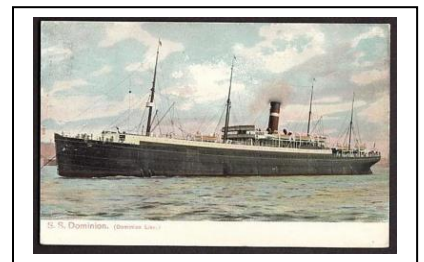


Private Carl Reid (Regimental Number 790) is interred in Menin Road South Cemetery – Menin Road North Memorial 12.

His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a fisherman earning an annual income of \$500.00, Carl Reid presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on December 1, 1914. He was a recruit of the Second Draft.

Some eighteen days later, on December 19, he then enlisted - engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – also attesting on that same day. Seven weeks later again he embarked via the sealing tender *Neptune* onto the SS *Dominion* (right) – the vessel having been anchored off Bay Bulls because of ice conditions, Private Reid departed Newfoundland for overseas service on February 5, 1915.



(continued)

'C' Company, the first re-enforcements for the initial contingent of the Regiment that had sailed in October of 1914, arrived in Liverpool on February 16, 1915. The detachment immediately took a train to Edinburgh where the Newfoundland Regiment was to garrison the Castle, the first troops from outside the British Isles to perform this duty. The newcomers arrived in the Scottish capital later on that same day.



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

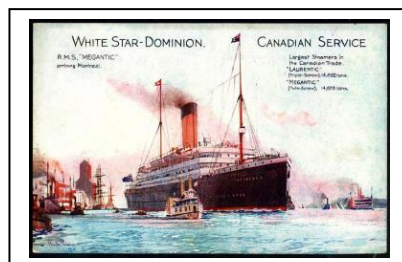
On May 11 the Newfoundlanders were transferred to Stobs Camp, near Hawick, to the south-east of Edinburgh. There they remained until the beginning of August when the senior Companies 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D', were sent south to Aldershot to prepare for a posting to the Middle East and Gallipoli - and to become 1st Battalion.



The later arrivals, 'E' and 'F' Companies were to be sent to the new Regimental Depot recently established at Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland, as the nucleus of the newly-formed 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

(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*)

It was during this period at Aldershot, on August 15, that Private Reid was prevailed upon to re-enlist, on this 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.*

On August 20, 1915, Private Reid took ship on board the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (right above) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – of which two weeks had been spent billeted at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1st Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(Right above: *Newfoundland troops on board a troop-ship anchored at Mudros, either *Megantic* on August 29, *Ausonia* on September 18, or *Prince Abbas* on September 19 – *Whichever the case, they were yet to land on Gallipoli.* – from Provincial Archives)*

(Right: ‘Kangaroo Beach’, where the men of 1st Battalion landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on ‘A’ Beach. – photograph from 2011)



(Right: almost a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Reid served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)



On the night of December 19-20, the British abandoned their positions and withdrew from Suvla – the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, formed a part of the rear-guard – and 1st Battalion was transferred two days later to Cape Helles on the western tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. They were soon, on the night of January 8-9, to be abandoning Cape Helles as well.



(Right: Cape Helles as seen from the Turkish positions on the misnamed Achi Baba, positions which were never breached. The Newfoundland positions were to the right-hand side of the picture. – photograph from 2011)

(Right: ‘W’ Beach at Cape Helles as it was days before the final British evacuation – from Illustration)



(Right below: ‘W’ Beach almost a century after its abandonment by British forces and by the Newfoundlanders who were the last soldiers to leave the beach: vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture above are still to be seen – photograph from 2011)



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

(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)



On March 14, 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) for the voyage to the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles, en route to the *Western Front*.



(Right adjacent: *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 on March 22, the Battalion's train arrived at the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy.

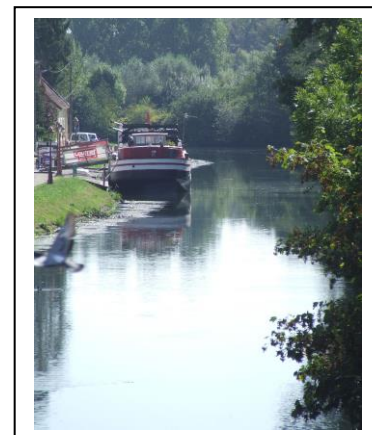
It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for them travelling unused in a separate wagon. De-training at the station at two in the morning the Newfoundlanders still had a long march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.



(Right: *the Somme seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy as it passes through the community* – 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 – three kilometres behind the lines and perhaps some fifty kilometres in all distant from Pont-Rémy – where it was billeted, received re-enforcements on the 15th and, on that same day, was introduced into the British lines where the Newfoundlanders were then put to work making improvements to the communication trenches.



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 which flowed through the region, *the Somme*.

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



Private Reid was next reported as being on Battalion *strength* on July 4, 1917. The date is the day on which several roll calls were recorded, the best known being that of the unwounded survivors after Beaumont-Hamel, and called on the following morning, July 2.

Private Reid was not one of those involved in the fighting of July 1 with 1st Battalion although his name appears on the nominal roll; it is therefore possible that he had been either seconded to another unit or, which is more likely, that he was one of the ten per cent reserve of fourteen officers and eighty-three *other ranks* held at Louvencourt and not called forward until late in the afternoon of that day when the fighting had subsided.



**The well-known roll-call of July 2 of those who survived the battle unscathed was not officially recorded until two days later. The roll call of those who had been in the ten per cent reserve of fourteen officers and eighty-three men held back for most of the day at Louvencourt was apparently also recorded officially only later. Thus the inscription 'With Battalion 4/7/16' on certain records.*

(Right above: *another part of the reconstituted battlefield, here showing the British front lines, in the Newfoundland Park at Beaumont-Hamel: today the wire serves only to keep the tourists out of the trenches. – photograph from 2010(?)*)

The Newfoundlanders moved north at the end of July from France into Belgium where they had orders posting them to the *Ypres Salient*, there to re-enforce and to re-organize. Relatively quiet during this period, *the Salient* was to prove to be one of the most lethal postings of the entire War. 1st Battalion remained in Belgium until October 8 when it was sent back to France and back to the region - and to the battle - of *the Somme*. By then, Private Reid had played his final role.



(Right above: *the entrance – rebuilt - to 'A' Company's quarters in the ramparts of Ypres when it was posted there in 1916 – photograph from 2010*)

(Right: *the city of Ypres towards the end of 1915 – and eight months before the Newfoundlanders were posted there for the first time – from a vintage post-card*)



On August 12 the Newfoundlanders were in the trenches in front of Ypres. The Regimental War Diary entry for the day reads: *At 0900 our lines were heavily shelled. Casualties 3 killed, 15(?) wounded. Troops on our right very heavily bombarded for two hours.*

The son of Caleb Reid*, fisherman, and Jane Reid (née *Driscoll*, deceased September 29), 1904 – to whom he allotted an allowance of 70 cents a day from his pay - of Lower Battery Road in St. John's, he was also brother to at least Eliza-Emma, to Charles and to Isobel (sic). (*This last information needs to be confirmed.*)

Private Reid was reported as having been *killed in action* on August 12, 1916, while serving with 'C' Company in the trenches at Ypres.

Carl Reid had enlisted at nineteen years of age.

**Caleb Reid re-married, on the second occasion to Lydia Fleet.*

Private Reid was originally buried in Menin Road North Cemetery. However, this burial ground was later obliterated by shelling and the few remains were unidentifiable. What was left was removed and today lies in Menin Road South Cemetery.

Private Carl Reid 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).

