communicate with Major Timewell asking him to inform me by telegraph if there is any news of your son.

I desire to express my sincere sympathy with you and Mrs. Ross in this great trouble that has been brought upon you. It is most unfortunate and very hard to understand how your son should have acted so. However, I trust he will return and, if so, every consideration will be given to all the circumstances surrounding his case.

I shall treat this matter as confidential, as you desire.

Yours faithfully,

Minister of Militia.

NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.



Cable Connection with all the World

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I request that the following Telegram may be forwarded according to the foregoing Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

(NOT TRANSMITTED)

Signature of Sender _____ Address _____

Line Number	Rcd	By	Sent	by	Check

Dated November 17, 1917.

COPY.

To Synoptical, London.

Has 1547 Ross returned inebrious particulars
capacified.

Military

Charge to Dep't of Militia.

C.R. 1547

ANSWERED

Harbor Grace
Nov 12/17

Hon J. R. Bennett
St Johns.

Dear Sir By last English mail
we received word from Capt
Innewell, that our son Private
William L. Ross Messy had
absented himself from the
Regiment, and up to the time of
writing he had not returned
he advised me to write you
and you would inform me if
there was any news, our feelings
can be better imagined than described
the suspense and anxiety we are
going through. Not knowing where
he is, he is only nineteen years
of age now and is two years
and a half since he enlisted
and have spent eighteen months
in the front line. it is hard
for any boy so young to stand
the strain for that length of time

had he being granted furlough home for a short rest I do not believe this would ever have happened, he must have been driven to desperation, his mother is nearly heart broken if you have heard anything will you kindly let us know as soon as possible, and may I ask if you will keep this strictly confidential, only those who have boys out there can realise what we are going through at this present time, will thank you for an early reply.

I remain
yours truly
Joseph Ross

address

Joseph Ross
Water St
Harbord Grace

P.O. Box 27

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

CABLES AND TELEGRAMS:
"SYNOPTICAL."
LONDON.

TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 147.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/c RECORDS.
AND THE FOLLOWING NO. QUOTED:

11120/76

PAY & RECORD OFFICE,

58, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

24th October, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

Further to this office No. 11021/71, 23/10/17, I have the honour to enclose copy of letter No. 11119/1 addressed to Mrs. J. Ross, Box 27, Water Street, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel than your office is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official ~~xxx~~ matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of the office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs. Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety, and it would appear that her son has put himself into an extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when he is apprehended, for on the face of it it would appear that unless it can be established that he is of unsound mind, the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the report sent you in the first place, Ross had every consideration shown him by this office, and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,



Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

24th October,

7.

1119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.

Madam, No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 19/9/17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St. John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Major,

HT/NW

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

C.R. 1547



23rd October, 7.

11081/71/Records.

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my letter No. 9990/41, 28/9/17
and my telegram No. 1026, 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 18th October- 1547
"Ross- escaped- at- Southampton- enroute to-
"France- October 15-"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further
minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted
from France 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is
enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector
J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply
thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in
my No. 10848/1, 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major,
Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HA/NWV



C.R. 1547

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

CABLES AND TELEGRAMS:

"SYNOPTICAL"

LONDON.

TELEPHONE:

VICTORIA 147.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/c RECORDS.
AND THE FOLLOWING NO. QUOTED:

11021/71/Records.

PAY & RECORD OFFICE,

68, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

23rd October, 1917.

Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross.

With reference to my letter No. 9990/41, 28/9/17
and my telegram No. 1026, 23/10/17:

"With reference my telegram 12th October- 1547
"Ross- escaped- at- Southampton- en route to-
"France- October 15-"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further
minutes and reports relating to this man, who deserted
from France 20/8/17. A copy of Ross' own statement is
enclosed, together with a letter from District Inspector
J. Ross of the Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply
thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in
my No. 10848/1, 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt.-Major,
Great Scotland Yard, copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HA/NWV

18th October,

7.

The Garrison Sergeant Major,

Great Scotland Yard,

S.W. 1

10848/1

HT/NW

No. 1547, PTE. W. ROSS, NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

In confirmation of telephone message of date the
following telegram is quoted, please: ^{this}

"OFFICER i/c RECORDS, 58, VICTORIA ST., LONDON, S.W

"R-5399 18/10/17 aaa NUMBER 1547 PTE. ROSS W. 1ST

"NEWFOUNDLAND REGT. ESCAPED FROM DOCKS 15TH INST.

"aaa PLEASE TAKE NECESSARY ACTION.

COMMANDANT REST CAMP, SOUTHAMPTON,"

COPY.

10601/1

12th, October

7

J. Ross, Esq.,
District Inspector, R. I. C.
Newry.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B. E. F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

HT/NW

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

Copy of Telegram from "Usted" 12/10/17.

"O i/c Newfoundland Records

"Office 58 Victoria St SW-

"L D 5145/a 11th Oct 1917 aaa following

"absentee from BEF being sent to

"Southampton under escort tomorrow aaa

"1547 Pte W L Ross 1st Btn Newfoundland

"Regt aaa

(Sgd) "Usted-"

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
12th October 1917.

58, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1,

12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1.

Sir,

With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/8/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58 Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight enlisted
"when seventeen rush particulars cable-- Ross-"

I informed Mrs Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

H. A. Anderson

2nd Lieut.

CABLEGRAM

No. of M. 961

Line No.



Prefix.	Code	(Office of Origin and Service Instructions) Via Commercial	For Postage Stamps.
Words.	Charge. £ s. d.		C.R. 4414
		Sent At..... To..... By.....	This form will be accepted at any Post Office.

To **MILITARY** ON NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.
STJOHNS (Newfoundland)

**UNJOYOUSLY 1547 ROSS ABSENTEE FROM BEF SABLATOTE FRANCE
 ELYTROGLE**

SYNOPTICAL

Translation:-

Reference my telegram 4th October- 1547- Ross- absentee- from-
~~France~~ B.E.F.- being sent to- France- under escort-

**CONFIRMATION
 MAILED: 12/10/17**

NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED. } Having read the Conditions printed upon the back of this form, I request that the above telegram may be forwarded according to the said Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

Signature..... Address, **58 Victoria St. S.W. I.**

CABLE ADDRESSES, REGISTERED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD (OR WITH ANY COMPANY), ARE AVAILABLE OVER THE COMMERCIAL CABLES. [For List of Stations p.10.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

11th October, 1917.

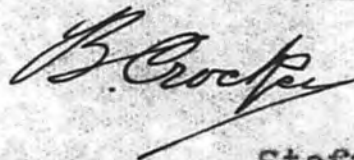
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H. A.
Anderson I attended the Old Street Police Court
on the forenoon of 11th October 1917. A charge
brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was
withdrawn. He was then taken over by the
Military authorities, and under escort taken to
Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further
proceedings will be furnished this Office by
Military Police Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Staff-Sergt.

C O P Y.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
8/10/17.

Officer i/c.,
Newfoundland Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir,-

I have heard that Pte. William Ross, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil police and will be tried on 11th. inst., but I do not know in what part of London or on what charge.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet 20 and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in September and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Joseph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regiment.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) J. Ross,
District Inspector R. I. C.

C.R.
5774

9th, October, 1917.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir, 1547, Pte. W. Ross.

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of 4th October 1917 to note proceedings against 1547, Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who was charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week, to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



Staff-Sergt.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 1917.

William Leslie Ross,
Private, Regt. No. 1547.
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave; he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him to cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table.

Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the Lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she uses to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I couldn't stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

8. Memo. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17 from D.A. & Q.M.G., London District, to C. Pmr. & O. i/c Records, Nfld Contingent.

With reference to the case of No. 1547, Private W. L. Ross, 15th Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

9. Reply No. 9991/2, 28/9/17 to above.

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A, 22/9/17: in addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St. John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

10. Memo No. 10262/1, 5/10/17 from P & R.O. to D.A. & Q.M.G., London District.

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A. of 22/9/17, and to telephone communication this date: I beg to inform you that the above-named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3/10/17. He was brought before the magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on 4/10/17, charged with desertion. He was remanded in custody for a week. Officer Commanding, 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F., from which Unit Ross deserted on the 20/8/17, has been informed, and the Garrison Sergt.-Major has been notified, please.

11. Telegram No. 234, 3/10/17 from P & R.O. to O.C. 1st Bn.

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended London telegraph instructions.

12. Memo 2/10/17 (5697) from O.C. 1st BN. to P & R.O.

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th, 1917.

13. Telegram No. 236, 9/10/17, from P & R. O. to O.C. 1ST BN.

Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instruction asked aaa now in Civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Private & Confidential

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

CABLES AND TELEGRAMS:
"SYNOPTICAL,"
LONDON.

TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 147.

PAY & RECORD OFFICE,

58, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/c RECORDS.
AND THE FOLLOWING NO. QUOTED:

28th September, 1917.9990/41
ack

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

1136

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9,

30/8/17:

"Military, St. John's.

". Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since-

"August 20- 1547- Ross- full stop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29/8/17: this man being
still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of
the following documents relating to his case:

A.F. B.124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under confidential cover in
view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's
report.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R.A. Dimmond

Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HT/NW

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
28th August, 1917.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent.

Sir: Regarding 1547, Private W.L. Ross,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.



I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27/8/17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical. London.

"28 aaa 1547 Pte W Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries
"O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it at about 11 a.m., after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802, L.Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8.0.0 drawn in favour of 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21/8/17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him there that he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25/8/17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27/8/17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his great-coat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement I ordered 1529, Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his great-coat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed me that Ross had escaped (Vide Crocker's report). A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28/8/17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27/8/17, and bearing a "London, E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27/8/17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time. Thanks to a good friend and I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.Ps. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Haddow I would not have deserted. I done two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that the Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well Sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

"Yours truly,
(Sgd) "W.L. Ross."

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H.A. deacon Jr

Copy.

58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. I,
27th August 1917.

Major H.A. Timewell,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. I.



Sir:

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547, Pte. W. Ross. I left 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria ~~for Victoria~~ Station, where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground Railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return at a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by these people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass, but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the Office. In returning to the Office, Ross intentionally missed two 'Buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the Office door, 58 Victoria St. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in, and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the Office and telephoned to 965, Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police; giving a description in both cases.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) B. Crocker, S.Sgt.

790

No. 1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Extract of telegram received from Pay & Record Office. *Dated Aug 30*

"Absentee from 1st. Battalion since August 20th.

REPORT

OF

A DESERTER

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE
from the 1st Newfoundland Regt.,
British Expeditionary Force.

Dated at _____

this _____ Day of 28/8/17. 19

Army Form B. 124.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From

Regt.

London, S.W.

*Signature of Commanding
Officer*



1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F. (Unit)

REPORT OF A DESERTER or Absentee without leave from the above Unit
 since 20/8/17 Dated at London this 28th day of
August 19 17.

Number, Rank and Name...	1547, Pte. Wm. L. Ross		
Age <u>21</u> years <u>4</u> months	Trade.....	Clerk	
Height..... { Feet <u>5</u> Inches <u>8</u>	Colour of... {	Complexion ...	Fair
		Hair.....	Brown
		Eyes.....	Blue
Date and Place of Enlistment	St. John's, Newfoundland, April 29th, 1915.		
Parish and County in which Born*.....	Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.		
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....	B. E. F. 20/8/17		
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)	He appears to be taller now than 5 ft. 8in. - possibly 5 ft. 9" or 10".		
See Note	Under three years service.		
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)			

Signature of Commanding Officer _____

* The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.

|| If the soldier deserted or absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).

† The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, or absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is, however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

C.R. 1547

Extract from Nominal Roll Embarked St. John's for Overseas,
per S.S. "Chapman" "Calgarion" June, 19. 1916. "p"

1547 Pre. Ross W.

Regimental Colours Sheet
made up & sent to Mr
29-1-19.

W.B.



N. F. A. 2.

Depot 1547

THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

January 4th. 1919

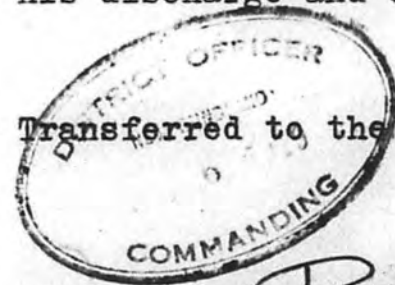
From- Officer Commanding Discharge Depot
To - District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

I547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

Reference your communication of the 2nd. inst. concerning the discharge with ignominy of the above-named soldier, I beg to report that his discharge was duly carried out this a.m. after promulgation on parade.

His parents have been notified of his discharge and of his leaving for Harbour Grace to-night.

Will his Court-Martial papers be transferred to the Paymaster for filing with his Discharge papers please?



R.H. Jait

Captain
Officer Commanding
Discharge Depot-Newfoundland

X

obsepor X. Yes. Answered by

Squadron, Troop, Battery and Company Conduct Sheet.

Army Form B. 121.

FIELD CONDUCT SHEET.

Forms
B 121.
39.

C O P Y.

Number of Sheet _____

Regiment of FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND

Signature of O. C. Company (sgd) J.H. Walker

Lieut.

Regimental Number and Name		Enlistment (19 official)		Trade		Good Conduct Badges, Service pay or proficiency pay	
No.		Age on	18 years	2 months	Clerk	Newfoundland Contingent 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 18th January 1918. Pay and Record Office.	
1547, Ross, Wm. Leslie		Place and Date of Enlistment		Religion			
Joined	Date	Period of		C. of E.			
Joined	Date			Place of Birth			
Joined	Date	with Colours		Hr Grace, Nfld.			
Joined	Date	with Reserve					

Place	Date of Offence	Rank	Cases of Drunkenness	OFFENCE	Name of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Date of award or of order dispensing with trial	By whom awarded	REMARKS
								(countersigned by) H. Knox-Niven (Lieut. Colonel) (President)	
ROUEN,	29/5/16,	Pte.		On active Service :- Smoking on Fatigue Parade	Sgt. Mansell,	Two days C.C.	30/5/16,	Lieut. J.H. Walker (sgd)	J.H.W. Lieut.
FIELD,	12/7/16,	"		Deficient of Cap Badge	Capt. Butler	Pay 1/-	13/7/16	Lt. Col. Hadow	" B. Butler Capt.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

To be carried over.

Army Form B. 121.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S Jan. 2, 1919.
NEWFOUNDLAND

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot,
City.

1647 Pte. W.L. Ross.

I enclose communication from His Excellency The Governor and Commander in Chief dealing with the case of the above named soldier, from which you will note that he directs that this man be discharged from the service with ignominy.

Will you please arrange to have this instruction carried out in accordance with Kings Regulations & Orders of the Army Act and advise me in due course when this has been promulgated.

Private Ross will not be entitled to any of the allowances usually payable to soldiers on discharge. He should however, be provided with a civilian outfit and his uniform returned to Government Stores.

A. J. G. G. G.
Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

31st December, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated December 30th, 1918, concerning No. 1547, Private W. L. Ross, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that he approves of your suggestion that Private Ross shall be discharged with ignominy.

His Excellency, being a Competent Military Authority under the Warrant granted by His Majesty the King, therefore directs that:-

No. 1547 Private W.L.Ross
be discharged with ignominy.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Lieut. Col.
Private Secretary.

District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia,
St. John's.

January 4th. 1919

From- Officer Commanding Discharge Depot

To - District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

I547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

Reference your communication of the 2nd. inst. concerning the discharge with ignominy of the above-named soldier, I beg to report that his discharge was duly carried out this a.m. after promulgation on parade.

His parents have been notified of his discharge and of his leaving for Harbour Grace to-night.

Will his Court-Martial papers be Transferred to the Paymaster for filing with his Discharge papers?

December 6th/18

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.
To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Dept,

1547.Pte W.L.Ross

I wish to bring before you for consideration the case of the above mentioned soldier who is at present in detention at barracks by sentence of District Court Martial, and to know if arrangements are being made for his disposal. He was sentenced to detention for two years, less 9 months, from 23rd October, 1918, sentence to be carried out with his unit overseas and he was detained here at the Depot pending his proceeding overseas with the first available draft.

I wish to point out that the present Guard Room is not suitable any longer for proper custody of such a ~~prisoner~~ prisoner and that his present position carries with it very little in the way of punishment.

Early this morning, about 4 a.m., he was found with one escort, to all appearances making an attempt to obtain entrance to the Canteen. As the Depot is now a Discharge Depot and busy with Demobilization of the men Private Ross's lot is not a very hard one.

Captain,
O.C. Depot.

TJW

Polking Issue

May 1st / 18.

2 pr drawers
2 Undershirts
2 Towels.

June 10th.

1 Pr Boots
1 cap

Sept 13

1 Pr Trowsers.

W. L. Lewis
R. Q. M. S.

~~NR 5/18~~

↓



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

Nov 5 1918

To Cap Robertson:—

Sir:—

Attached list of clothing
that Pte Ross received within
the last eight months

I am Sir
Yours Obedient Servant
RMS Pender

October 26th. 1928

From Officer Commanding Depot
To District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland.

-c I547 Pte. W.L.Ross

I enclose herewith proceedings of District Court Martial in connection with the above-named soldier.

The sentence was duly promulgated this date, and the necessary extracts taken for Part II Orders.

Captain,
O.C.D Depot.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

October 26, 1918.

From:- District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot,
City.

#1547 Pte. W.L. ROSS.
District Court-Martial.

I enclose proceedings of District Court-Martial held at the Barracks, Fort William on 23rd inst., duly confirmed by the Convening Officer, His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

You will notice that in confirming the proceedings of the court His Excellency orders nine months of the sentence remitted and commutes the remainder of the sentence to detention in Military Custody with the prisoner's Unit on Active Service.

You will please arrange for promulgation of proceedings in accordance with King's Regulations and Orders, returning all papers when this has been done. You will further arrange to see that the sentence is carried out and arrange for the detention of the prisoner until an opportunity presents itself for forwarding him to his unit on Active Service.

Montgomery

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

Original sentence

2 years imprisonment, without hard labor

Confirmed by Administrator. - 9 months remitted, remainder sentence commuted to detention in Military Custody with unit on Active Service.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

October 18, 1918.

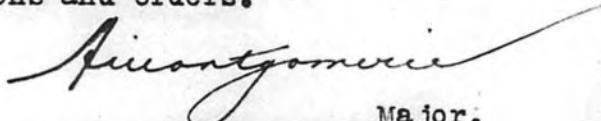
From:- District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot.
City.

#1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

I enclose District Order #13 covering the convening of District Court-Martial for the purpose of trying the accused person named above.

Will you notify the personnel of the Court-Martial and arrange all necessary preliminaries in accordance with the Army Act and Kings Regulations and Orders.


Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

October 14th, 1918.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.
Militia Department.

Sir ; 1547.PTE WILLIAM ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec 45 (1) I have to report the necessity for keeping this soldier in detention for safe-keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

RHT/JGO.

I have the honour to be,

Sir; 1

Your obedient servant.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

September 1st, 18

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Above named soldier was discharged from M.I.D.Hospital on the
27th September. He is now in detention at Depot awaiting trial by
Court Martial.

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

RHT/TJW

October 7th, 1918.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.
Department of Militia.

SIR : 1547 Pte W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec 45 (1). I have to report the necessity for keeping this soldier in detention for safe-keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

RHT/JGO.

Sir :

Your obedient servant.

October 1st/18

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

SIR:

1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application was made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

RHT/TJB

August 17th/18

To District Officer Commanding,
Militia Department.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

1547, Pte W.L.ROSS.

I enclose certificate from Medical Officer, M.I.D. Hospital concerning abovementioned man. I would ask, therefore, that his trial by D.C.M. be postponed again to a later date.

Captain,

O.C. Depot.

ENC:

August 15th

8

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Dept.

From O. C.,
Depot.

I enclose, herewith, a report from the Acting
Medical Officer to the effect that #1547, Pte W.L. Ross, is unfit
to undergo trial by D.C.M. today. I would ask, therefore, that
his trial be postponed until a later date.

Captain.

O.C. Depot.

ENCLOSURE:

July 9/1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C, Sec. 45 (1), I have
to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try
his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

July 16/1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have
to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try
his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

July 25/1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have
to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try
his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Aug 3^{is}
~~July 30~~ / 1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have
to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try
his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

August 9th 1918

From Officer Commanding,
Depot

To D.O.C. Newfoundland,
Militia Department

SIR:

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have
to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try
his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

July 2nd
JUNE 28th, 1918.

From Officer Commanding, Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547.PTE.W.L.ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;

Your obedient servant.

JUNE 7th. 1918

From Officer Commanding, Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir;

NO 1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;-

Your obedient servant.

May 1st 1918

From Officer Commanding Depot,
To District Officer Commanding NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,- No.1547 Pte.W.L.Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for
same on March 16th 1918.

Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A.
Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of
keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping
pending the convening of Court Martial to try his
case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

May 19th

8

From O.C. DEPOT:

To D.O.C. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,-

No. 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convention of the Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MAJOR

Officer Commanding Depot

May 24th 1918

From Officer Commanding Depot,
To District Officer Commanding Newfoundland.

Sir,-

NO.1547 PTE.W.L.ROSS

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of CourtMartial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

April 9th.

8.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant,

May 8th 1918

From Officer Commanding DEPOC,
To District Officer Commanding NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,-

No.1547 Pte.W.L.Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for
same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions
laid down in A.C. Sec.45 (1), I have to report
the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court
Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

APRIL 1st. 1918.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

April 24th

8

From Officer Commanding
DEPOT.

To District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland.

Sir,-

No.1547 Pte.W.L.ROSS:

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for same
on March 16th past.

Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A.
Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of
keeping this soldier in detention for safekeeping
pending the convening of Court Martial to try his
case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

April 16th

8

From O.C.DEPOT,
To D.O.C. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,-

Private W.L.Ross No.1547

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A.Sec.45 (1) I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case. For your information I may state that I have ordered this man's removal from the Military Infectious Hospital to private boarding house at 93 Long's Hill, where he is at all times under escort and charge of the R.P.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

APRIL 1st. 1918.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

MAY 31st.1918.

From Officer Commanding, Depot.
To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir;-

NO.1547. Pte. W.L.ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for Trial by General Court
Martial and application made for same on March 16th.1918.
Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C.Sec.45 (1), I have to
report the necessity of keeping this seldier in detention for
safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;

Your obedient servant,

JUNE 21st, 1918.

From Officer Commanding, Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir;-

#1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and applications made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec, 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;-

Your obedient servant.

JUNE 14th, 1918.

From Officer Commanding, Depot.

To District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547. Pte. W. L. ROSS.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and applications made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec, 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir:-

Your obedient servant.

February 18th. 8.

Major A. Montgomerie,
District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st. Battalion

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I have the honour to report that on February 13th. 1918 Capt. J.J. O'Grady arrived from England having in custody as a prisoner the above named soldier charged with being an absentee without leave from his Battalion on Active Service.

He was confined in the Guard Room at the Armoury, Depot, St. John's at 1.p.m. on February 13th. 1918.

Owing to the absence of material documents I ordered the prisoner remanded.

The prisoner was brought before me on February 14, 15, 16, 18 and further remanded. The prisoner was seen by the Medical Officer at the Depot each day while in confinement.

On February 18th. 1918 the Medical Officer ordered the prisoner to be removed to the Hospital for observation.

He was removed to the Military Infectious Hospital, Military Road, at 4.p.m. on February 18th. 1918 under escort.

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your obedient Servant,

April 4th.1918.

From Sergt.i/c Military Infectious Hospital.

To O.C.

Depot.

Sir;-

With reference to your enquiry concerning Pte.Ross This man as far as I could learn asked his father for a pair of boots when he was over, but I afterwards learned he had written for them, because in his own estimation they were not classy enough for him to be going around town with. The pair he had on was a pair of English make boots, but there were nothing the matter with them, and he gave them to Sergt.Vanhan when he bought the new pair. As regards the socks, he had a pair come from home, but they were in a parcel with cigarettes and cake, as far as I can learn he never asked for them. The money he receives from home, he buys cigarettes with. He has no cause to complain about underwear, because he has two suits and according as he changes the dirty clothes are sent to the Laundry. He has not complained of anything except a headache while he's been here, and that was only once, I gave him Aspirin Gr.V. There has been no complaint regarding food or treatment, except that he is not allowed out in the nights. I will endeavour to see all the letters he will write home from this date, to see if there are any more complaints.

I have the honour to be,

Sir;

Your obedient servant.

Sgt.i/c.M.I.D.Hospital.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

April 4th, 1918.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot.
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Headquarters.

#1547 Pte. W.L.Ross.

I enclose communication from Mr.
Joseph Ross with reference to his son, Pte.
W.L.Ross.

I shall be glad to have your ex-
planation as to why such letters are permit-
ted to be sent from a prisoner in confine-
ment.

I shall also require full explanat-
ion with regard to matters mentioned in said
letter.

W. Montgomery

Major.

District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURE.

WINNINGSVILLE
LINEN BOND

April 6th. 1918.

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,

1547 Private W.L. Ross.

I connection with above noted man I enclose report received from Sergeant i/c Military Hospital where Ross is at present held for safe keeping. From same it appears that so far as is known no complaints were made by him that can be justified in fact.

Regarding clothes, this man was issued on February 16th. 1918 with 1 Suit Underwear, 1 Pr. Socks, 1 Top Shirt, and stated at that time he did not require anything further.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant,

WINNINGSVILLE

Feb 18. 1919

From S.M.O Report

To O.C.

I am of opinion that it would
be advisable to remove ^{Plt} J. Ross
to the Military Hospital for the
purpose of medical observation.

L Peterson
Major & C.M.D.

CHARGE.

Army Form B. 252.
(See King's Regulations.)

1st Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No. 1547, pte. Ross, W.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of Witnesses.	Punishment Awarded	By whom Awarded.
London	5.1.18	When on Active Service Absent till approached by the M.F.P. at Kings Cross, London, N. about 8.30 pm. on the 5.1.18.	Sergt E. S. Denny O-Sergt.	Remanded for further evidence	Geo. J. Carthy Majr 14 th

.....Company,
1st Newfoundland Regiment

CHARGE.

Army Form B. 252.
(See King's Regulations.)

1st Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No. 1547 Pte. ROSS, W.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of Witnesses.	Punishment Awarded	By whom Awarded.
London.	5-1-18.	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at Kings Cross, London, North, About 8.30 P.M. on the 5-1-18.	Documentary Evidence, Sgt. Hennebury, E.S. Ord.Sgt.	<u>Remanded</u>	Geoff. J. Coates Major July 15

.....Company,
1st Newfoundland Regiment

CHARGE.

Army Form B. 252.
(See King's Regulations.)

1st Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No. 1547 Pte. ROSS, W.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence.	Names of Witnesses.	Punishment Awarded	By whom Awarded.
London.	5-1-18.	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at Kings Cross, London, North, About 8.30 P.M. on the 5-1-18.	Documentary Evidence. Sgt. Hennebury, K.S. Ord.Sgt.	<i>Remanded</i>	<i>L. J. Carby Major July 16th 1918</i>

.....Company,
1st Newfoundland Regiment

FEBRUARY 13th.

B.

From Adjutant,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Dept. of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Pte. W. I. Ross.

I enclose herewith documents with connection with the above mentioned soldier, which have been given me by Capt. O'Grady for transmission to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,

April 15th., 1918.

From:- D. M. S.

To:- D. O. C.

1547. Pte. Ross, W. L.

I understand that Major Paterson, O. C.,
Military Infectious Disease Hospital, has furnished
you with certificate with regard to the health of
the marginally noted man, who is there under arrest.

A case of Measles is arriving by to-day's train.
Under these circumstances will you kindly arrange to
have him removed early this afternoon?

Cluny Macpherson

Major, D. M. S.

Of Dept.

For your attention please



October 30th/18

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To D.O.C., Newfoundland,
Militia Department.

1547, Pte W.L. ROSS

Will you kindly let me have the original
Conduct Sheets of the above named soldier which
are included with his Court Martial papers sent
back to you after promulgation? I shall send
down a Certified True Copies for filing with his
C.M. Papers. The original copy is required for
his file at the Barracks.

Captain,

O. C. Depot.

RHT/TJW

Reg. No. 1547 Rank Pvt. Name Ross, W. S. 1547

Attested _____ Address Hauler Grace.

Allotment _____ Allottee _____

Date of Allotment _____ Returned from Overseas 13-2-18

Embarked for Overseas _____ Cause _____

18.2.18: adm. M. S. H. for Medical Observations.

Admitted to M. S. S. Hosp.

27.9.18 Discharged from " "

Discharged from Regimental Strength
with temporary effect from 4.11.18
Authority R. G. & L. para. 394. Sub-section
(iii)

O. H. M. S.

CONFIDENTIAL

Correspondence

RE. 1547 PTE ROSS W.L.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA,
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

PAYMASTER & OFFICER ⁶¹ MEMORANDUM.

From

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

53, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

ENGLAND.

From

To Officer Commanding,

1/1st. Newfoundland Regt.

B.E.F.

To

ANSWER.

13th, October 1917.1911547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.

I confirm my telegrams as follows,-

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France

"234, 3/10/17, 26 AAA 1547 Pte

"W. Ross deserter apprehended

"London telegraph instructions.
Synoptical."

"236, 9/10/17

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Reference your memorandum
"second as telegraphed you third

"instant 1547 Ross apprehended

"London and your instructions

"asked AAA now in civil custody

"remanded until Thursday eleventh.
Synoptical."

(to which no reply has been received
to this date) and enclose

(1) Copy of the report made by
2/Lieut. H.A. Anderson, together
with Ross' statement referred
to therein,

(2) Copy of a telegram from
"Used" (i.e., H.Q. London Dist)

over

received here 12/10/17,
(3) Copy of letter from
District Inspector Ross of
the Royal Irish Constabulary,
with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

W. J. Munnell
Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

58, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1,

12th October, 1917.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson.

To: Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W. 1.

Sir: With regard to 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

On the 3/10/17 85116 Sergt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police Force reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sergt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since 20/9/17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4/10/17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9/8/17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58 Victoria Street and informed me that she was aware that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme youthfulness and she went so far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On the 10/10/17 this lady again came to the Office, when she handed me the following telegram:

"Kathleen Mills- London.

"Born January seventeenth ninety eight, enlisted
"when seventeen rush particulars cable-- Ross--"

I informed Mrs Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sergt. Saunders on the 4/10/17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergt.-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11/10/17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of 11/10/17 the Garrison Sergt.-Major rang up to say that Ross would be shortly sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12/10/17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report, may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



2nd Lieut.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 7.

William Leslie Ross,
Private. Regt. No. 1547.
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name.. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table.

Reubens asked me why I did'nt change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the Lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she use to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could'nt stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

Copy of Telegram from "Usted" 12/10/17.

"O i/c Newfoundland Records

"Office 58 Victoria St SW-

"L D 5145/a 11th Oct 1917 aaa following

"absentee from BEF being sent to

"Southampton under escort tomorrow aaa

"1547 Pte W L Ross 1st Btn Newfoundland

"Regt aaa

(Sgd) "Usted-"

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
12th October 1917.

C O P Y.

District Inspector's Office,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Newry, Co. Down, Ireland.
8/10/17.

Officer-i/c.,
Newfoundland Pay & Record Office,
London.

Sir,-

I have heard that Pte. William Ross, 1st. Newfoundland Regiment has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil police and will be tried on 11th. inst., but I do not know in what part of London or on what charge.

This boy is a nephew of mine. He is not yet 20 and has been nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in September and left to go back to the front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Joseph Ross, Harbor Grace, Newfoundland.

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regiment.

I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) J. Ross,
District Inspector R. I. C.

C.R.
5774

9th, October, 1917.

COPY.

10601/1

12th, October

7

J. Ross, Esq.,
District Inspector, R. I. C.
- Newry.

Sir,

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to your letter 8/10/17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B. E. F. as from 20/8/17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with.

Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to H.Q., St. John's, Newfoundland, and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

HT/NW

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

"O" FORM.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>SM</i> Code <i>CYRM</i> Words <i>32</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to Collect	From <i>Z.H.H.</i>	At.....m.	<i>NFL</i> <i>18/10/17</i>
Service Instructions	By <i>Stark</i>	To.....m.	
<i>O.B.R.S. LONDON. SW.</i>		By.....	

Handed in at.....Office.....m. Received *7.35* am.

TO *COMMANDING*
NFLD REGT
FRANCE

* Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
--------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

<i>Following</i>	<i>telegram</i>		
<i>received</i>	<i>today</i>		
<i>begins</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>1547</i>	
<i>ptl ROSS. W.</i>	<i>1st</i>		
<i>NFLD REGT</i>	<i>Escaped</i>		
<i>from Docks</i>	<i>15th inst</i>		
<i>aaa please take</i>	<i>Necessary action</i>		
<i>Cond't Rest Camp</i>	<i>Southampton.</i>		

FROM	<i>SYMNOPTICAL</i>
PLACE & TIME	

"O" FORM.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix *AM* Code *AK* Words *21* Received. Sent, or sent out. Office Stamp.

Charges to Collect From *FHM* At.....m. *NFL*

Service Instructions To.....m. *18/10/17*

Handed in at *OBC's London* Office.....m. Received *11/10/17*

TO *Commanding NFL's Regt.
France*

* Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. **AAA**

*Ref your memo 14/10/17
1547 Ross embarked.
Rouhampton 16/10/17
under escort and a
Document posted you
13/10/17*

FROM *SYNOPTICAL*
PLACE & TIME

To O.C.

1st N. F. R. D.

Please note that on the morning of the 20 August 1917 I examined Pte W. Ross (1527). He had on the previous hour of the trenches gone absent for some cause or other but had not reported to me.

On his return to the battalion he produced the attached documents. The statement which he signed did not appear to me to be at all trustworthy as at the time of the alleged shell fire he was quite close to both and A.P. 5 and the Regimental A.P. he appeared for examination afterwards. I examined his wrist for a time and there was a regional wound there. I ordered it to be dressed and gave him orders that that evening he was to proceed with his company to the trenches.

When the battalion was preparing to move of it was found that Pte Ross had absented himself

6/9/17

John W. Tucker Capt
1st N. F. R. D.

To o/c... *1st... Hospital...*

The ^{MAN} u/m has this day been discharged from
XIVth C.R.S. and is recommended three days Light
Duty please.

No. 1547. 1st Lt. W.

*Report of wound Field Amb. with report
from O.C. into how to be made.*

R. Wallace

Captain. R.A.M.C.
88th. Field Ambulance.

88th FIELD AMBULANCE, R. A. M. C. (T.)
No. <i>198/17</i>
Date.....

Statement of
1547 Phö W. Ras.

On the night of the 14.8.17
about 5 p.m. I left Bley
lines near PALISSADE FARNI
to go and cook at a block
House about 200 yds to
the left of our lines and
on the way over I heard a
shell coming and made
a rush for cover and
fell in a dump containing
broken up rum jars and
tins. I don't remember
anything else until I
woke up in an ambulance
on the way to Main Dressing
Station at Canada Farm

where I reported to M.O.
and had my wound
dressed, which was a cut
in the left wrist by glass.
I asked if I could get
back to Batt, he said
no, and that I was not
fit to go back and he
sent me to XIV C. R. S.
where I remained until
discharged on the 18. 8. 17
when I reported to St. Peter's
ofc details.

1547 William L. Ross.

19. 8. 17

Witness to Signature
As Strong Lt

Report re No. 1547 Pte Ross. W.

About 7 pm. on the 14th of August
1547 Pte Ross. W. was reported to
be absent from his section, by
his section Commander. 1256. Cp. Somerton

When last seen he was not
injured in any way, & was on
no special Duty.

I reported him
absent to my Company commander
before moving up to Tuff's Farm.

R.A. Postlethwaite 2nd Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regt

REPORT ON WOUNDS OR OTHER INJURIES RECEIVED OTHERWISE THAN IN ACTION.

114
Gen. No.
4269

Certificate of Medical Officer.

No. 1847 Ste Ross W. 1 N.F.L.D.

was admitted to hospital on the 14-8-17 suffering

from Injury to L. wrist (cut by glass)

The disability is of a † trivial nature, and in all probability

† Here insert "trivial" or "serious."

† Here insert "will" or "will not."

† Here insert "claims" or "does not claim."

† will not interfere with his future efficiency as a soldier.

* He blames that he was in the performance of military duty at the time of the accident.

(If the soldier makes no claim that he was on duty at the time, the certificate below should be signed by him.)

Station In the Field W. Hells Bay Capt Rankin

Date 14-8-17 Medical Officer in Charge.

Certificate to be signed by Soldier.

I, _____ hereby declare that the injury sustained by me on the _____ did not occur while I was in the performance of military duty.

Station _____

Date _____

{ Soldier's
Signature.
Signature
of Medical
Officer.

Certificate of Commanding Officer.

(This certificate will be completed only in cases of trivial injury where the soldier claims to have been injured while on duty.)

I certify that the injury to the above-named soldier † _____ while he was in the performance of military duty.

† Here insert "occurred" or "did not occur."

† If on duty, state—
(a) The date of the injury.
(b) The place where it occurred.
(c) The nature of the duty.
(d) Whether the soldier was in any way to blame.

The soldier has been so informed.

Station _____

Date _____ Commanding _____

This Army Form will be attached to the Medical History Sheet, on which it will be recorded whether the soldier was on duty, and whether he was to blame.

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).
No. of Message _____

Prefix <u>S.M.</u> Code <u>F.H.X.</u> m.	Words <u>31</u>	Charge	This message is on a/c of: Service.	Recd. at..... m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions. <u>SW DIV Office</u> <u>OBGS</u>	Sent			Date.....
	At..... m.		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	From.....
	To.....			By.....
	By.....			

TO { Commanding NFLD FRANCE

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

Reference your memo second as telegraphed you third inst 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instructions ask AAA now in Civil Court and remained until Thursday eleventh

From

Place

Time

Synoptical

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.

III

A. A. & Q. M. G.,
29th DIVISION.

No. 2022/12.

Date. 10/11/12.

10. Mr. S. S. Duff.

The accused should be sent to
this country to be tried.

In accordance with
"Amendments of the Army
Act, Army (Amendment) Act,
1914", a certificate signed
by the constable, A. S. M.,
or other officer, or by the
commanding officer of the
portion of His Majesty's Forces
to whom the surrender or
by whom the arrest was
made, stating the fact, date,
place of such surrender
or arrest shall be evidence
of the matters so stated.

These necessary documents
should therefore be sent out
with the accused & to save
the necessity of witnesses
coming out from England

J. P. Smith Captain
D.A.C. 29 Division

9th Oct 1917.

HEADQUARTERS,
88th INFANTRY BDE.

No. a/115/3
Date.....

O. O.

1st Newfld.

For information
and necessary action
please.

a/10/14

Thos Hony Capt.
Staff Cap.
88th Inf. Bde.

MEMORANDUM.

From

O. Jc N^o. 1 Infantry Section
S. H. Q. 3rd Echelon

To

O. Jc.
1/ Newfoundland
Regt.

Date 14. 1. 1918.

Please forward by return
of post A.F. B 122 of N^o. 1547 Sbc William
Ross which is urgently required for
transmission to Home Records

Sacramento

MAJOR

~~0348~~ Infantry Section
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon

Temporary sheet
sent 20/1/18
original not being
available according
to note on temp
sheet

W. H. G. 3rd Echelon

88th Bde.

Re 15-47 Pte W. Ross reported
as a deserter from Aug. 20th.

I have received a telegram from
our Pay & Record Office in London
stating that Pte Ross has been
arrested in London & asking
for instructions -

Please inform me as to procedure.

I presume the man must be
tried and held on account of
the witnesses.

4.10.17

A. L. Adcock

.....
LIEUT. COL.
COMMS. 1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

HEADQUARTERS, 88 th INFANTRY BDE.	
No.	A. 115/3
Date.	5-10-17

#

HEADQUARTERS, 88th INFANTRY BDE.	
No.....
Date.....

A. A. & Q. M. G.. 29th DIVISION.	
No. 2022/12.
Date 6.10.17.

88th Brigade No. A/115/3.

Headquarters,
29th Division "A".

Reference attached.

As this is the first case of its kind, will you
please issue me with necessary instructions ?

*cc. See an full instructions
regarding disposal of documents
arrested at home. I think they
are handed over to A.S. H. H. H.
out with properly taken
statements of witnesses
5.10.17.*

Elson Brigadier General,
Commanding, 88th Infantry Brigade.

*Set up
500 Papers were sent to XIV Corps 8/2/17. no copy kept.*

[Copy]

Pay & Record Office
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re no. 1547 Pte. W. Ross
now under arrest in London - Please take the
necessary steps to have him sent back to me
for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions
re preventing his escape en route.

The following documents should be sent
with him -

(a) A certificate signed by the constable, H.P.M.
or other officer or by whom the arrest was made,
stating the fact, date & place of such surrender
or arrest -

(b) The letter which he is said to have written to
the Pay & Record Office after his escape

Please inform me as soon as he is despatched
and by what route.

14-10-17

Signed A. J. Hadrow

LIEUT. COL.
COMDG. 1st. NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

573/14/C

Forms
C. 348
388

MEMORANDUM.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c
Newfoundland Contingent,
From 58, Victoria Street
S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland R.
B. E. F.

From

To

ANSWER.

HT/NW

Pay & Record Office,

12th January, 1918.

191

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named Soldier: Ross has now been apprehended and is in custody pending transport to H.Q., St. John's, for trial. This arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., London District, at my request and with the entire support of Lord Morris, please.

A. C. Muswell Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

No. 10888/184

MEMORANDUM.

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
From Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.

From

To

HT/NW

ANSWER.

Pay & Record Office,

19th October, 1917.

191

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

Telegrams confirmed, please:

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 257.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Reference your memorandum
"14/10/17 1547 Ross embarked
"Southampton 16/10/17 under
"escort aaa documents posted
"you 13/10/17.

Synoptical."

Despatched 18/10/17, No. 259.
"Commanding Newfoundland Regt.
France.

"Following telegram received
"today begins number 1547 Pte.
"Ross W. 1st Newfoundland Regt.
"escaped from Docks 15th inst.
"aaa please take necessary
"action Commandant Rest Camp
"Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities
were particularly advised to keep
Ross under strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of
telegram reporting his escape, the
Garrison Sergeant Major, Great
Scotland Yard, was notified
accordingly.

A. J. Simms
Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

To Pay of Record Office
Newfoundland Reg't.

Re. 1547 Pte. W. Ross.

The following is a copy of letter
received from General Superintendent,
Midland Railway, Derby

" To Officer Commanding
1st Bn., Newfoundland Reg't.
etc etc.

Dear Sir
Sergt. W. Ross 1547

This man presented himself at our
Derby Station on Dec. 21st and stated
that he had lost the return half of his
France to Derby free ticket.

In accordance with the instructions
a fresh ticket was issued to him without
charge from Derby to St. Pancras,
and I shall be glad to know if you
can confirm that a free ticket was
issued to him from France to Derby
and back

Yours faithfully
for General Superintendent

^{could}
Ross is evidently masquerading as a
sergeant, and I shall be glad if
you will communicate this to the
Military Police authorities, as Ross
may still be at large in London.

11/1/18.

Woodhouse

3/1/18.

To General Superintendent
Midland Railway
Derby.

Ref. your I. $\frac{4/46}{9667}$ of 3rd inst —
The man who describes himself
as Sergt. W. Ross, 1547, of this Regt.
is a private of the said name
and number and has been an
absentee for some five months.

No free ticket was issued to
him from France to Derby and
back by any authority of this
Regiment.

10/1/18

H. Woodhouse

COMME. 1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.

LIEUT. COL.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

TELEGRAMS:
"PASSENGER,
DERBY."

25.
MIDLAND RAILWAY,

I.4/46
9667

DERBY.

TELEPHONE 1100.

3rd January, 1918.

Dear Sir,

Sergt. W. Ross, 1547.

This man presented himself at our Derby Station on December 29th, and stated that he had lost the return half of his France to Derby free ticket.

In accordance with the instructions a fresh ticket was issued to him without charge, from Derby to St. Pancras, and I shall be glad to know if you can confirm that ~~the~~ free ticket was issued to him from France to Derby and back.

Yours faithfully,
for General Superintendent,

Officer Commanding,
~~1st~~ 15th Battn., 29th Division,
Newfoundland Regiment,
B. E. F.,
FRANCE.



October 17th, 1918.

DISTRICT ORDERS.

By Major A. Montgomerie,

District Officer Commanding,

#13.

1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS.
ROYAL Nfld. REGIMENT.

In accordance with orders by Sir Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G. C.B. C.B.O. Governor and Commander in Chief in Newfoundland, issued by virtue of a warrant from His Majesty the King authorizing the convening of Court Martials in Newfoundland and having reference to District Orders No 7 Of August 10th, 1918, No 8 of August 15th/18, and No 9 of August 20th/18,

The detail of Officers as mentioned below will assemble at the Officers Room at the Barracks Fort William, at 10.30.am, on the 23rd day of October 1918 for the purpose of trying By District Court Martial the accused person named in the margin.

In the opinion of the convening officer, Officers of different corps are not, having regard to the public service, available.

PRESIDENT.	Lieut. Col. H.W. Knox-Kniven.			
MEMBERS.	Capt. J. Clift, MC. Royal Nfld. Regt.			
	Lieut. C.B. Dicks	"	"	
Waiting Members.	Capt. G.G. Byrne, MC	"	"	"
	Capt. S. Robertson.	"	"	"
Judge Advocate.	John Fenelon Esq, is appointed Judge Advocate.			

The accused will be warned and all witnesses required to attend.

The proceedings will be forwarded to the D.O.C. for furtherance to the convening Officer His Excellency the Governor.

MAJOR.

DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

August 10, 1918.

To:- Officer Commanding Depot,
City.

1547
Pte W. L. Ross

Referring to your application for Court Martial dated March 16th, I have the honour to enclose District Orders No. 7, covering Orders from His Excellency the Governor, ordering that a District Court Martial be convened for the trial of the above case.

Will you see that the necessary proceedings are taken as required by the ^{Army} Orders Act, Kings Regulations and Orders, Rules of Procedure.

W. J. Montgomery
Major.

District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte. Ross, William L.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
London Section 15(1a)	5-1-18	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 pm on the 5-1-18.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. SERGT. W.S. HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT.	Remanded for Court Martial	Geo. T. Coffey Major March 15th 2 1918

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte W. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
France	20-8-17	When on Active Service in France deserting from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London, England.		Remanded for Court Martial	
Section 12 (1a)			DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.		Geo. T. Carty Major March 15th 1918

.....Company,
The Royal Nfid. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

1547, Pte W.L. Ross

CHARGE against No

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
Southampton, England	15-10-17	When proceeding overseas under escort from London to join 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment in France, escaping from Transport at Southampton, England, on 15-10-18 until he surrendered to G.M.P. at London on 5-1-18	Documentary Evidence	Remanded for Court-Martial	Geo. T. Carw Major March 15th 1918
Sec 22					

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

Medical Officer's Report

I certify that No. 1547 Pte W. L. Ross.
of Nfld. Regt. is in a good state of health,
and fit to undergo Imprisonment with or
without hard labour; and that his present appearance and
previous medical history both justify the belief, that
hard labour employment will neither be likely to origi-
nate nor to reproduce disease of any description.


.....
Medical Officer.

Station Headquarters Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Date March 16th., 1918.

SUMMARY of EVIDENCE

In the case of No.1547 Pte Ross, William L., of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, taken at the Naval and Military Hospital, Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, the ~~FIFTEENTH~~ DAY OF MARCH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN by

MAJOR G.T.CARTY,
COMMANDING.

The accused was charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No.1, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses
London	5-1-18	WHEN ON ACTIVE SER VICE ABSENT UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE MILITARY FOOT POLICE AT KING'S CROSS, LONDON N. ABOUT 8.30 PM ON 5-1-18	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SERGT E.S. HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT

ACCUSED WAS WARNED by the O.C. that any statements he would make might be used in "Open Court" at his subsequent trial, if any.

Accused was then asked if he had anything to say to the charge and replied in the negative.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady then made statement as attached.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of 1547 Pte William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment. March 15th 1918.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady's statement:-

"I am an officer in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. I was in London on duty on January 15th 1918 and under orders to proceed Overseas to Newfoundland. I was informed by Major Timewell, Chief Paymaster of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at London, that No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L., who was held as a prisoner by the Imperial authorities on a charge of being absent without leave from France- would be sent to Newfoundland under my charge. I reported to Captain Trevor A.P.M. on January 16th 1918 for further instructions. On the morning of JANUARY 18th 1918 I again reported to the A.P.M. to make final arrangements for taking over prisoner. On the afternoon of January 18th 1918 I was present at the Pay & Record office when all papers in connection with the Prisoner's record were read over. The original papers were read by Major Timewell in my presence, and the copy which I now hand in was compared by me with the original. I then signed the papers, after which they were sealed and closed by Major Timewell in my presence and then handed over to me. On the evening of the same date, the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. was handed over to the escort by the authorities at Scotland Yard PRISON, and was conveyed to the transport. On my arrival at St. John's Newfoundland, I delivered the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. to Lieut W. Pippy, Orderly Officer of the Depot."

(Certified Correct) (SGD) J.J.O'GRADY

Capt.
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte William L. Ross, The
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1918

The documents referred to were thereupon handed over to the O.C.
by CAPTAIN O'GRADY.

On perusal by the O.C. they were found to be inscribed as
follows.-

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

Copies of
TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS, ETC.

Relating to
No.1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.
1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN DOCUMENTS NUMBERED FROM ONE (1)
to SEVENTY-SIX (76) ARE TRUE COPIES OF THE ORIGINALS.

H.A. TIMEWELL,

Major

Chief Paymaster and Officer i/c Records.

J.J. O'GRADY,

Capt.

Adjutant, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Pay & Record office,

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

18th January 1918.

O.C:- "Have you anything to ask Captain O'Grady?"

Accused:- "No!"

The O.C. then read to the prisoner several of the documents.

O.C:- "Have you any objections or statements to make regarding
these documents.

ACCUSED:- "No! I have heard them read before!"

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547, Pte William L. Ross,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th, 1918.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 2, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
France	20-8-17	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN FRANCE DESERTING FROM THE 1ST BATTALION ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT ON 20-8-17 UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE CIVIL POLICE ON 3-10-17 AT LONDON, England.	Documentary Evidence.

SECTION 12
(1a)

Accused was not asked to plead.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 3, as follows:-

Place.	Date of Offence.	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
Southampton, ENGLAND.	15-10-17.	WHEN PROCEEDING OVERSEAS UNDER ESCORT FROM LONDON ENGLAND, TO JOIN 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT IN FRANCE? ESCAPING FROM TRANSPORT AT SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND ON 15-10-17 UNTIL HE SURRENDERED TO G.M.P. AT LONDON ON 5-1-18.	Documentary Evidence.

Accused was not asked to plead.

PRISONER WAS THEN REMANDED FOR TRIAL COURT MARTIAL.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in the case of No 1547 Pte William L. Ross
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1917.

Lt. C.C.Duley,
Asst. Adjutant.

Placed in evidence copy of Declaration of Court of Enquiry held in France September 21st 1917, certified as a true copy by 2/Lt. H.A.Anderson of the Pay & Record Office, London, England.

The Declaration reads as follows.

"DECLARATION: The Court declare that No 1547 Pte W. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment, illegally absented himself without leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles:-

- "
- " 1 Jacket, S.D.
- " 1 Pair Trousers, S.D.
- " 1 " Puttees
- " 1 " Boots, ankle
- " 1 Steel Helmet
- " 1 Belt, Web.
- "
- "
- "

President:

(sgd) J.A.LEDINGHAM, CAPT.
Newfoundland Regiment.

Members:

(sgd) Kevin J. Keegan, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regiment
(sgd) J.F.Edens, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regiment

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547 Pte WILLIAM L ROSS,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1916.

Sheets are numbered 1,2,3,4, and 5.

Certified that R.P. paragraph 4,(c),(d) and (e) have
been complied with.

Taken down by me in presence of the accused at

The Naval & Military Hospital,
Military Road,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

This FIFTEENTH Day of MARCH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN:

(sgd)

GEORGE T. CARTY

Major and
O.C.Depot.

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte. Ross, William L.

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
London Section 15(1a)	5-1-18	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 pm on the 5-1-18.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. SERGT. E.S. HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT.	Remanded for Court Martial	Geo. T. Coffey Major March 15th 1918

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte W. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
France	20-8-17	When on Active Service in France deserting from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London, England.		Remanded for Court Martial	
Section 12 (1a)			DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.		Geo. T. Carty Major March 15th 1918

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

1547, Pte W.L. Ro s COMPANY

CHARGE against No _____

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
Southamp- ton, England	15-10-17	When proceeding overseas under escort from London to join 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment in France, escaping from Transport at Southampton, England, on 15-10-18 until he surrendered to G.M.P. at London on 5-1-18	Documentary	Remanded for Court-Martial Evidence	Geo. T. Carty Major March 15th, 1918
Sec 22					

.....Company,
The Royal Nfd. Regiment

SUMMARY of EVIDENCE

In the case of No.1547 Pte Ross, William L., of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, taken at the Naval and Military Hospital, Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, the FIFTEENTH DAY OF MARCH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN by

MAJOR G.T.CARTY,
COMMANDING.

The accused was charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No.1, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses
London	5-1-18	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE ABSENT UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE MILITARY FOOT POLICE AT KING'S CROSS, LONDON N. ABOUT 8.30 PM ON 5-1-18	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SERGT E.S. HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT

ACCUSED WAS WARNED by the C.C. that any statements he would make might be used in "Open Court" at his subsequent trial, if any.

Accused was then asked if he had anything to say to the charge and replied in the negative.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady then made statement as attached.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of 1547 Pte William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment. March 15th 1918.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady's statement:-

"I am an officer in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. I was in London on duty on January 15th 1918 and under orders to proceed Overseas to Newfoundland. I was informed by Major Timewell, Chief Paymaster of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at London, that No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L., who was held as a prisoner by the Imperial authorities on a charge of being absent without leave from France- would be sent to Newfoundland under my charge. I reported to Captain Trevor A.P.M. on January 16th 1918 for further instructions. On the morning of JANUARY 18th 1918 I again reported to the A.P.M. to make final arrangements for taking over prisoner. On the afternoon of January 18th 1918 I was present at the Pay & Record office when all papers in connection with the Prisoner's record were read over. The original papers were read by Major Timewell in my presence, and the copy which I now hand in was compared by me with the original. I then signed the papers, after which they were sealed and closed by Major Timewell in my presence and then handed over to me. On the evening of the same date, the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. was handed over to the escort by the authorities at Scotland Yard PRISON, and was conveyed to the transport. On my arrival at St. John's Newfoundland, I delivered the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. to Lieut W. Pippy, Orderly Officer of the Depot."

(Certified Correct) (SGD) J.J.O'GRADY

Capt.
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte William L. Ross, The
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1918

The documents referred to were thereupon handed over to the O.C.
by CAPTAIN O'GRADY.

On perusal by the O.C. they were found to be inscribed as
follows.-

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

Copies of
TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS, ETC.

Relating to

No.1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN DOCUMENTS NUMBERED FROM ONE (1)
to SEVENTY-SIX (76) ARE TRUE COPIES OF THE ORIGINALS.

H.A. TIMEWELL,

Major

Chief Paymaster and Officer i/c Records.

J.J. O'GRADY,

Capt.

Adjutant, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Pay & Record office,

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

18th January 1918.

O.C:- "Have you anything to ask Captain O'Grady?"

Accused:- "No"

The O.C. then read to the prisoner several of the documents.

O.C:- "Have you any objections or statements to make regarding
these documents.

ACCUSED:- "No! I have heard them read before!"

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547, Pte William L. Ross,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 16th, 1918.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 2, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
France	20-8-17	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN FRANCE DESERTING FROM THE 1ST BATTALION ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT ON 20-8-17 UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE CIVIL POLICE ON 3-10-17 AT LONDON, England.	Documentary Evidence.

SECTION 12
(1a)

Accused was not asked to plead.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 3, as follows:-

Place.	Date of Offence.	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
Southampton, ENGLAND.	15-10-17.	WHEN PROCEEDING OVERSEAS UNDER ESCORT FROM LONDON ENGLAND, TO JOIN 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT IN FRANCE ESCAPING FROM TRANSPORT AT SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND ON 15-10-17 UNTIL HE SURRENDERED TO G.M.P. AT LONDON ON 5-1-18.	Documentary Evidence.

Accused was not asked to plead.

PRISONER WAS THEN REMANDED FOR TRIAL COURT MARTIAL.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in the case of No 1547 Pte William L. Ross
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1917.

Lt. C.C.Duley,
Asst. Adjutant.

Placed in evidence copy of Declaration of Court of
Enquiry held in France September 21st 1917, certified as a true
copy by 2/Lt. H.A.Anderson of the Pay & Record Office, London,
England.

The Declaration reads as follows.

"DECLARATION: The Court declare that No 1547 Pte W. Ross,
"Newfoundland Regiment, illegally absented himself without
"leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still
"so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was
"deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following
"articles:-

"
" 1 Jacket, S.D.
" 1 Pair Trousers, S.D.
" 1 " Puttees
" 1 " Boots, ankle
" 1 Steel Helmet
" 1 Belt, Web.
"
"

President:

(sgd) J.A. LEDDINGHAM, CAPT.
Newfoundland Regiment.

Members:

(sgd) Kevin J. Keegan, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regiment
(sgd) J.F. Edens, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regiment

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547 Pte WILLIAM L ROSS,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1916.

Sheets are numbered 1,2,3,4, and 5.

Certified that R.P. paragraph 4.(c),(d) and (e) have
been complied with.

Taken down by me in presence of the accused at

The Naval & Military Hospital,
Military Road,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

This FIFTEENTH Day of MARCH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN

(sgd)

GEORGE T. CARTY

Major and
O.C.Depot.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Acting Minister of Militia.

With reference to the case of Pte. Ross,
copies of two telegrams are attached herewith for
information. It will therefore be necessary to
continue to remand the prisoner.

H. K. N. N. N.

Lieut. Colonel.

Private Secretary.

24 April 1918.

Apl. 25th. 1918.

Lt. Colonel H. Knox-Niven.
Private Secretary.
Government House.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, covering copy of telegram sent by His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State on March 25th., and also the reply thereto of date 23rd inst., having reference to the case of Pte. Ross who is now under arrest for desertion.

I notice that it is the wish of His Excellency to continue the remand of this prisoner, and this will be carried out until receipt of further instructions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Actg. Minister of Militia.

CODE TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

(sent 25th March 1918)

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention of Lord Morris, I am in doubt whether special warrant is not necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special warrant necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient, suggest that prisoner should be tried by District Court Martial which can be managed. Very important that trial should be held here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster, Newfoundland Record Office, has all details. Suggest reference to him and also Judge Advocate General, War Office, for his instructions and advice as to case. Prisoner has already been under arrest some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS.

CODE TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE.

(recd. 23 April 1918)

Your Telegram 25th March. Court Martial
Warrant is being prepared and will be forwarded
with advice of Judge Advocate General.

LONG.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 9, 1918. 191

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping, pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Lait
Captain.

O. C. Depot



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

August 3, 1918 191

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping, pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Lait

Captain.

O.C. Depot.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

July 25, 1918

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping, pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Fair
Captain.

O. C. Report



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

July 25, 1918

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping, pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Lait
Captain.

O.C. Depot



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

July 16, 1918. 191

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th, 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping, pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Lait

Captain.

act. O.C. Depot.

Forms
C. 348
1.60

7817/1/R.&C.

MEMORANDUM

Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records,
From Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria Street,
S. W. 1.

To Commandant,
Rest Camp,
Southampton.

HA/NV

Pay & Record Office,

17th May, 1918.

1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS.
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram
R - 5399, 18/10/17 in regard
to the above-named man, who
escaped from Docks on 15/10/17:
can you say what became of
A.F. O.1618 in this case,
please?

R.A. Driskill
Major,

Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT, C. 248.
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.

Ref. Nos IN 4590
Rec'd 20 MAY 1918

From ck'd Ans'd

Ref. Nos. OUT

To /
ACTED UPON

SEARCHED BY

Comd. ANSWER.

P & A

R & C

P.S.

18 5 1918

*at 0.1618 for Pte Ross
was handed to Lieut.
J. Hunt 54th A.I.F.,
who was in charge
of a draft that
escorted prisoners
overseas on 15/10/17.*

J.A. Driskill

*Major.
Southampton Rest Camp*



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

MARCH 24th. 1918. 191

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

II

*To E. The Governor.
As Commanding in Chief
Nfld.
For your information please
H. J. P. Major
D. G. M. G.*

George L. Hart MAJOR
Commanding Depot
First Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

APRIL 1st. 1918......191

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,-

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

*H. E. The General
as Commanding in Chief
nfo.*

George Leary MAJOR
Commanding Depot,
First Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.

*Do you inform the
General
nfo.*



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 9th. 1918. *191*

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,

1547 Private W. L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th. 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A. A. Sec. 45 (1). I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. The Governor
As Commander in Chief
For your information please
Montgomery Major
W. C. Cape.

George L. Barry MAJOR
Commanding Depot,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.





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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

*Private Ross
For your info
C.M.H.*

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 16th 1918

From O.C. DEPOT,
To D.O.C. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,- Private W.L. Ross No. 1547

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A. Sec. 45 (1) I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case. For your information I may state that I have ordered this man's removal from the Military Infectious Hospital to private boarding house at 93 Long's Hill, where he is at all times under escort and charge of the R.P.

Col. The General

I have the honour to be,

Geo. J. Barky
Commanding Depot.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's,

For your information please

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Recd. in message
50 C.M.H.
25 Apr 18*



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 24th 1918

From Officer Commanding
DEPOT,

To District Officer Commanding
Newfoundland.

Sir,-

No.1547 Pte.W.L.ROSS:

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for same
on March 16th past.

Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A.
Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of
keeping this soldier in detention for safekeeping
pending the convening of Court Martial to try his
case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Georg L. Barty

MAJOR
Commanding Depot,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.

H.S. de la Force
For your information please
W.H.
25/4/18
556



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

May 1st 1918

191

From Officer Commanding Depot,
To District Officer Commanding NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,- No.1547 Pte.W.L.Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for
same on March 16th 1918.

Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.A.
Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of
keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping
pending the convening of Court Martial to try his
case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Her Majesty's Governor & Commander in Chief
Newfoundland.*

Geo. L. Carby Major

*For your information please
arrange to have
no copies*



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

May 8th 1918 *191*

From Officer Commanding DEPOT,
To District Officer Commanding NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,- No.1547 Pte.W.L.Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by
General Court Martial and application made for
same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions
laid down in A.C. Sec.45 (1), I have to report
the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention
for safe keeping pending the convening of Court
Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*H. E. the Governor & Commander in Chief
Newfoundland*

Geo. L. Barry Major

For your information please

*Respectfully
Lieut. Newfoundland*



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

May 17th 1918

From O.C. DEPOT:

To D.O.C. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Sir,-

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convention of the Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. Stephens Esq. C. in C.
In reply inform Genl.
Accompanied with
206 files

Georg. L. Garty MAJOR
Officer Commanding Depot
W. C. Stephens
28 May 18



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THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

May 24th 1918 *191*

From Officer Commanding Depot,
To District Officer Commanding Newfoundland.

Sir,-

NO.1547 PTE.W.L.ROSS

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec.45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of CourtMartial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. Sheppard *Commanding Depot*

For your information please

Montgomery Major
as of order

Geo. L. Clark MAJOR
Commanding Depot,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.

[Handwritten signature]

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

Crossing

April 8, 1918.

My Dear Knox-Niven,

The father of Pte. Ross, now in detention on a charge of desertion, has been writing to the Minister of Militia, asking what has been done in the matter, and pointing out the time the boy has been here.

Would you intimate this to the Governor, and find out if there is any chance of speedy action being taken.

Yours very truly,

Montgomery

Major.
~~District Officer Commanding.~~
~~Newfoundland.~~

Lieut.-Col. Knox-Niven,
Government House.

*Spoke H.C.
Days wait 3
more days.
M.H.*

*↓ I think all wife
should go. AN/8.4.18.*

The Acting Minister of Militia.

With reference to the case of Pte. Ross, copies of two telegrams are attached herewith for information. It will therefore be necessary to continue to remand the prisoner.

Lieut. Colonel.
Private Secretary.

24 April 1918.

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*File No. 1
Case of P. Ross*



CODE TELEGRAM
to
SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Sent March 25th, 1918.)

Y

Case of deserter Private Ross returned for trial at intervention of Lord Morris, I am in doubt whether special warrant is not necessary for me to assemble Court Martial. If special warrant necessary will you at once obtain His Majesty's sanction. Number of officers here eligible for General Court Martial insufficient, suggest that prisoner should be tried by District Court Martial which can be managed. Very important that trial should be held here for political reasons. Chief Paymaster, Newfoundland Record Office, has all details Suggest reference to him and also Judge Advocate General, War Office for his instructions and advice as to case. Prisoner has already been under arrest some time so matter urgent.

HARRIS

Cable C.O. as to whether the Gov. of Newfoundland has
a warrant to convene a General Court Martial.
(p. 492.)

President Lt. Col + 5 not below Captains
+ of 3 years full commission p. 427 + p. 37

Convening Officers cannot sit on Court p. 37

~~Rendell~~ There are not a sufficiency of Officers here
~~Montgomery~~ to hold G.C.M.
~~Rennie~~

Suggest as in ①

+ matter is referred by cable to Judge Advocate General
at War Office + his instructions taken.

Civil Court



PROCEEDINGS of a* Court of Enquiry

*N.B.—The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

assembled at Proven, Belgium.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

on the Twenty first day of September, 1917.

by order of Major A.E. Bernard, M.C.

Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.

for the purpose of enquiring into the illegal absence

of No. 1547, Private W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland

Regt.

PRESIDENT.

Capt. J. A. Ledingham, 1st Newfoundland R.

MEMBERS.

Lieut. K. J. Keegan, 1st Newfoundland R.

Lieut. J. F. Edens, do.

IN ATTENDANCE.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
H. Anderson

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence.



1st Witness. No. 1256, Corporal Francis Somerton, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, being duly sworn, states:

No. 7 Platoon
I am Acting Platoon Sergeant of 'B' Company, Newfoundland Regt. On the 20th of August 1917 when I called the roll of the platoon before going into the trenches I found No. 1547 Private W. Ross to be absent. I last saw him on parade about five minutes previous without his equipment. He was sent by the Platoon Commander to get his equipment but did not return. I reported his absence to the Platoon Commander before moving off for the trenches.

2nd Witness. No. 404 Acting Regimental Sergeant Major Frederick P. Le Grow, 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th of August 1917 when the Battalion marched off to the trenches Acting Company Sergeant Major Field of B Company reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. He is still absent.

3rd Witness. No. 161 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Francis Walsh 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states:

I am Company Quartermaster Sergeant of 'B' Company, 1st Newfoundland Regiment. On the 20th August 1917 Acting Company Sergeant Major Field reported to me that No. 1547 Private W. Ross was absent. I went to his tent to take an inventory of his Kit and Equipment and found the following deficiencies:

1 jacket, S.D. 1 pr. Trousers, S.D., 1 pr. putties
1 pr. Boots, ankle, 1 steel helmet, 1 belt, web.

DECLARATION. The Court declare that No. 1547 Private W. Ross, Newfoundland Regt. illegally absented himself without leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles:

1 jacket, S.D.,
1 pr. trousers, S.D.,
1 " putties
1 " boots, ankle
1 steel helmet
1 belt, web.

J. A. Ledingham
President: (Sgd) J. A. LEDINGHAM, Capt.
Newfoundland Regt.

Members: (Sgd) KEVIN J. KEEGAN, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

(Sgd) J. F. EDENS, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

Statement as to character and particulars of service of
#1547 Private W.L.Ross, 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland
Regiment.

A.F.B. number 296 not available.

Enlisted at St. John's, Newfoundland April 29, 1915.

Embarked for Service Overseas on H.M.S. Calgarian June 17/1915.

reporting at Depot 1st Newfoundland Regiment, Ayr.

Proceeded on Active Service to France, disembarking at Marseilles
April 3/1916 further service as noted on A.F.B. 103 as per certified
copy attached.

Statement of conduct as per certified copies A.F.B. 121 A.F.B. 122
attached.

Major.
O.C. Depot.
St. John's, Nfld.

March 16, 1918.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

No. 12

To:

Minister of Militia
St. John's, Newfoundland.

" " Company.

MEMORANDUM of STOPPAGES/CREDITS on Account of Meals supplied
by Army Canteen Committee,

NOTE:- Charge under
Credit Pay & Record Office, London

Column

ORIGINAL of this FORM to be COMPLETED and RETURNED INTACT to Paymaster & O. I/c Records,
 Newfoundland Contingent, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.
 DUPLICATE to accompany PAY BOOK as VOUCHER.

Regtl No.	Rank & Name	Particulars And Authority	AMOUNT				
			£	s	d		
1547	Pte W.L. Ross	Meals supplied whilst in arrest at the Central London Recruiting Depot, Whitehall, S. W. 12/1/18 - 18/1/18 7 days @ 1/9				12	3
	<i>Under the special circumstances, not considered advisable to apply to Superior Paymaster for recovery of this.</i>					12	3

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
2nd February 1918

H. D. Bennett Maj.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

CERTIFIED that the above Stoppages/Credits have been made in
the Pay Book of " " Company for Period / / to / /

Dated at _____
_____ 191

O.C. " " Company,
Battalion.

To:

Minister of Militia
St. John's, Newfoundland.

" " Company.

MEMORANDUM of STOPPAGES/CREDITS on Account of Meals supplied
by Army Canteen Committee,

NOTE:- Charge under

Column

Credit Pay & Record Office, London

Regtl No.	Rank & Name		Particulars And Authority	AMOUNT					
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								12	3

Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,

2nd February 1918

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

CERTIFIED that the above Stoppages/Credits have been made in
the Pay Book of " " Company for Period / / to / /

Dated at _____

191

O.C. " " Company,
Battalion.

ORIGINAL of this FORM to be COMPLETED and RETURNED INTACT to Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
 Newfoundland Contingent, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.
 DUPLICATE to accompany PAY BOOK as VOUCHER.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ST. JOHN'S Feb. 16th 1918
NEWFOUNDLAND

Major Montgomerie.

District Officer Commanding.

Dear Major Montgomerie,

I am forwarding you reply of Lt. Colonel Knox-Niven to my communication of yesterday's date written him in relation to the case of desertion of Pte. Ross. You will notice, in the latter paragraph of his letter, he refers to the desirability of having medical observation of this man, which suggestion I submit to you for what action you may think proper.

I have asked Colonel Knox-Niven to come to my office on Monday morning at 11 o'clock and I would thank you to attend also at that hour, so that we may consider what steps should be taken in relation to this case.

Yours faithfully,

Actg. Minister of Militia.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
ST JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

16th February, 1918.

Dear Mr. Bennett,

Thank you for the compliment you pay me in asking my opinion - and I return the papers herewith. I shall be honoured to come over any morning you want me.

From a perusal of the papers, document No. 47 seems the key note and I would suggest Lord Morris being asked by cable to produce his evidence (on oath) which can be produced before the Court Martial, or used as may be subsequently decided.

A verdict of insanity and to be confined 'during the King's pleasure' is the only thing that can save him from a stiff sentence under the Army Act. And, ought not he to be placed under medical "observation" as soon as he arrives?

Yours faithfully,

Arthur H. H. H.

J. R. Bennett, Esq.,

With reference to your telegram
of 16th February - Lord Morris
advised that if military authorities
tried Ross in England we should
set up plea of insanity. Only
evidence to support this plea is
what might reasonably be inferred
from his having suffered severely
from shell shock, and from his subsequent
extraordinary conduct.



NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.

CABLE CONNECTION WITH ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

Line No. 16 Sent by (P. Govt) Rec'd by _____ Check 40 No. 237

Place from London
Military
St Johns Nf

FEB 18 1918

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plea of insanity
only evidence solagine
this plea is
bountic reasonably
be inferred from
this having suffered
severely from shellshock
alcicm his subsequent
eyglance conduct

Synoptical

Medical Officer's Report

I certify that No. 1847
of Royal Navy Rate in a good state of health,
and fit to undergo Imprisonment with or
without hard labour; and that his present appearance and
previous medical history both justify the belief, that
hard labour employment will neither be likely to origi-
nate nor to reproduce disease of any description.

H. Paterson
Medical Officer.

Station S^t Johns

Date Oct 23 1919

Deserted 1st Boat 20th Aug. 1917.

EXTRACT FROM DAILY ORDERS PART II, No. 33, OF 13-2-18

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS AND MEN RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS AND ARE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 13th, 1918.

.....

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross RF (Prisoner)

I certify the above to be a true extract from
Daily Orders Part II, No. 33, of 13-2-18.

W. D. Keefe
Ass't Adjutant
Depot The Royal Newfoundland Regiment
St. John's, Nfld.
15-8-18

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT

COPIES

of

TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS ETC.

relating to

No. 1547, PTE. W. L. ROSS

1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

CERTIFIED that the within documents
numbered from 1 (one) to 76 (seventy six) are
TRUE COPIES of ORIGINALS.

(sgnd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

(sgnd) J. J. O'GRADY, Capt.
Adjutant, 1st Nfld. Regt., St John's, Nfld.

Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

18th January, 1918

No. 1547 Pte. W. L. ROSS, ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

1.

(Telegram received 27-8-17)

Synoptical, London

26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

aaa Reported seen in London 23rd aaa Make enquiries.

O.C. Newfoundland Regt.

2.

Newfoundland Contingent,

58 Victoria Street,

London, S.W.

29th August, 1917.

To Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent

Sir,

Regarding 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, 1/Royal Newfoundland Regt.

I was handed the following telegram at 9.45 a.m. 27-8-17 amongst a large number of letters and documents:

"Synoptical, London.

"26 aaa 1547 Pte. W. Ross absent without leave since 20th

"aaa reported seen in London 23rd aaa make enquiries."

O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

I proceeded to deal with it about 11 a.m. after disposing of certain other Government and more pressing matters. Almost simultaneously with taking up the telegram I was asked by 802 L/Cpl. Thompson to sign a cheque for £8;0;0 drawn in favour of 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, then in the office. I refused to sign it and immediately called Ross into a private office where I cross-examined him. He said, in effect, he had been granted special leave as his uncle was dying in London. He said the leave was for 48 hours and had begun on the 21-8-17. He led me to believe he had come from the Base. He had been delayed in Calais for 3 days, but an officer had told him he could still have the 48 hours from the time he arrived in London. He had only arrived at Victoria at 1 a.m. 25-8-17. He said it was his intention to return to France that evening, i.e. 27-8-17. He then made as if to show me his pass, but discovered he had left it at his uncle's house in his greatcoat. I doubted all this. In the meantime I looked at Ross' record. His Conduct Sheet was quite clean. As Ross could show no paper to confirm his statement, I ordered 1529 Staff-Sergt. B. Crocker of the Pay & Record Office to escort Ross to an address where he said his greatcoat lay, in which his pass was supposed to be, and bring Ross and the pass back. Staff-Sergt. Crocker returned at about 3.30 p.m. and informed me that Ross had escaped (vide Crocker's report). A description of Ross was immediately circulated to the Military Police at the Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and I was informed at 7 p.m. that all London Area patrols that had gone out had been made aware of Ross' escape.

On arrival at the office 28-8-17 I received the following letter from Ross, apparently written on the evening of 27-8-17, and bearing a "London E." postmark, timed 7.15 p.m. 27-8-17.

"Just a short note to tell you not to worry yourselves in that Pay Office about me as I am off for America in about an hours time, thanks to a good friend. And I shant bother you any more as I have lots of money. I never had a pass but I had brains enough to dodge the M.P.'s. If I had been treated decent by our C.O. Hadow I would not have deserted. I done

two years in the trenches and I shall enlist again in America. But all I hope is that Cross of Christ will fall on the heads of our Doctor and old Haddow and kill them both. Say good-bye to old Crocker poor devil. Well sir best of luck and I hope that you have no casualties in the Pay Office.

Yours truly,
(sgnd) W. L. ROSS"

I communicated the essence of the above letter by telephone to the Military Police, The Hut, Grosvenor Square, W. 1, and said I would send any additional information as soon as it had been typewritten, which I did.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) H.A.ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

3.

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
27th August, 1917.

Major H. A. Timewall,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1

Sir,

I beg leave to make the following report re 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross. I left ~~at~~ 58 Victoria Street at 12.45 for Victoria Station where I bought two return tickets for Croydon, the address given me by Ross. Just as the train was about to move out Ross asked what we were going to Croydon for, and produced another address, Mrs. K. Wills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park. This rendered the two tickets already purchased useless to us. We then took the Underground Railway for Finsbury Park. On reaching 84 Wilberforce Road, Ross wished to go into the house alone to procure the pass. As he did not return in a reasonable time, I walked around to the back door and found him talking to Mrs. Wills. I called to him to come out, which he did immediately, accompanied by Mrs. Wills, who informed me that this was the first time that she had seen him. Ross had previously asserted that he had been there before. Nothing was known by those people of his dying uncle. I asked Ross to show me the pass but he refused to do so, and said he would only show it to Mr. Anderson at the office. In returning to the office, Ross intentionally missed two buses, and was evidently intending to escape. Eventually we reached the office door, 58 Victoria Street. Here Ross stoutly refused to come in and then bolted. I caught him and endeavoured to get him to return, but this he would not do. I walked and ran with him for some distance, hoping to meet either military or civil police, but unfortunately none of them were about. I then returned to the office and telephoned to 965 Mayfair, Major Travour; also Victoria Military Police: giving a description in both cases.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) B. CROCKER
Staff Sgt.

4.

(Telegram received 2-9-17)

Synoptical, London.
1st ans reply my telegram re Ross.

O.C. MFLD. REGT.A

(III)

5.

(Telegram despatched 2-9-17)

Commanding, Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
Police searching letter follows.

Synoptical

6.

No. 9003/138

From Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/Royal Nfld. Regiment,
B.E.F.

Pay and Record Office,
3rd September, 1917.

No. 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

I beg to acknowledge your telegram:

"1st aaa reply my telegram re Ross.
O.C. Newfoundland Regt."

and to confirm my telegram No. 213:

"26 aaa 1547 Ross last seen London 27th still at large
"police searching letter follows.

Synoptical."

I enclose copy of the statement made by 2/Lieut. H. A. Anderson to the Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records together with 1529 Staff-Sergt. Crocker's report.

Particulars of Ross have also been furnished to the "Police Gazette." I was informed by the authorities that it was very unlikely that Ross could escape from England. A telegram will be sent to you, please, when Ross is apprehended.

(sgnd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

7.

Confidential

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St John's,
Newfoundland.

Sir, No. 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, Deserter

With reference to my telegram No. 797/9, 30-8-17:

"Military, St John's.

". . . Absentee- from- 1st Bn.- since- August 20- 1547-

"Ross- full stop-

Synoptical."

and Casualty Report No. 2201, 29-8-17: this man being still at large, I have the honour to enclose copies of the following documents relatinf to his case:

(IV)

A.F. B124 - Report of a Deserter,
Report by 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson,
Report by Staff-Sergeant B. Crocker.

These are sent under ~~separate~~ confidential cover in view of certain personal references in 2/Lt. Anderson's report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

C.R., L.D. 2/57872/A.

Headquarters,
London District,
Horse Guards,
Whitehall, S.W. 1
22nd September, 1917.

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W.

With reference to case of 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, 1st Battalion Newfoundland Regiment, if not already done, will you please inform the authorities in Newfoundland of the circumstances surrounding this man's escape.

(sgnd) C. BLUNDELL, Capt.
Staff Capt.
for Brig. General.
D.A. & Q.M.G. LONDON DISTRICT

9991/2

D.A. & Q.M.G.,
Headquarters, London District,
Horse Guards, S.W. 1

9.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
28th September, 1917.

No. 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt. Deserter

With reference to your memorandum No. C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A, 22-9-17: In addition to the customary advice sent to Headquarters, St John's, Newfoundland, by telegraph, a full report of the circumstances has also been forwarded there, please.

(sgnd) H. A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

10.

(Telegram despatched 3-10-17)

Commanding, Newfoundland Regiment, France.
26 aas 1547 Pte. W. Ross, Deserter, apprehended London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical.

(V)

11.

Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
4th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent

Sir, 1547 Pte. W. Ross

In accordance with instructions from 2nd Lieut. H.A. Anderson, I attended the Old Street Police Court in the forenoon of October 4th, 1917, to note proceedings against 1547 Pte. W. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt., who was ~~dis~~charged with desertion. Pte. Ross was remanded in custody for one week to enable authorities to make further enquiries into his case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) B. CROCKER, Staff-Sergt.

12.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 1917

William Leslie Ross,
Private, Regt. No. 1547,
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August, 1917, I was with my Regiment in France and deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there 24th August, 1917, reaching London the same day.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W., I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson, who I informed that I was on special leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I left my leave papers. This was an excuse, but I went with my escort to the house and returned with him to 58 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd September last, I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Green Nore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector Jas. Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending fourteen days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan, he gave me at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Rebt. Berington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th September, I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a shilling to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30, which he wanted cashed. He showed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed.

and ⁺ was to met him later at Bishops gate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian Soldier, I told him none would cash it. He said " I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two mire for £5 each on the Bak of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishops gate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reuben's in Commercial St. I went with him to his house at Lucas St, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling a photo out of my pocket, the cheque for the £50 fell on to the table. Reuben's asked me why I did not change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose the money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop. I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday during the morning, I called at Reubens shop 45 Commercial St where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the Shop for about half an hour and I heard the Warning "Take Cover" given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house with of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me that the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas St when I was there on Monday Evening, and he knew that His brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last when I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday, 3rd of this month, I was arrested in Commercial St.

Now I want to say why I deserted the army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break-down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job outside the lines. I came to England on ten days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th, of July. On my arrival I found I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, eat, and my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upperhand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of ~~trouble~~ worry, as I am her only child, it has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letter she used to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I could'nt stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on Active Service. My head is sometimes very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry a knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.). W.L. ROSS.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sgt., "H" Division.

4th, October, 1917

(VII)

13.

10262/1/Records/HA-EC

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
5th October, 1917.

D.A. & Q.M.G., London District, H.Q., London District,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W. 1

No. 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross. Deserter, 1/1st Newfoundland Regt.

With reference to your memorandum C.R. L.D. 2/57872/A of 22-9-17 and to telephone communication of this date, I beg to inform you that the above named man was apprehended by the Civil Police in London on the 3-10-17. He was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court, Shoreditch, on the 4-10-17, charged with Desertion. He was remanded in Custody for a week. Officer Commanding 1/1st Newfoundland Regiment B.E.F., from which unit Ross deserted on the 20-8-17 has been informed and the Garrison Sergeant-Major has been notified, please.

(sgnd) H. A. TIMWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

14.

To Pay & Record Office

Please let me know if there is any further information concerning 1547 Pte. W. Ross, who has been posted as a deserter since Aug. 20th, 1917.

2-10-17

(sgnd) A. L. HADOW, Lt. Col.
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regiment

15.

Telegram despatched 9-10-17.

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.

Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your instructions asked aas now in civil custody remanded until Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical.

16.

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1,
11th October, 1917.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1

Sir, 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross

Acting on advice from 2nd Lieut. H.A.Andersen I attended the Old Street Police Court on the forenoon of the 11th October, 1917. The charge brought against Pte. Ross by Bank of Montreal was withdrawn. He was then taken over by the Military Authorities, and under escort taken to Wallis Yard, Victoria. Information as to further proceedings will be furnished this office by the Military Police department.

I am,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) B. CROCKER, Staff Sgt.

(VIII)

17.

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12th October, 1917.

From 2/Lt. H.A. Anderson

To Chief Paymaster & Off. i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
HM Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1

Sir, With regard to 1547 Pte. W. L. Ross.

On the 3-10-17, 85116 Sgt. Percy Saunders of the Metropolitan Police reported to me that he had apprehended Ross on a charge of being concerned with trying to procure money through a fraudulent cheque. I informed Sgt. Saunders that Ross was a deserter from his Regiment in France since the 20-8-17. The latter was brought before the Magistrate at Old Street Police Court on 4-10-17 and remanded for a week.

On the 9-8-17 Mrs. Mills, a cousin of Ross, called at 58 Victoria Street and informed me that he was in difficulties and she wanted to help him as much as she could. Her chief plea on Ross' behalf was his extreme ~~xxx~~ youthfulness and she went as far as to cable Ross' father for his exact age. On 10-7-17 this lady again came to the office when she handed me the following telegram;

"Kathleen Mills . . . London.

"Born January 17th, 1898 enlisted when seventeen

"rush particulars cab~~le~~.

Ross."

I informed Mrs. Mills that I would put her information before the proper authorities.

Ross made a statement to Sgt. Saunders on 4-10-17, a copy of which is attached.

I requested the Garrison Sergeant-Major to send an escort to Old Street Police Court on the 11-10-17, when Ross would be brought up on remand, as I understood that prisoner would then be handed over to the Military authorities.

On the afternoon of the 11-10-17 the Garrison Sergeant-Major rang up today that Ross would shortly be sent to France under escort to be dealt with there. He was to be sent to Southampton on the 12-10-17.

I beg to request that this statement, together with my previous report may be submitted to the proper authorities.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgnd) H.A.ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

18.

District Inspector's Office
Royal Irish Constabulary
Newry, County Down,
Ireland,
8-10-17.

Officer i/c,
Nfld. Pay & Record Office,
London

Sir,

I have heard that Pte. Wm. L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt. has got into some trouble in London and has been arrested by the Civil Police and will be tried on the 11th inst., but I do not know in what part of London or on what charge.

This boy is a nephew of mine, he is not yet 20 and has been

(IX)

nearly two years at the front. He was with me for a few days on leave in September and left to go back to the Front. I am afraid he got into bad company in London.

His father's address is Jos. Ross, Hr. Grace, Newfoundland.

I hope you will in some way look after the boy's interests and if possible have him sent back to his Regiment. I shall feel very grateful if you can let me know if I can be of any help to him in any way and what is the charge against him?

Yours faithfully,

(sgnd) J. ROSS
Det. Inspector R.I.C.

19.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1
12 October, 1917.

10601/1

J. Ross, Esq.,
Det. Inspector, R.I.C.,
Newry

Sir,

No. 1547 Pte. W.L.Ross

With reference to your letter 8-10-17 (5774): the above named man was reported as an absentee from his unit with the B.E.F. as from 20-8-17 and was recently apprehended by the Civil Police, was brought up and remanded and yesterday was handed over to the Military authorities, it being understood that he is being sent under escort to France to be dealt with. Mrs. Mills has called at this office several times and it is understood has kept you advised in the matter.

The facts of his being an absentee and his apprehension have been duly telegraphed to Headquarters, St John's, Nfld. and it is presumed that his father will be informed accordingly.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Off. i/c. Records.

20.

(Telegram despatched 12-10-17)

Military, St John's.

Reference my telegram 4th October "1547 Ross absentee from B.E.F. being sent to France under escort.

Synoptical."

21.

(Telegram received 12-10-17)

O. i/c Newfoundland Records Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. L.D. 5145/A, 11th October, 1917, aas following absentee from B.E.F. being sent to Southampton under escort tomorrow aas 1547 Pte. W.L.Ross, 1st Btn. Newfoundland Regiment aas.

Usted.

22.

10635/179/HA.WF.

(X)

From Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,
B.E.F.

I confirm my telegrams as follows:

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France
"234, 3-10-17 26 aas 1547 Pte. W. Ross deserter apprehended
"London telegraph instructions.

Synoptical."

"Commanding Newfoundland Regt. France.

"236, 9-10-17 Reference your memorandum second as telegraphed
"you third instant 1547 Ross apprehended London and your
"instructions asked aas now in civil custody remanded until
"Thursday eleventh.

Synoptical."

to which no reply has been received to this date and enclosed

1. Copy of Report made by 2nd Lt. H.A. Anderson together with
Ross' statement referred to therein.

2. Copy of telegram from Usted (i.e. H.Q. London Dist.)
received here 12-10-17. of

3. Copy of a letter from Dist. Inspector Ross/~~from~~ the Royal
Irish Constabulary with my reply thereto.

Kindly acknowledge.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

23.

Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regt.

Reference your telegram re. No.1547 Pte. W. Ross now under ar-
rest in London - Please take the necessary steps to have him sent
back to me for trial under a charge of desertion.

The escort should have special instructions re preventing his
escape en route.

The following documents should be sent with him:

(a) Certificate signed by the Constable, APM or other officer
by whom the arrest was made stating the fact, date and place of
such surrender or arrest.

(b) The letter which he is said to have written to the Pay
& Record Office after his escape.

Please inform me soon as he is despatched and by what route

(sd) A.L. HADON,

14-10-17.

Lt. Col. Commanding 1st Nfld Regt

24.

Embarkation Office,
Maritime Chambers,
Southampton,
17th October 1917

Officer i/c Nfld Records,
58 Victoria Street, London,

Please note the following details embarked at Southampton on the
16th October 1917 to join British Expeditionary Force:-

Corps	Offs.	Other Ranks	Remarks.
-------	-------	-------------	----------

1 Newfoundland Regt		1 1547 Pte W. Ross, Prisoner	
---------------------	--	------------------------------	--

Embarkation Port No 1. (Sd) L.C.I. Knight, Major,
D.A.A.G?

(XI)

25.

(Telegram despatched 18-10-17)

Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France
Reference your memorandum 14-10-17 1547 Ross embarked Southampton
16-10-17 under escort and documents posted you 13-10-17.

Synoptical.

26.

(telegram received 18-10-17)

Officer i/c Records, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1
R 5399 18-10-17 and number 1547 Pte. Ross, W. 1st Nfld. Regiment
escaped from docks 15th instant. and please take necessary
action.

Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton."

27.

(Telegram despatched 18-10-17)

Commanding Nfld. Regiment, France
Following telegram received today begins number 1547 Pte. Ross, W.
1st Newfoundland Regiment escaped from docks 15th instant. and
please take necessary action. Commandant Rest Camp Southampton.

Synoptical."

28.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1
18th October, 1917

10848/1

The Garrison Sergeant-Major,
Great Scotland Yard, S.W. 1

No. 1547 Pte. Ross, Newfoundland Regiment

In confirmation telephone message of this date the following
telegram is quoted, please;

"Officer i/c Records, 58 Victoria Street, London, S.W.
"R-5399 18-10-17 and Number 1547 Pte. Ross W. 1st Newfoundland
"Regt. escaped from docks 15th inst. and please take necessary
"action.

Commandant Rest Camp, Southampton

(sgnd) H. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.
for Chief Paymaster & Off. i/c. Records

29.

10888/184

From Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/1 Nfld. Regiment,
B. E. F.

Pay & Record Office
19th October 1917

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

Telegram confirmed, please: Despatched 18-10-17, "No. 257
"Commanding, Nfld. Regt. France; Reference your memorandum
"14-10-17 1547 Ross embarked Southampton under escort 16-10-17

"aaa documents posted you 13-10-17."

Synoptical."

Despatched 18-10-17, No 259.

"Commanding Newfoundland Regiment, France.

"Following telegram received to-day begins number 1547 Pte Ross. W.L.

"1st Newfoundland Regiment escaped from docks 15th, inst. aaa please

"take necessary action Commanding Rest Camp, Southampton.

Synoptical."

I may say that the authorities were particularly advised to keep Ross under a strict guard.

Immediately on receipt of telegram reporting his escape the Garrison Sergeant Major, Great Scotland Yard, was notified accordingly.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

(30)

11022/1/Recds.

October 23rd, 1917.

From Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria St,

To Commandant.
Rest Camp, Southampton.

1547. PTE. W.L. ROSS? 1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

With reference to your telegram :

"R5399 18/10/17 aaa number 1547. Pte WL. Ross. 1st Newfoundland Regt,
"escaped from docks 15th, inst. aaa please take necessary action."

Will you kindly say if anything further has been heard of this man ?

On receipt of your telegram the Garrison Sergt Major, Great Scotland Yard was informed and others concerned.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL, Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer I/C Records

(31)

11021/71/Recds.

23rd October, 1917.

Hon. Minister Of Militia.
St John's, Newfoundland.

Sir; -

1547. PTE W.L. ROSS.

With reference to my telegram No 1026 of 23/10/17:

"With reference to my telegram 12th, October-1547-Ross-escaped-at-Southampton-on route to-France-October 15th -"

I have the honour to enclose for your information further minutes and reports relating to this man who deserted from France on 28/10/17. Copy of Ross' own statement is enclosed together with the letter from District Inspector J. Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary and my reply thereto. The present state of the case is reflected in my No. 10848/1 of 18/10/17 to the Garrison Sergt Major, Great Scotland Yard a copy of which is enclosed.

I have the honour yo be,
Sir.

Your obedient servant.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major,
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Recds.

(XIII)

32.

Southampton,
24-10-17

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W. 1

Reference preceding minute: Nothing further has been heard of
Pte. Ross.

(sgnd) H.A.DENHAM, Capt.
Adjutant Rest Camp Southampton

33.

Hr. Grace,
19th September, 1917

Hugh Anderson, Esq.,
Dear Sir:-

Am writing to ask you if you could give me any information about my son (Pte. Wm. L. Ross¹⁵⁴⁷) I received a few lines this morning telling me about his leaving the Army. He never meant to desert ~~me~~, but I believe while out in the last bombardment he became mentally unbalanced. He doesn't seem to know what happened. The last thing he remembered was being hit by a soldier with a glass bottle, who had gone mad. He wandered around and then found himself in England. He had been suffering with nervous troubles, and should not have been sent into the trenches. I have gone through the bitterness of death to-day. He is our only child and only nineteen years old. He enlisted two years ago in April last, and has been in France eighteen months. When he came to himself he would have gone back, but he thought it meant being shot. Of course we do not know what the military punishment is, but I would feel extremely grateful if you would give me any information about him and account of his youth intercede for him if it is in your power. He has done his part up to the present time. I hope I am not asking too great a favour. Will be anxiously awaiting your reply.

Yours very sincerely,
(sgnd) Isobel Ross

34.

24th October, 1917

11119/1

Mrs. J. Ross,
Box 27, Water Street,
Hr. Grace, Newfoundland

Madam, No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to your letter 19-9-17 (6030), addressed to Mr. Hugh Anderson: I regret to have to state that your son has again deserted and so far as I am at present aware is still at large.

With regard to any further information, both as to what is at present available and what may be revealed in the future, may I ask you to communicate with the Department of Militia, St John's, to which all particulars are submitted from time to time.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,
(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

35.

24th October, 1917

11120/76
The Hon. Minister of Militia,
St John's, Newfoundland.

Sir.-

1547 Pte. W. Ross
Further to this office No. 11021/71 23-10-17, I have the honour

to enclose copy of letter No 11119/1 addressed to Mrs J. Ross, Box 27 Water St, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, which I think will sufficiently indicate the intent.

I hope it will be agreed that in matters of this nature correspondence through any other channel in your office ~~is inadvisable~~ is inadvisable and should be discouraged, especially with regard to people writing personally to anyone in this office upon official matters. Naturally it is difficult for many to appreciate the argument, but obviously ~~x number of this office~~ complications may arise if such correspondence takes place between a member of this office staff and private individuals, besides its being against the rules of this office.

It is quite understood that in the present instance Mrs Ross must feel a great amount of anxiety and it would appear that her son has put himself into a extremely serious position: possibly it may be considered desirable by you or his relatives to take some steps when ~~in~~ he is apprehended, for on the face of it ~~and~~ it would appear that unless it can be established he is of unsound mind the results may assume a very grave form.

As will be gathered from the reports sent you in the first place Ross had every consideration shown him by this office and which he grossly abused. Generally his acts do not ~~submit~~ suggest those of a sane man.

I have the honour to be
Sir;
Your obedient servant.

(Sd) H.A. TIMSWELL, Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

(36).

From Officer i/c Records,
No 1 Infantry Section, G.H.Q., 3rd. Echelon.

To Officer i/c Newfoundland Records.
London.

1547.PTE W.L.ROSS.

Have you any information re, above named soldier, please.
He cannot be traced as having arrived in this country,

B.E.F.
3/11/17.

(Sd). NEARY, 2/LT. for Major.
Officer i/c No 1 Infantry Section.

(37).

11945/63/R & C.

8th. November, 1917.

From Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent:
London. S.W.

TO Officer i/c Records,
Regular Infantry Section No 1.
G.H.Q. 3rd. Echelon. B.E.F.

1547. PTE WL.ROSS.
1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

With reference to your enquiry dated 3/11/17.(6614) for the above named man ; Ross escaped from the dock at Southampton, on the 15/10/17, while proceeding to France under escort, please. He has not been heard of since so far as this office is concerned.

(Sd). H.A. TIMSWELL, Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

1514/17

Asst. Provost Marshal,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton,
14-11-17

Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regiment,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

The attached Military Police Report and Soldier's Pay Book(A.B.
64) are forwarded to you please.
- Kindly acknowledge receipt.

(sgnd) JAS. LINDSAY, Lt. Col.
Asst. Provost Marshall,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton

To the Asst, Provost Marshall,

Sir, No. 1547 Pte. William Ross, B Coy., 1st Newfoundland Regt.

The Pay Book handed into Orderly Room by me was given to me by the Landlord of the Old Chip Inn, Commercial Road, who stated that he had found it on a seat in the Bar after some soldiers had left the premises.

(sgnd) G.S. KEEN, L/Cpl.
M.F. Police

Southampton,
9-11-17

12305/1/R & C

39.

From Chief Paymaster and Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

To Asst. Provost Marshall,
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Hamilton House,
Southampton

Pay & Record Office,
15th November, 1917

1547 Pte. W. L. Ross, 1st Nfld. Regt.

With reference to your memorandum 1514/17 of 14-11-17 (6856), the A.B. 64 relating to the above noted man has been received, please, together with the military police report. Pte. Ross deserted from his Regiment in France 28-8-17, was apprehended on 3-10-17 by the Civil Police in London, and was handed over to the Military authorities. While on his way to France under escort Ross escaped at the Docks, Southampton, 15-10-17. As he appears to be still in the Vicinity of Southampton, will you please exercise every effort to apprehend him. Copy of A.F. B124 is enclosed.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Off. i/c Records

1582/17

40.

From Asst. Provost Marshal,
Southampton

To Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

27-11-17

Reference minute 1. Inquiries have been made at all likely places in Southampton and District for 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, but up to the present no trace can be found.

(sgnd) F. H. TIMINOS, Capt.
for Lt. Col.
Asst. Provost Marshal
No. 9 (Portsmouth) Area,
Southampton.

1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down,
Nov. 14.

Captain Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St.,
London.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a letter addressed to Pte Will Ross that came in an envelope to my address. Will you please forward it as I do not know where my cousin is as he has not written as he promised when he was sent back to France. I am leaving here in Kilkeel now. Expect to be here for two or three months. Left London the first of this month. I had intended going down to see you before I left the City but had no opportunity. I wanted to tell you how I fared in my visit to Brixton gaol and the Police Court where I saw and spoke to Will, in fact I had a long talk to him. Have you not heard anything how he fared since? Has he had his Court-Martial? Can you tell me ~~anything~~ what happened? My uncle and I are both ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ anxious to know. The enclosed letter came from Newfoundland but I don't know who from.

I Remain,

Yours Sincerely,

(Sd). (MRS) KATHLEEN MILLS.

42

12352/1

Newfoundland Contingent.
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St, S.W.1
16 November, 1917.

Mrs Kathleen Mills,
1, Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel, Co. Down,.

Madam,

1547. PTE. W. L. ROSS.

In reply to your letter of 14/11/17 (6889) : I beg to inform you that Pte Ross escaped at Southampton while on his way, under escort, to France on 15-10-17. He is still at large and I am therefore returning the letter to you. I had some time ago a communication from Pte. Ross' mother and the handwriting on the envelope enclosed appears to resemble hers.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant

(sgnd) H.A. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.
for Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records

43.

1 Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park,
Kilkeel,
Nov. 22nd.

Capt. Anderson,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, London

Dear Sir,

I received your kind reply to my letter. Was very much shocked to hear such bad news about Will Ross. Had had a letter from his mother and I judge from it that she is in a very low and dangerous condition of health. Would it be asking too much of you to report to me any further news you get regarding Will. I would consider it a great favour, as

his people seem to think its up to me to be his Guardian Angel or something of that sort.

I had a letter from my cousin Nurse Cron yesterday and she asked me to drop into 58 Victoria Street and ask you to change the address on her letters etc. . . .

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

(sgnd) KATHLEEN MILLS

44.

(Telegram received 20-11-17)

Synoptical, London

Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the matter- when Ross- has been captured-

Military

45.

Newfoundland Contingent
Pay & Record Office
58 Victoria Street, S.W.1
20th November, 1917

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

The following telegram has been received this date from the
Hon. the Minister of Militia:

"Synoptical, London

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

Copies of correspondence etc. relating to the case are enclosed for your information, please.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major

12691/144 *

46.

From Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.

To Hon. Minister of Militia,
St John's, Newfoundland.

21st November

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross (Ref. 11120/76, 2410-17)

of

Exchange/telegrams confirmed, please:

"Received 18-11-17 (6940)

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to partic-
"ulars- of his case-

Military."

Despatched 18-11-17 (1175)

"Military, St John's.

"Reference your telegram 17th November . . . Ross- still-
"at large-

Synoptical."

Received 20-11-17 (6987)

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross-

"full stop- request him- take what action you properly can in
"the matter- when- Ross- has been captured-
Military."

The last quoted has been communicated to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of
the case sent him.

(sgnd) H. A. TIMWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & Off. i/c Records.

47.

Durrants Hotel,
George Street,
Manchester Sq., W. 1
23rd November, 1917

Dear Major Timewell,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the
20th November in reference to 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I note the
message from Minister of Militia desiring that I should take
action in this matter.

I gather from our conversation this morning that you will
take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being
taken in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter.
I am in a position to show, I think conclusively, that when he
deserted he was not of sound mind.

(sgnd) E.P. MORRIS

P.S. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

Major W.A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent, Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, S.W.

48.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, SW.1
26th November, 1917

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office, S.W. 1

Sir, No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Newfoundland Regt. (Deserter)

I have the honour to quote telegrams exchanged with the Min-
ister of Militia, St John's, Newfoundland:

Received 18-11-17 (6940)

"Synoptical, London.

"Has- 1547- Ross- returned- keep me informed- as to- partic-
"ulars- in his case-

Military."

Despatched 18-11-17 (1175)

"Military, St John's.

"Reference your telegram of 17th November . . . Ross- still-
"at large-

Synoptical."

Received 20-11-17 (6987)

"Synoptical, London.

"Represent to Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full
"stop- request him- take what action you properly can in the
"matter- when- Ross- has been captured-

Military."

On communication the contents of the last quoted telegram
to the Rt. Hon. Sir E.P. Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, who is
at present on a visit to this country, I was requested by him
to take such steps as might be practicable with a view to prelim-
inary precaution to further desired object, and this letter is
addressed to you accordingly.

I may add that Ross was reported absent without leave from the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, B.E.F. as from 20-8-17, was apprehended in London and while on his way back to France escaped his escort at Southampton docks on 15-10-17 and has not been heard of since. The Garrison Sergt. Major, Great Scotland Yard is in possession of all the facts of the case.

Whilst the gravity of the ~~xxxx~~ offence is recognised, it being understood that there is proof that the man was not of sound mind, it is a special desire of those concerned that the representations may be made at the proceedings which will follow his apprehension.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient servant.

(Sd) H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.
Chief Paymaster & C i/c Records.

49.

12858/16.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St, S.W.1.
26th, November 1917.

Dear Sir Edward ;

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 23-11-17 (7176) and enclose copy of this office No. 12857/243 of this date to the Secretary of the War Office.

Yours Faithfully.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.

50.

13050/167.

From; Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St,
London, S.W.

To The Hon, Minister of Militia,
St John's, Newfoundland.

28th, November, 1917.

No 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross, (Ref. 12691/144, 21/11/17.)

Further to above quoted No. copies of the following letters are enclosed for your information, please :

P. & R.O. letter 12501/15, 20-11-17, to the Rt. Hon, Sir, E.P. Morris,

Reply thereto, 23-11-17, (7176).

P. & R.O. letter No 12857/243, 26-11-17, to the Secretary of the War Office.

P. & R.O. letter No 12858/16, 26-11-17, to the Rt, Hon Sir E.P. Morris.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

51.

14140/1/R. & C.

Mrs Kathleen Mills,
1 Victoria Villas,
Bayview Park, Kilkree,
Ireland.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St, S.W.1.
19 December, 1917.

De
MY

Dear Madam;

1547. Pte. W.L. Ross.

In reply to your request sometime ago (t192) I have to inform you that there has been no further news of Pte W.L. Ross

(XX)

of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment and he is still at large.

Yours faithfully,

(sgnd) H. A. ANDERSON, 2/Lt.

52.

Durrant's Hotel,
London.
26/12/17.

Dear Major Timewill.

You will remember the case of the soldier Ross of the Newfoundland Regiment, and my asking you to have a report made for me on the matter and your reply. How does this case now stand? I want information to report by outgoing mail for the Department of Militia.

Yours Faithfully.

(Sd). E.B.Morris.

53.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St. S.W.1.
27th, December, 1917.

Dear Sir Edward Morris,

In the absence of Major Timewill, who has gone away for a few days, I opened your letter addressed to him this morning.

So far as is known here No 1547, Pte. W.L. Ross is still at large and no information whatever can be obtained concerning him. As soon as any news comes to hand, you will be communicated with in the matter.

Yours Faithfully,

(Sd). H.A.ANDERSON.

54.

(Telegram despatched 7/1/18.)

Military, St. John's.

1547. Pte. W.L. Ross - has been apprehended - he will be repatriated, under charge of Captain O'Grady shortly - returning by transport - this has been arranged - in consultation with Sir Edward Morris -
Synoptical.

55.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St. S.W.1.
7th, January, 1918.

229/2/c

The Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

Sir ; No 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross. 1st Newfoundland Regiment.

With reference to the above named man whom you advise as being apprehended ; it is understood that you be good enough to detain him pending repatriation to Newfoundland. It is expected that a transport will be leaving about the middle of the month for which his return will be arranged.

It is proposed that an escort will take charge of him for embarkation purposes and he will be handed over to an officer of the Newfoundland Regiment who is returning on duty and who will

be responsible for his custody and handing over to the Military Authorities at St John's to deal with the charges which may be preferred.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.
Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records

56.

Asst. Provost Marshal.
Headquarters London District.
11, Carlton House Terrace,
S.W.1.
8th January 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria St, S.W.1.

No 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross.

Receipt of our memo 299/2/c dated 7-1-18, concerning the above named man was acknowledged.

He will be held in close custody, according to your wishes, until an escort is provided conveying him back to Newfoundland.

(Sd). KEITH TREVOR. Captain.
For Lt. Colonel.
Asst. Provost Marshal, London District.

300/24/c.

57.

From; Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent
58, Victoria St. S.W. 1.

To Officer Commanding
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
Ayr, Scotland.

Pay & Record Office,
7th, January, 1918.

No 1547. Pte. W.L. ROSS?

This man who an absentee from France some time ago and escaped from two distinct escorts has been recaptured. By a special arrangement the A.P.M. he will be allowed to return to Newfoundland under escort to be dealt with by Headquarters and will proceed under charge of Capt O'Grady. Having regard to the case and Ross' previous record an escort will be necessary. Can you provide two reliable men from those you have at the Depot awaiting repatriation to take him over from the Imperial Authorities here for embarkation on the next transport?

It may be added that this special arrangement has been made on the distinct understanding that Ross is removed from the United Kingdom and it therefore most essential that his escort should be capable and could be relied upon to carry out this duty.

If you are able to provide suitable men it will be necessary for them to report here in good time, particulars of which will be telegraphed to you as soon as known so that they may be in London in ample time to take charge of the prisoner and ensure embarkation.

It is presumed that if the escort carries side-arms that will be sufficient unless you have two Ross Rifles which might be sent back to Newfoundland.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.
Chief Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

58.

From Officer Commanding,
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment

(XIII).

To :- The Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent.
London.S.W.

AIR. NB.
Jany, 9th, 1918.

It is regretted that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit for this duty. I
It is not understood how he is being dealt with and why he is not disposed of in the ordinary manner.

(Sd). C.KARN. Capt.,
for Lieut.Colonel.
Commanding 2nd Battalion Newfoundland Regiment

59.

479/1/C

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St, S.W.I.
10th, January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris.

NO, 1547. Pte.W.L.ROSS.

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named man and my call upon you of the 7th, inst, when I stated what had been tentatively arranged in the case, and subsequent submission to you of copies of my telegram to the Minister of Militia and letter to the Asst Provost Marshal, London District on the subject. I may say that at the suggestion of this later Officer, Ross was brought to me under escort, the idea being that he should be told what had taken place and how it had been possible to intervene and arrange that he be sent to Newfoundland for trial by Court Martial instead of his being ~~sent~~ returned to France when he would in all probability be sentenced to be shot.

As I verbally informed you the A.P.M. agreed to this course at my special request and in my assurance that the man would be repatriated under escort for trial, and I am taking advantage of Capt O'Grady's return to Newfoundland to place the prisoner in his charge. Capt O'Grady will carry certified copies of all documents relating to the case, for natural it is inadvisable to risk Originals, Overseas, whilst it is most important that the case should be dealt with very fully, otherwise in the event of a similar one arising it may not be possible to make a like arrangement with the Military Authorities here.

Perhaps you might think it desirable that the documents should be notarily certified. If not, I propose to read them over in the presence of Capt. O'Grady when he and I can certify as being true copies.

If there are any special directions in the matter which you would care to give, you will doubtless be good enough to convey them.

Yours Faithfully.

(Sd). H.A. TIMEWELL. Major.

60.

From ; The Hon the Minister of Militia, (reply to 13050/167. Min 50.
St John's Newfoundland.

Dec, 14th, 1917.
(Rec'd 11/1/18.).

To Pay & Record Office.

Attached copies of letters received. I am glad the Prime Minister has undertaken to interest himself in this case, and of course you will keep me notified of any happenings as previously requested in my wire of 18-11-17.

(Sd). W.F. HENDELL. Major, C.S.O.
for Minister of Militia.

(XXIII)

61.

From the Hon. Minister of Militia,
St John's, Newfoundland

(Reply to 12691/144 Min.46)
December 20th, 1917.
(Rec'd 11-1-18)

To Pay & Record Office

It is noted that Sir Edward Morris has been given a complete history of this case.

Your 13050/167 was received prior to the arrival of this letter.

(sgnd) W. F. RENDELL, Major, C.S.O
For Minister of Militia

62.

573/14/C.

From Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1

To Officer Commanding,
1/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
B.E.F.

Pay & Record Office,
12th January, 1918

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

With reference to previous correspondence with regard to the above named soldier; Ross has now been apprehended and is in custody pending transport to H.Q., St John's, for trial. This ~~request~~ arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., London District, at my request and with the entire support of Lord Morris, please.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

64. ~~RE~~.

(Telegram despatched 15-1-18)

D.A.G. Base, France.
Please express all documents relating to 1547 Ross, Newfoundland Regiment, especially proceedings Court of Enquiry mailed you 11-10-17.

Synoptical."

65. ~~RE~~.

(Telegram despatched 13-1-18)

D.A.G. Base, France.
Please express A.Fs. B103 and 122 of 1547 Ross Newfoundland Regiment.
Synoptical."

65.

576/2/C.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1
13th January, 1918.

Dear Lord Morris,

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

Further to my letter 479/1/C., 10-1-18, may I ask your advice as to the desirability of getting expert legal military opinion regarding available facts and documents relating to this case, so as to render every possible assistance to Headquarters in formulating the

the charges and conducting the Court Martial.

As discussed the object in view is to secure the man's trial in his own country and at the same time mete out ~~some~~ adequate punishment and ensure the upholding of Military Discipline, for I think it is mutually agreed that if Ross were to be sent back to France and the extreme penalty carried out, the circumstances would not be sufficiently appreciated in Newfoundland to prevent possible disastrous effects on recruiting.

Apart from the concrete charge of desertion, reports to hand imply that Ross may be afflicted with criminal lunacy and he is certainly a public danger. Capt. O'Grady, to whom I have explained the case generally and who has seen various documents relating thereto, has made a suggestion which I think a very good one - i.e. that Ross should be examined here as to his mental condition.

I assume that it is quite possible that he will attempt something desperate during the voyage and Capt. O'Grady will exercise special care to prevent such an eventuality as Ross going overboard.

I am quite prepared to find that my action is objected to by the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion, and possibly pressure may be brought to bear so that Ross may be returned to his unit: but I am confident that under all circumstances the course taken is the best, in the general interest and I appreciate the fact that you have been good enough to express your approval and support thereof.

Yours faithfully,

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL

66.

Durrant's Hotel,
Manchester Square, W. 1
Jan. 14th, 1918.

Dear Major Timewell,

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross

In this case I concur with you the course taken is the best under all the circumstances, especially in view of the man's mental infirmity. I think you would do well to obtain and follow the advice of the Dept. at the War Office dealing with this class of case and procure from them a list of the evidence you ought to send out to Newfoundland in relation to this man.

Yours f'fully,
(sgnd) E.P. MORRIS

67.

To: Pay & Record Office,
Newfoundland Regiment,

Re 1547 Pte. W. Ross

The following is a copy of letter received from General Superintendent, Midland Railway, Derby-

"To Officer Commanding,
1st. Battn, Newfoundland Regt, etc, etc,

Dear Sir, Sergt W. Ross.

This man presented himself at our Derby Station on Dec 29th, and stated that he had lost the return half of his France to Derby free ticket.

In accordance with instructions a fresh ticket was issued to him without charge, from Derby to St. Pancras, and I shall be glad to know if you can confirm that a free ticket was issued to him from France to Derby and back.

Yours Faithfully,

5/1/18.

for General Superintendent."

Ross is evidently masquerading as a Sergeant, and I shall be glad if you will communicate this to the Military Police

authorities, as Ross may still be at large in London.

11/1/18.

(Sd). J.S. WOODRUFFE, Lieut.-Col.
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regiment.

68.

Pay & Record Office.
14/1/18.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingent,
58, Victoria St.
London, S.W.1.

In accordance with your order I telephoned Capt. Trevor, A.P.M. and asked what should be done with the letters and parcels belonging to 1547. Pte. W.L. Ross, which are lying at this office. He informed me to forward the letters on to him, and to confiscate any parcels as they contain articles which would enable him to ~~injure~~ do injury to himself.

Ross is being detained at the Central Recruiting Depot, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

(Sd). W. PIGGOTT, a/Sergeant.

775/32/C.

69.

From : Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St,
London, S.W.1.

To: The Hon. the Minister of Militia,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

15th January, 1918.

No 1547. Pte. W.L. ROSS. (Ref. 13050/167.28/11/17.)

Telegram No 52,7/1/18, confirmed, please.

"Military, ~~XXXX~~ St. John's,
"1547- Ross- has been apprehended--he will be- repatriated-
"under charge of- Captain- O'Grady- shortly- returning by
"transport- this has been arranged- in consultation with-
"Sir- Edward- Morris-.

Synoptical"

Ross is at present at Hunter Street Police Station awaiting repatriation.

At the suggestion of the Asst. Provost Marshal, London Det., Ross was brought before me last week under escort and it was explained to him that it had been possible to intervene and have him sent back to Newfoundland instead of his being returned to France where he knew what would have taken place. This action had been taken not to save him from the punishment he deserved but in the interests of the Regiment and to allow of his being tried in his own country.

When he was first brought in he attempted to make an explanation, but was checked. It was also impressed upon him that if he made any further attempt to escape ordinary military procedure would be allowed to take its course. Before being dismissed he was asked whether he had anything to say and replied in the negative.

Capt. O'Grady and myself have subsequently visited the APM. and gone into further details, all of which together with copies of documents relating to the case generally will be carried by Capt. O'Grady.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster and Off. i/c Records.

776/51/C

70.

From: Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records,
* Newfoundland Contingent,
58 Victoria Street, S.W.1

(XXVI)

To Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment,
Winchester

Pay & Record Office,
15th January, 1918

No. 1547, Pte. W. L. Ross

With reference to exchange of this office No. 300/24/C and the fact that none of the men awaiting repatriation are considered fit to act as escort for this man: Will you kindly provide two reliable and suitable men for this purpose, who will take Ross from the A.P.M. for embarkation. It is understood that the escort will be required on Friday next, but these particulars will be telegraphed to you later.

Capt. O'Grady who is visiting you is in possession of full facts of the case and will explain the matter to you, please.

(sgnd) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major
Chief Paymaster and Off. i/c Records

71.

(Telegram despatched 17-1-18)

Newfound, Winchester

Reference memorandum 51 please furnish two competent men with side arms to report this office 2 p.m. tomorrow Friday to escort Prisoner Ross for embarkation as escort will return to you after embarking prisoner.
Synoptical."

72.

From Officer Commanding,
2/1 Newfoundland Regiment

To Paymaster,
Newfoundland Contingent,
London, S.W.

Haseley-Down Camp,
Winchester
Jan. 16, 1918.

It is regretted that there is no authority for the release of two fit men to be away from their unit several weeks on escort duty and therefore they cannot be furnished by this unit.

(sgnd) C. KARN, Capt.
for Lt. Col.
Commanding 2nd Batt. Newfoundland Regt.

73.

A.P.M. L.D. 7383/S

Asst. Provost Marshal,
Headquarters, London Det.,
11 Carlton House Terrace,
S.W. 1
18th Jan., 1918.

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records,
Newfoundland Regt.

No. 1547 Pte. Ross, W.

With reference to your 299/2/C dated 7-1-18, and in continuation of my A.P.M. L.D. 7383/s dated 8-1-18, the attached Army Form B-252, Form of surrender and statement in the case of the above named man, are forwarded for your information, please.

(sgnd) KEITH TREVOR, Capt.
for Lieut. Col.
Assistant Provost Marshal,
London District.

Certificate under Army Act, Sec. 163 (J)

I, Capt. Keith Trevor, an Asst. Provost Marshal, London District, certify that number 1547, (Rank) Pte. (Name) W. Ross, of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, surrendered himself to 7505 (Rank) Sergt. (Name) H. Wakeley, of the Garrison Military Police at Kings Cross Rd. at 8:30 p.m. on the 5th January 1918, as an absentee without leave, dressed in uniform.

(sgnd) KEITH TREVOR, Capt.
Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.

Asst. Provost Marshall,
London District,
11, Carlton House Terrace, S.W. 1
15 January 1918.

I, William L. Ross, wish to make the following statement, I deserted my regiment on August 20th, 1917. The cause was due to my nerves. I was suffering from shell shock and partial loss of memory. It was not done intentionally, but the thoughts of going back to the trenches after that happened was more than I could stand, so I walked away from my Battalion and how I got to England is still a mystery to me. I was stricken with shell shock in October 1916, and was told by our Medical Officer that I was to report to the Quartermaster for duty in the Q.M.'s Department, being temporarily unfit for the trenches. I worked in that Department for eight months and I was sent back to the trenches not by the Doctor by the C.O.'s orders. I went in for four days and found my nerves were just the same and when I came out I reported myself to the medical officer, who told me without examination that there was nothing wrong with me. ~~That~~ nights the thoughts of the trenches nearly drove me crazy, I could sleep or eat, but always thinking what I was going to do to get out of it. One night the idea struck me to desert and the next day I went away. All my equipment I left in my Company Quartermaster's tent. I did not take anything with me but a belt, which was stolen on me when I first arrived. I made this statement voluntarily.

(sgnd) WILLIAM L. ROSS

I was present when the above named soldier wrote this statement.

(sgnd) F. LINGARD, Sergt.
G.M. Police

To be used only for Special Reserve Recruits, and for Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Surname Law

OF
Christian Name William

Table I.—GENERAL TABLE.
Birthplace:—Parish St. Grace County Newfoundland

	SPECIAL RESERVE.		REGULAR ARMY.	
	on	day of	on	day of
Examined	23	March 1915		191
Declared age	18	years		days
Trade or occupation				
Height	5	feet 8		inches
Weight		140		lbs.
Chest Measurement {	Girth when fully expanded		36	inches
	Range of expansion		3	inches
Physical development				
Vaccination marks {	Right	Left	Right	Left
	Arm			
When vaccinated... ..	8 years ago			
Vision	R.E.—V. =	6/6	R.E.—V. =	
	L.E.—V. =	6/6	L.E.—V. =	
(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease				
(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection	Teeth bad. Has plate made			
Approved by (Signature)	<u>W. H. Murray</u>			
(Rank)	Lieut			
Enlisted	at	St. John's	at	
Joined on enlistment	on	29 day of April 1915	on	day of 191
Transferred to	Corps	Mtd Regt	Corps	Regtl. No.
Became non-effective by		1547		
(Signature)	on	day of 191	on	day of 191
(Rank)				



6 ✓

74

CERTIFICATE UNDER ARMY ACT. SECTION 163 (J).

I, Capt Keith Tveon.....an Assistant Provost

Marshal, London District, certify that No. 1547.....Rank Private.

Name A. Ross.....of the 1st Newfoundland.....Regt,

surrendered himself to No. 7505.....Rank Sgt.....Name W. Hanley.

of the Garrison Military Police.....

at Kings Cross Road.....at 8.30 p.m.,

on the 5th January.....1918, as a ~~deserter or~~

an absentee without leave.

Dressed in uniform

Signature Keith Tveon

Asst. Provost Marshal,
London District.



Date

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT PAY & RECORD OFFICE.	RECORDED IN	FILED IN	INDEXED	FILED
	18	JAN 1918		
	OK'd		Ans'd	
	Ref. Nos: 001			
ACTED UPON	BY	DATE		
Comd				
R & C				
S & F				
S.				

REPORT

OF

A DESERTER

OR ABSENTEE WITHOUT LEAVE

from the 1/1st Newfoundland Regt.,
British Expeditionary Force.

Newfoundland Contingent, P.&.R.O.,

Dated at 58 Victoria St. London.S.W.

this 28th Day of August, 19 17.

Army Form B. 124.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of the "Police Gazette,"

(Free)

New Scotland Yard,

From

Regt.

London, S.W.

*Signature of Commanding
Officer* }

Copy to Police Gazette 2/9/17.
Military Police.



1/1st Newfoundland Regt., B.E.F. (Unit)

Army Form B. 124

REPORT OF A DESERTER or Absentee without leave from the above Unit since 20/8/17 Dated at London this 28th day of August, 1917.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Number, Rank and Name ...		1547, Pte. Wm. L. Ross.	
Age 21 years 4 months		Trade.....	Clerk
Height.....	{ Feet ... 5	Colour of...	{ Complexion ... Fair
	{ Inches ... 8		{ Hair Brown
			{ Eyes Blue
Date and Place of Enlistment		St. John's, Newfoundland, April 29, 1915.	
Parish and County in which Born*.....		Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.	
Date and Place of Desertion or Absence.....		B.E.F., 20/8/17.	
Marks			
Information which might assist police in tracing deserter or absentee (e.g., recent address of relations, or of employer before enlistment)		He appears to be taller now than 5 ft. 8 ins. Possibly 5 ft. 9" or 10".	
See Note			
See Note † (not applicable to Militia)		Under three years service.	

Signature of Commanding Officer (Sgd) H. A. Anderson, 2/Lt.

* The Post Town of the Parish is to be stated.

|| If the soldier deserted or absented himself without leave while on furlough, it is to be stated thus—"on Furlough to" (address on furlough to be inserted).

† The length of the soldier's service up to the time of desertion, or absence without leave, is to be here stated, thus—"under 6 months' service,"—"under one year's service,"—"under two years' service," and so on, as the case may be.

N.B.—When this form is used for Militia or Territorial Force, or for a Special Reservist, the word "Militia," "Territorial Force," or "Special Reservist," should be inserted in red ink at the head of the form.

The form is, however, applicable to the Territorial Force only when embodied.

COPY.

MEMORANDUM.

From
The O.i/c No. 1 Infantry
Section,
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon.

To
The Chief Paymaster
& O.i/c Records,
Newfoundland Contingt

Date 14th Jany, 1918

LONDON, S.W.

Herewith Army Form B. 103 of No. 1547
Private William Ross as requested in your
telegram of to-day's date.

O.C. Unit has been asked to transmit
A.F. B.122 which will be forwarded when
received.

(Sgd) E. Aldridge, Major,

Officer i/c No.1 Inf. Sect.
G.H.Q.,
3rd Echelon.



IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT.

MEMORANDUM of a ^{adjudication} CONVICTION entered in the REGISTER of the COURT of SUMMARY JURISDICTION,

sitting at the

The

Old Street
11th day of *October*

POLICE COURT.

, 1917.

Name of Defendant. Age if known.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Offence.	Plea.	Minute of Adjudication.
<i>James Ross 21</i> <i>Private</i>	<i>Deserted Army</i>	<i>20.8.17</i>	<i>G.</i>	<i>sworn up to desert</i> <i>Edw. H. Heyesker</i> <i>Magistrate adjudicating</i>

Sch. I. 64.

EXTRACT FROM
REGISTER
FOR PROVING A
CONVICTION.

I certify the above extract to be a true copy.

H. Crankshaw

Clerk of the said Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

The *16th* day of *May*

, 1918.

CHARGE.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte. Ross, William L,

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
London Section 15(1a)	5-1-18	When on Active Service Absent till apprehended by the Military Foot Police at King's Cross London N. about 8.30 pm on the 5-1-18.	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. SERGT. E.S.HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT.	Remanded for Court Martial	Geo. T. Carty Major March 15th 2 1918

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte W.L. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
Southampton, England	15-10-17	When proceeding overseas under escort from London to join 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment in France, escaping from Transport at Southampton, England, on 15-10-18 until he surrendered to G.M.P. at London on 5-1-18		Remanded for Court-Martial	Geo. T. Carv Major March 15th 1918
Sec. 22			Documentary Evidence		

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

CHARGE.Army Form B 252.
(See King's Regulations)**The Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

.....COMPANY

CHARGE against No 1547, Pte W. Ross

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment Awarded	By Whom Awarded
France	20-8-17	When on Active Service in France deserting from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 20-8-17 until apprehended by the Civil Police on 3-10-17 at London, England.		Remanded for Court Martial	Geo. T. Carty Major March 15th 1918
Section 12 (1a)			DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.		

.....Company,
The Royal Nfld. Regiment

S U M M A R Y o f E V I D E N C E

In the case of No.1547 Pte Ross, William L., of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, taken at the Naval and Military Hospital, Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, the FIFTEENTH DAY OF MARCH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN by

MAJOR G.T.CARTY,
COMMANDING.

The accused was charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No.1, as follows:-

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses
London	5-1-18	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE ABSENT UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE MILITARY FOOT POLICE AT KING'S CROSS, LONDON N. ABOUT 8.30 PM ON 5-1-18	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE SERGT E.S. HENNEBURY ORD. SERGT

15 (1a)

ACCUSED WAS WARNED by the O.C. that any statements he would make might be used in "Open Court" at his subsequent trial, if any.

Accused was then asked if he had anything to say to the charge and replied in the negative.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady then made statement as attached.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of 1547 Pte William L. Ross, The Royal Newfoundland Regiment. March 15th 1918.

Capt. J.J.O'Grady's statement:-

"I am an officer in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. I was in London on duty on January 15th 1918 and under orders to proceed Overseas to Newfoundland. I was informed by Major Timewell, Chief Paymaster of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at London, that No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L., who was held as a prisoner by the Imperial authorities on a charge of being absent without leave from France- would be sent to Newfoundland under my charge. I reported to Captain Trevor A.P.M. on January 16th 1918 for further instructions. On the morning of JANUARY 18th 1918 I again reported to the A.P.M. to make final arrangements for taking over prisoner. On the afternoon of January 18th 1918 I was present at the Pay & Record office when all papers in connection with the Prisoner's record were read over. The original papers were read by Major Timewell in my presence, and the copy which I now have in was compared by me with the original. I then signed the papers, after which they were sealed and closed by Major Timewell in my presence and then handed over to me. On the evening of the same date, the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. was handed over to the escort by the authorities at Scotland Yard PRISON, and was conveyed to the transport. On my arrival at St. John's Newfoundland, I delivered the prisoner No 1547 Pte Ross, W.L. to Lieut W. Pippy, Orderly Officer of the Depot."

(Certified Correct) (SGD) J.J.O'GRADY

Capt.
Royal Newfoundland Regt.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No.1547 Pte William L. Ross, The
Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1918

The documents referred to were thereupon handed over to the O.C.
by CAPTAIN O'GRADY.

On perusal by the O.C. they were found to be inscribed as
follows.-

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

Copies of
TELEGRAMS, LETTERS, REPORTS, ETC.

Relating to

No.1547, Pte. W.L. Ross.

1ST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN DOCUMENTS NUMBERED FROM ONE (1)
to SEVENTY-SIX (76) ARE TRUE COPIES OF THE ORIGINALS.

H.A. TIMEWELL,

Major

Chief Paymaster and Officer i/c Records.

J.J.O'GRADY,

Capt.

Adjutant, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Pay & Record office,

58 Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1

18th January 1918.

O.C:- "Have you anything to ask Captain O'Grady?"

Accused:- "No"

The O.C. then read to the prisoner several of the documents.

O.C:- "Have you any objections or statements to make regarding
these documents.

ACCUSED:- "No! I have heard them read before"

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547, Pte William L. Ross,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th, 1918.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 2, as follows:-

SECTION 12
(1a)

Place	Date of Offence	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
France	20-8-17	WHEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN FRANCE DESERTING FROM THE 1ST BATTALION ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT ON 20-8-17 UNTIL APPREHENDED BY THE CIVIL POLICE ON 3-10-17 AT LONDON, England.	Documentary Evidence.

Accused was not asked to plead.

The accused was then charged with the following as per Charge Sheet marked No 3, as follows:-

Place.	Date of Offence.	Offence	Names of Witnesses.
Southampton, ENGLAND.	15-10-17.	WHEN PROCEEDING OVERSEAS UNDER ESCORT FROM LONDON ENGLAND, TO JOIN 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT IN FRANCE, ESCAPING FROM TRANSPORT AT SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND ON 15-10-17 UNTIL HE SURRENDERED TO G.M.P. AT LONDON ON 5-1-18.	Documentary Evidence.

Accused was not asked to plead.

PRISONER WAS THEN REMANDED FOR TRIAL COURT MARTIAL.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in the case of No 1547 Pte William L. Ross
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1917.

Lt. C.C.Duley.

Asst. Adjutant.

Placed in evidence copy of Declaration of Court of Enquiry held in France September 21st 1917, certified as a true copy by 2/Lt. H.A.Anderson of the Pay & Record Office, London, England.

The Declaration reads as follows.

"DECLARATION: The Court declare that No 1547 Pte W. Ross,

"Newfoundland Regiment, illegally absented himself without leave at on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles:-

- " 1 Jacket. S.D.
- " 1 Pair Trousers, S.D.
- " 1 " Puttees
- " 1 " Boots, ankle
- " 1 Steel Helmet
- " 1 Belt, Web.

"
"

President:

(sgd) J.A. LEDDINGHAM, CAPT.
Newfoundland Regiment.

Members:

(sgd) Kevin J. Keegan, Lt.
1st Newfoundland Regiment
(sgd) J.F. Edens, Lieut.
1st Newfoundland Regiment

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE in case of No 1547 Pte WILLIAM J. ROSS,
The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, March 15th 1916.

Sheets are numbered 1,2,3,4, and 5.

Certified that R.P. paragraph 4,(c),(d) and (e) have
been complied with.

Taken down by me in presence of the accused at

The Naval & Military Hospital,
Military Road,
St. John's, Newfoundland,

This FIFTEENTH Day of MARCH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN.

(sgd)

GEORGE T. CARTY

Major and
O.C. Depot.

 Extract from Minute of the Judge Advocate General.

2. The following charges may be preferred against Private

Ross:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1st Charge.
 Sec.12 (1a),
 Army Act.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service,
 in that he,
 in France on the 20th August, 1917, absented himself from the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, until apprehended in London on the 3rd October, 1917, by the Civil Power.</p> |
| <p>1st alternative charge.
 Sec.12 (1a)
 Army Act.
 Alternative.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he,
 in France on the 20th August, 1917, absented himself from the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, until calling at the Newfoundland Record and Pay Office London on the 27th August, 1917.</p> |
| <p>2nd alternative charge.
 Sec.12 (1a)
 Alternative</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service, in that he,
 in London on the 27th August, 1917, absented himself from the Newfoundland Record and Pay Office until apprehended in London on the 3rd October, 1917, by the Civil Power.</p> |
| <p>2nd Charge.
 Sec.12(1a)
 Army Act.</p> | <p>When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service, in that he,
 at Southampton on the 15th October, 1917, when proceeding under escort to rejoin his Regiment in France absented himself until surrendering himself in London on the 5th January 1918, to the Military Authorities.</p> |

The two alternative charges to the first charge have been inserted in case the Court might take the view that the absence was broken by the visit of the accused to the Record Office, though on the facts before me I do not think this would be the correct view as the accused did not visit the Office for the purpose of surrendering himself or ending his illegal absence and he does not appear to have been placed under arrest.

3. It is assumed that the following evidence would be available in Newfoundland in support of the first charge and charges alternative thereto:-

- (a). Original confessions of accused Documents No.12 and 75.
- (b). Original letter of the accused to the Newfoundland Record Office dated 27/8/17 referred to in Document No.2.
- (c). Army Form B.115 to prove the commencement of the absence of the accused certified in accordance with Army Act, Section 163 (h). Document No.79 contains a reference to a Court of Inquiry and it is therefore assumed that this is available.
- (d). Original Army Form O.1618 to prove the arrest of the accused by the Civil Power on the 3rd of October, 1917, admissible under Army Act, Section 163 (i).
- (e). A witness who can identify the accused as being No.1547 Private W.L.Ross, 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

- (f). Original attestation signed by the accused.
- (g). Evidence of handwriting expert to prove that the signature on the attestation and the confession and Army Form O.1618 are by the same person or the evidence of persons familiar with the handwriting of the accused who can prove that the signature on all these documents are those of the accused.
- (h). evidence of the escort who took over the accused from arrest in London and brought him to Newfoundland.
- (i). A witness who would produce on oath (a), (b), (c) and (d) and prove that he had received them from the Record Office in London.

As it would appear from some of the documents that only copies have been sent to Newfoundland I desire to call attention to the fact that it is essential that the originals of (a), (b) and (d) and a properly certified copy of (c) should be available at the trial. Attention is called to Chapter VI of the Manual of Military Law dealing with evidence at Courts-Martial.

If (c) Army Form B.115 is not available it would hardly be safe to rely upon the confessions alone without having available a witness who could speak to the circumstances under which at least one of the confessions was made. The confessions are stated on the face of them to have been made voluntarily but it is possible that a case might be set up at the trial that they were not in fact voluntary.

It would be desirable if possible that Sergeant Crocker should also be sent over as a witness at the trial to prove the incidents which occurred on the 27th August, 1917, and the taking over from the civil power after arrest on the 3rd October, 1917, though I do not think this is absolutely essential if the other evidence above referred to can be obtained.

- (4). With regard to the second charge it is assumed the following evidence would be available:-
Original Certificate of Surrender to the A.P.M. on the 5th January, 1918, admissible under Section 163 (j) of the Army Act as amended by the Army (Annual) Act 1917.

Unless a Court of Inquiry was held and a properly certified Army Form B.115 is available it will be necessary to call as a witness at the trial the escort from whom the accused escaped at Southampton.

- (5). As it appears from the documents that a plea of insanity is likely to be raised at the trial it will be a matter for consideration of the prosecution whether it will be necessary for them to be prepared with medical evidence as to the fitness of the accused to plead and his sanity at the time of the commission of the offences charged.

The usual medical certificate in pursuance of King's Regulations 580 must in any case be obtained.

Sgd. F. Cassel,

J. A. G.

13/4/18.

Old Street Police Court,
4th October, 7.William Leslie Ross,
Private. Regt. No. 1547.
1st Newfoundland Regt., France.

18.

I have been in the above Regiment nearly three years, joining at Harbor Grace, Newfoundland. I wish to make a voluntary statement concerning my desertion from the Army and the cheques found in my possession.

On the 20th August 1917 I was with my Regiment in France and I deserted during the night of the 20th. I took a train to Calais, remained there three days, then left for Dover, arriving there on the 24th August 1917, reaching London the same date.

I remained in London for about 10 days, sleeping at various places, and during this time I called at the Regimental Pay Office, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. I was there questioned by Lieut. Anderson who I informed that I was on Special Leave for 48 hours. He sent an escort with me to my aunt, Mrs. Mills, 84 Wilberforce Road, Finsbury Park, where I said I had left my leave paper. This was an excuse but I went with the escort to the house and returned with them to 59 Victoria Street, where I escaped.

On or about the 2nd of September last I went from Euston to Holyhead, thence to Greenore, Ireland, thence to Newry, Ireland, where I remained about 10 days with my uncle, Inspector James Ross, Royal Irish Constabulary, at Liskennett, Newry, County Down. I told him I was on 10 days leave, he believed me. I travelled this journey on a pass, corresponding with the number of the pass found in my possession. I obtained these passes in France.

After leaving Newry I went to Belfast, spending 14 days there, meeting there a soldier (Canadian) who told me his name was Morgan. One day whilst with Morgan he gave me, at the Imperial Hotel, Belfast, the permit bearing the name of Robert Berrington, three visiting cards bearing that name, and an American Registration card, which were found in my possession.

On or about the 27th of last month I came to London, via Belfast and Fleetwood on my pass.

Since then I have remained in this City. On Saturday last the 29th of September I met an Australian soldier at Bishopsgate. I don't know his name. I asked him for a 1/- to buy food. He said he had no money, only a cheque for £30 which he wanted cashed. He shewed me the cheque and asked me to get it cashed, and I was to meet him later at Bishopsgate. I thought it was genuine and I tried several shops to cash it. Being refused, I became suspicious and meeting the Australian soldier, I told him no one would cash it. He said "I thought so, I took the cheque book from a great coat belonging to a Canadian Sergeant near Waterloo." He told me to keep that cheque, at the same time giving me two more for £5 each on the Bank of Montreal. I then left him, but met him the same evening at Bishopsgate, I have not seen him since.

On Monday last I met the man named Reubens in Commercial Street. I went with him to his house at Lucas Street, Commercial Road, where he gave me some food. In pulling out a photo from my pocket, the cheque for £30 fell on to the table.

Reubens asked me why I didn't change it and I said it was no good to try and change it. He offered me £25 for the cheque, which I refused as I knew quite well myself the cheque was forged and he would lose his money. We then left the house and on the way he asked me to give him the cheque as he said he might buy some goods and get it changed. I gave him the cheque. I remained with him and he went to a shop, I cannot say where, to try and cash the cheque, but he told me the person could not change it until Wednesday. I then left him in possession of the cheque.

On Tuesday last during the morning, I called at Reubens shop, 45 Commercial Street, where I saw him. He told me that he had sent to the Bank for the cheque to be changed. I remained at the shop about half an hour and I heard the warning Take Cover given. I mean to say that I was not in the shop but in a private house of Reubens close by. Soon afterwards Reubens told me the Detectives were around and to clear out the back way, which I did.

I forgot to say that Reubens brother was at his house in Lucas Street when I was there on Monday evening, and he knew his brother had got the cheque for £30. This brother was also at the shop on Tuesday last while I was there, he was with me in the house when I got the message to clear out of the place. Reubens brother is a soldier of the London Regiment, he was in Khaki, I think he is a deserter.

Yesterday morning, Wednesday 3rd of this month I was arrested in Commercial Street.

Now I want to say why I deserted the Army.

It must be about last February I had shell shock in France which resulted in a nervous break down to my health. I went sick and was put on a Staff job behind the Lines. I came to England on 10 days leave last June and returned to my Regiment in France on the 6th of July last. On my arrival I found that I was returned to my Company for duty in the trenches. My nerves were no better, I had no treatment, and I again reported sick to the Doctor, without examination he told me I was fit for the trenches. I went to the trenches, I found that I could not stand shell fire. It took great effect on me. I could not sleep, or eat, my head nearly drove me mad. My nerves got the upper hand of me, I was forced to desert.

With all this trouble, my Mother heard that I had lost my job, it caused her a lot of worry, as I am her only child. It has caused me a lot of worry too, my Mother being an invalid. The letters she uses to write to me are very down heartening to me, they cause me worry. My nerves are no better now, I was too young when I started out, I couldn't stand the hardships. I was only 16 when I went on active service. My head sometimes is very bad, I lose my memory for hours. I made a self inflicted wound on my left wrist with a razor in France. I went sick with an accidental wound. I did not know I had done it until afterwards, the wound was stitched up and I went back to the trenches. I carry no knife or instrument in case I should lose my memory again. This statement I have read, it is true, if my nerves were better I would willingly go back to the trenches.

(Sd.) W. L. Ross.

Witnessed by Percy Saunders, Det., Sergt. "H" Division.
4th October 1917.

21
75



I William S. Ross wish to make the following Statement.
 I deserted my Regiment on August the 20th 1917. The cause was due to my nerves ^{of war} suffering from shell shock ~~which~~ and partial loss of memory. It was not done intentionally but the thought of going back to the trenches after that happened was more than I could stand so I took walked away from my Battalion and how I got to England is still a mystery to me. I was Stricken with shell shock in October 1916 and was told by our medical officer that I was to report to the Quartermaster for duty in the Q.M. Department being temporarily unfit for the trenches. I worked in that department for 8 months and I was sent back to the trenches not by the doctor but by the C.O.'s orders. I went in for 4 days and found my nerves were just the same and when I came out I reported myself to the medical officer who told me without examination that there was nothing wrong with me. At night the thoughts of the trenches nearly drove me crazy I could not sleep or eat but always thinking what I was going to do to get out of it. one night the idea struck me to desert and the next day I went away. All my equipment I left in my company Quartermaster's tent. I did not take anything with me but a belt. which was stolen on me when I first arrived. I made this Statement voluntarily.

William S. Ross

I was present when the above named Soldier wrote this statement.

F. L. Ingers. Sgt.
 G. M. Police.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.	
NO. 18	JAN 1918
REG'T	COMP
NAME	
REG'T	
B. & F.	
P.S.	

2)
Enlist again in America.
But all I hope is that the
cross of Christ will fall
on the heads of our doctor
& old Haddon & kill
them both. Say good bye to
old crocker poor devil. Well
sir best of luck and I hope
that you have no casualties
in the pay office.

Yours truly
W L Ross

1ST WOODLAND REGIMENT	
PAY & RECORD OFFICE	
Ref. No.	4771
Rec'd.	AUG 28 1917
Acc'd.	
Ans'd.	✓
File No.	

R. H. Anderson
7120 Pay & Record Office
58 Victoria St
London SW

3

Dear Sir:

Just a short note to tell
you not to worry yourselves
in that pay office about me
as I am off for America
in about an hour's time.
Thanks to a good friend and
I shant bother you any more
as I have lots of money. I
never had a pass but I had
brains enough to dodge the
mips. If I had been treated
decent by our C. O. Haddon
I would not have deserted
I done my two years in
the trenches and I shall

Copy to M. No. 2818 J.F.F.

4

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
A3922 Wt. W145 8 Mps 500.000 12 15 Sch. 2

Forms
A. 2
39

Army Form A. 2.

PROCEEDINGS of a Court of Enquiry

*N.B.—The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

assembled at Proven, Belgium.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

on the Twenty first day of September, 1917.

by order of Major A. E. Bernard, M.C.
Commanding 1st Newfoundland Regt.

for the purpose of enquiring into the alleged absence of no. 1547, private W. Ross.
1st Newfoundland Regt.

PRESIDENT.

Capt. J. A. Hedingham, 1st Newfoundland R.



MEMBERS.

Lieut. K. J. Keegan, 1st Newfoundland R.
Lieut. J. F. Edens.

IN ATTENDANCE.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence.

[Handwritten signature]

I.

Copy to M. No.

28/18

49

1st Witness.

no. 1256 Corporal Francis Somerton, 1st Newfoundland Regiment being duly sworn, states.

I am acting platoon sergeant of no. 7. platoon 'B' Company, Newfoundland Regt. On the 20th of August 1917 when I called the roll of the platoon before going into the trenches I found no. 1547 private W. Ross to be absent. I had saw him on parade about five minutes previous without his equipment. He was sent by the platoon commander to get his equipment but did not return. I reported his absence to the platoon commander before moving off for the trenches.

2nd Witness.

no. 404 acting Regimental Sergeant Major Frederick P. LeGros, 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states.



I am acting Regimental Sergeant Major of 1st Newfoundland Regiment.

On the 20th of August 1917 when the battalion marched off to the trenches ~~Private~~ acting Company sergeant Major Field of B. Company reported to me that no. 1547 private W. Ross was absent. He is still absent.

3rd Witness.

no. 161 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Francis Walsh, 1st Newfoundland Regt. being duly sworn states.

I am Company Quartermaster Sergeant of 'B' Company, 1st Newfoundland Regiment

Copy to Mr. 4
28/18
[Signature]

3rd W. Inf.

(continued)

on the 20th August 1917, acting Company Sergeant Major Field reported to me that no. 1547 private W. Ross, was absent. I went to his tent to take an inventory of his kit & equipment and found the following deficiencies.

- 1 Jacket, s.o. 1 pair Trousers, s.o. 1 pair Putties
- 1 pair Boots, ankle, 1 steel helmet, 1 belt, web.

Declaration.

The Court declare that no. 1547 private W. Ross, Newfoundland Regt. illegally absented himself without leave at _____ on the 20th day of August; that he is still so absent and that on the 20th day of August he was deficient, and that he is still deficient of the following articles.



- 1 Jacket, s.o.
- 1 pair Trousers s.o.
- 1 pair putties
- 1 pair Boots, ankle.
- 1 steel helmet.
- 1 belt, web.

President. J. Hedding Harv. Capt. Newfoundland Regt.

Members. Henry Keegan Lt. Newfoundland Regt.
[Signature] Lt. Newfoundland Regt.

COPY.

Regimental No. 1547.

Company _____

THE

1 ST. NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

I hereby enlist for service at home or abroad in the
King's Forces under the following conditions:

For the duration of the present war, or until
my discharge.

Subject to the Army Act, the King's Regulations,
and to such ordinances as may apply or may
be made to apply to the British Regular Army.

Subject to the Newfoundland Volunteer Act,
5 George V., Chapter IV.

Signed William L Ross.

Witness S. Robertson.

Dated at
2/1st Newfoundland Regiment,
Orderly Room,
1st Feb., 1916.



Statement as to character and particulars of service of
#1547 Private W.L.Ross, 1st Battalion The Royal Newfoundland
Regiment.

A.F.B. number 296 not available.

Enlisted at St. John's, Newfoundland April 29, 1915.

Embarked for Service Overseas on H.M.S. Calgarian June 17/1915.

reporting at Depot 1st Newfoundland Regiment, Ayr.

Proceeded on Active Service to France, disembarking at Marseilles
April 3/1916 further service as noted on A.F.B. 103 as per certified
copy attached.

Statement of conduct as per certified copies A.F.B. 121 A.F.B. 122
attached.

George L. Barry Major.
O.C. Depot.
St. John's, Nfld.

March 16, 1918.

C.R. 1547

Wm. L. Ross was attested for General service
with the NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT on .. April. 29th, 1915
Regimental No 1547 was allotted to Pte. Wm. L. Ross.

AUTHORITY:

Record Ledger,

Dept. of Militia,

March 25th, 1919.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

July 9, 1918. 191

From:- Officer Commanding Depot.

To:- District Officer Commanding, Newfoundland.

Sir:-

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross.

Above noted man was remanded for trial by General Court Martial and application made for same on March 16th 1918. Pursuant to instructions laid down in A.C. Sec. 45 (1), I have to report the necessity of keeping this soldier in detention for safe keeping pending the convening of Court Martial to try his case.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Lait

Captain.

act. O.C. Depot.

No. 1547 Private W.L.Ross charged with Desertion while on
Active Service.

List of Witnesses for prosecution.

Captain J.J.O'Grady. Depot The Royal Newfoundland
Regiment, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Georg. L. Barty Major
o.c. Depot
St. John's Newfoundland

March 16, 1918.

20.

Despatched 18/1/17 (1175).

"Military St. John's.

"Reference your telegram 17 November Ross- stil- at large-
Synoptical.

Received 20/11/17. (6987).

"Synoptical London.

"Represent to- Premier- Morris- case of- 1547- Ross- full stop
request him- take what action you properly can in the matter-
when Ross- has been captured.

Military.

The last quoted has been quoted to Sir Edward Morris
and copies of the correspondence giving a complete history of the
case sent him.

(Sd.) H.A. TIMEWELL, Major.
Chief Paymaster & O i/c Records.

47.

Durant's Hotel,
George Street,
Manchester Square., W. 1.
23rs November 1917.

Dear Major Timewell,

I have so acknowledge receipt of your communication of the
20th November in reference to No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross. I note
the message from the Minister of Militia desiring that I should
take in this matter.

I gathered from our conversation this morning that you will
take the necessary military steps to prevent any action being
taken in the case of Ross, without my being heard in the matter.
I am in a position to show I think conclusively, that when he
deserted he was not of a sound mind.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) E.P. Morris.

P.S. Kindly reply to this letter as it is important.

Major. A. Timewell,
Newfoundland Contingent Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria St. S.W.

48.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58 Victoria St.,
26th Nov. 1917.

12857/243

The Secretary,
War Office, S.W. 1

No. 1547 Pte. W.L. Ross 1st Newfoundland Regiment.



ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

February 18th. 1918.

Major A. Montgomerie,
District Officer Commanding,
Newfoundland.

Sir,

1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st. Battalion

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

I have the honour to report that on February 13th. 1918 Capt. J.J. O'Grady arrived from England having in custody as a prisoner the above named soldier charged with being an absentee without leave from his Battalion on Active Service.

He was confined in the Guard Room at the Armoury, Depot, St. John's at 1.p.m. on February 13th. 1918.

Owing to the absence of material documents I ordered the prisoner remanded.

The prisoner was brought before me on February 14, 15, 16, 18 and further remanded. The prisoner was seen by the Medical Officer at the Depot each day while in confinement.

On February 18th. 1918 the Medical Officer ordered the prisoner to be removed to the Hospital for observation.

He was removed to the Military Infectious Hospital, Military Road, at 4.p.m. on February 18th. 1918 under escort.

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your obedient Servant,

Geo. L. Carthy MAJOR
Commanding Depot,
First Newfoundland Regiment,
ST. John's, Nfld.



ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

ST. JOHN'S. NEWFOUNDLAND.

March 14th

1918

From S.M.O.

To O.C., Depot.

Sir,-

No.1547, Pte.W.Ross:- The marginally noted man has been under my observation for his mental and physical condition from 13-2-18 to 14-3-18.

During that period he has been in good health and has made no complaints. I find him to be in full possession of all his mental faculties.

H. Paterson

S.M.O

W.K.

509



NEWFOUNDLAND.

Downing Street,

NO. 45

30 April, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of the 23rd April, I have the honour to transmit to you a Court Martial Warrant together with a copy of the Judge Advocate General's advice, on the evidence required in the case of No. 1547 Private W.L. Ross, Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

2. A copy of the Judge Advocate General's advice has been forwarded by the War Office to the Newfoundland Record Office in London in order that they may communicate with the Military Authorities in Newfoundland with a view to arranging for the production of the necessary original documents and witnesses at the trial.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Walter Murray

GOVERNOR

SIR C. ALEXANDER HARRIS, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Officers The Royal Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's.

NAME	RANK	DATE OF COMMISSION.
Rendell W.F.	Major.	Sept. 21st 1914.
Montgomerie A.	"	" " "
X Carty G.T.	"	" " "
MacPherson C.	" (Medical)	" " "
X Paterson L	"	" " "
Rennie W.H.	Capt. (Hon).	Dec. 4th 1914.
Pippy W.J.	Lieut.	Jan. 26th 1915.
Xx O'Grady J.J.	Capt.	July 12th 1915.
x Bemister J.G.	Lieut.	Oct. 16th 1915.
x James C.S.	"	Nov 27th 1915.
x Warren W.V.	"	June 5th 1916.
XxDuley C.O.	"	" " "
x Byrne G.G.	"	July 15th "
x Herder R.B.	"	" " "
x Howley J.M.	Capt. (Paymaster)	Aug. 28th 1916.
x Winter H.	Lieut. (Honorary)	Oct. 16th 1916.
x Sullivan M.S.	Major	May 1st 1917.

x Commissions less than three years old.

X Not eligible for court martial as interested parties.

Capt. Jant me.

Separation

Rendell

*Lieut. Knox Nixon
 Lieut. W.D. Rendell
 Major C. MacPherson
 Capt. Campbell
 Capt. W.J. Pippy
 Capt. R. Jant*

Officers The Royal Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's.

NAME	RANK	DATE OF COMMISSION.
Rendell W.F.	Major.	Sept. 21st 1914.
Montgomerie A.	"	" " "
X Carty G.T.	"	" " "
MacPherson C.	" (Medical)	" " "
X Paterson I.	"	" " "
Rennie W.H.	Capt. (Hon).	Dec. 4th 1914.
Pippy W.J.	Lieut.	Jan. 26th 1915.
Xx O'Grady J.J.	Capt.	July 12th 1915.
X Bemister J.G.	Lieut.	Oct. 16th 1915.
x James C.S.	"	Nov 27th 1915.
x Warren W.V.	"	June 5th 1916.
XxDuley C.O.	"	" " "
x Byrne G.G.	"	July 15th "
x Herder R.B.	"	" " "
x Howley J.M.	Capt. (Paymaster)	Aug. 28th 1916.
x Winter H.	Lieut. (Honorary)	Oct. 16th 1916.
x Sullivan M.S.	Major	May 1st 1917.

x Commissions less than three years old.

X Not eligible for court martial as interested parties.

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Note. does not include officers on staff of S.H.S. who may be eligible for court martial.

1547 Private W. H. Ross 1st Newfoundland Regt

Notes

Arrived at St. John's Debouary 13th 1918 in
Custody Capt. J. J. Brady charged with being
an absentee without leave from his Battalion
on Active Service

Confined at the Army Depot Debouary 13/1918

Brought before of Depot and remanded
14th 15th 16th 17th 18th. Debr 1918
Visited in confinement daily by medical officer.
Ordered to Hospital for observation by Medical
officer Debr 18/18th.

Medical officer's certificate dated Nov 14th 1918
to effect that he has been under observation from
13-2-18 to 14-2-18. Good health and in full
possession of all his mental faculties
(Major Paterson)

Charged before of Depot March 15th 1918
charges 1-2-3.

Remanded for trial by General Court martial

Application for General Cm. received by
D. B. Uffoe with summary of proceedings.
March 18/18

To the S. P. M. for necessary action
Nov 1918

Make reference to Secretary of State for
~~Army & Navy~~

necessary warrant to convene G. C. M. ; meantime
persons detained in custody for safe
keeping pending receipt of instructions from
proper authority for convening of G. C. M.
reports re above received by D. O. O. from
O. C. Dept. dated.

March 24th 1918

April 1

✓ 9

16

24

May 1

8

✓ 17

✓ 24

✓ 31

June 7

✓ 16

and forwarded to H. C. M. for review of file.

- (c) declaration of court finding in original
held at Brussels Belgium Sept 21st 1917
- (d) Record of court of summary jurisdiction
^{custodial}
- (e) witness that prisoner is John W. Ross.
- (f) original attention not here. roll of service
with conditions of service attached
- (g) compare with roll of service signature
- (h) evidence of locat pre-harbor + upo Capt Steady
- (i) evidence of receipt of documents abroad:
Admiral letter from S. W. Ross London Capt Beatty

Evidence of Capt Steady re court finding

1547
The Wash. Post 1st info Requisite Chaves with
desaction

Evidence.

Delivery of Prisons to Capt Brady by Imperial
authorities by Capt Brown A.P. in London Jan 18/18
with certified copy of document: delivery to
Officer of Dept. Feb 13/18

Capt Brady

Charged before of Dept.
Remanded

Major Cook
of Dept

Sent to Hospital
by medical officer for observation

Major Paterson

Certificate of health & mental state
Mar 14/18

Major Paterson

Charges investigated by of Dept
March 16/1918 + deposition

3

remanded for C.M.
application for Gen. by of Dept.

Major Cook

Evidence for support of Chaves.

Oct 4/16

- (1) copy of confession (doubtful if admissible original
destroyed by Cuban police authorities)
- (2) Confession (undated no place mentioned) ~~written~~ in original
witnessed by 2 Spanish Capt. Gen. Police
- (3) letter original from Ross to 2 Lt Anderson Pay or record
office



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

ApL. 25th. 1918.

Lt. Colonel H. Knox-Niven.
Private Secretary.
Government House.

Sir,

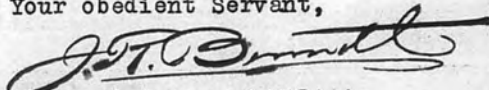
I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, covering copy of telegram sent by His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State on March 25th., and also the reply thereto of date 23rd inst., having reference to the case of Pte. Ross who is now under arrest for desertion.

I notice that it is the wish of His Excellency to continue the remand of this prisoner, and this will be carried out until receipt of further instructions.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,


Actg. Minister of Militia.



Allen

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

June 11, 1918.

His Excellency The Governor
And Commander in Chief,
City.

Your Excellency:-

1547 Pte.W.L.Ross.

With reference to an application forwarded to you some time ago, I have the honour to enclose communication from the Pay & Record Office, 58 Victoria St., under date of 21st May, 1918, referring to correspondence forwarded from the Colonial Office to His Excellency the Governor, and enclosing certain original documents.

I shall be glad if you will return Pay & Record Office letter for acknowledgement by this department.

I have also the honour to inform you that Captain Kevin J. Keegan, who was a member of the Board of Enquiry dealing with the absence of Pte. Ross, is now in this country. As he will be a material witness in the case, I would ask you to add his name to the list of witnesses.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's,

Obedient servant,

Major.
District Officer Commanding.
Newfoundland.

ENCLOSURES.



DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA
AND QUOTE NO.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

March 19, 1918.

#1547 Pte. W.L. Ross, 1st Batt. The Royal Nfld. Regt.

Sir:

I have the honour to forward for necessary action, Army Form B 116 with documents attached covering application from the Officer Commanding Depot, for a General Court Martial to be assembled for the trial of the above named soldier. I also annex list of the officers now attached at the Depot with dates of commissions. This does not include officers attached to the personal ^{staff} strength of His Excellency, who may be available.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Montgomery
Major.

District Officer Commanding.

Newfoundland.

His Excellency,

Sir C. Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., etc., etc.

Governor and Commander in Chief,

Newfoundland.

Priv Sec.

I will give the note for the fact -
I should like to be President. Will you
speak to me or arrange matters.

A.
23 March 18



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 6th. 1918.

194

From Officer Commanding,
Depot.

To District Officer Commanding,
Department of Militia.

Sir,

1547 Private W.L. Ross.

I connection with above noted man I enclose report received from Sergeant i/c Military Hospital where Ross is at present held for safe keeping. From same it appears that so far as is known no complaints were made by him that can be justified in fact.

Regarding clothes, this man was issued on February 16th. 1918 with 1 Suit Underwear, 1 Pr. Socks, 1 Top Shirt, and stated at that time he did not require anything further.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient Servant,

Geo Hart

MAJOR

Commanding Depot,
First Newfoundland Regiment,
St. John's, Nfld.



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 4th 1918

From Sgt 1/c Military Infectious Disease Hospital

To U.C. Depot

Sir: -

With reference to your enquiry concerning Pte Ross. This man as far as I could learn asked his father for a pair of boots. when he was over, but I afterwards learned he had written for them, because in his own estimation they were not classy enough for him to be going around town with. The pair he had on was a pair of English make boots, but there were nothing the matter with them, and he gave them to Sgt Vaughan when he bought the new pair. As regards the socks, he had a pair come from home, but they were in a parcel with cigarettes and case, as far as I could learn he never asked for them. The money he receives from home, he buys cigarettes with. He has no cause to complain about underwear, because he has two suits, and according as he changes the dirty clothes are sent to the laundry.

Contd



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
HEADQUARTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland,

April 4th 1918

He has not complained of anything except a headache while he's been here, and that was only once, I gave him Aspirin $\frac{gr. \text{v}}$. There has been no complaint regarding food or treatment, except that he is not allowed out in the nights. I will endeavour to see all the letters he will write home from this date, to see if there are any more complaints.

I have the honor to be
Sir:-

Your obedient servant

J. Hammond
Sp/yc M. I. D. Hospital.

St. Grace
April 1/18

John R. Bennett Esq
St Johns

Dear Sir.

As we are very anxious to know about our boy, who is now seven weeks in St Johns and according to his letter he is far from being well he seems to be suffering quite a lot with his head a very no doubt to shoe shoes and sleep where he is - is beginning to feel the strain the suspense is very hard for us the boy being away for three years and not being able to come home to see his mother, would like very much to know when matters will be settled, we would wish they could be settled shortly. I remain

Yours truly
Joseph Ross

P.S.

I may add that we have to find clothes, boots etc for him while there and keep him in cash all the time - and we consider it very unfair to the boy after spending so long in France.

J.R.
2

Feb 16th

Rq. for }
1 Suit Underwear }
1 pr Socks }
1 Top shirt. }