



Private Harold DeLouchrey (DeLoughrey from several other sources) (Regimental Number 1966), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a machinist, Harold DeLouchrey was a recruit of the Seventh Draft. He presented himself for medical examination and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – on November 1, 1915, before attesting two days later, on November 3.

Private DeLouchrey was one of the one hundred men who comprised the first contingent of 'H' Company to travel for overseas service. The draft left St. John's by train to travel to Port aux Basques on December 18, crossing the island and then the Gulf of St. Lawrence en route to Saint John, New Brunswick.

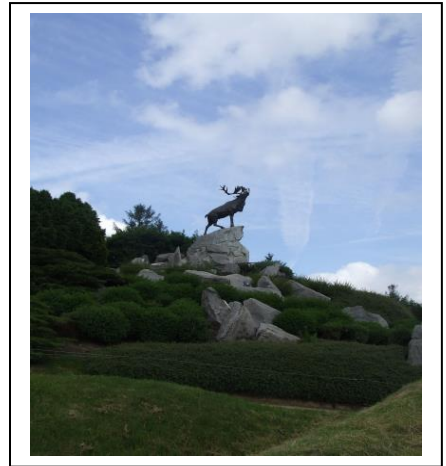
The Atlantic voyage was effected from there on His Majesty's Transport *Corinthian* (above) and the draft reached the Regimental Depot at Ayr on January 4 of the New Year, 1916.

Transferred to 'G' Company, the new arrivals were quartered in the barracks of the Royal Scots Fusiliers who had not yet vacated the premises, due to an epidemic of measles at the time. It was not long before the disease had also taken its toll on the Newfoundlanders – although Private DeLouchery appears not to have been one of those affected.

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

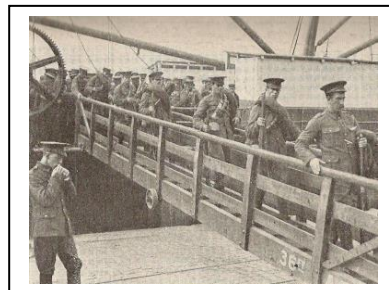
(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

It was during this posting to the Regimental Depot that, on June 20, a mere five days before his departure to France on *active service*, Private DeLouchrey was prevailed upon to re-enlist *for the duration of the War**.



**At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.*

On June 25, the 7th Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr, Private DeLouchrey among its ranks, passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton en route to the Continent. On the morrow, the 26th, the detachment disembarked in Rouen, capital city of Normandy, and site of the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot which had been established there. There the draft spent time in final training and organization* before proceeding on to its rendezvous with 1st Battalion.



(Right above: *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, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

This meeting was effected on July 11 (recorded elsewhere as the 12th) while the parent unit was just behind the line, being quartered in huts in the remnants of the village of Mailly-Maillet. It was here that Private DeLouchery and a further one-hundred twenty-six other ranks of a re-enforcement contingent from Rouen reported to duty.

Even with this additional man-power, the Regimental War Diary records that on the 14th of July, 1st Battalion still numbered only 11 officers and 260 rifles after the disaster of Beaumont-Hamel, a quarter of regulation battalion strength.

(Right: *The re-constructed village of Mailly-Maillet – the French Monument aux Morts in the foreground - is twinned with the community of Torbay, St. John's East. – photograph from 2009*)

On July 27-28 of 1916, 1st Battalion - still under battalion strength at only five-hundred fifty-four strong, even after re-enforcement – 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 after the ordeal of Beaumont-Hamel. The Salient was relatively quiet during the time of the Newfoundlanders' posting there, yet they nonetheless incurred casualties, a number of them fatalities.



On October 8, after ten weeks in Belgium, 1st Battalion moved south back to France and back to the area of – and the battle of – *the Somme*.

(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*)



Only four days after its return to France on October 8, 1st Battalion had been ordered to pass to the offensive, on this occasion on the outskirts of the ruined village of Gueudecourt perhaps a dozen kilometres or so to the south-east of Beaumont-Hamel. Here, on October 12 – and during a heavy enemy bombardment of the previous evening – the Newfoundlanders again lost heavily – two-hundred thirty-nine casualties in all during those two days - with little reward for the sacrifice.



(Right above: *This is the ground over which 1st Battalion advanced and then mostly conceded at Gueudecourt on October 12. Some few managed to reach the area where today stand the copse of trees and the Gueudecourt Caribou, on the far right horizon. – photograph from 2007*)

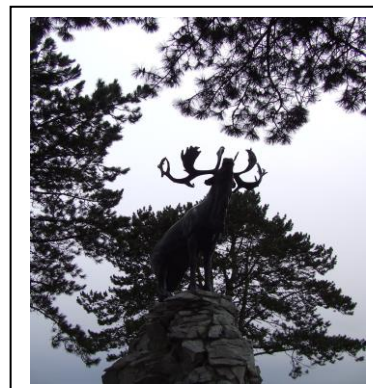
On November 18 it was the turn of the 2nd Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment and the 4th Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment, to pass to the attack in the same area. 1st Battalion, the Newfoundland Regiment, supplied two-hundred fifty men to act as stretcher-bearers on this occasion, one of whom was Private DeLouchery.



(Right above: *a stretcher-bearer sharing all the dangers of the battlefield – from Illustration*)

The son of Joseph DeLouchery (general dealer and machinist of Pilley's Island as of 1894) and Frances DeLouchery (née *Cleary*, deceased July 10, 1910) of Little Bay, Twillingate, he was also brother to John-Denis; to Ellen-Katherine; to Brenden-Joseph; to Bride*, the latter to whom he had allocated a daily allowance of eighty cents from his pay, and to whom he had willed his all; and to Mary-Frances.

Private DeLouchery was reported as having been *killed in action* while serving with 'A' Company on October 18, 1916. At home it was the Reverend J. Nowlan who was requested to bear the news to his sister.



Harold DeLouchery – spelled thus on the family memorial (see below) - had enlisted aged eighteen years and three months.

(Right above: *The Caribou at Gueudecourt stands at the furthest point of 1st Battalion's advance on October 12, 1916.* – photograph from 2012)

**Is Bride the later Mrs. Nellie Power of New Rochelle, New York?*

(Right: *A family monument to the memory and sacrifice of Private DeLouchery still stands in the Old Roman Catholic Cemetery in Little Bay.* – photograph from 2014)

Private Harold DeLouchery was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

