

NEWFOUNDLAND'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER - CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST CHRISTMAS HOME IN OVER 100 YEARS!!!

On Memorial Day, July 01, 2024, the remains of an unknown Royal Newfoundland Regiment soldier who was killed in the First World War was repatriated from



France, and was lowered into a tomb of granite and Labradorite overlooking the piers of St. John's harbour, from where the regiment would have departed for Europe on ships during the war.

The remains of the unknown soldier were transferred to Canadian officials during a ceremony at Beaumont-Hamel in France on May 25, 2024, and arrived in Newfoundland and Labrador later the same day. Upon arriving in St. John's, the hearse carrying the casket with the soldier's remains drove past several significant locations that members of The Regiment would have passed before they left St. John's to fight in Europe.

The following is the CF18 Escort Pilot's radio message to the transport aircraft that carried the remains of Newfoundland's Unknown Soldier:

*Dear passengers of CANFORCE 4147, I am Lieutenant-Colonel Maxime Renaud, Commanding Officer of 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron based out of Bagotville, Quebec. I am on your left Wing, flying a CF-18 Hornet. On your right wing is my wingman, Captain Jake Chu also of 425 Squadron. It is our honour and privilege to be part of this extremely important mission today. As you enter Canadian Sovereign Airspace, and the Airspace above Newfoundland and Labrador, we are here to stand guard for the remains of a true hero that gave his life more than a century ago, fighting tyranny in Europe. We will ensure your aircraft is provided Safe Passage until its arrival at St-John's International Airport. Honourable Andrew Furey, Premier of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, thank you for being the designated next of kin and accompanying our hero back home. **Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God. We stand on guard for thee.***

It should be noted that the last quotes he used were also historic : "*Seek yee...*" was taken from the Newfoundland Coat of Arms in the 1600s; "*We stand on Guard...*", comes from Newfoundland's iconic "Ode to Newfoundland."

Once again, welcome home, and Merry Christmas!!!

