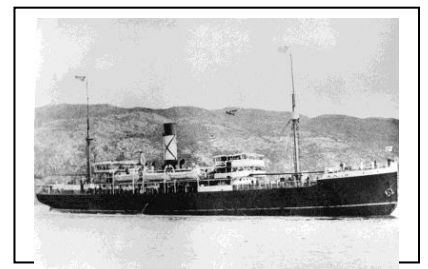




Private George Hudson (Regimental Number 3327) is buried in Nine Elms British Cemetery – Grave reference X. B. 13. He enlisted on December 12, 1916, during the Twelfth Draft.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman earning an annual three hundred dollars, George Hudson was a recruit of the Twelfth Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, he also enlisted - engaged for the duration of the war and at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and attested, all on the same day, December 12, 1916.



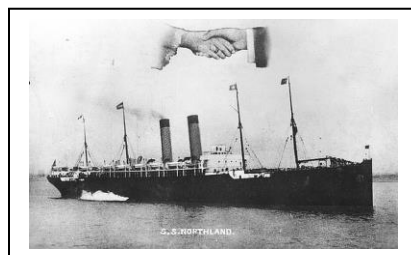
Private Hudson was one of the approximately three hundred twenty *all ranks* to leave St. John's for *overseas service* on the Bowering Brothers' vessel *Florizel* (above), bound for Halifax, on January 31, 1917, from there to take ship to the United Kingdom.

Immediately upon its arrival in Nova Scotia, however, this detachment was forwarded to accommodation in the town of Windsor where it was soon to be quarantined because of an epidemic of measles and mumps.

(continued)

It was not before a lapse of some two-and-a-half months after its arrival that transport could be arranged for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom for the so-called *Windsor Draft* – minus the twenty-five or so personnel still unable to travel.

On April 17, Private Hudson embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Northland* – originally the *Zeeland* - (right), one of three ships carrying the Newfoundlanders to sail on the next day in a convoy from Halifax. The vessels were carrying Canadian re-enforcements to the English west-coast port of Liverpool, where the ships docked on April 29.



Arriving in England the contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence to serve as the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment for two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from Newfoundland were to be despatched in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and later to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1st Battalion.



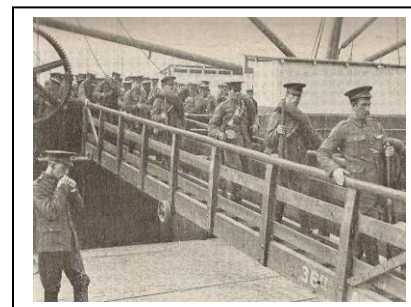
(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

By the time that the Windsor Draft arrived at the Regimental Depot, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion was becoming critically short of personnel.



(Right: *the new race-course at Ayr – opened in 1907 – where men of the Regiment were billeted and where they replaced some of the turf with a vegetable garden; part of the present grandstand is original – photo from 2012*)

For whatever the reason, it was not until December 2 of 1917 that the 34th Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr – Private Hudson among its ranks - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton on its way to France. On December 4 it disembarked in the Norman capital, Rouen, where time was then spent at the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, for final training* and organization before he moved onward to his eventual rendezvous with 1st Battalion.

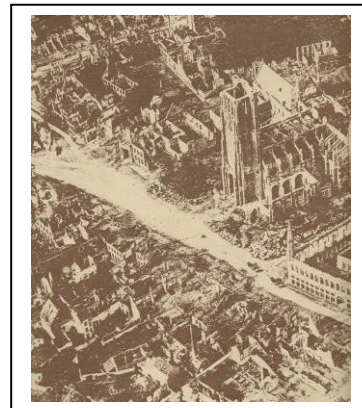


(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen en route to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

(continued)

**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.*

Private Hudson joined 1st Battalion in the field on December 11, one of fifty-five other ranks to report to duty on that particular day. By that time the Newfoundlanders had retired from the front lines after the exertions of the *Battle of Cambrai*, and were in the commune of Humbercourt, to the south-west of Arras. By the time they left there a week later winter had arrived and deep snow was reported in the Regimental War Diary. They must have felt almost at home.



At the beginning of January of 1918, after that 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.

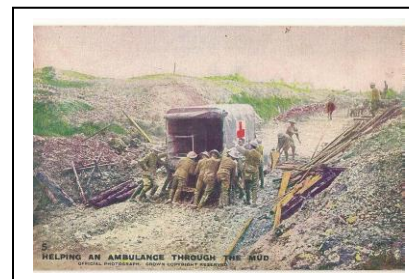
(Right above: *an aerial view of Ypres, taken towards the end of 1916 – from Illustration*)

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.

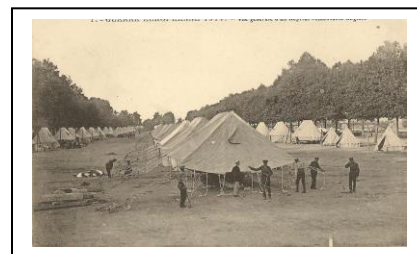
On March 11, the Newfoundlanders were in the front-line and support trenches just beyond Zonnebeke, to the north-east of Ypres, having been posted there on March 7. The Regimental War Diary entry of that day notes simply: *“C” Company heavily bombarded on our right, casualties slight.* The overall summary of that tour, written on the 14th is also minimal: *Battalion relieved by Lancs. Fusiliers, and moved to Haslar Camp. Total casualties during tour in line:- Killed in Action = 1 Officer, 11 Other Ranks, Missing B’ld K = 1 Other Rank, Wounded = 54 do.*



Private Hudson was one of those wounded – on the 11th while serving with ‘D’ Company - and was evacuated from the field to the 87th Field Ambulance. His two arms had suffered compound fractures, and he had injuries inflicted by shrapnel to his right side and both thighs. On that same day he was forwarded for further treatment to the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station at the Rémy Sidings, Poperinghe.



(Previous page: *transferring sick and wounded from a field ambulance to the rear through the mud by motorized ambulance and man-power – from a vintage post-card*)



(Right: *a British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and when the necessity arose – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War – from a vintage post-card*)

The son of Henry Hudson, fisherman, and Susannah Hudson – to whom he had allotted a daily seventy cents from his pay - of Pouch Cove in the District of St. John's East, he was also brother to Ellen, Gertrude and William.

Private Hudson was reported as having *died of wounds* on March 12, 1918, in the same 3rd Australian CCS.

George Hudson had enlisted at the age of eighteen years and one month.

(Right: *The Pouch Cove War Memorial honours the sacrifice of Private Hudson. – photograph from 2010*)



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

