



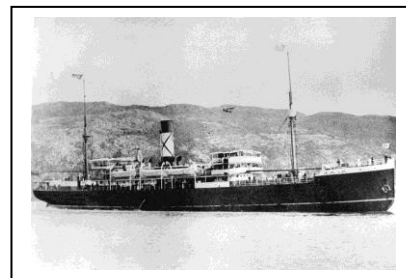
**Private Frederick Dalton (Regimental Number 4264) lies in Les Baraques Military Cemetery – Grave reference V. F. 3.**

**His occupation prior to military service is recorded as that of a fisherman earning a weekly twelve dollars working for the *Dominion Coal Company* of Sydney, Nova Scotia – in what other capacity, if not as a fisherman as recorded on his papers, appears not to be documented. Fred Dalton was a recruit of the Eighteenth Draft.**

**Having presented himself for medical examination at Headquarters at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on December 21, 1917, he then enlisted - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and also attested on that same day.**

**(continued)**

Private Dalton did not embark for overseas service until January 29 of 1918, some six weeks later, when he boarded the Bowring Brothers' Red Cross Line vessel *Florizel* (right) en route for Halifax. From there he sailed on an unspecified troopship to the United Kingdom.



*\*This draft may even have travelled on to Québec or Montréal where ships were still apparently sailing even at this late time.*

In the latter part of January of the New Year of 1918, the Regimental Depot which served the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion had been transferred from the Royal Borough of Ayr in Scotland to southern England, to Hazely Down, Hampshire, not far distant from the historic cathedral city of Winchester.

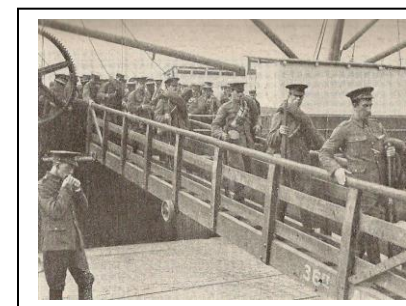
This transfer was finalized during the latter part of January, 1918, and it was to Hazely Down that Private Dalton reported *to duty* from Newfoundland; it was also to be *from there* that he was then later despatched to join the British Expeditionary Force on the Continent.



(Right: a *bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp* at some time during the winter of 1918 – from *The War Illustrated*)

During that period spent at Hazely Down, Private Dalton spent some three weeks in the Camp Hospital there. From May 24 until June 13, he underwent medical attention for a case of the mumps.

On or about August 31, the 51<sup>st</sup> Re-enforcement Draft – Private Dalton one of this contingent - from Hazely Down, passed through the English-Channel town of Folkestone en route to the French city of Rouen\*, for final training and organization\*\* at the British Expeditionary Force Depot there, before finding its way to a rendezvous with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Only days afterwards – his record says September 5 – Private Dalton reported *to duty* with the Newfoundland parent unit at Équihen on the French west coast.



(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen en route to the Western Front.* – from *Illustration*)

*\*If not, the detachment would have disembarked in Boulogne or Le Havre and taken a train to the Base Depot at Rouen or the one at Étaples.*

*\*\*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.*

(continued)

The summer of 1918 had passed peaceably enough for most of the personnel of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. For the months of May, June and until early July, the unit had been posted to Écuire, to the Headquarters of Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in Europe.



(Right: *Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force at the time of the Battalion's posting to GHQ – from Illustration*)

The cosmetic honour of this new role, however, masked the reality that the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the recently-proclaimed *Royal Newfoundland Regiment* was no longer capable of serving in the field.

*\*Although few at home cared to admit it publicly, the problem was that 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had run out of reserves and was unable to continue as a fighting entity. It was to be September before even a battalion of reduced strength could return to active service. At home, mandatory military service was initiated – conscription by another name – but with limited results.*

The posting to Écuire completed, for most of July and all of August the Newfoundlanders were encamped in much the same area, close to the coastal village of Équihe – itself not far removed from the large Channel port of Boulogne – and far to the rear of the fighting, of which there had been plenty elsewhere.



It was at the end of this period that Private Dalton reported to duty with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion: the summer was drawing to a close.

(Right above: *a view of the sparsely-populated coastal community of Équihe at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

Re-enforced, the Newfoundlanders returned to the fray on Friday, September 13, as one of the three battalions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 9<sup>th</sup> Scottish Division. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was once more to serve on the Belgian front where, some six weeks later, having advanced out of the *Ypres Salient*, it would finish its war on October 26 at a place called Inghoyghem (*Ingoigem*).

On September 28, the Belgian Army and the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Army broke out of their positions, overrunning the enemy lines. It was the start, for them, of the *Hundred Days Offensive*\*. On the following day, the Newfoundlanders were fighting at the Keiberg Ridge.



After almost four years of stalemate, it was once again to be a conflict of movement.

(Right above: *British troops and German prisoners in Flanders during the Hundred Days – from Illustration*)

(continued)

***\*This offensive would prove to be the final campaign of the Western Front and would terminate with the Armistice of November 11. It had begun further to the south on July 18 on the French front on the River Marne, followed on August 8 by an onslaught by British and Empire troops near Amiens in what would also become known as 3<sup>rd</sup> Somme.***

**It was on September 29 that Private Dalton was wounded while serving with 'B' Company during the fighting of that day. He was evacuated from the field to the 87<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance from where he was forwarded to the 36<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Watten.**

**He had suffered injuries inflicted by gun-fire to the right leg and right thigh, complicated by a compound fracture of the femur. On October 2, he was transferred to the 30<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in Calais for further treatment.**

***(Right above: a British field ambulance, of a more permanent nature than some – from a vintage post-card)***

***(Right: 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: a British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card)***

**The son of Julius Dalton, fisherman, deceased July 9, 1917, and Mahala Dalton (née Kennell)\* – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Western Bay, Conception Bay, he was younger brother to Mark-Ellis, and older brother to Elizabeth-Jane – she working in service in Millertown by the time of his enlistment - to George and to Thomas.**

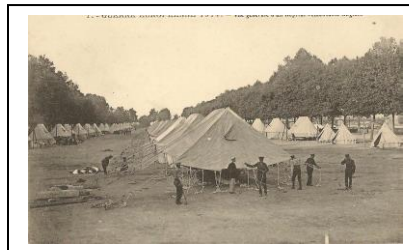
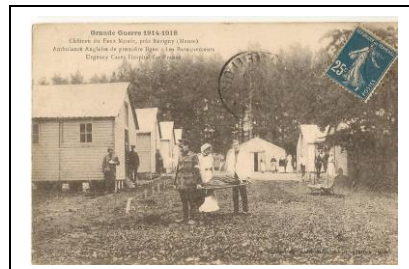
**Private Dalton was reported as having *died of wounds* on that same October 2, 1918, in the same 30<sup>th</sup> General Hospital.**

**Fred Dalton had enlisted at the declared age of nineteen years: date of birth, January 9, 1899.**

***(Right above: the re-constructed village of Dadizeele (Dadizele) just to the north of which the Newfoundlanders dug in on the evening of September 29, 1918 – photograph from 2013)***

***\*His mother was re-married by the end of January, 1920.***

**(continued)**



**Private Frederick Dalton was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).**

