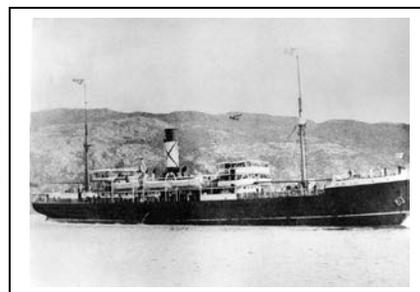


Private Horatio Seward (also found as *Seaward* on some official correspondence) (Regimental Number 172), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated on the bronze beneath the Caribou in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel.



His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *farmer* earning \$85.00 a month during the season, Horatio Seward enlisted at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland - at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 (including a daily ten-cent field allowance) - on September 8, 1914. He was a recruit of the First Draft.

Attesting some three weeks later on October 1, he then embarked on October 3 onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel*. The ship sailed on the morrow to its rendezvous off the south coast of the Island where she was to join the convoy transporting the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division across the Atlantic.



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

In the United Kingdom Private Seward trained with the Newfoundland contingent: firstly in southern England; then in Scotland at Fort George – on the Moray Firth close to Inverness; at Edinburgh Castle – where it provided the first garrison from outside the British Isles; and later again at the tented *Stobs Camp* near the town of Hawick to the south-east of Edinburgh.



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

(Right: *The Newfoundland Regiment parades at Stobs Camp and is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. – 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 to undergo a final two weeks of training, as well as an inspection by the King, at Aldershot; meanwhile the two junior Companies, the later-arrived 'E' and 'F\*', were sent to Scotland's west coast, to Ayr, where they were to provide the nucleus of the newly-forming 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.

(continued)

(Right: 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 – photograph from Bain News Services via Wikipedia)



*\*On July 10, 1915, 'F' Company had arrived at Stobs Camp from Newfoundland, its personnel raising the numbers of the unit to battalion establishment strength, and thus permitting it to be ordered to active service. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, comprising those four Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', was thereupon attached to the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.*

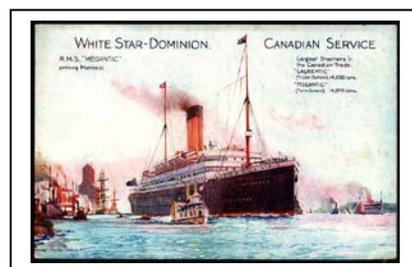
It had then been during that period spent at Aldershot that Private Seward of 'A' Company – he was not alone in doing so - had been prevailed upon, he on August 14, to re-enlist, on this second occasion *for the duration of the war\**.

*\*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.*



(Right above: *Some of the men of 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment at Aldershot in August of 1915 – from The Fighting Newfoundlander by Col. G.W.L. Nicholson, C.D.)*

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



On August 20, 1915, Private Seward and his comrades-in-arms embarked in Devonport onto the requisitioned passenger-liner *Megantic* for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting against the Turks where, a month later – having spent two weeks billeted in British barracks in the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, he disembarked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at *Suvla Bay* on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.



(Right: *Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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)*

(continued)

**(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)**



**It was to be a debacle: Flies, dust, disease, frost-bite, floods – and 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 it would be decided to abandon not only *Suvla Bay* but the entire *Gallipoli* venture.**



***\*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.***

**(Right above: A century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla Bay, and where Private Seward was to serve in the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)**

**On or about November 24, 1915, Private Seward fell victim to disease and was passed through the 88<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance to be admitted into the 54<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station (a second official source cites the 26<sup>th</sup> CCS, also at *Suvla Bay*). He was suffering from enteric (gastric) fever.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Evacuated from the CCS – reportedly on the same November 24 - he was embarked onto His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Letitia* and was invalided directly to England.**



**(Right: *The image of Letitia in her white war-time garb is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. The ship was later to run aground in fog on August 1, 1917, at Portuguese Cove in Halifax Harbour. It had been impossible to re-float her and she eventually split in two. There was one fatality, a stoker who drowned while attempting to swim ashore.*)**

***Letitia* arrived back in the United Kingdom on December 8, whereupon Private Seaward was immediately admitted – on that same day - into the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth where he apparently remained for the next ninety-one days. On March 7 he was released to the six-week period of convalescence furlough allowed enteric patients.**



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

However, it appears that on March 24 Private Seward, having suffered a relapse, was re-admitted into hospital at Wandsworth, not to be released until April 4 when he...was discharged from hospital to Depot...



(Right : *Newfoundland patients convalescing at the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital, Wandsworth – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

Private Seaward was now apparently to spend only six days posted to the Regimental Depot at Ayr: on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the same month of April he was sent to the 4<sup>th</sup> Scottish General Hospital in the city of Glasgow where he was diagnosed as having venereal problems. He was to remain there for only three days before being transferred on April 13 to England, to the *Workhouse* Military Hospital established at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

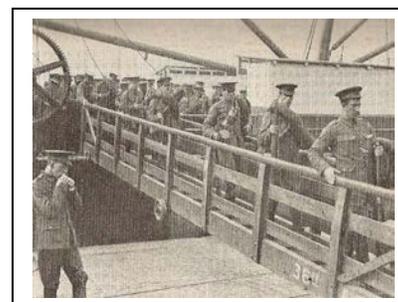
His medical reports then document that Private Seward was to be discharged *to duty* back to the Regimental Depot on May 1 – although a second source suggests that the date was earlier than that. In either case, Private Seaward was to now to spend the following several months in Scotland.

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 a base for the then newly-forming 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from home were to be despatched in drafts, at first to the Middle East and later to the *Western Front*, to bolster the four fighting companies of the 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. – by courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

On December 12 of 1916, the 15<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr embarked in the English south-coast port of Southampton en route to the capital city of Normandy, Rouen, Private Seaward among its ranks. Once having landed there on the following day, the contingent proceeded to the large British Expeditionary Force Depot which had been established in close proximity, for ultimate training\* and organization before proceeding to a rendezvous with the parent unit.



(Right above: *British troops disembark at Rouen on their way to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

*\*Apparently the standard length of time for this final training had been ten days – although this was to become more and more flexible as the War progressed - in areas near Rouen, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known as the Bull Rings.*

Private Seward is documented as having re-joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion thirteen days after his debarkation, at a time when the Newfoundlanders had been withdrawn from *the Front* for a six-week period. His detachment of fifty *other ranks*, for the most part returning wounded, reported *to duty* at *Camps en Amienois* on Christmas Day – although whether the Draft was in time for the turkey dinner and real ale to be served on that joyous occasion has not been recorded.

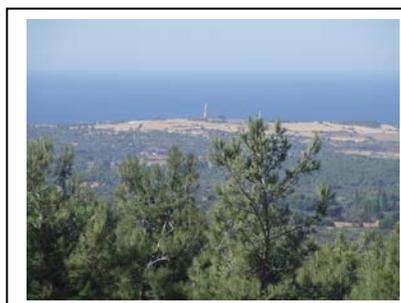


*(Right above: a British encampment somewhere on the Continent during the Great War and most likely during a winter period – from a vintage post-card)*

\* \* \* \* \*

In the meantime, in the days subsequent to Private Seward’s evacuation on board HMHS *Letetia*, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had continued to serve for some further four weeks at Gallipoli. On November 26 a rainstorm had descended to flood the area; this was to be followed by snow and freezing temperatures which were to render an already miserable existence even worse. Perhaps the only consolation had been the paucity of military action while each side had been dealing with the problems visited on it by the elements.

On the night of December 19-20, the British had 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 was to be 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had been 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 also served at *Gallipoli* – had now only been marking time until a complete withdrawal of the *Peninsula* would be attempted. The operation had taken place – successfully - on the night of January 8-9, the Newfoundland Battalion providing some of the rear-guard for this second occasion as well\*.



*(Right above: ‘W’ Beach at Cape Helles as it was 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 and by the Newfoundlanders who were the last soldiers off the beach: vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture are still to be seen. – photograph from 2011)***

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



**After the British had evacuated the entire Gallipoli Peninsula in January of 1916, the Newfoundland Battalion had been ordered to the Egyptian port-city of Alexandria, arriving there on the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month. The Newfoundlanders were then to be immediately transferred southward to Suez, one of the ports 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's 29<sup>th</sup> Division had not yet been 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: Port Tewfiq at the south end of the Suez Canal 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 postcard)***

**After a two-month interim, on March 14, the Newfoundlanders had embarked through Port Tewfiq, also at the southern end of the Suez Canal, for the French port of Marseilles, and had disembarked there on March 22, en route to the Western Front.**

**Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Newfoundland Battalion's train was to arrive at 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 travelled unused in a separate wagon. Having de-trained at the local station at two in the morning, the Newfoundlanders had still faced a long march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.**



(Preceding page: *The River Somme as seen from the bridge at Pont-Rémy – photograph from 2010*)

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 been marching on their way from the station. Some three months later *the Somme* would have become a part of their history.

On April 13, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had paraded into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy - where its personnel would be billeted, would receive re-enforcements and, in two days' time, would be introduced into the trenches of the *Western Front*.

The Newfoundlanders would also soon be preparing for the British campaign of that summer, to be fought on the ground named for that meandering river, *the Somme*.

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

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\*.



*\*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 killing of *the Somme* was to continue for the next four and a half months.



(Right above: *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*)

(Preceding page: *A grim, grainy image purporting to be Newfoundland dead awaiting burial after the action at Beaumont-Hamel – from...?*)



(continued)

Such had then been the dire condition of the attacking forces after the slaughter of July 1 that it was to be feared that a German counter-assault might well annihilate what had survived of the British Expeditionary Force on *the Somme*. The remnants had thus remained in the trenches, at night searching for the wounded and burying the dead. It was to be July 6 before the Newfoundlanders would be ordered back to Englebelmer and a further two before the unit had marched to Maily-Maillet.

(Right: *Beaumont-Hamel is a commune, not a village.* – photographs from 2010 & 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.*

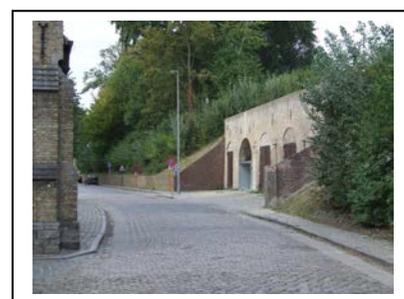


(Right: *The re-constructed village of Maily-Maillet – the French ‘Monument aux Morts’ in the foreground - is twinned with the community of Torbay, St. John’s East.* – photograph from 2009)

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



On July 27-28 of 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The unit 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\*.



*\*At the same time the Canadians, some of whom had been serving in Belgium for as long as eighteen months, were being withdrawn from the area to train before then moving southwards to serve at ‘the Somme’.*

(Right above: *The entrance – obviously rebuilt - to Private Seward’s ‘A’ Company’s quarters in the ramparts of Ypres when it was posted there in 1916)*

(continued)

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

*The Salient* – it was to exist for some four years, for almost the entire conflict – would prove to be relatively quiet during the time of the Newfoundlanders’ posting there; yet they had nonetheless incurred casualties, a number – fifteen? - of them fatal. Then on October 8, after having served at Ypres for some ten weeks, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had been ordered to return south, back into France and back into the area of – and the battle of – *the Somme*.



Just four days later, on October 12, the Newfoundlanders would pass to the offensive on the outskirts of the community of Gueudecourt – a dozen or so kilometres removed and to the south-east of Beaumont-Hamel.

One of the many small farming villages of the area, by that October of 1916 Gueudecourt had been reduced to little more than an uninhabited heap of rubble. The attack of that day was to be a second ill-planned advance and the Newfoundlanders would once again lose very heavily – two-hundred thirty-nine casualties overall on that day and also on the preceding evening - and were to achieve very little.



(Right above: *The fields at Gueudecourt across which the Battalion advanced towards the trees on the right horizon: A Caribou stands there today. - photograph from 2009.*)

After Gueudecourt, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had 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 six weeks spent in *corps reserve* during the Christmas period – and of course by the arrival of Private Seward’s Draft from Ayr on December 25, Christmas Day.



(Right: *A British encampment somewhere on the Continent in wintry weather – from a vintage post-card*)

\* \* \* \* \*

Some two weeks later, on January 7 of the New Year of 1917, Private Seaward was to suffer a minor seizure - perhaps epileptic - or a small stroke, and was admitted for treatment to the 88<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance before being sent on the same day to a Divisional Rest Station – although the Rest Station may have been a part of the 88<sup>th</sup> F.A.’s responsibility. Nothing further seems to appear in his files a propos the incident.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *A British field ambulance, of a more permanent nature than some – from a vintage post-card*)

Neither does the date of Private Seaward's return to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on this occasion seem to be recorded, although it must have been at some time before March 21 since on that date he was awarded fourteen days *Field Punishment Number 2* for an unspecified offence, this ordered by his Commanding Officer\*.

*\*While there are three such penalties recorded – the offences are not shown on the charge sheet - as having been awarded to him while on the Continent – treated all the more seriously while on 'active service' – during his two postings to Scotland, Private Seaward had some eighteen offences documented against his name.*

The Newfoundlanders were to *officially* return to *active service* on January 23, although they had been back in the trenches already by that date and had incurred their first casualties – and fatality - of the New Year. The only concerted infantry activity to involve the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during that entire period – from Gueudecourt in mid-October of 1916, until April of 1917 – would be the sharp engagement at Sailly-Saillisel of several days' duration at the end of February and beginning of March.



Given that his medical problems had occurred in early January, it is not unlikely that Private Seaward was present at the time to play his anonymous role at Sailly-Saillisel. Nevertheless, whether he was there or not, that action would bring this episode in the Newfoundlanders' War – in the area of *the Somme* - to a close.

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

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



(Right above: *Sir Edward Morris here pictured during his visit of the Newfoundland Contingent at the camp at Meaulté on St. Patrick's Day – from *The War Illustrated**)

On March 29, Private Seaward's Newfoundland Battalion was to begin to make its way – on foot – from its quarters at Camps-en-Amienois to the north-east, towards the venerable medieval city of Arras and then eventually beyond, a march that would terminate amid the vestiges of the village of Monchy-le-Preux.

(Right: *The remnants of the Grande Place in Arras as it was already by the spring of 1916, less than two years after the onset of the Great War: The bombardments had begun in October of 1914. – from Illustration*)



On April 9, 1917, the British launched 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 French effort elsewhere. In terms of the daily count of casualties it would be the most expensive operation of the entire *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.



While the British campaign was to prove an overall disappointment, the French offensive of *Le Chemin des Dames* had been yet a further disaster.

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



The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment was to play its part in the *Battle of Arras*, a role that would begin at a place called Monchy-le-Preux on April 14 and which would finish ten days later, on April 23, perhaps a single kilometre distant, at *Les Fosses Farm*. After *Beaumont-Hamel*, April 14 at Monchy-le-Preux was to prove the most costly day of the Newfoundlanders' war – four-hundred eighty-seven casualties, including those taken prisoner, all told.

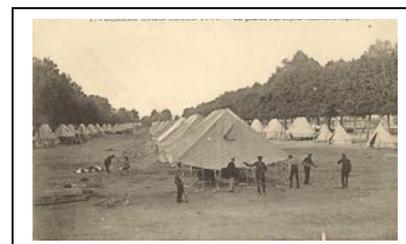


(Right above: *The village of Monchy-le-Preux as seen today from the western – in 1917, the British – side of the community. The Newfoundlanders advanced, out of the ruins of the place, to the east, away from the camera. – photograph from 2013*)

(Right above: *Newfoundland troops just after the time of Monchy-le-Preux. – from The War Illustrated*)

\* \* \* \* \*

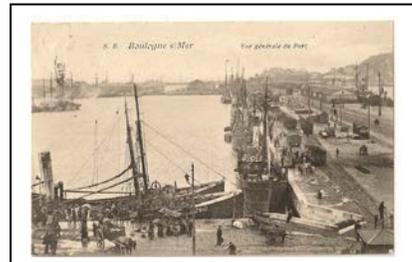
Only days after the fighting of April 14 at Monchy-le-Preux, on April 18 Private Seward was once again hospitalized: firstly to the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps Rest Station before being forwarded to the 6<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital at Frévent on April 22 . The diagnosis at the time appears to have been the well-known and common PUO (*Pain – or Pyrexia - of Unknown Origin*) – it remained thus among his papers with no additional information recorded.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *A British casualty clearing station – the one pictured here under canvas for mobility if and whenever the necessity were to arise – being established somewhere in France during the early years of the War: Other such medical establishments were often of a much more permanent nature. - from a vintage post-card*)

Perhaps only days later – no date appears to have been documented – Private Seward was transferred to the 59<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearance Station at Hesdin from where he was transferred on May 5, to the 7<sup>th</sup> Convalescent Depot in the vicinity of the coastal town of Boulogne. Next he was on his way to the nearby Corps Rest Station of *Marlborough Camp* on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month and thence to the Base Depot at Rouen on the 13<sup>th</sup> where he was to remain for the subsequent four weeks.



Private Seward re-joined his unit on June 11.

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

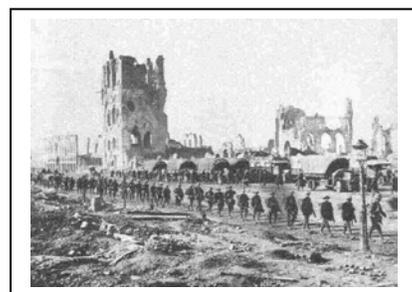
(Right: *Newfoundland troops on the march in the community of Berneville – not the Bonneville mentioned above - in early May, perhaps the 7<sup>th</sup>, of 1917 – from The War Illustrated*)



At the beginning of June, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had retired from the line to Bonneville and had spent its time re-enforcing, re-organizing and training for the upcoming British offensive of the summer – and as it would transpire, the autumn of that 1917 as well. It was at this small community behind the lines that Private Seaward reported on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month, one of a draft from Rouen of fourteen *other ranks*.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Newfoundlanders were now to once again move north into Belgium – at the end of June - and once again to the area of Ypres and *the Salient*. This had been selected as the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917. Officially named the *Third Battle of Ypres*, the campaign came to be known to history as *Passchendaele*, borrowing that name from a small village on a ridge that was – ostensibly - one of the British Army's objectives.



(Right above: *Troops file through the rubble of the medieval city of Ypres and past the historic Cloth Hall on their way to the front in the late summer of 1917. – from Illustration*)

The Newfoundland Battalion remained in Belgium until October 17, a small cog in the machinery of the British Army which floundered its way across the sodden countryside of Flanders. Notably the unit fought in two major engagements, at the *Steenbeek* on August 16, and at the *Broembeek* on October 9.

Private Seward was to play his role at the former affair: he would not, however, do so at the latter.

(Right: *A part of the battlefield – anywhere or even everywhere - near the village of Passchendaele in the autumn of 1917 – from Illustration*)



The son of Adam Seward, fisherman, and of Mary Ann Seward (née *Strong*) – to whom he had willed his all - of Clarenville, he was also older brother to Isaiah, Cassandra-Ann, Bartholomew-Follett, Elmira-Jean, Frances-Louise, Annie-Keziah, Maggie-Pearl-Ann, to Joseph, Andrew and Alice-Maud\*.

Private Seward was reported as having been *killed in action* on August 16, 1917, while serving with 'A' Company in the fighting at the *Steenbeek* during the *Battle of Passchendaele*. Recorded as having been buried close to *Captain's Farm*, his grave-site was perhaps forgotten, or more likely it was destroyed in the later fighting of that year or the next.



At home it was the Reverend W. A. Butler of Random who was requested to bear the news to his family.

(Right: *The Clarenville War Memorial honours the sacrifice of Private Horatio Seward – the spelling of his name to be noted. – photograph from 2010*)



(*The photograph of Private Seward is from the Provincial Archives.*)

Horatio Seward (birth-date November 23, 1888) had enlisted at the age of twenty-five years and nine months.

(Right: *This is the area of the Steenbeek, close to the trees, and also close to where the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion fought the engagement of August 16, 1917. It is perhaps some eight kilometres distant from a village called Passchendaele. – photograph from 2010*)



Private Horatio Seward 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).

*\*Much of the family information is from the WikiTree web-site and has not been confirmed.*

