

Private Albert Haines (Regimental Number 1110), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.

His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a lumberman working for a monthly \$35.00, Albert Haines presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on February 11, 1915. He then enlisted - at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem - on the following day, February 12, before attesting on February 24 (another source has February 12, the day of enlistment)*.



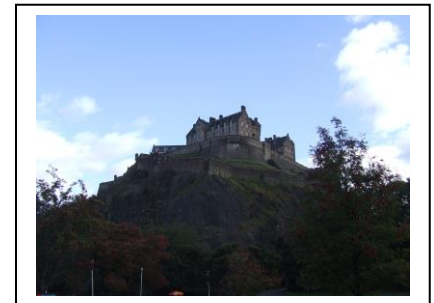
A single document of his enlistment papers suggests that he may have been among the first to enlist from the start 'for the duration of the war'

**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.*

Private Haines then embarked with 'D' Company, just less than four weeks later again, onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Stephano* (right above – from *Provincial Archives*) on March 20, 1915, for passage to Halifax and for overseas service. From Halifax he took ship on His Majesty's Transport *Orduna* (right) for the trans-Atlantic crossing to Liverpool.



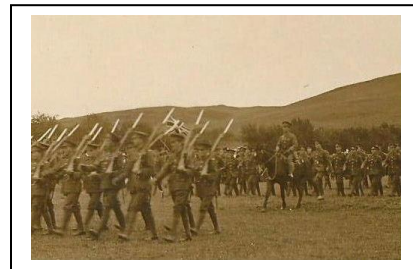
Sailing from Nova Scotia on March 22 for Liverpool, the draft landed there eight days later, on the 30th, and entrained to Edinburgh, arriving at the historic Castle on the same day. For the next six weeks, having been united with 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies already stationed there, the Newfoundlanders formed the garrison – the first troops from outside the British Isles to do so - of the guardian of Scotland's capital city.



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

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On May 11 the Newfoundlanders were transferred to Stobs Camp, near Hawick, to the south-east of Edinburgh. There they remained for some three months until the beginning of August when the senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' – now to become 1st Battalion, the Newfoundland Regiment - were sent south to Aldershot in the south of England. There they received final training – and a royal inspection - to prepare for *active service* in Gallipoli.



(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)

For whatever the reason, Private Haines – even though a soldier of 'D' Company - did not depart for Aldershot and then for Gallipoli with most of the men of the senior Companies in August. He was ordered instead to report to the Regimental Depot.

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



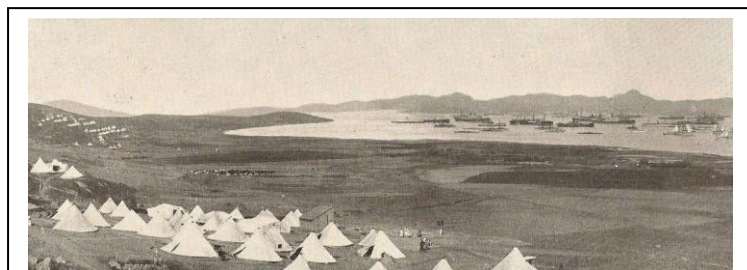
(Right: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right.* – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr)

It was not until the fourteenth day of November that the 1st Reinforcement Draft from Ayr passed through the English south-coast naval establishment of Devonport to embark onto His Majesty's Transport *Olympic*, sister ship of *Britannic* and the ill-fated *Titanic*, en route to Gallipoli.



(Right above: *HMT Olympic on the right lies at anchor along with HMHS Aquitania, centre, at Mudros Bay in the autumn of 1915.* – from a photograph from the Imperial War Museum, London)

The draft landed at Suvla on December 1: not so Private Haines. He had been disembarked on the day before, at Mudros, on the Greek island of Lemnos, to be admitted into either the 15th or the 16th Stationary Hospital suffering from measles.



There seems to be no further record of the next month and a half although it is certain that at some point he was discharged as *fit for duty* and sent to the Base Depot in Alexandria.

(Preceding page: *By the end of the year 1915, Allied medical facilities – many of them under canvas – almost entirely surrounded the busy bay at Mudros and its minuscule harbour. – from Illustration*)



(Right above: *Mudros Bay in 2011, today bereft of any reminder of the Gallipoli Campaign – photograph from 2011*)

(Right: *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*)



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

Private Haines re-joined his unit on January 16, in Alexandria at the Sidi Bishr Base Depot where he had been posted.

The highlight of Private Haines' time spent in Suez was undoubtedly the water bottle lost on February 2, for which he was required to pay. Apart from that, nothing else appears to be documented.



On March 14, a decision having been taken, the officers and men of 1st Battalion embarked through Port Tewfiq at the southern end of the Suez Canal onto His Majesty's Transport *Alaunia* (right above) for passage to the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles, en route to the *Western Front*.

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



(Right below: *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 in France on March 22, 1st 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: *the Somme as seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy – 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, 1st Battalion marched into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy – where it was billeted, received re-enforcements and, after two days, was sent to the trenches of the *Western Front*.

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, *the Somme*.

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

He was the son of Robert John Haines, fisherman, and Rosanna (Rose) Haines – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of sixty cents from his pay, and to whom he had willed his all, despite certain reports to the contrary - of Jamestown, Bonavista Bay. He apparently had three brothers: one serving in the Regiment, Private Edward George Haines No. 1505, who survived the conflict, as well as two other younger ones.

Private Haines was reported at first as *missing in action* at Beaumont-Hamel while serving with 'D' Company during the fighting of July 1, the first day of *the Somme*. The record was later amended so as to read *killed in action*, possibly testified to by an eye-witness.

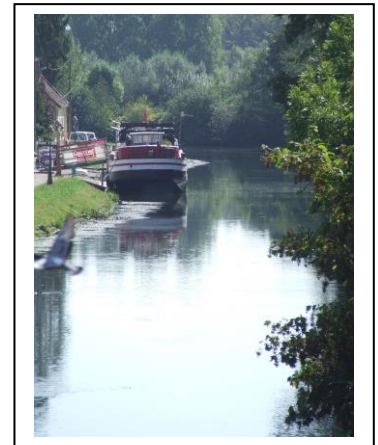
(Right above: *Beaumont-Hamel - looking from the British lines down the hill to Y Ravine Cemetery which today stands atop part of the German front-line defences - The Danger Tree is to the right in the photograph. – photograph taken in 2009*)

(Right above: *a grim, grainy image purporting to be Newfoundland dead awaiting burial at Beaumont-Hamel – from ...*)

Albert Haines had enlisted at twenty years of age.

(Right: *The Summerville War Memorial records the sacrifice of Private Haines. – photograph from 2010*)

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Private Albert Haines 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).

