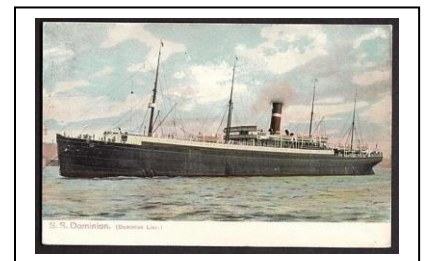


**Sergeant George Dick (Regimental Number 924) is buried in Largs Cemetery, Largs, Scotland – Grave reference I. 86.**

**His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a grocer's salesman, employed with *Ellis & Co., Family Grocers and Wine Merchants*, Water Street, St. John's, with a monthly income of \$60.00, George Dick presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, during the Second Draft, on November 30, 1914.**

**He did not enlist for some six weeks, until January 11 of the New Year, before attesting ten days later again, on the 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Embarking via the sealing tender *Neptune* onto the SS *Dominion* (right) – the vessel having anchored off Bay Bulls because of ice conditions - Private Dick departed Newfoundland for overseas service on February 5, 1915.**



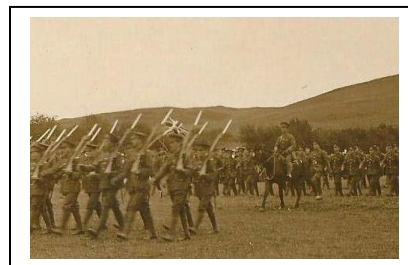
**(continued)**

'C' Company, the first re-enforcements for the initial contingent of the Regiment that had sailed in October of 1914, arrived in Liverpool on February 16, 1915. The detachment immediately took a train to Edinburgh where the Newfoundland Regiment was to garrison the Castle, the first troops from outside the British Isles to perform this duty. The newcomers arrived in the Scottish capital later on that same day.



(Right above: *The venerable bastion of Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline of the Scottish capital city from the summit of Castle Hill. – photograph from 2011*)

On May 11 the Newfoundlanders were transferred to Stobs Camp, near Hawick, to the south-east of Edinburgh. There they remained until the beginning of August when the senior Companies 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D', were sent south to Aldershot to prepare for a posting to the Middle East and Gallipoli, to be inspected by His Majesty King George V - and to become 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.



It was while at Stobs Camp that Private Dick received a first promotion, this coming on June 12, to the rank of lance corporal.

(Right above: *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*)

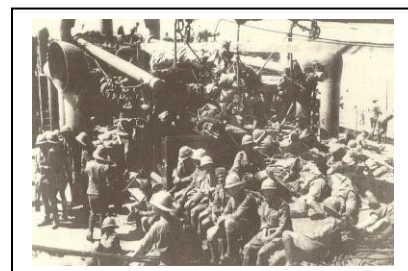
The later arrivals, 'E' and 'F' Companies were to be sent to the new Regimental Depot recently established at Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland, as the nucleus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.

It was during this period at Aldershot, on August 15, that Lance Corporal Dick was prevailed upon to re-enlist, on this occasion 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 August 20, 1915, Lance Corporal Dick took ship on board the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (right above) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – of which two weeks had been spent billeted at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(continued)



(Page preceding: *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)*

Six days after he had disembarked at Suvla, Lance Corporal Dick was further promoted, appointed to the rank of corporal on September 26 (a second source says *August 26*); and, some two months later again, on November 14, he received his sergeant's stripe.

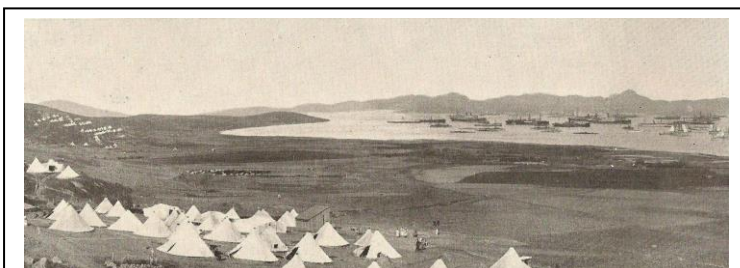
(Right above: *'Kangaroo Beach', where the men of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on 'A' Beach. – photograph from 2011*)



(Right above: *almost a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Lance Corporal/ Sergeant Dick served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011*)

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of that same November, Sergeant Dick was admitted into the 26<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Suvla. Suffering from jaundice, he was evacuated thence to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Hospital at Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos on the 29<sup>th</sup>, three days later.

(Right: *By late in the autumn of 1915, French, British and Commonwealth medical facilities – a goodly number of them under canvas - almost completely surrounded a busy Mudros Bay and its minuscule and inadequate harbour. – from Illustration*)



Following treatment he was admitted on December 23 into the Lowland Convalescent Camp, also at Mudros. It was from there that Sergeant Dick was then discharged *to duty* at Sidi Bishr Base Depot, Egypt, on December 29. From Base Camp, on January 16 of the New Year, 1916, he was re-united with his parent unit.

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



(continued)

(Previous page: *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*)



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



(Right above: *Port Tewfiq at some time just before the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

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

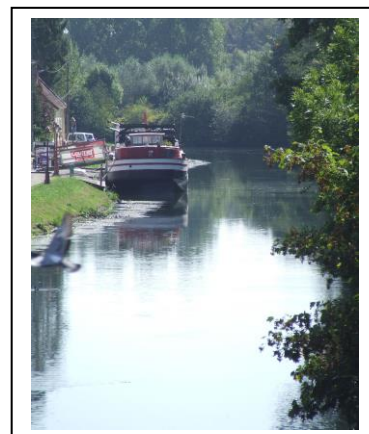


Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Battalion's train arrived at the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy.

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 below: *the Somme seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy as it flows through the community – 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion marched into the village of Englebelmer – three kilometres behind the lines and perhaps some fifty kilometres in all distant from Pont-Rémy – where it was billeted, received re-enforcements on the 15<sup>th</sup> and, on that same day, was introduced into the British lines where the Newfoundlanders were then put to work making improvements to the communication trenches.

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 which flowed through the region, *the Somme*.

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



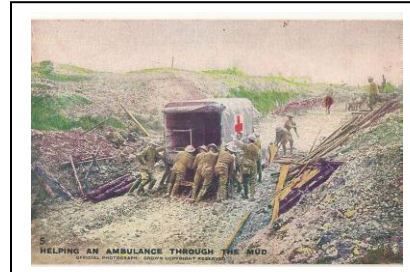


At Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916, while serving with 'C' Company, Sergeant Dick was wounded during the fighting of the first day of *the Somme*. He incurred multiple gun-shot injuries, to the right shoulder, arm and hand, and was evacuated on the next day to the 87<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, then sent almost immediately that same day on to the 4<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station at Beauval.



(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 taken in 2009*)

(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*)



From there, he was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital, St-Pol on July 4, and forwarded on to the 1<sup>st</sup> General Hospital at Etretat on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

(Right: *the coastal town of Etretat, a resort town today as it was at the time of the Great War – photograph from 2011*)



Placed on board His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Salta* (right) which transported him from the Continent to England on July 8, Sergeant Dick was born to the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth where he was admitted on the following day, the 9<sup>th</sup>.



The son of John and Margaret H. (Anna?) Dick of *Netherall*, Largs, Ayrshire - and brother to James (Highland Light Infantry) and H. W. (London Scottish) – his own address in St. John's, where he had been working since at least 1913, recorded as 280, Theatre Hill, Sergeant Dick was deemed as *dangerously ill* at Wandsworth on July 12.

The hospital report pertaining to Sergeant Dick cites the wound as being... *very septic. Patient collapsed and died... Toxaemia cause of death*. He was reported as having *died of wounds* in hospital on that same day, July 12, 1916, at fifteen minutes past two in the afternoon.



Sergeant Dick was conveyed from the nearby railway station to be buried in the family plot in Largs Cemetery on July 15. A Guard of Honour from 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, the Newfoundland Regiment, was present, coming from the nearby Regimental Depot at Ayr.

George Dick had enlisted at twenty-six years of age.

(Previous page: *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. Sergeant Dick died there on July 12, 1916. – photograph from 2010*)

(Right: *The photograph of George Dick is from Provincial Archives.*)

Sergeant George Dick 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) (right).

