

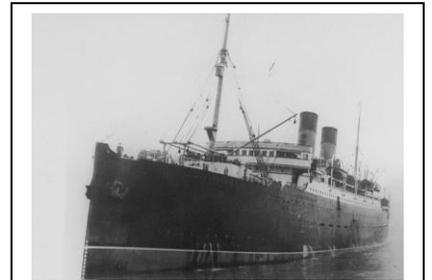
Private Patrick Michael Cleary (Regimental Number 1230), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in the Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.

His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a tin-joiner and labourer working for a monthly \$35.00, he presented himself for examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on March 13 of 1915. He then enlisted two days later – engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem - on March 15, before attesting ten days later again, on March 25.



Private Cleary of 'E' Company embarked in St. John's on board the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Stephano* (right above – from the *Provincial Archives*) some four weeks later again, on April 22, 1915.

The ship sailed to Halifax where his contingent took ship on His Majesty's Transport *Missanabie* (right) – likely with Canadian troops - for the crossing to Liverpool – the ship departed Halifax on April 25. From Liverpool the Newfoundlanders travelled by train to Edinburgh where they arrived on May 2. 'E' Company was to have but a few days to savor the charms of the Scottish capital.



Only nine days later, on May 11, the entire Battalion was posted for three months training, from Edinburgh to a tented Stobs Camp near the Scottish town of Hawick.

(Right: *the Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp on June 10, the day it received its Colours* – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)



From Stobs, some thirteen weeks later again, in early August, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', the senior Companies now become 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Newfoundland Regiment, were transferred to Aldershot in southern England. There they were to undergo final preparations – and a royal inspection – before departing on active service to the Middle East and to the fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

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'E' and 'F' Companies – the latter having arrived at Stobs Camp on July 10 - were to be posted to the new Regimental Depot and were to form the nucleus of the newly-formed 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion. The Depot was to be Private Cleary's home for the next three months.

The Regimental Depot was being established during that summer of 1915 in the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland to serve as a base for the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from home were to be sent in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right.* – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr)

It was not until the fourteenth day of November that the 1<sup>st</sup> Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr – Private Cleary among its ranks - passed through the English south-coast naval establishment of Devonport to embark onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic*, sister ship of *Britannic* and the ill-fated *Titanic*, en route to Gallipoli.

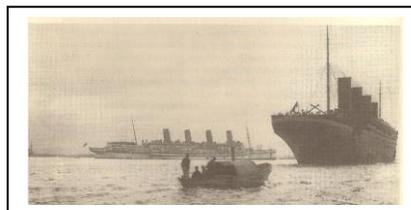
(Right above: *HM Transport Olympic on the right lies at anchor along with HM Hospital Ship Aquitania, centre, at Mudros Bay in the autumn of 1915.* – from a photograph from the Imperial War Museum, London)

(Right above: *a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Cleary served during the first weeks of December, 1915* – photograph from 2011)

Less than three weeks later, on the night of December 19-20, the British had abandoned Suvla Bay, the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, forming a part of the rear-guard on that occasion. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 mis-named 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: 'W' Beach almost a century after its abandonment by British forces and the Newfoundlanders, rear-guard also on this second occasion: vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture are still to be seen – photograph from 2011)**

Private Cleary, however, was to abandon Cape Helles before did the main body of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

On January 4 of the New Year, 1916, Private Cleary was evacuated from Helles – probably via Mudros - onto His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* (right) and taken to the British-held Mediterranean island of Malta. Diagnosed at the time as suffering only from pyrexia (a persistent, high temperature) he was admitted into St. Elmo Military Hospital on January 8.

**(Right: Disused and abandoned British medical facilities still stand on the now-independent - since the year 1964 - island of Malta. – photograph from 2011)**

On the fifth day of February, Private Cleary was evacuated once more by ship, on this occasion – now diagnosed as having contracted paratyphoid - per HMHS *Grantully Castle* (right) from Malta back to the United Kingdom where he arrived on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

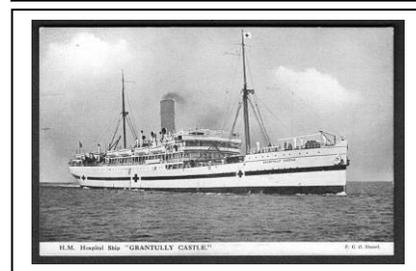
There he was admitted into the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth on the same day. After treatment he was forwarded on to Addington Park Convalescent Home on March 1.

**(Right: The main building of what became 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010)**



**(Above far right: Newfoundland patients, unfortunately unidentified, convalescing at 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital, Wandsworth – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)**

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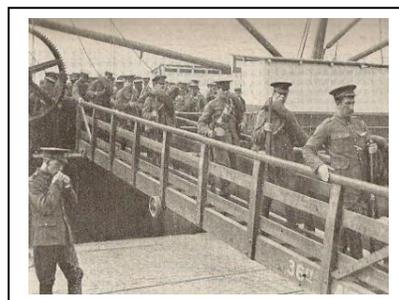
Private Cleary was granted the customary post-convalescent furlough; which in *his* case was a six-week period commencing on March 22 and not terminating until May 2. This prolonged period suggests that he had been afflicted with enteric as most other complaints were allowed only a ten-day furlough upon release from hospital.

He was then immediately posted *to duty* back to the Regimental Depot. (A second record says he reported as of March 30, but this, of course, does not take into account the extended furlough.)

(Right: *the new race-course at Ayr - opened in 1907 – where the men of the Regiment were sometimes billeted and where they replaced some of the turf with a vegetable garden – photograph from 2012*)



Some eleven weeks later again, on July 16, Private Cleary, as a soldier of the 26<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr, passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on his way to re-join 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the Continent. Arriving on the following day, the 17<sup>th</sup>, in Rouen, capital city of Normandy and site of the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, the Draft was posted there for almost a week of final training and organization\*.



(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen en route 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, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

On July 24, the day on which Private Cleary's draft of sixty *other ranks* reported to duty from Rouen – and a day on which the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Sir Edward Morris paid the unit a visit - a battered and depleted 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was billeted in the community of Beauval, well behind the lines. Even with recently-arrived re-enforcements the unit still numbered only five-hundred fifty-four, roughly half of full battalion strength.

On July 27-28 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion moved north and entered into Belgium for the first time. It had been ordered to the *Ypres Salient*, one of the most dangerous pieces of real estate on the entire *Western Front*, there to continue to re-enforce and to re-organize. *The Salient* was relatively quiet during the time of the Newfoundlanders' posting there, yet they nonetheless incurred casualties, some of them fatal. On October 8, after ten weeks in Belgium, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion moved south back to France and back to the area of – and the battle of – *the Somme*.



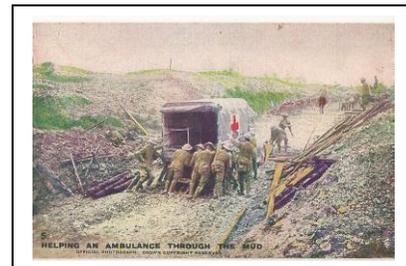
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(Previous page: *the entrance to 'A' Company's quarters in the ramparts of Ypres when it was posted there in 1916 – photograph from 2010*)



(Right: *the city of Ypres towards the end of 1915 – and eight months before the Newfoundlanders were posted there for the first time – from a vintage post-card*)

During the period of the posting to Belgium, Private Cleary had been taken to the 29<sup>th</sup> D.R.S. (*Divisional Rest Station*) on August 18 with a sprained ankle; discharged back to duty with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the 25<sup>th</sup>; then, on August 29, admitted into the 87<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance with dental problems before being transferred to 17<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Corbie on the 30<sup>th</sup>.



(Right above: *transferring sick and wounded from a field ambulance to the rear through the mud by motorized ambulance and man-power – from a vintage post-card*)

(Right: *These are the fields across which 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion advanced on October 12, towards the trees on the right horizon before being obliged to withdraw. The trees are where the Gueudecourt Caribou is found. - photograph from 2009.*)



The son of John Cleary (deceased by 1913) and Jane Cleary – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of forty cents from his pay, and to whom he had willed his all - of 36, Casey Street in St. John's, he was brother to at least an older sister, Bridget.



Private Cleary was reported as having been *killed in action* on October 12, 1916, while serving with 'A' Company during the fighting at Gueudecourt.

Patrick Michael Cleary had enlisted at the age of twenty-one years.

(Right above: *the Gueudecourt Caribou stands at the furthest point of advance of men of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on October 12 – photograph from 2012*)

Private Patrick Michael Cleary was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).



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Addington Park  
War Hospital  
Croydon, Surrey

March 4, 1916

Dear Sir

I drop you these few lines to let you know that I am left the 3<sup>rd</sup> LGH and in Croydon where I have to stay for six weeks Convalescent Home. Will you kindly forward me the sum of £1 \$10 (shillings) on my account as there are quite a lot of little things here a man would require we get a pass to go to Croydon and a man require a few shillings. Hoping you will oblige my favour I remain yours truly

Pte. Patrick Cleary

1230 1<sup>st</sup> Newfoundland Regt Addington Park War Hospital,  
Croydon Surrey

1230, Pte. P. Cleary,  
1<sup>st</sup> Newfoundland Regt,  
Addington Park War Hospital,  
Croydon, Surrey

Reference to your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup>; please apply to the Officer in Charge of the Hospital for advance in pay as we are unable to make advances unless authorized by him.

Capt.  
Paymaster & Officer i/c Records

\*This being from a copy in the original records, no signature has been appended.