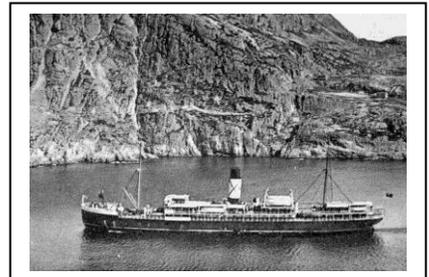


Private Harvey Newman Harris (Regimental Number 1114), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.



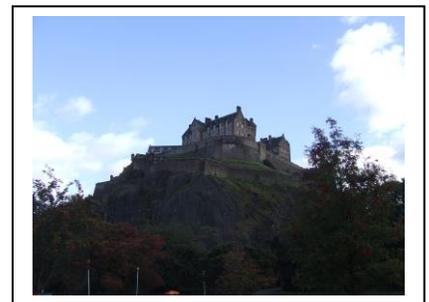
His occupation previous to his military service recorded as that of a labourer working for a monthly \$30.00, Harvey Newman Harris presented himself for medical examination in Burgeo on January 20, 1915. Having then travelled to the capital city, he enlisted almost four weeks later at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, on February 16, before attesting on the 24th of the same month.



Private Harris then embarked with Number 6 Platoon of '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.

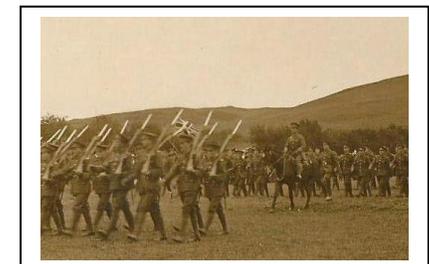


Sailing from Nova Scotia on March 22 for Liverpool, the draft landed there eight days later, on the 30th, and entrained to Edinburgh, arriving at the historic Castle on the same day. For the next six weeks, having been united with 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies already stationed there, the Newfoundlanders 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*)

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.



(Preceding page: *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 sent to the new Regimental Depot recently being established at Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland. There they were to become the nucleus of the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

For whatever the reason – maybe his young age was a factor – despite the fact that he was a soldier of 'D' Company, Private Harris was not to serve in either Gallipoli or Egypt; he was posted instead to the Regimental Depot until March 13 of 1916. It was there that, on January 27, he was prevailed upon to re-enlist, on this second 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.*

The Regimental Depot had been established during the summer of 1915 in the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland to serve as the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers were sent 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)

On March 13, 1916, Private Harris passed with the 2nd Re-enforcement Draft through the naval establishment at Devonport in southern England. He was on his way to France – although he, and the others, didn't know it at the time – via...Egypt.*

**At the time there had been some indecision as to whether 1st Battalion would stay in the Middle East or not, but only the day after this draft set sail for Egypt, 1st Battalion at Suez was boarding His Majesty's Transport Alaunia for passage to France. Their two ships are likely to have passed each other sailing in opposite directions.*

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

On April 4 the draft disembarked from HMT *Kingstonian* at the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles after three weeks at sea – and a change of ship in Egypt. Four days later, on April 8, the two officers and one-hundred forty *other ranks* arrived in Louvencourt where the parent unit, 1st Battalion, had been billeted for two days. It had only arrived, also from Egypt, in Marseilles, on March 22.



Having left Louvencourt on the 11th, on April 13th 1st Battalion marched into the village of Englebelmer where it was billeted, welcomed re-enforcements on the 15th and, on the evening of that same day, was sent to work in the communication 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 the meandering river which lends its name to the region, *the Somme*.

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



The son of William Henry Harris (deceased August 15, 1916?) and Evelina Harris - to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of seventy cents a day from his pay, and to whom he willed his all - of Burgeo, he was reported as having been *killed in action* at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916, while serving with 'D' Company during the fighting of the first day of *the Somme*.

Harvey Newman Harris had enlisted at eighteen years of age.

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

Private Harvey Newman Harris was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

