



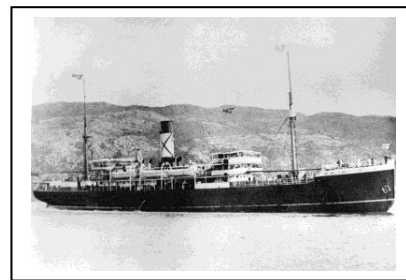
Private Augustus Goodland (Regimental Number 4186) is interred in Dadizeele New British Cemetery – Grave reference VI. D. 33.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a printer earning a weekly five dollars at the family business, *Gray & Goodland*, on Water Street, St. John's, Augustus Goodland 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 1, 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 Goodland did not embark for overseas service until January 29 of 1918, some ten 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.*

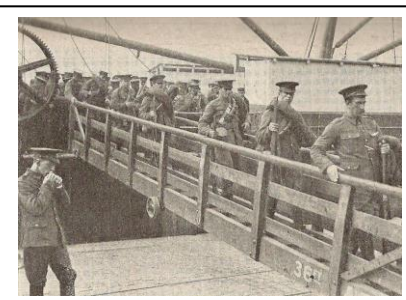
In the latter part of January of the New Year of 1918, the Regimental Depot which served the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had been transferred from the Royal Borough of Ayr in Scotland to southern England, to Hazely Down, Hampshire, not far distant from the historic cathedral city of Winchester.

This transfer was finalized during the latter part of January, 1918, and it was to Hazely Down that Private Goodland 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*)

It was not until on or about October 1 that the 53rd Reinforcement Draft – Private Goodland among its ranks - from Hazely Down, passed through the English south-coast port city of Southampton en route – possible via the port of Le Havre - to the Norman capital of Rouen, where the contingent reported on the 4th for final training and organization* before finding its way to 1st Battalion.



Only four days later – on October 8 - Private Goodland reported *to duty* with 1st Battalion Of the by-now Royal Newfoundland Regiment - out of the line at the time - near the Belgian village of Ledeghem.

(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.*

(Right: *the re-constructed village of Ledeghem, Belgium, almost a century later* – photograph from 2010)



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Some six months earlier, at the end of April during the spring of 1918, 1st Battalion had been withdrawn from the battle-fields of the *Western Front*: the casualties, as ever, had been numerous and there had not been the reserves forthcoming to replace the losses. The unit had retired from Flanders with just thirty officers and four-hundred sixty-four *other ranks*, less than half the strength of a full battalion.

The late spring and the summer of 1918 was thus to pass peaceably enough for most of the personnel of 1st Battalion. For the months of May, June and until early July, the unit was 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 1st 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 1st 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.*

Following its posting to the British General Headquarters at Écuire, July and August were then spent at Équihen, also on the French west coast, where the unit underwent reorganization and, most importantly, awaited man-power.



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

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



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

On September 28, the Belgian Army and the 2nd 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 a conflict of movement.

****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 3rd Somme.***

The advance, despite fierce resistance at times, was relentless. On October 14, 1st Battalion, having been rested for a week after heavy fighting near Ledeghem, returned to the front for a new drive to commence on that day. It had been, of course, on October 8, the day on which the Newfoundlanders had been relieved, that Private Goodland had joined the unit from Rouen.



On October 14, 1st Battalion was at the front once more, ready to continue the assault.

The Newfoundlanders were to push along the northern bank of the River-Canal Lys, itself north of the city of Courtrai (Kortrijk) which they were to bypass. The advance of the 14th was successful - but the cost again high: only three hundred reporting for muster on the following morning.

However, even the approach to the start line, undertaken on the evening of the 13th, had been difficult. Colonel Nicholson, in *The Fighting Newfoundlander* writes that *...as the Newfoundlanders, strung out in single file, followed the narrow track assigned to them, they were greeted by a wicked shelling. It was obvious that the enemy's aerial observers had not been idle...*

(Right above: *the Lys – both canal and river – at a point not far from the crossing-place – right to left - of October 19-20, 1918 - The Harlebeke Caribou stands about at a distance of about one hundred metres behind the camera. – photograph from 2010*)

The son of William Henry Goodland, printer, and of Clara Belle Goodland – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Winter Avenue in St. John's, he was also brother to Georgina, Ernest, Bertha-May, William, Beatrice, Elsie-Maud, Heber and Gwendoline.



Private Goodland was at first reported – but not officially - as having being admitted to *hospital in the field* – most likely a dressing-station or field ambulance – on October 13, 1918, while advancing to the front in the Ledeghem-Drie Masten area of Belgium.

He was next reported as having *died of wounds* on the following day, October 14, and buried by the Reverend J.W. Hope, attached to 26th Brigade.

(Right above: *The Caribou at Harlebeke – commemorates the crossing of the Lys Canal and the sacrifices of the last campaign of the War. – photograph from 2012*)

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There is some confusion surrounding what may have happened – or did *not* happen - next: from his records there appears to have no burial report entered into his file until the one by the Burial Officer of 26th Brigade, but apparently it was not submitted until on or about December 16, some two months later – at which time his family was notified.

Private Goodland's personal file was thus amended – perhaps as late as April 22, 1918 - so as to read *died of wounds on or shortly after 13/10/18*.

A second report also seems to be referred to (see below).

Originally interred in the once-German Military Cemetery at Waterdamhoek to the south-east of Passchendaele, his remains were later transferred to where they repose today.

Augustus Goodland had enlisted at the age of eighteen years and five months.

Mr. W. R. Goodland
1236 Broadway
West Somerville, Mass. U.S.A.

Sir,

With further reference to your enquiry regarding your late brother and to my letter of 3/4/19: I beg to inform you that I have since heard from the Rev. J. W. Hope, C.F., 32nd Bn. M.G.C., B.E. F. The following is a quotation from his letter.

14/4/19

“...I have records that I buried 4186 Pte. A. Goodland at Waterdamhoek 28/E 21 d 4.3 on 14/10/1918. I wrote to his people and sent them his effects and told them all I could about his death. He was not disfigured and died soon after his admission to a Collecting Post. I was not with him when he died. I had gone forward, I remember, and I came back to bury him and two others, having ordered some German prisoners to carry Pte. Goodland to the Cemetery. ...One of the M.O.s who attended to Pte. Goodland was afterwards killed and I buried him, and the other I believe has returned home to South Africa.”

Yours Faithfully

XXXXX

Chief Paymaster & Officer i/c Records

Note: The 32nd Battalion, Machine-Gun Corps, mentioned in the first correspondence above, was apparently nowhere near the fighting in which the Newfoundlanders were involved at that time. It may well be, of course, that the Reverend Hope was attached to another unit on October 14/ 1918.

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

