



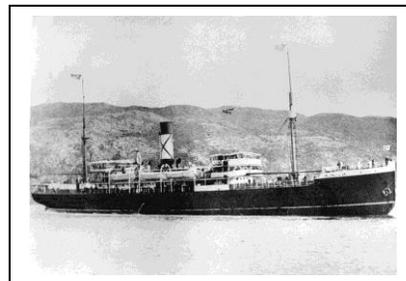
**Private Vincent Morey Carew (Regimental Number 3140) lies in Bard Cottage Cemetery – Grave reference II. K. 3.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a seaman earning a weekly ten dollars, Vincent Morey Carew was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on October 9 of 1916, he then both enlisted – *for the duration of the war* and engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and attested on that same October 9.**

**While waiting in St. John's in January of 1917 before departing for overseas, Private Carew boarded for some two weeks with a Mrs. Annie J. McNamara, lodging which cost the Newfoundland tax-payer of the day a total of eighteen dollars.**

**(continued)**

Private Carew was one of the approximately three hundred twenty *all ranks* to leave St. John's for *overseas service* on the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (right), bound for Halifax, on January 31, 1917, from there to take ship to the United Kingdom.



Immediately upon its arrival in Nova Scotia, however, this detachment was forwarded to accommodation in the town of Windsor where it was soon to be quarantined because of an epidemic of measles and mumps.

It was not before a lapse of some two-and-a-half months after its arrival that transport could be arranged for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom for the so-called *Windsor Draft* – minus the twenty-five or so personnel still unable to travel.

On April 17, Private Carew embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Ausonia* (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the next day in a convoy from Halifax. The vessels were also carrying Canadian reinforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from Newfoundland were to be despatched in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.



By the time that the Windsor Draft arrived at the Regimental Depot, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion was becoming critically short of personnel.

(Right above: *the new race-course at Ayr – opened in 1907 – where men of the Regiment were billeted and where they replaced some of the turf with a vegetable garden; part of the present grandstand is original – photo from 2012*)

On June 11, 1917, the 25<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft – Private Carew in its ranks - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on its way to France. On the following day, June 12, the contingent disembarked in the Norman capital, Rouen, where time was spent at the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, to be organized and to undergo final training\* before moving onward to its eventual rendezvous with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.



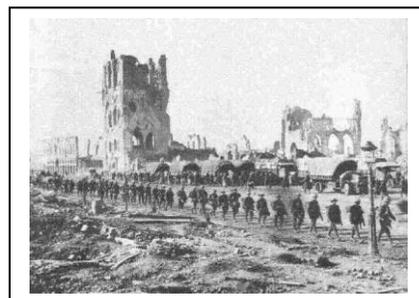
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(Previous page: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

*\*Apparently, the standard length of time for this final training at the outset of the war had been ten days – although this was to become more and more flexible as the War progressed - in areas near Rouen, Étaples, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

The records show that it was on July 2 – the *Regimental War Diary* says, in fact, on the day before - that Private Carew's contingent of two-hundred fifty *other ranks* reported to duty at Caribou Camp, behind the lines near Woesten in Belgium. For the next few days – and nights – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion supplied working parties for road-mending and for the construction of infantry tracks.

Only days before, at the end of June, the Newfoundlanders of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had once again moved north into Belgium and once again to the area of *the Ypres Salient*. This had been selected by the High Command to be the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917. Officially named the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, taking that name from a small village on a ridge that was one of the British Army's objectives.



(Right above: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

Only eight days after his arrival at the front, on July 10, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was in positions on the east bank of the Yser Canal to the north of Ypres, the *Regimental War Diarist* making note of just a single wounded. On the evening, however, of the day before, the 9<sup>th</sup>, he had made mention of the following... *At about 11.30 pm, Germans open a heavy Barrage on Trout & Support Trenches and Canal Bank Total Killed 6 wounded nineteen* The casualties were undoubtedly left un-noted until the following day, the 10<sup>th</sup>.



(Right above: *the Yser Canal to the north of the city of Ypres (today Ieper) – In July of 1917 the Newfoundlanders were stationed near to this spot, 'A', 'C' and 'D' Companies in the front line and the immediate reserve on the east bank (to the right in the photograph), with 'B' Company and HQ on the western side. – photograph from 2013*)

The son of Henry Carew and Esther Carew (née *Morey*) of Cape Broyle, and husband of Elizabeth (Bessie) (née *Soulley(?)*) (she later, by 1919, Mrs. Ronald Hayden) – to whom he had allocated a daily sixty cents from his pay – he was brother to Thomas-Joseph, Henry-Ernest, Arthur-Francis, Anne-Josephine, Augustine, John-Henry, Gertrude-Irene (Eileen?), Clara-Isabella, Arthur-Leo, Mary-Margaret and to Victor-Adrian.



He was also father to Ernest-Edmund – born 5/10/16, died 3/4/18, and to Vincent – born 5/15/14 and who would serve in the Merchant Navy in the next war.

Private Carew was reported as having been *killed in action* on July 10, 1917, while serving with ‘B’ Company in the trenches to the north-east of Ypres. At home, it was the Reverend F. J. McGrath of Cape Broyle who was requested to notify his family.

(Previous page: *the memorial to Private Vincent Carew and his son Ernest Edmund erected by his wife Bessie and son Vincent which stands in Cape Broyle Old Roman Catholic Cemetery – photograph from 2012*)



Vincent Morey Carew had enlisted at a *declared* twenty-three years and one month of age (although parish records give his date of birth as July 26, 1891)\*.

(Right: This photograph of Private Crew is from the *Footsteps* website.)

His younger brother, Victor Adrian Carew (Private, Regimental Number 1560), would die four months later on the first day of *the Battle of Cambrai*, November 20, 1917 (see elsewhere in these documents).

(Right: *the memorial placed by his mother to Private Vincent Carew which stands in the Old Roman Catholic Cemetery in Cape Broyle – photograph from 2012*)



*\*There seems to be no accounting for the discrepancy between his declared age at the time of enlistment and his recorded birth date taken from the parish records. Moreover, his brother Victor who also served, was born on April 17, 1893, and enlisted on May 23, 1915, at the declared age of twenty-one years.*

Private Vincent Morey Carew was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

