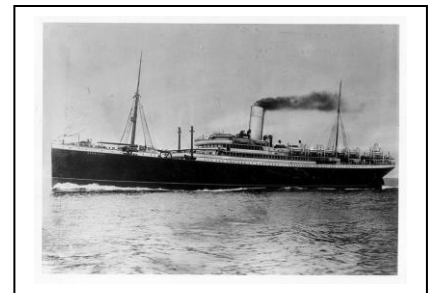




Lance Corporal Edwin Lazelle (elsewhere *Leslie*) Shave (Regimental Number 1699), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a clerk, Edwin (Ed) Shave was a recruit of the Sixth Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on July 16, 1915, he then enlisted – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – and also attested three days later, on July 19.

Lance Corporal Shave – promoted on October 26, the eve of his departure - and the other personnel of 'G' Company – apparently in the company of several naval reservists and also some German prisoners (these latter presumably to remain in Canada) - left St. John's by train on October 27, to cross the island to Port aux Basques. The contingent then traversed the Gulf of St. Lawrence by ferry, and proceeded by train from North Sydney to Quebec City.



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

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

That new Regimental Depot had been established during the summer of 1915 in the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland to serve as a base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion. It was from there – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers arriving from home were sent in drafts, at first to Gallipoli and then subsequently to the Western Front, to bolster the four fighting companies of 1st Battalion.



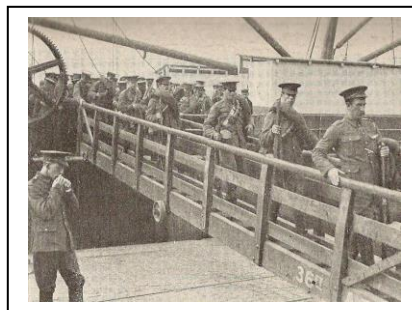
(Right above: *an aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)

(continued)

It was during this posting to the Regimental Depot that on May 24, a month before his departure to France on *active service*, Lance Corporal Shave was prevailed upon to re-enlist *for the duration of the War*.*

**At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.*

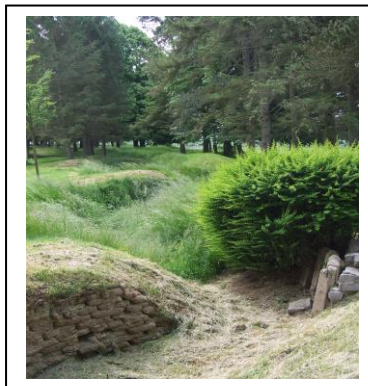
On June 14, 1916, the 6th Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr – Lance Corporal Shave among its non-commissioned officers - passed through the English south-coast port of Southampton en route to the Continent. On the following day, the 15th, it disembarked in Rouen, capital city of Normandy and the site of the large British Expeditionary Force Base Depot where the contingent spent time in final training and organizing before moving on to a rendezvous with 1st Battalion.



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

**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.*

A detachment of sixty-six *other ranks* from Rouen arrived to join the parent unit in the community of Louvencourt on June 30. At 9:15 that evening, the Newfoundlanders – this including those newcomers – with the exception of the fourteen officers and eighty-three *other ranks* assigned to remain behind with the Re-enforcement Company, marched from there to their assigned *forming-up place trenches i.e. rear line of trenches in our usual sector* (Regimental War Diary).



(Right: *Just inside the entrance to the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel, this trench is reputed to be the one where 1st Battalion spent the night before launching its attack from there on July 1. – photograph from 2009*)

The son of Constable William Henry Shave of the *Royal Newfoundland Constabulary* and Isabella Shave – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of seventy cents from his pay - of Fogo, he was also brother to George-Roderick, Regimental Number 2039, to have died of wounds October 16, 1916; to William-Burton, Regimental Number 543, wounded and invalided from service; to Nelson, services refused; to Llewelyn; and to David-Gascoigne.



Lance Corporal Shave was at first reported as *missing in action* at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916, while serving with 'A' Company during the fighting of the first day of *the Somme*. For some seemingly unrecorded reason, in November of that year, his record was amended so as to read *killed in action*.

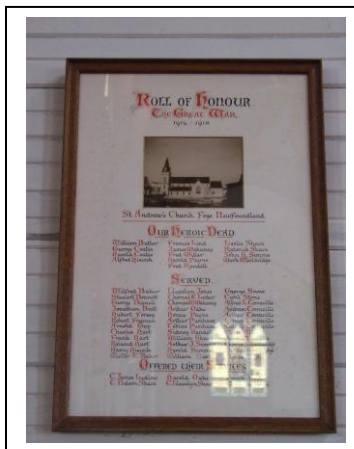


Ed Shave had enlisted at nineteen years of age.

(Preceding page: *Beaumont-Hamel - looking from the British lines down the hill to Y Ravine Cemetery which today stands atop part of the German front-line defences - The Danger Tree is to the right in the photograph. – photograph taken in 2009*)

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

(Right & far right: *The sacrifice of Private Shave is commemorated on the Roll of Honour inside St. Andrew's Church – and honoured on the War Memorial – in the community of Fogo. – photographs from 2013*)



Lance Corporal Edwin Lazelle (*Leslie*) Shave was entitled to the British War Medal (left) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal).

