



...BER 1918 AGE 26



Captain* Herbert Rendell, MC, is interred in Dadizeele New British Cemetery – Grave reference VI. F. 16.

****Officers who were eventually promoted from the ranks may be identified from their Regimental Number. Other officers who were not from the ranks received the King’s Commission, or in the case of those in the Newfoundland Regiment, an Imperial Commission, and were not considered as enlisted. These officers thus had no Regimental Number allotted to them.***

And since officers did not enlist, they were not then required to re-enlist ‘for the duration’, even though, at the beginning, as a private, they had volunteered their services for only a limited time – twelve months.

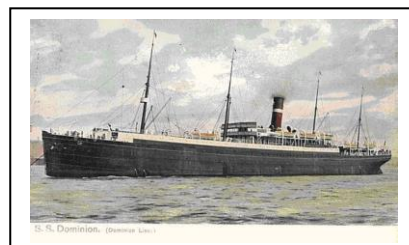
Prior to his military service with the Newfoundland Regiment, Herbert Rendell had worked as a cashier at *C. F. Bennett & Co.* – wholesale provisions and groceries, commission merchants and insurance agents – of Water Street in St. John’s, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland.

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It would seem from the pay records available that Herbert Rendell received an Imperial Commission and an accompanying appointment to the rank of second lieutenant as of December 15 of 1914 – at least this appears to be the date on which he began to be remunerated for his services.

**The pay in question appears to have been a basic two dollars per diem plus a daily sixty cent field allowance. It also appears that this rate applied to both second and first lieutenants.*

On February 2, 1915, he received notification from the Governor of the Dominion, Sir Walter Davidson – he also, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, the Commanding Officer of the Newfoundland Regiment - that he had been elevated to the rank of lieutenant, perhaps because only two days later, he was to be embarking via the sealing tender *Neptune* onto the SS *Dominion* – the vessel having anchored to the south off Bay Bulls because of ice conditions.



The vessel then sailed - and Lieutenant Rendell departed Newfoundland for overseas service - a day later again, on February 5, as an officer of Number 1 Platoon of 'C' Company*, the first re-enforcements for the first Newfoundland contingent by this time serving in Scotland (see further below).

(Right above: The image of the steamer 'Dominion' - launched in 1894 as the 'Prussia' - is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. An older vessel, she was to be requisitioned during the latter part of the Great War as a store and supply ship. She survived the conflict to be scrapped in 1922.)

**There appears to be some confusion in some sources as to whether these troops were 'C' or 'D' Company. However, 'D' Company was to go overseas some time later on 'Stephano' to Halifax and then on Orduña to Liverpool.*

(Right: The photograph of personnel of 'C' Company on board the 'Neptune' on the way to the harbour at Bay Bulls is from the Provincial Archives.)



Having disembarked in the English west-coast port-city of Liverpool, the Newfoundlanders entrained for Edinburgh, the first Newfoundland Regiment contingent having by this time been posted to the historic Castle in Scotland's capital city. There they were to provide the garrison, thus being the first unit from overseas ever to do so.

Lieutenant Rendell and the other new-comers reported to duty at Edinburgh Castle on February 16.

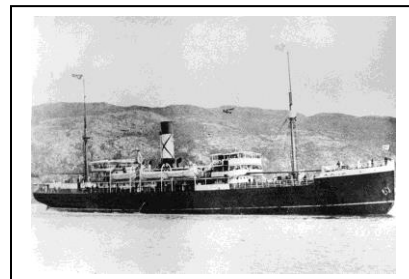
(Right: Edinburgh Castle dominates the city from its position on the summit of Castle Hill. – photograph from 2011)



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Five to six months before that time, in the late summer and early autumn of 1914 there had been a period of training of some five weeks on the shores of *Quidi Vidi Lake* in the east end of St. John's for the newly-formed Newfoundland Regiment's first recruits - to become 'A' and 'B' Companies - during which time the authorities had also been preparing for the Regiment's transfer overseas.

This first Newfoundland contingent was to embark on October 3, in some cases only days after enlistment and/ or attestation. To become known to history as the *First Five Hundred* and also as the *Blue Puttees*, on that day they had boarded the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting in St. John's Harbour.



The ship would sail for the United Kingdom on the morrow, October 4, 1914, to its rendezvous with the convoy carrying the 1st Canadian Division overseas, off the south coast of the Island.

(Right above: *The image of Florizel at anchor in the harbour at St. John's is by courtesy of Admiralty House Museum.*)

(Right: *Fort George, constructed in the latter half of the eighteenth century, still serves the British Army to this day. – photograph from 2011*)



In the United Kingdom this first Newfoundland contingent was to train in three venues during the late autumn of 1914 and then the winter of 1914-1915: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at *Fort George* – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness; and lastly at Edinburgh Castle – where, as recorded beforehand, it was to provide the first garrison from outside the British Isles – and where 'C' – or 'D' - Company and Lieutenant Rendell, as also cited beforehand, would arrive from Newfoundland on February 16 of 1915.

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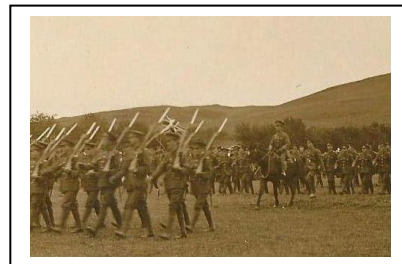
Some three months later, on May 11, and three weeks into spring – although in Scotland there was apparently still snow - the entire Newfoundlanders unit was ordered moved to *Stobs Camp*, all under canvas and south-eastwards of Edinburgh, in the vicinity of the town of Hawick.

It was to be at *Stobs Camp* that the Newfoundland contingent received the re-enforcements from home – 'F' Company which arrived on July 10, 1915 - that would bring its numbers up to that of British Army establishment battalion strength*. The now-formed 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment was thus rendered eligible to be sent on 'active service'.

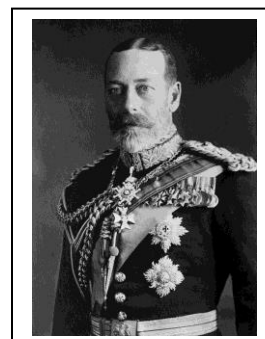
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***This was approximately fifteen hundred, enough to furnish four 'fighting' companies, two re-enforcement companies and a headquarters staff.**

(Right: The Newfoundland Regiment marches past on the training ground at Stobs Camp and is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)



At the beginning of that August of 1915, the four senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', were then sent south from Stobs Camp to undergo a final two weeks of training, as well as an inspection by the King, at Aldershot. This force, now the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, was thereupon attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.



Meanwhile the two junior Companies, the later-arrived 'E' and aforementioned 'F', were ordered transferred to Scotland's west coast, to Ayr, there to provide the nucleus of the newly-forming 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

(Right above: George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India – the photograph is from Bain News Services via the Wikipedia web-site.)



(Right above: Some of the personnel of 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment at Aldershot in August of 1915, prior to its departure to active service on the Gallipoli Peninsula – from The Fighting Newfoundlander by Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D.)



On August 20, 1915, Lieutenant Rendell and the Newfoundland unit embarked in the Royal Navy Harbour of Devonport onto the requisitioned passenger-liner Megantic for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting against the Turks. There, a month later – having spent some two weeks billeted in British barracks in the vicinity of the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, the 1st Battalion landed at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(Right above: The image of Megantic, here in her peace-time colours of a 'White Star Line' vessel, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.)

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(Preceding page: *Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is to be seen 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 taken in 2011)*



(Right: *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)*



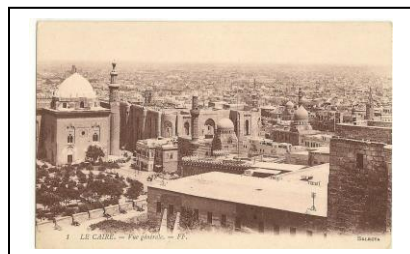
(Right: *A century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where the 1st Battalion was to serve during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)*

For Lieutenant Rendell it was to be a short first visit.

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Only days after having set foot on the rocks and sand of Kangaroo Beach at *Suvla Bay*, on September 27 Lieutenant Rendell suffered a slight gun-shot wound to the left buttock, and subsequently was to be evacuated from there on an unidentified hospital ship and subsequently admitted into the 21st General Hospital in Cairo on October 1.

He is next recorded as having been forwarded on October 15 to the 5th Canadian Stationary Hospital at the *Abbassia Barracks*, also in – or close to - Cairo, apparently for treatment to a slight scalp wound, likely accidental given the circumstances.



(Right: *The Egyptian capital city of Cairo, during or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card)*

On October 17 Lieutenant Rendell was discharged from *Abbassia* and sent onwards to the Number 4 Convalescent Home at Saba Pache, there to remain for some two weeks. He would then return *to duty* with the Newfoundland Battalion and 'C' Company at *Suvla Bay* on or about November 3.

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Not only in the area where the Newfoundland Battalion would serve but, even since the very first days of the operation in April of 1915, the entire *Gallipoli Campaign*, including the operation at *Suvla Bay*, was to prove to be little more than a debacle:

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Flies, dust, disease, the frost-bite and the floods – and of course the casualties inflicted by an enemy who was to fight a great deal better than the British High Command* had ever anticipated – were eventually to overwhelm the British-led forces and those of the French, and it would finally be decided to abandon not only *Suvla Bay* but the entire *Gallipoli* venture.

(Right below: *An un-identified Newfoundland soldier in the trenches at Suvla Bay – from Provincial Archives*)

**Many of the commanders chosen were second-rate, had been brought out of retirement, and had little idea of how to fight – let alone of how to win. One of the generals at Suvla, apparently, had handed in his resignation during the Campaign and had just gone home.*

November 26 would see the nadir of the Newfoundland Battalion's fortunes at Gallipoli; there was to be a freak rain-, snow- and ice-storm strike the *Suvla Bay* area and the subsequent floods had wreaked havoc amongst the forces of both sides. For several days, survival rather than the enemy was to be the priority.



There were to be many casualties on both sides, some of them, surprised by the sudden inundation of their positions, fatalities who had drowned in their trenches – although no Newfoundlanders were to be among that number. Numerous, however, were those afflicted by trench-foot and by frost-bite.

On the night of December 19-20, the British abandoned the area of *Suvla Bay* – the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, to form a part of the rear-guard. Some of the Battalion personnel were evacuated to the nearby island of *Imbros*, some to *Lemnos*, further away, but in neither case was the respite to be of a long duration; the 1st Battalion was to be transferred only two days later to the area of *Cape Helles*, on the western tip of the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.



(Right above: *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)

The British and the *Anzac* forces – the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was also to serve at *Gallipoli* – were now only marking time until a complete withdrawal of the *Peninsula* could be undertaken.



This final operation would take place on the night of January 8-9, the Newfoundland Battalion to furnish part of the British rear-guard on this second occasion also.

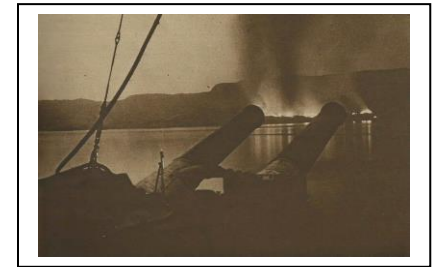
(Right above: *'W' Beach at Cape Helles as it was only days before the final British evacuation – from Illustration*)

****Lieutenant Owen Steele of St. John's, Newfoundland, is cited as having been the last soldier of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to step into the final small boat to sail from the Gallipoli Peninsula.***



(Right: 'W' Beach almost a century after its abandonment by British forces in that January of 1916 and by the Newfoundlanders who were to be the last soldiers off the beach: Vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture are still to be seen. – photograph from 2011)

Immediately after the British had evacuated the entire *Gallipoli Peninsula* in January of 1916, the Newfoundland Battalion was to be ordered to the Egyptian port-city of Alexandria, arriving there on the 15th of that month. The Newfoundlanders were then to be immediately transferred southward to the vicinity of Suez, a port at the southern end of the Canal which bears the same name, there to await further orders since, at the time, the subsequent destination of the British 29th Division had yet to be decided*.



****Bulgaria had entered the conflict on the side of the Central Powers, and Salonika was soon to become a theatre of war.***

(Right above: The British destroy their supplies during the final evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The men of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment were among the last to leave on two occasions, at both Suvla Bay and Cape Helles. – photograph taken from the battleship Cornwallis from Illustration)

After a two-month interim spent in the vicinity of Port Suez, Lieutenant Rendell and the almost six-hundred officers and *other ranks* of the 1st Battalion were to board His Majesty's Transport *Alaunia* at Port Tewfiq, on March 14 to begin the voyage through the *Suez Canal* en route to France. The Newfoundlanders would disembark eight days afterwards in the Mediterranean port-city of Marseilles, on March 22.



(Right above: Port Tewfiq at the south end of the Suez Canal as it was just prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card)

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



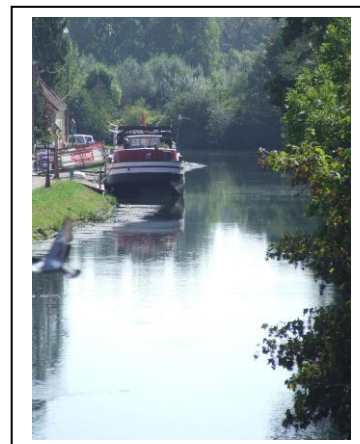
Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Newfoundland Battalion's train was to find its way to the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy, a thousand kilometres to the north of Marseilles. It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for the troops having inexcusably travelled unused in a separate wagon.

Having de-trained at the local station at two o'clock in the morning, the Newfoundlanders were now still to endure the long, dark march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.

It is doubtful if many of those tired soldiers were to pay much attention to the slow-moving stream flowing under the bridge over which they had then marched on their way from the station. But some three months later *the Somme* was to become a part of their history.

(Right below: *A languid River Somme as seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy – photograph from 2010*)

On April 13, the 1st Battalion subsequently marched into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy - where it would be billeted, would receive reinforcements from Scotland via Rouen and, in two days' time, would be introduced into the communication trenches of the *Western Front*.



Just days following the Newfoundland Battalion's arrival on the *Western Front*, two of the four Companies – 'A', and 'B' – were to take over several support positions from a British unit* before the entire Newfoundland unit was to then be ordered to move further up for the first time into forward positions on April 22.

**It should be said that the Newfoundland Battalion and two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles who were serving at the time in the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment Battalion, were then the only units at the Somme from outside the British Isles - true also on the day of the attack on July 1.*



(Right: *A part of the re-constructed trench system to be found in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel – photograph from 2009(?)*)

But by April 22, Lieutenant Rendell was to be undertaking duties elsewhere.

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On April 16, Lieutenant Rendell and eleven *other ranks* were ordered detached from the Newfoundland unit to form the 88th Brigade 2nd Trench Mortar Battery.

The Battery was to still be in service when the British offensive of that summer of 1916 commenced on July 1 - although Lieutenant Rendell would not be fighting with his 'C' Company of the 1st Battalion on that occasion - as the Regimental War Diary records: *1 officer & 11 other ranks with Trench Mortar Battery took part in the battle of 1st July...at Beaumont-Hamel, the first day of the Somme.*



(Preceding page: *These are French trench mortars from the period of the Great War, but the larger ones are little different from those that would have been used by Lieutenant Rendell. They used to stand on display – as here – in the entrance to the ‘Invalides’ in Paris. – photograph from 2015*)

Lieutenant Rendell was promoted to the rank of *temporary Captain** Rendell on August 9, 1916, when he was to take over command of the 88/2 Trench Mortar Battery; he was now to remain in that posting for the following seven weeks, until September 26-27, when he was evacuated to hospital. There seems to be little documentation of that latter event except for a telegram sent to him... *congratulate Captain hope sick enough need furlough...* and, in his own hand, an excerpt from a letter written to the Pay & Records Office: *I went to hospital about Sept. 26th & got back for duty on Oct. 14 & reported to the Regt...*

He was to re-join the Newfoundland Battalion on October 14 - the War Diary has the 15th – two weeks after his status as captain had been confirmed by the appropriate authorities on October 1. That October 14 of 1916 was also two days after the Newfoundlanders had fought the action at Gueudecourt (see below).

**The Regimental War Diarist notes Lieutenant Rendell re-joining the 1st Battalion from duty with 88/2 Trench Mortar Battery on October 15 and it was not until the addition of supplementary entry dated October 16 that his confirmation as Captain, retroactive to October 1, was to be documented.*

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At the time of Lieutenant Rendell's secondment to the 88/2 Trench Mortar Battery, the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment had arrived only days previously on the Western Front; indeed it was to be yet days again after his departure that the unit was to be ordered for the first occasion into the forward trenches where it was now to serve its first tour.

Having then been withdrawn at the end of that April to the areas of Mailly-Maillet and Louvencourt where they would be based for the next two months, the Newfoundlanders were soon to be preparing for the upcoming British campaign of that summer, to be fought on the ground named for the languid, meandering river, *the Somme*, that flowed – and still does so today – through the region.

If there is one name and date in Newfoundland history which is etched in the collective once-national memory, it is that of Beaumont-Hamel on July 1 of 1916; and if any numbers are remembered, they are those of the eight-hundred who went *over the top* in the third wave of the attack on that morning, and of the sixty-eight unwounded present at muster some twenty-four hours later*.



(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*)

(continued)

(Right: A view of Hawthorn Ridge Cemetery Number 2 in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel – photograph from 2009(?))



**Perhaps ironically, the majority of the Battalion's casualties was to be incurred during the advance from the third line of British trenches to the first line from where the attack proper was to be made, and while struggling through British wire laid to protect the British positions from any German attack.*

There are other numbers of course: the fifty-seven thousand British casualties incurred in four hours on that same morning of which nineteen-thousand were recorded as having been *killed in action or died of wounds*.

It was to be the largest disaster ever in the annals of the British Army...and, perhaps just as depressing, the butchery of *the Somme* was to continue for the next four and a half months.



(Right above: *Beaumont-Hamel is a commune, not a village.* – photographs from 2010 and 2015)

In fact, Beaumont-Hamel was a commune – it still exists today – at the time comprising two communities: Beaumont, a village on the German side of the lines, and Hamel which was behind those of the British. No-Man's-Land, on which the Newfoundland Memorial Park lies partially today, was on land that separated Beaumont from Hamel.



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

After the events of the morning of July 1, 1916, such had then been the dire condition of the attacking British forces that it had been feared that a German counter-assault might well annihilate what had managed to survive of the British Expeditionary Force on *the Somme*.

The few remnants of the Newfoundland Battalion – and of the other depleted British units - had thus remained in the trenches perhaps fearing the worst, and at night searching for the wounded and burying the dead. It was to be July 6 before the Newfoundlanders were to be relieved from the forward area and to be ordered withdrawn to Englebelmer.



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It had then been a further two days before the unit had marched further again to the rear area and to billets in the village of Mailly-Maillet.

(Preceding page: *The re-constructed village of Mailly-Maillet – the French Monument aux Morts in the foreground - is twinned with the community of Torbay, St. John's East. – photograph from 2009*)

There on July 11, a draft of one-hundred twenty-seven re-enforcements – a second source cites one-hundred thirty – had reported *to duty*. They had been the first to arrive following the events at Beaumont-Hamel but even with this additional man-power having arrived, the Regimental War Diary records that on the 14th of July, 1916, the 1st Battalion still numbered only...*11 officers and 260 rifles*...after the holocaust of Beaumont-Hamel, just one-quarter of establishment battalion strength.

On July 27-28 of 1916, the 1st Battalion - still under battalion strength at only five-hundred fifty-four strong, even after further re-enforcement – had moved north and entered into the *Kingdom of Belgium* for the first time.

It had been ordered to the *Ypres Salient*, one of the most dangerous pieces of real estate on the entire *Western Front*, there to continue to re-enforce and to re-organize after the ordeal of Beaumont-Hamel.

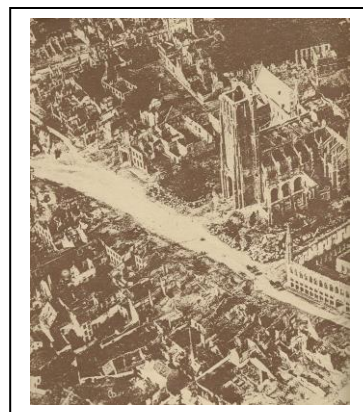
(Right: *The entrance to 'A' Company's quarters – obviously renovated since that time - in the ramparts of the city of Ypres when it was posted there in 1916 – photograph from 2010*)



The Salient – close to the front lines for almost the entire fifty-two month conflict - was to be relatively quiet during the time of the Newfoundlanders' posting there; yet they nonetheless incurred casualties, a number – fifteen? - of them fatal.

Then on October 8, after having served in Belgium for some ten weeks, the 1st Battalion had been ordered to return south, back into France and back into the area of – and the battle of – *the Somme*.

(Right: *An aerial view of Ypres, taken towards the end of 1916: it is described as the 'Ville morte'. – from Illustration*)



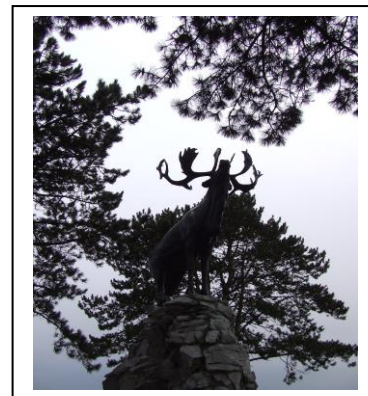
Four days after that return to France, on October 12, 1916, the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment had again been ordered to the offensive; it was at a place called Gueudecourt, the vestiges of a village some dozen or so kilometres to the south-east of Beaumont-Hamel.

The encounter had proved to be another ill-conceived and costly affair – two hundred and thirty-nine casualties all told - for little gain.



(Preceding page: *This is the ground over which the 1st Battalion advanced and then mostly conceded at Gueudecourt on October 12. Some few managed to reach the area where today stand the copse of trees and the Gueudecourt Caribou, on the far right horizon. – photograph from 2007*)

(Right: *The Caribou at Gueudecourt stands at the furthest point of the Newfoundland Battalion's advance of October 12, 1916. – photograph from 2012*)



The Newfoundland Battalion was not to be directly involved in any further concerted infantry action in the immediate area of Gueudecourt although, on October 18, it would supply two-hundred fifty men to act as stretcher-bearers in an attack undertaken by troops of two British regiments, the Hampshires and the Worcestershires, of the 88th Brigade.

(Right below: *Stretcher-bearers not only shared the dangers of the battle-field with their arms-bearing comrades, but they often spent a longer period of time exposed to those same perils. This photograph was likely taken during First Somme. – from Illustration*)

As has been recorded above, Captain Rendell had returned to report *to duty* with the Newfoundland Battalion four days prior to its employment as bearers of the wounded to the rear. What, if any, role Captain Rendell was to play on that October 18, seems not to be documented among the War Diarist's entries of that time.



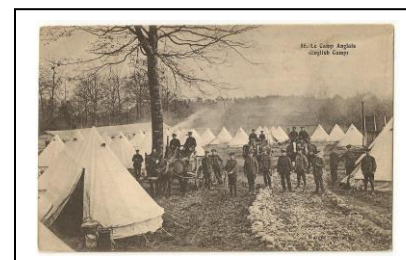
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On October 30, the Newfoundland unit had eventually been retired to rear positions from the Gueudecourt area. It had been serving in front-line and support positions for three weeks less a day.

The Newfoundlanders were now to spend two weeks withdrawn to the area of Ville-sous-Corbie, re-enforcing and reorganizing. It was not to be until November 15 that the 1st Battalion began to wend its way back up to the front lines.

There it continued its watch in and out of the trenches of *the Somme* – not without casualties – during the late fall and early winter, a period broken only by another several weeks spent in *Corps Reserve* during the Christmas period, encamped well behind the lines and in close proximity to the city of Amiens.

(Right: *A typical British Army Camp during rather inclement winter conditions somewhere on the Continent – from a vintage post-card*)



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After that welcome six-week Christmas respite spent in *Corps Reserve* far to the rear, the Newfoundlanders were to *officially* return to *active service* on January 23, although they had apparently already returned to the trenches by that date and had incurred their first casualties – and fatality – of 1917.

Those casualties, however, were only some of those everyday thousands whom Douglas Haig casually referred to as *wastage*. The sole infantry activity *directly* involving the Newfoundland unit during that entire period – from Gueudecourt in mid-October, 1916, until Monchy-le-Preux in mid-April of 1917 – was to be the sharp engagement at Sailly-Saillisel at the end of February and the beginning of March, an action which would bring this episode in the Newfoundlanders' War – in the area of *the Somme* - to a close.



(Right: A soldier of the Lancashire Fusiliers, their unit to be relieved by the Newfoundlanders on March 1, enjoys his cigarette in the cold and ice of the trenches at Sailly-Saillisel during the winter of 1916-1917. – from *Illustration*)

(Right: *The fighting during the period of the Battalion's posting to Sailly-Saillisel took place on the far side of the village which was no more than a heap of rubble at the time.* - photograph from 2009(?))



After Sailly-Saillisel the month of March was a quiet time for the Newfoundlanders; having departed from the trenches, they now spent their time near the communities of Meaulté and Camps-en-Amienois re-enforcing, re-organizing, and training for upcoming events. They were even to have the pleasure of a visit from the Regimental Band, and also one from the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Sir Edward Morris, the latter on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.



(Right: *The Prime Minister of Newfoundland visiting the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, encamped at Meaulté* – from *The War Illustrated*)

On March 29, the Newfoundlanders began to make their way – on foot – from Camps-en-Amienois to the north-east, towards the venerable medieval city of Arras and eventually beyond, the march to finish amid the rubble of the village of Monchy-le-Preux.



(Right above: *The remnants of the Grande Place in Arras at the time of the Great War* – from *Illustration*)

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(Right below: *The Canadian National Memorial which has stood atop Vimy Ridge since 1936 – photograph from 2010*)

On April 9 the British Army was to launch an offensive in the area to the north of *the Somme* battlefields; this was to be the so-called *Battle of Arras*, intended to support a major French effort elsewhere. In terms of the daily count of casualties this attack was to be the most expensive operation of the *Great War* for the British, its only positive episode to be the Canadian assault of *Vimy Ridge* on the opening day of the battle, Easter Monday, 1917.



While the British campaign would prove an overall disappointment, the French *Bataille du Chemin des Dames* was to be yet a further disaster.

(Right: *The village of Monchy-le-Preux as seen today from the western – in 1917, the British – side of the community: The Newfoundlanders advanced, out of the ruins of the place, to the east, away from the camera. – photograph from 2013*)



The 1st Battalion was to play its part during the *Battle of Arras*, a role that would begin at the place called Monchy-le-Preux on April 14 and which would finish ten days later, on April 23, perhaps a kilometre distant, at *Les Fosses Farm*. After Beaumont-Hamel, the ineptly-planned action at Monchy-le-Preux would prove to be the most costly day of the Newfoundlanders' war, four-hundred eighty-seven casualties all told on April 14 alone*.

**It was also an action in which a DSO, an MC and eight MMs were won by a small group of nine personnel of the Battalion – the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) awarded to the unit's Commanding officer. An MM for the same action was also presented to a private from the Essex Regiment .*

* * * * *

Captain Rendell was reported as having incurred gun-shot wounds to the buttocks and as having been gassed during the attack of April 14 at Monchy-le-Preux. He was evacuated to hospital in Boulogne from where, on April 17 or 18, he was returned by hospital ship – once again unidentified - back to the United Kingdom.

Once having arrived in England, Captain Rendell was admitted into the 3rd London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth on April 18, to be discharged from there during the week ending May 19 – perhaps on May 14 (see below).

(Right: *The main building of what was to become the 3rd London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1st of 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010*)



(Right below: *Newfoundland patients, unfortunately unidentified, convalescing in the grounds of the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

At Mouchy (sic) on 14th April, 1917, he received a perforating G.S.W. of the L. buttock, entering in the groin and making its exit in the buttock. No injury to bone or nerves. He was sent to Boulogne and thence here, and admitted on the 18th April, 1917. The wounds are now healed. – from a medical report issued at Wandsworth on 14th May, 1917



The same report also recommended that Captain Rendell...**be granted three weeks leave, expiring on the 4th June. He has been instructed to rejoin his reserve unit on that date.** He was released from care on that day.

The Regimental Depot, at the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland, had by then been established for some two years. It was serving as the overseas base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion from where – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 - re-enforcement drafts were despatched to bolster the 1st Battalion's numbers, at first to the Middle East and then later to the *Western Front*.



(Right above: *An aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr, where the other ranks were to be quartered, is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough, where were housed the officers, is to the right. – by courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

**During the summer months of 1917, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had been transferred from Ayr to not-so-distant Barry. Initially intended to be a permanent move, the protest from several quarters was so great that the Newfoundlanders were back in Ayr by the third week of September.*

(Right below: *The High Street in Ayr as shown on a postcard of the time, the imposing Wallace Tower – it stands to this day (2017) - dominating the scene – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs Lillian Tibbo*)

If Captain Rendell did indeed join 2nd (Reserve) Battalion at Ayr on that June 4 at the end of his three-week convalescent leave – and nothing suggests that he did otherwise - he likely was to remain with it until the month of November, a letter proving him to be still there at least on the 1st day of that month. He had thus surely spent the intervening months at Ayr and also at Barrie*, where the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had been temporarily posted during that summer.



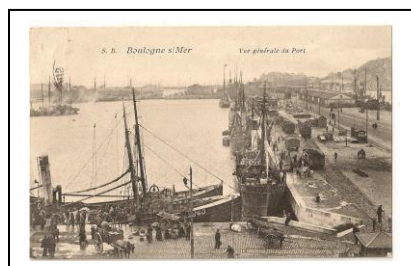
***During the summer months of 1917, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had been transferred from Ayr to not-so-distant Barry. Initially intended to be a permanent move, the protest from several quarters was so great that the Newfoundlanders were back in Ayr by the third week of September.**



On or about August 5 of 1917, the 28th Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr was transported to the harbour and town of Folkestone on the Kentish coast. From there it took ship for the crossing to the Continent before likely disembarking in Boulogne. Captain Rendell is recorded as having been a (the?)...*Conducting Officer*.

On what date he returned to Ayr is not to be found among his papers; it may not have been for a number of days as by that time the Newfoundland Battalion was serving in Belgian Flanders.

(Right above: A view of the coastal town of Folkestone almost a century later as seen from the white cliffs of nearby Dover – photograph from 2009)



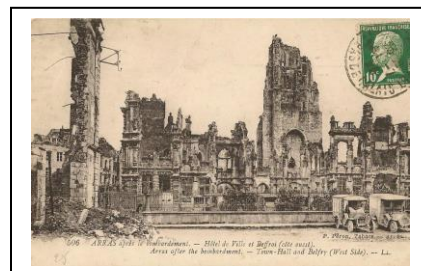
(Right: The French port of Boulogne at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card)

The next official documentation in his dossier which pertains to Captain Rendell is one that records his return to the Newfoundland 1st Battalion in France on November 10, 1917, ten days before the *Battle of Cambrai*.

* * * * *

In the short period following Captain Rendell's wounding on April 14, 1917, and his subsequent hospitalization the remnants of his 1st Battalion had remained in the area of Monchy-le-Preux. Its casualty count had been high enough to warrant it and the Essex Regiment, which had also incurred heavy losses, to amalgamate into a composite battalion until such time as incoming re-enforcements would allow the two units' strengths to once more resemble those of bona fide battalions.

The final action in which the Newfoundland Battalion was to be involved during the five-week long *Battle of Arras* would be the engagement of April 23 at *Les Fosses Farm*. This was in fact an element of a larger offensive undertaken at the time by units of the British 5th, 3rd and 1st Armies. It was apparently not to be a particularly successful venture, at least not in the area of the 1st Battalion, several of the adjacent units reporting having been driven back by German counter-attacks, actions accompanied by heavy losses.



Late on that same evening the Newfoundlanders had retired to the relative calm of Arras.

(continued)

(Preceding page: *The City Hall of Arras and its clock-tower in 1919 after some four years of bombardment by German artillery – from a vintage post-card*)

That month of May was to be a period when the Newfoundlanders would be moved hither and thither on the *Arras Front*, marching into and out of the trenches. While there was to be the ever-present artillery-fire, concerted infantry activity, particularly after May 15 – the end of the *Battle of Arras* – and apart from the marching, was limited.

At the outset of June, the 1st Battalion retired from the line to Bonneville, there to spend its time re-enforcing, re-organizing and training for the upcoming British offensive of the summer – and as it transpired, the autumn as well.

(Right: *Newfoundland troops on the march in the community of Berneville – not Bonneville - in early May, perhaps the 7th, of 1917 – from *The War Illustrated**)



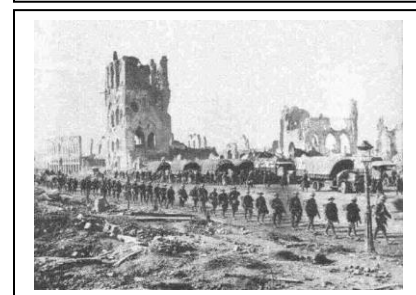
The Newfoundlanders had then soon once again been moving north into Belgium – at the end of June - and once again into the vicinity of Ypres and...*the Salient*, their first posting to be to the banks of the *Yser Canal* just to the north of the city.

(Right: *The Yser Canal at a point in the northern outskirts of Ypres almost a century after the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, manned its eastern bank: East is to the right – photograph from 2014*)



This low-lying area, Belgian *Flanders*, the only part of the country unoccupied by German forces, had been selected by the High Command to be the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917.

(Right: *Troops arriving from the railway station in single file, march past the vestiges of the historic Cloth Hall and through the rubble of the medieval city centre of Ypres on their way to the front in the late summer or early autumn of 1917. – from *Illustration**)



Officially designated as the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign was to come to be better known to history simply as *Passchendaele*, having adopted that name from a small village on a not-very high ridge to the north-east that later was to be cited as having been – *ostensibly* - one of the British Army's objectives.

(Right: *An unidentified – perhaps unidentifiable – part of the *Passchendaele* battlefield in the autumn of 1917 – from *Illustration**)



(continued)

(Right below: *The village of Passchendaele as seen from the air in 1916, after two years of war – from Illustration*)

The 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment was to remain in Belgium until October 17, a small cog in the machinery of the British Army – as were to be by then the Australians, the New Zealanders and the Canadians – all of whose troops had floundered their way across the sodden and shell-torn countryside of Flanders.



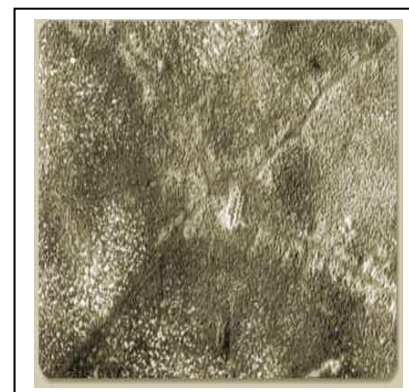
Notably the Newfoundland Battalion at *Passchendaele* was to fight in two major engagements: at the *Steenbeek* on August 16; and at the *Broembeek* (see both immediately below) on October 9. At the former it had incurred nine *killed in action*, ninety-three *wounded*, and one *missing in action*; at the *Broembeek* the cost would be higher: forty-eight *killed or died of wounds*, one-hundred thirty-two *wounded* and fifteen *missing in action*.



(Right: *This is the area of the Steenbeek – the stream runs close to the line of trees - and is therefore near to where the Newfoundland Battalion fought the engagement of August 16, 1917. It is some eight kilometres distant from a village called Passchendaele. – photograph from 2010*)

(Right below: *The once-village of Passchendaele as seen from the air in 1917, after the battle of that name – from Illustration*)

It was to be only two days after this last-mentioned confrontation that the 1st Battalion had marched to the railway station at Elverdinghe from there to be transported to *Swindon Camp* in the area of Proven. Having remained there for five days to be both re-enforced and bombed, on the morning of October 17 the unit was once more to board a train. By ten-thirty that same evening, the Battalion had arrived just to the west of the city of Arras and would now march the final few kilometres to its billets in the community of Berles-au-Bois.



It had been, of course, during this time at Berles-au-Bois, that Captain Rendell is recorded as having reported *to duty* to his unit, on November 10.

* * * * *

The Newfoundlanders were still there, at Berles-au-Bois, four weeks and two days later when, on November 17 the Battalion was once again to travel by train, on this occasion in a south-easterly direction to the town of Peronne. From there it began to move further eastward on foot towards the theatre of the battle now imminent.

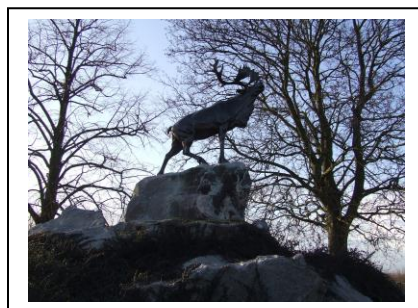
On November 19, while on the move once more, the unit was issued as it went with... *war stores, rations and equipment*. For much of that night it marched to the assembly areas from where, at twenty minutes past six on that morning of November 20 – Zero Hour – the Newfoundland unit, not being in the first wave of the attack, moved up into its forming-up area. From those forward position, some hours later, at ten minutes past ten, bugles blowing, the 1st Battalion advanced to the fray.

This new offensive – apparently initially conceived to be no more than a large-scale raid - the so-called *Battle of Cambrai*, was to officially last for just two weeks and a day, from November 20 until December 4, the Newfoundlanders to be directly involved at all times during that period.

The battle was to begin well for the British who used tanks on a large scale for the first time; but opportunities were squandered, there were no troops available to exploit what was, admittedly, a hoped-for yet unexpected success, and by the close of the battle, the Germans had counter-attacked and the British had relinquished as much – more in places - territory as they had originally gained.



The 1st Battalion was again dealt with severely, in the vicinity of Marcoing, Masnières - where a Caribou stands today - and the Canal St-Quentin which flows through both places: of the total of five-hundred fifty-three officers and men who went into battle, two-hundred forty-eight had become casualties by the end of only the second day*.



(Right above: *The Canal St-Quentin at Masnières, the crossing of which and the establishment of a bridgehead being the first objectives for the Newfoundlanders on November 20, the first day of the Battle of Cambrai – photograph from 2009*)

(Right above: *The Caribou at Masnières stands on the high ground to the north of the community. The seizure of this terrain was the final objective of the 1st Battalion on November 20; however, whether its capture was ever achieved is at best controversial. – photograph from 2012*)

**At five-hundred fifty-three all ranks – not counting the aforementioned ten per cent reserve - the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment even at the outset of the operation was operating at just over fifty per cent of establishment strength: not that it would have been any consolation had it been known, but a goodly number of battalions in all the British and Dominion forces – with perhaps the exception of the Canadians - were encountering the same problem.*



(continued)

(Preceding page: *A number of graves of soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment in Marcoing Military Cemetery. Here, as is almost always the case elsewhere, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has identified them as being Canadian. – photograph from 2010*)

The 1st Battalion War Diarist, as might be imagined, was to pen a lengthy entry for November 20, 1917, a part of which reads: *Battalion started forward in artillery formation – diamond shaped – D Coy under Capt Rendell on left...* Neither the further actions of Captain Rendell nor of 'D' Company, however, receive any specific mention for the remainder of the battle. The objectives of even the first day were probably never realised and, by November 30, ten days hence, the entire 1st Battalion had been reduced to a mere eight officers and two hundred other ranks, having suffered the above-mentioned more than two-hundred casualties in the first two days alone of the attack.

Captain Rendell had also been...*'mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's Despatch of 7th November, 1917*.'* - London Gazette, 28th December, 1917



**This surely the date on which he, Haig – or his secretary – began to amass the files for that period.*

The following is likely to be the citation for the above *Mention**: *Displayed great coolness under heavy M fire and sniping – During our advance he overcame severe opposition on his flank thereby preventing our attack being checked. He displayed very high qualities of leadership in commanding his Company & the success of the consolidation throughout the night was due chiefly to his personal energy, example and devotion to duty. - 20/11/17*

**This award – not quite regarded as a decoration - was not a medal but rather an oak-leaf cast in bronze which was to be worn, as above, on the ribbon of the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal). In the few instances where the recipient was not entitled to this medal, it was affixed to the ribbon of the British War Medal (see further below).*

Unlike other awards – such as the MM or DSO, for example - the 'Mentioned in Despatches' is not to be written appended to the name of its recipient although, apparently, it - 'MiD' – is occasionally to be thus found. Perhaps ironically, even though regarded as less than a decoration, it was one of only two which at the time could be awarded posthumously, the Victoria Cross being the other.

Captain Rendell was also the recipient of the Military Cross, apparently for an action during the same battle *'...for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Marcoing on 30th November, 1917. He was in command of a strong point which was heavily shelled. When his trench was entirely blown in, he withdrew his survivors to a neighbouring trench. When the shelling ceased he led a bombing party, drove the enemy out and re-established the position. By his initiative and determination he saved a vital position.'* - London Gazette, 16/2/18 and 18/2/18



After the exertions of *Cambrai*, the Newfoundlanders were to be withdrawn from the line, the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment now numbering the strength of only a single company whereas a full battalion comprised four. The unit remained in the vicinity of Humbercourt, to the west of Arras, until December 18 when it marched to Fressin, some fifty kilometres to the north-west. There the unit was to spend both Christmas and New Year. The weather obliged and even allowed the Newfoundlanders some snow - a bit too much at times apparently.

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 the 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: *By 1918 Ypres was looking like this; some of these broken buildings had been a school which had served as a shelter for troops in the earlier days of the conflict. – from a vintage post-card*)

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 - which they did. In the sector where the 1st Battalion was stationed, the blow was not to fall until April.

Captain Rendell was still with 1st Battalion, at least as late as mid-February: On January 10 the awarding of his Military Cross was announced; on the 26th he was reported as having commanded two platoons in support at the front; and on February 16 his MC was awarded to him in a parade at Steenevoorde by the Officer Commanding the 29th Division, Sir Beauvoir de Lisle.

* * * * *

It is therefore likely that it was at about this time that Captain Rendell was awarded leave to the United Kingdom – he sent a telegram from London to Newfoundland on March 14 to announce the fact. A second telegram confirms his presence in London at this time and a letter sent by him to the *Pay & Record Office* on or about June 13 verifies a posting, undoubtedly to the new Regimental Depot at *Hazely Down** in southern England and close to the venerable city of Winchester.



**Until January of that year of 1918, the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, had been stationed – since the summer of 1914 – at Ayr, on the Scottish west coast.*

(continued)

(Preceding page: *London – in fact the City of Westminster – in the area of Marble Arch, in or about the year 1913, just prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

(Right below: *A bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp at some time during the winter of 1918 – from *The War Illustrated**).

On what date Captain Rendell returned to duty with the parent unit does not appear in the Regimental War Diary which, unfortunately, ceases its commentary – that of the later months has since been made available - at the end of August 1918. But he was to be back with his 1st Battalion, in Belgium, by the end of that September.



* * * * *

Meanwhile, while Captain Rendell was on leave in London and points beyond, the Allies continued to build their defences.

(Right: *Some of the countryside in-between Zonnebeke and Passchendaele (today Passendale) in the vicinity of where the Newfoundlanders were stationed in March and early April of 1918 – photograph from 2011*)



The Germans were to do as was expected of them: Ludendorff's armies had already launched a powerful thrust on March 21, the first day of that spring of 1918, having struck at first in the area of and just south of, *the Somme*, there to overrun the battlefields of 1916 and beyond; for a while their advance had seemed unstoppable.

For a number of reasons, after two weeks it had begun to falter and would eventually halt; but then, just days afterwards, a second offensive, *Georgette*, was to be launched in the northern sector of the front, in Belgian Flanders, where the Newfoundlanders had been stationed: the date April 9. Within only two days the situation of the British had become desperate.*



(Right above: *British troops on the retreat in Flanders in April of 1918 – from *Illustration**)

**There were also to be several assaults by the Germans on French forces during that spring. They all met with varying degrees of success at the outset, but eventually they would be thwarted by Petain's divisions, aided at times by the newly-arriving Americans.*



On the day after the first heavy bombardments, April 10, and as the Germans had approached the towns of Armentières and Nieppe, troops were to be deployed to meet them. The Newfoundlanders, having been due to come out of the line and to move back to the area of *the Somme*, were instead to board buses at three o'clock in the afternoon, thereupon to be directed southward, towards the border town of Nieppe.

They were to be in action, attempting to stem this latest offensive, three hours later.

(Preceding page: *The area of La Crêche - the buildings in the background - where the Newfoundlanders de-bussed on April 10 to meet the Germans in the area of Steenwerck and its railway station – photograph from 2010.*)

The British had been pushed back to the frontier area of France and Belgium. On the 12th of April the 1st Battalion, fighting in companies rather than as a single entity, was to make a series of desperate stands.

On April 12-13 – the dates in the 1st Battalion's War Diary are not clear - during the defensive stand near the De Seule crossroads on the Franco-Belgian border, one platoon of 'C' Company was obliterated while trying to check the German advance. The remainder of 'C' Company had taken up defensive positions along a light railway line and, with 'A' Company, had stopped a later enemy attack. 'B' and 'D' Companies – in a failed counter-attack on that evening – had been equally heavily involved.



(Right above: *Ground just to the east of Bailleul where the 1st Battalion was to be in action during the period April 12 to 21 – photograph from 2013*)

The period from April 10 to 21 was to be a difficult eleven days for all of the 1st Battalion's personnel. Nevertheless, somehow, the German breakthrough never had materialised and the front had finally been stabilised*.



**The 88th Brigade – and therefore the Newfoundland Battalion – was to be seconded to the 34th Division from the 29th Division during this critical period.*

(Right above: *These are the De Seule crossroads, lying astride the Franco-Belgian frontier, also the scene of fierce fighting involving the 1st Battalion on April 12 -13, 1918. Today there stand several houses and a convenience store. – photograph from 2009(?)*)

On April 24, the Newfoundland Battalion had said farewell to its comrades-in-arms of the 88th Brigade and 29th Division and on the following day there had been a recessional parade.

The unit was to later be deployed to another unit, a Scottish infantry division, but for the summer of 1918 it would be ordered moved a world away from Flanders where, as seen in the preceding pages, it had just fought during the crisis of the German spring offensive, to be stationed on the west coast of France.

On April 29, the Newfoundlanders – the Newfoundland Battalion by now reduced to a total strength of just thirty officers and four-hundred sixty-four *other ranks* – had taken train in Belgium for the French coastal town of Étaples, where they had arrived at eleven o'clock in the late evening.

Their day, however, had not yet been at an end: there was still a two-hour march ahead of them before the Newfoundlanders would reach their new quarters.

The late spring and summer of 1918 were to pass peaceably enough for the personnel of the 1st Battalion. For the months of May, June and until early July, the unit had been posted to the vicinity of Écuire, to the Headquarters of Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in Europe.



(Right above: *Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force at the time of the Battalion's posting to GHQ – from Illustration*)

The cosmetic honour of this new role, however, would mask the reality that the 1st Battalion of the recently-proclaimed *Royal Newfoundland Regiment* (on January 22-23, 1918) had, at that time, no longer been capable of serving in the field.

**Although few at home cared to admit it publicly, the problem was that the 1st Battalion had run out of reserves and was unable to continue as a fighting entity. It was to be September before even a battalion of reduced strength could return to active service. At home, mandatory military service was initiated – conscription by another name – but with limited results.*

The posting to Écuire having been completed, for most of July and for all of August the Newfoundlanders were to be encamped in much the same area, close to the coastal village of Équihen – itself not far removed from the large Channel port of Boulogne – and far to the rear of the fighting, of which there had been plenty elsewhere.



(Right above: *a view of the sparsely-populated coastal community of Équihen at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

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The Newfoundlanders were to return to the fray on Friday, September 13, as one of the three battalions of the 28th Brigade of the 9th (Scottish) Division. The Newfoundland Battalion was once more to serve on the Belgian front where, some six weeks later, having advanced out of the *Ypres Salient*, it was to finish its war on October 26 at a place called Inghoyghem (today *Ingooigem*).

(Right: *British troops and German prisoners in Flanders during the Hundred Days – from Illustration*)

On September 28, the Belgian Army and the British Second Army broke out of their positions, overrunning the enemy lines. It was the start, for them, of the *Hundred Days Offensive**. On the following day, the Newfoundlanders were fighting at the Keiberg Ridge. After almost four years of stalemate, it was once again a conflict of movement.



****This offensive would prove to be the final campaign of the Western Front and would terminate with the Armistice of November 11. It had begun further to the south on July 18 on the French front on the River Marne, followed on August 8 by an onslaught by British and Empire troops near Amiens in what would also become known as Third Somme.***

(Excerpt from the 1st Newfoundland Battalion War Diary entry for September 28, 1918):
0530 – In conjunction with Belgians on left II Corps attacked and captured Polygon Racecourse and established a line in front of Zonnebeke & Polygon running roughly S.W. Very heavy rain in forenoon.

(Excerpts from the 1st Newfoundland Battalion War Diary entry for September 29, 1918):
0930 – A., B., & ½ B. Coy. advanced from Zonnebeke – Polygon Line in open country and fought their way without artillery support to E. 26. c. where 26th Bge. passed through and advanced as far as Ledeghem. B. Co and parts of A. and C. went on with them and helped to capture Dadizeele. ...at 1325 Bde. Hqrs. were established...and at the same time a report was received that Capt. Rendell, O.C.D. Co. had been killed... Rain again fell at evening.

The son of Doctor Herbert Rendell and Mrs. Elizabeth (also found as *Lizzie* and *Eliza*) Ehlers(?) Rendell (née *Clift*)* of the Anchorage, Duckworth Street in St. John's, he was also brother to Clifford and to Edgar.**

****The couple had married on June 22, 1889.***

Captain Rendell was reported as having been *killed in action* on September 29, 1918, near Zonnebeke and the Keilberg Ridge, Belgium, ...‘while leading his Company, hit by a sniper or machine-gun bullet and dying within two minutes – he was buried where he died and a cross has been erected over his grave.’ – from Regimental records.

Handwritten note from Newfoundland Pay & Record Office, London: 2 Lieut. McHenry states at P & RO 15/11/18 “We had advanced about 3 kil. From ZONNEBEKE. Capt. Rendell was in a-shell hole. He was killed instantly by a machine gun billet, and I saw him fall.” – as telegraphed 16/11/18



(Right above: A German strong-point today still stands in the grounds of Dadizeele New British Cemetery – photograph from 2011(?))

Captain Rendell died at twenty-nine years of age: date of birth in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 12, 1890 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

****His brother, Second Lieutenant Clifford Rendell, Regimental Number 621, on July 22, 1916, had died of wounds incurred at Beaumont-Hamel (his story to be found elsewhere among these files).**

(continued)

(Right: A Caribou stands on the banks of the Lys River-Canal to honour the sacrifices of the Newfoundlanders' last campaign of the Great War. – photograph from 2012)



(The photograph of Lieutenant(?) Rendell is from the Provincial Archives.)

Captain Herbert Rendell, MC, was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – February 10, 2023.