



Wilfred Campbell Parsons
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 1876

Born: 27 December 1897

Died: 27 April 1950

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts

Parents: William and Dorcas (nee Mosdell)
Parsons

Wilfred enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in September 1915 at the age of 18. He had been a cable operator.

His service record is as follows:

1. Embarked St. John's by train to Quebec, 27 October 1915
2. Saw Service in Ayr, Scotland
3. Furloughed to Newfoundland (ill health) on the 08 September 1916
4. Arrived in Newfoundland on the 20 November 1916
5. Discharged as medically unfit the 21 March 1917.

6. He attested for service with the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit (NOFU) on the 29 January 1918. This lasted for 21 days and then he was struck off strength on the 18 February 1918.

His total service time was 1 year and 175 days.

Wilfred's service is an unusual one. He enlisted in the RNR in 1915 but was discharged in 1917 being declared medically unfit for service. Then in early 1918 he enlisted once again, this time in the NOFU (Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit) using the same Regimental Number, was accepted initially but that only lasted for a period of three (3) weeks, and he was struck off strength on February 18th, 1918

The Guardian Newspaper dated 29 Sep 1916

Private Wilfred Parsons arrived home to Bay Roberts on Monday night last on furlough. He enlisted Aug 17, 1915, and was attached to G. Company, St. John's. He went to England, via Quebec, with the 2nd Battalion 1st Nfld. Regiment, on board the S. S. Corsican; landed at Devonport, went to Gair, Scotland, and after two weeks was sent to Ayr as signaller. He was stricken with measles, and in hospital for a month.

He was only out of hospital one week when he got wet while on a 20 mile route march and contracted rheumatism, for which he was treated in Stofhill Hospital, Glasgow. On being discharged from hospital, he again went to Ayr as orderly for a dental officer. He left Ayr for home on Aug 7, with 22 others, some on furlough and some discharged, in charge of Lieut. Strong, and arrived at St. John's Sep. 23rd. While at Ayr he was attached to F. Co.

Although he has not seen active service, he is none the less entitled to our admiration, as he freely and fearlessly placed himself at the disposal of the Empire when he answered the call.

Following the end of WW I, Wilfred is not found in any official census records of Newfoundland. There is a notation in his service file that indicates that sometime in 1918, Wilfred was in Winnipeg, Manitoba and possibly working for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Wilfred moved to the United States in the mid 1920's and for a while was living in Falmouth Foreside before moving to Portland, Maine, where he worked as an accountant for Standard Oil Company for a number of years.

The Guardian Newspaper dated 15 April 1932

Mr. Wilfred Parsons and wife arrived here from Portland, Maine, on Saturday, April 9th, on a visit to Mr. Parsons' parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Parsons. This is Wilfred's first visit in five years. They will remain here until April 29th.

Wilfred died suddenly in late April 1950 at Portland. He was survived by his wife, Marguerite (nee Dawe of Port de Grave). He is buried at St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery at Bay Roberts, Newfoundland.

*From The Portland Press
Herald
28 April 1950*

Parsons Services Today

South Portland, April 27.—Funeral services will be held at 2.30 p. m. Friday in St. Alban's Episcopal Church here for Wilfred C. Parsons, 52, of 7 Fairlawn Avenue, an accountant for Standard Oil Company, who died suddenly today in a Portland hospital. Interment will be at Bay of Roberts, Newfoundland.

He was born in Bay of Roberts, Dec. 27, 1897, son of William and Dorcas Mosdell Parsons. He was graduated from Bay of Roberts Academy and came to this Country 24 years ago. For a short time he lived at Falmouth Foreside before moving here. He served in the Newfoundland Regiment during World War I. He was a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church here.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Marguerite Dawe Parsons; three brothers, Ralph A., Hayward and Richard A. Parsons, all of St. John, N. B.; three sisters, Miss Rachel Parsons and Mrs. John Hambling, both of St. John, and Mrs. Etta Newey of Toronto, and several nieces and nephews.

*From The Daily News
02 May 1950*

PARSONS — Passed peacefully away at Portland, Maine, U.S.A. on Thursday, April 27th, 1950, Wilfred Campbell Parsons formerly of Bay Roberts. Deceased leaves to mourn his widow, Marguerite (Dawe) formerly of Port de Grave, three brothers and three sisters. Interment at Bay Roberts on Thursday, May 4th, at 3 p.m.