



Lance Corporal Morgan Gallop (Regimental Number 2434), 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 postman earning a monthly \$16.00, Morgan Gallop was a recruit of the Ninth Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on April 5, 1916, he then enlisted *for the duration of the war* – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – and also attested on the following day, April 6.

Private Gallop sailed from St. John's on July 19 on board His Majesty's Transport *Sicilian** (right). The ship - refitted some ten years previously to carry well over one thousand passengers - had left the Canadian port of Montreal on July 16, carrying Canadian military personnel.

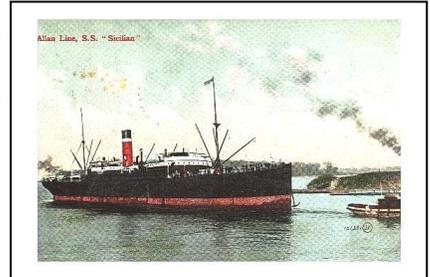
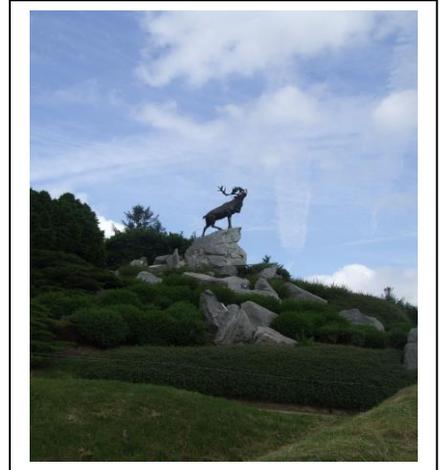
It is likely that the troops disembarked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool; however, it is *certain* that upon disembarkation the contingent journeyed north by train to Scotland and to the Regimental Depot.

**Some sixteen years previously - as of 1899 when she was launched – the vessel had served as a troop-ship and transport during another conflict, carrying men, animals and equipment to South Africa for use during the Second Boer War.*

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 the 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*)

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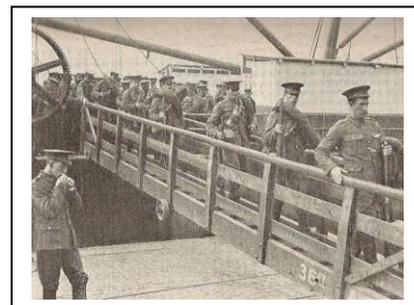


At the outset there had been problems at Ayr to accommodate the new arrivals – plus men from other regiments who were still being billeted in the area – but by the spring of 1916, things had been satisfactorily settled: the officers were in Wellington Square in Ayr itself, and the other ranks had been billeted at Newton Park School and either in the grandstand or in a tented camp at the racecourse in the suburb of Newton-upon-Ayr.



(Right above: *the new race-course at Newton-upon-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; part of the present grandstand is original – photograph from 2012*)

The 17th Re-enforcement Draft – Private Gallop among its ranks - passed through the southern English port of Southampton on January 31, the contingent not arriving until February 2 in Rouen, the capital city of Normandy, where the British Expeditionary Force had its large Base Depot. There the draft spent time in final training and organization* before moving to its rendezvous with 1st Battalion.



(Right: *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.*

One of a small draft of just fourteen *other ranks* to report *to duty* in the village of Coisy on February 13 – recorded in the Regimental War Diary as the 14th - Private Gallop was to enjoy three days of relative calm – if classes in use of the Lewis Gun, rifle grenades, trench mortars, then in bombing (grenades) and in sniping may be categorized as *calm* - before the Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion were then on the march, making their way towards the front lines where they arrived, in the sector of Sully-Saillisel, on February 23.

Exactly one month previously, after a welcome six-week Christmas-time respite away from the front lines, the Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion *officially* returned to *active service* on January 23, although they had been back in the trenches already by that date and had incurred their first casualties – and fatality – of 1917.

The only infantry activity involving 1st Battalion during that entire period – from the action in mid-October of 1916 at Gueudecourt, until Monchy-le-Preux in April of 1917 – was to be that sharp engagement at Sully-Saillisel at the end of February and the beginning of March – where surely Private Gallop played a role - an action which brought this episode in the Newfoundlanders' War – in the area of *the Somme* - to a close.



(Previous page: *The fighting during the time of the Battalion's posting to Sailly-Saillisel took place on the far side of the village which was no more than a heap of rubble at the time.* - photograph from 2009(?))

After Sailly-Saillisel the month of March was a quiet time for the Newfoundlanders; having departed from the trenches, they now spent their time near the communities of Meaulté and Camps-en-Amienois re-enforcing, re-organizing, and training for upcoming events. They even had the pleasure of a visit from the Regimental Band, and also one from the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Sir Edward Morris (right), the latter on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

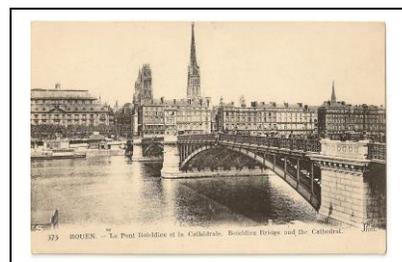


It was on March 29 that 1st Battalion began to make its way – on foot – from Camps-en-Amienois to the north-east, towards the venerable medieval city of Arras and eventually beyond, its march to finish amid the rubble of a village called Monchy-le-Preux.



(Right above: *the remnants of the Grande Place in the city of Arras in early 1916 – from Illustration*)

But Private Gallop had not marched toward Monchy-le-Preux. Instead, he had been admitted into the New Zealand Stationary Hospital in Amiens for medical attention for ICT (*Inflammation of Connective Tissue*) of the right leg. On April 6 he was forwarded to the 12th General Hospital back in Rouen, receiving treatment there until his eventual discharge to Base Depot on the 13th.



(Right above: *the River Seine flowing through the French port-city of Rouen – and past its historic gothic cathedral - at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

By the time he was sent report to duty with 1st Battalion it was May 7, and the Newfoundlanders had long since withdrawn from the *Battle of Arras* where they had again lost heavily - a total of four-hundred eighty-seven casualties on April 14 alone – at Monchy-le-Preux and elsewhere. On the afternoon of the 7th, both he and 1st Battalion marched into the community of Berneville – where the photographers took a few of their rare photographs of these *colonial* troops.

(Right: *Newfoundland troops on the march in the community of Berneville in May of 1917 – from The War Illustrated*)

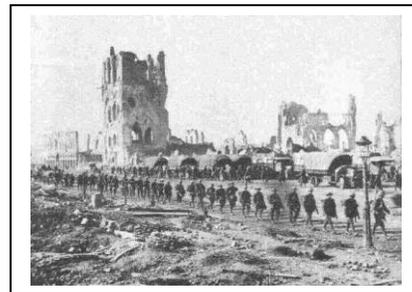
May of 1917 was a period when the Newfoundlanders were moved hither and thither on the Arras front, in and out of the trenches. Apart from the ever-present artillery, there was little infantry activity – except for the marching.



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At the beginning of June, 1st Battalion retired from the line to Bonneville and spent its time re-enforcing, re-organizing and training for the upcoming British offensive of the summer – and as it transpired, the autumn as well.

The Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion were once again ordered north into Belgium – at the end of June - 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*)

1st Battalion was to remain in Belgium until October 17, a small cog in the machinery of the British Army which floundered its way across the sodden countryside of Flanders. Notably it fought in two major engagements, at the *Steenbeek* on August 16, and at the *Broembeek* on October 9.



Private Gallop was likely to have served at both occasions.

(Right above: *an unidentified – perhaps unidentifiable – part of the Passchendaele battlefield in the autumn of 1917 – from Illustration*)

A week after the encounter of October 9 at the *Broembeek*, the Newfoundlanders were withdrawn from the *Passchendaele* campaign in order to prepare for yet another upcoming offensive: *Cambrai*. They were ordered back south from Belgium into northern France on October 17 to re-enforce, to organize and to train in the vicinity of Berles-au-Bois, a small rural community a dozen or so kilometres to the south-west of Arras.

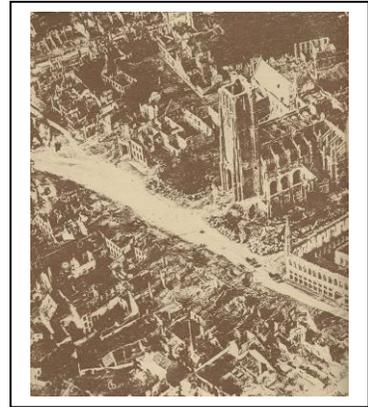
The so-called *Battle of Cambrai* was to officially last for just two weeks and a day, from November 20 until December 4, the Newfoundlanders directly involved at all times during that period.

The battle began well for the British who used tanks on a large scale for the first time; but opportunities were squandered and by its close the British had relinquished as much territory as they had gained. 1st Battalion was again dealt with severely, at Marcoing and at Masnières - where a Caribou stands today: of the total of five-hundred fifty-eight officers and men who went into battle, two-hundred forty-eight had become casualties by the end of the second day.



(Above right: *the Canal St-Quentin at Masnières, the crossing of which and the establishment of a bridgehead being the first objectives for the Newfoundlanders on November 20, the first day of the Battle of Cambrai – photograph from 2009*)

After the *Battle of Cambrai*, an exhausted – and depleted – 1st Battalion was withdrawn from the front lines for several weeks to await re-enforcements and to re-organize. It was during this period, on St. Stephen's Day, December 27 – or perhaps the 29th – that Private Gallop received promotion to the rank of lance corporal.



Meanwhile, some two months prior, at the beginning of January of 1918, after a snowy Christmas period spent to the south-west of Arras and withdrawn from the front, the Newfoundlanders of 1st Battalion had returned to Belgium, to the Ypres Salient, for a third time. There, like the other British and Empire troops in the area, they were to spend much of their time building and strengthening defences.

(Right above: *an aerial view of Ypres, taken towards the end of 1916 – from Illustration*)

In the meantime, the Germans had been preparing for a final effort to win the War: the Allies were exhausted and lacking man-power after their exertions of 1917 - the British had fought three campaigns and some units of the French Army had mutinied - and the Germans had available the extra divisions that their victory over the Russians in the East now allowed them. It was expected that they would launch a spring offensive. While they were waiting, the Newfoundlanders dug.



(Right above: *countryside in-between Zonnebeke and Passchendaele (today Passendale) in the vicinity of where the Newfoundlanders were stationed in March and early April of 1918 – photograph from 2011*)

Then the Germans did as was expected of them. Ludendorff's armies had already launched a powerful thrust on March 21, striking at first in the area of *the Somme*, overrunning the battlefields of 1916 and beyond; for a while the advance seemed unstoppable. Then a second offensive, *Georgette*, was launched in the northern sector of the front, in Flanders, where the Newfoundlanders were stationed: the date was April 9. Within two days the situation of the Allies was desperate.



(Right above: *British troops on the retreat in Flanders in April of 1918 – from Illustration*)

On the day after the first heavy bombardments, April 10, as the Germans approached the towns of Armentières and Nieppe, troops were deployed to meet them. The Newfoundlanders, due to come out of the line and move back to the Somme, boarded buses at three o'clock in the afternoon and were suddenly directed southward, towards Nieppe. They were in action, attempting to stem this latest offensive, three hours later.



(Previous page: *the area of La Crêche - the buildings in the background - where the Newfoundlanders de-bussed on April 10 to meet the Germans in the area of Steenwerck and its railway station – photograph from 2010.*)

The British were pushed back to the frontier area of France and Belgium. On the 12th of April 1st Battalion, fighting in companies rather than as a single entity, was making a series of stands.

On April 13, during the defensive stand near the De Seule crossroads on the Franco-Belgian border, one platoon of 'C' Company was obliterated while trying to check the German advance. The remainder of 'C' Company took up defensive positions along a light railway line and, with 'A' Company, stopped a later enemy attack. 'B' and 'D' Companies – in a failed counter-attack on that evening - were equally heavily involved.



(Right above: *ground just to the east of Bailleul where 1st Battalion fought during the period April 12 to 21 – photograph from 2013*)

What exact role Lance Corporal Gallop played is not known (however, see paragraph below) - it is only recorded that he was a soldier of 'C' Company - but from April 10 to 21 was to be a difficult eleven days for all of 1st Battalion's personnel. Nevertheless, somehow, the German breakthrough never materialised and the front finally stabilised.

The Regimental War Diary cites *...the remainder of 'C' Coy. under Capt. Paterson, M.C. and Hqrs. took up a position along a light railway line and prepared to fight to a finish. ...there can be no doubt that it was Hqrs., 'A' & 'C' Coys. that by their resistance saved what would have been at least a very serious position for the whole 34th Division**.

**88th Brigade – therefore 1st Battalion – was seconded from 29th Division to the 34th Division during this critical period.*

Extract from records: - **shot through head killed instantly – fell on railway track near village of Papot in the vicinity of Nieppe...**

The son George Gallop and Rose (Rosannah) Gallop (née *Renouf*, later Mrs. Richard Kennedy) – to whom he had allocated a daily allowance of sixty cents from his pay – originally from Codroy but, after her second marriage - this by the time of her son's enlistment - of Haggerty Street, St. John's, he was also brother to Daisy, to Frederick and to Norman.



Lance Corporal Morgan Gallop was reported as having been *killed in action* on April 13, 1918, while serving with 'C' Company during fighting near the Belgian border town of Neuve-Église during *Georgette*, the German spring offensive.

Morgan Gallop had enlisted at the age of eighteen years.

(Preceding page: *These are the De Seule crossroads, lying astride the Franco-Belgian frontier, the scene of fierce fighting involving 1st Battalion on April 12 -13, 1918. Today there are several houses and a convenience store. – photograph from 2010*)

Lance Corporal Morgan Gallop was entitled to the British War Medal (on left) and also to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

