

On August 20, 1915, Private Abbott embarked onto the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (preceding page) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – two weeks of which were spent in British barracks near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, he disembarked with 1st Battalion at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



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



(Right above: 'Kangaroo Beach', where the men of 1st Battalion landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on 'A' Beach. – photograph from 201)



(Right: a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where 1st Battalion served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)



On the night of December 19-20, the British abandoned Suvla – the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, formed a part of the rear-guard – and 1st Battalion was transferred two days later to Cape Helles on the western tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(Right above: Cape Helles as seen from the Turkish positions on the misnamed *Achi Baba*, positions which were never breached. The Newfoundland positions were to the right-hand side of the picture. – photograph from 2011)

(Right: 'W' Beach at Cape Helles as it was days before the final British evacuation – from *Illustration*)

(Right below: 'W' Beach almost a century after its abandonment by British forces and by the Newfoundlanders who were the last soldiers off the beach: vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture are still to be seen – photograph from 2011)



(continued)

(Right: *The British destroy their supplies during the final evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Newfoundlanders, employed as the rear-guard, were among the last to leave on two occasions. – photograph taken from the battleship Cornwallis from Illustration*)



When the British evacuated the entire Gallipoli Peninsula in January of 1916, 1st Battalion had been sent to Alexandria, arriving there on the 15th of that month. From there the Newfoundlanders were transferred, almost immediately, south to Suez. To that point it seems that the theatre of the future posting of 29th Division was still uncertain.



(Right: *Port Tewfiq before the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

On March 14, the officers and men of 1st Battalion embarked through Port Tewfiq at the southern end of the Suez Canal onto His Majesty's Transport *Alaunia* for the voyage to the French port of Marseilles, en route to the *Western Front*.



(Right: *British troops march through the port area of the French city of Marseilles. – from a vintage post-card*)

Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Battalion's train arrived at the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy. It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for them travelling unused in a separate wagon. De-training at the station at two in the morning the Newfoundlanders still had a long march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.



(Right: *the Somme as seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy – photograph from 2010*)

It is doubtful that any of those tired soldiers paid much attention to the slow-moving stream flowing under the bridge that they passed on their way from the station. Some three months later *the Somme* would be a part of their history.

On April 13, 1st Battalion entered into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy – where it was billeted, received re-enforcements and, after two days, was introduced into the British lines of the *Western Front*, there to be put to work to improve the communication trenches.



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The Newfoundlanders were also soon to be preparing for the British campaign of that summer, to be fought on the ground named for that same meandering river, *the Somme*.

(Previous page: *part of the re-constructed trench system to be found in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel – photograph from 2007(?)*)

On April 4, 1916, a day when 1st Battalion was marching closer to the front line - from Bonneville to billets at Louvencourt - Private Abbott was admitted to 4th Casualty Clearing Station at the town of Beauval, then on to 2nd Canadian General Hospital at Le Tréport on the Channel Coast on April 5 for attention to venereal disease. He was transferred two days later, on the 7th, to the nearby 9th Stationary Hospital in Rouen where the British Expeditionary Force had its large continental Base Depot.

Private Abbott was discharged *to duty* to the Base Depot at Rouen on May 30, from where he was sent to re-join his unit, reporting *to duty with Battalion* on June 20. The Newfoundlanders had recently moved forward to the trenches, the Regimental War Diary of or about that date recording only... *Situation normal in trenches, but more shelling. Total casualties 11 wounded (for period June 15 to 23).*

(Above right: *the Abbott Brothers, Stanley and George - from the Provincial Archives*)

The son of Henry Abbott - hook-and-line fisherman - and Emily Abbott – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Battery Road (North Battery) in St. John's – he was also brother to George (Regimental Number 242), to twenty-one-year-old Katie, to thirteen-year-old Annie and to ten-year-old Willie (to whom he had willed his all)*. Private Abbott was reported as having been *killed in action* on July 1, 1916, while serving with 'B' Company at Beaumont-Hamel during the fighting of the first day of *the Somme*.

**These ages are all as of June, 1919.*

Private Abbott died at the age of twenty-one years on the same day, and in the same place, as did his brother George.

Stanley Abbott had enlisted at the age of twenty years.

(Right above: *Beaumont-Hamel - looking from the British lines down the hill to Y Ravine Cemetery which today stands atop part of the German front-line defences - The Danger Tree is to the right in the photograph. – photograph from 2009*)

(Right above: *a grim, grainy image purporting to be Newfoundland dead awaiting burial after the action at Beaumont-Hamel – from ...*)



Private Stanley Abbott was eligible for the 1914-1915 Star, as well as the British War Medal (centre) and the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).

