



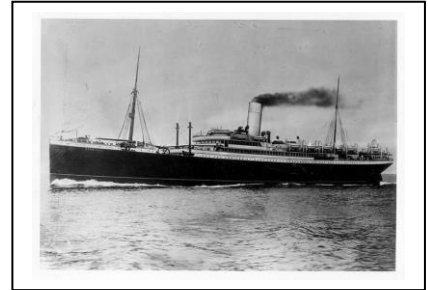
**Private Arthur Seaburn Hayward (Regimental Number 1648) lies in Ancre British Cemetery – Grave reference II. F. 35.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a labourer (packer) and earning \$10.20 per week working for *Allan Goodridge and Sons*, Arthur Seaburn Hayward was a recruit of the Sixth Draft. He presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on June 25, 1915, before enlisting on the following day, the 26<sup>th</sup> – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10. He then attested some three weeks later again on either July 16 or 18.**

***\*A second source has him attesting on the day of his enlistment.***

**(continued)**

Private Hayward and the other personnel of 'G' Company – apparently in the company of several naval reservists and also some German prisoners (these latter presumably to remain in Canada) - left St. John's by train on October 27, to cross the island to Port aux Basques. The contingent then traversed the Gulf of St. Lawrence by ferry, and proceeded by train from North Sydney to Quebec City.



At Québec the Newfoundlanders boarded His Majesty's Transport *Corsican* (above) for the trans-Atlantic passage to the English south-coast naval establishment of Devonport where they arrived on November 9.

By the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> the new arrivals had travelled by train and had gone north to Scotland. There they had been billeted in huts in a military camp at Gales, not far removed from the new Regimental Depot where accommodation for the contingent was as yet not available.

That new 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 a base for the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from home were sent in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and then subsequently to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

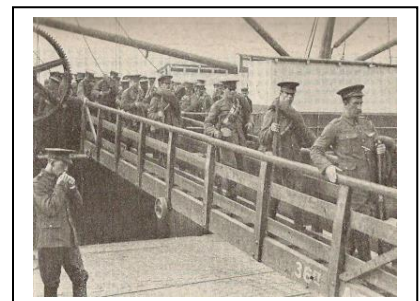


(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

It was during this posting to the Regimental Depot that, on April 5, and only three days before his departure to France on *active service*, Private Hayward was prevailed upon to re-enlist *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 April 8, Private Hayward, as a soldier of the 4<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr, passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on his way to report to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the Continent. Arriving on that same day, the 8<sup>th</sup>, in Rouen, capital city of Normandy and site of the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, the Draft was posted there for several days of final training and organization\*.



(continued)



(Preceding page: *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, Étaples, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known notoriously to the troops as the Bull Rings.*

A contingent of a single officer and forty-one *other ranks* from Rouen, Private Hayward one of that number, joined the parent unit on April 26. At the time all four companies of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were in the throes of a first tour of the front-line trenches, not far from the village of Englebelmer.



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

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 that flowed – and today still flows - innocuously through the southern part of the region to which it lends its name, *the Somme*.



(Right above: *the Somme as it still flows today between the town of Albert and the city of Amiens – photograph from 2009*)

The stepson\* of James Andrews\*\* and Dorcas Andrews (formerly *Hayward*) – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of fifty cents from his pay - of 34 Flower's Hill (later of 110, Casey Street) of St. John's, Private Hayward\*\*\* was at first reported as *missing in action* at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916, while serving with 'C' Company during the fighting of the first day of *the Somme*.

Six months later, on December 31, 1916, he was officially *presumed dead*.

However, a subsequent report submitted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps Burial Officer, and dated December 12, 1917, documented the identification and then burial of his remains on or about that date. His personal record was thus amended so as to read *killed in action on 1/7/16 or died of wounds shortly thereafter*.

Arthur Seaburn Hayward had enlisted at nineteen years and ten months of age.

*\*The father of Arthur Hayward was Thomas Hayward.*

*\*\*James Andrews, a carpenter by trade, died on December 19, 1919.*



(continued)

**(Preceding page: *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*)**



**\*\*\*Private Hayward had two step-brothers, Henry Humber and Andrew Humber, and two sisters, Pearl and Blanche Hayward.**

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

**Private Arthur Seaburn Hayward was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).**

