

Second Lieutenant John Sydney Stephenson (Regimental Number 32*), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated on the bronze beneath the Caribou in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel.



**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.

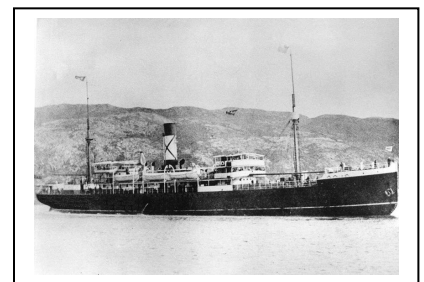
His occupation previous to enlistment recorded as that of a *dry-goods clerk* employed, likely with the family business, for a weekly \$12.00, John Sydney Stephenson presented himself for medical examination at the *C.L.B. Armoury* on August 28 of 1914, less than four weeks after the *Declaration of War*. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.

Four days later, on September 2, John Stephenson would then enlist at the same *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on Harvey Road in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. He was a recruit of the First Draft.

For Private Stephenson and the other recruits there was now to be a period of training on the shores of *Quidi Vidi Lake* in the East End of St. John's. There was now apparently to be a month of waiting – and training – before he and a goodly number of his fellow recruits were attested on October 1.

October 3, 1914, two days later again, was the day on which he and the Newfoundland contingent, known to history as both the *First Five Hundred* and the *Blue Puttees* – the unit was not yet a battalion - embarked onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting in St. John's Harbour.

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



(continued)

The ship sailed from St. John's for the United Kingdom on the following day, October 4, via the south coast of the Island where it was to join the convoy carrying the 1st Canadian Division overseas.

In the United Kingdom Private Stephenson trained with the Newfoundland contingent: firstly in southern England on the Salisbury Plain; then in Scotland at Fort George – on the Moray Firth close to the city of Inverness; then at Edinburgh Castle – where the unit was to provide the first garrison from outside the British Isles.

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



On May 11 the Newfoundlanders, by this time numbering five companies, were transferred to a tented *Stobs Camp*, in the vicinity of the Scottish town of Hawick, where they were to undergo further training and exercises for some three months. It was also to be during this same period that Private Stephenson received a first promotion, on July 14, to the rank of lance corporal.

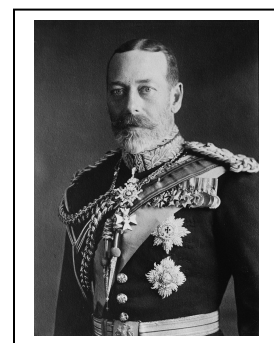
(Right: *The Newfoundland Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp and about to be presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915 – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

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.



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

(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.*

It was likely during the second week of that final training at Aldershot, on or about August 13, that Lance Corporal Stephenson was prevailed upon to re-enlist *for the duration of the war**.

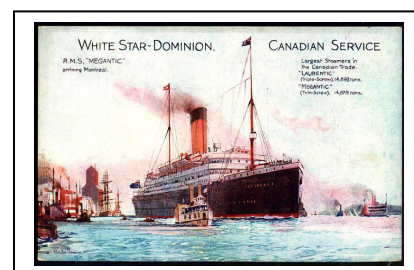
**At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.*

Having by the month of July, and with the arrival of 'F' Company (see above), the personnel necessary to form a battalion – plus a reserve - the four senior companies of the Newfoundland Regiment, were to become its first such force. The 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment had thereupon been attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and was preparing to be despatched to *active service*.

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



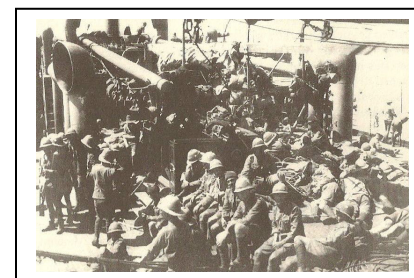
On August 20, 1915, Lance Corporal Stephenson and the Newfoundland Battalion embarked in the Royal Navy Harbour of Devonport on England's south coast, onto the requisitioned passenger-liner *Megantic* for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting against the Turks. There, a month later – having spent some two weeks billeted in British barracks in the vicinity of the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, the 1st Battalion set foot on the rock and sand 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.)



(Right: 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)

When the Newfoundlanders landed from their transport ship at *Suvla Bay* they disembarked into a campaign that was already on the threshold of collapse.

Not only in the area where the Newfoundland Battalion would serve but, even ever 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:



Flies, dust, disease, the frost-bite and the floods – and of course the casualties inflicted by an enemy which 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 above: *An un-identified Newfoundland soldier in the trenches at Suvla Bay – from Provincial Archives*)

**Many of the commanders chosen had been second-rate, 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.*

Exactly two months after Lance Corporal Stephenson's Newfoundland Battalion had landed at *Suvla Bay*, on November 20 he was to be putting up a second stripe, having been elevated to the rank of corporal. Eleven days later, on December 1, the first reinforcements from *Ayr* disembarked - and only some four weeks later, the British began to abandon the entire venture at *Gallipoli*.

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 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, would be those afflicted by trench-foot and by frost-bite.

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 had been 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 would be transferred only two days later to the area of *Cape Helles*, on the western tip of the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.

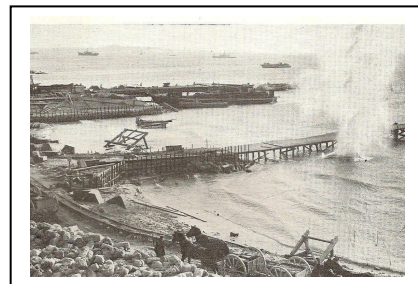


(Right above: *Cape Helles as seen from the Turkish positions on the misnamed Achi Baba, positions which were never breached: The Newfoundland positions were to the right-hand side of the picture. – photograph from 2011*)

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

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



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.

**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 – with General Maude - 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 British Base Depot of Sidi-Bishr at the Egyptian port-city of Alexandria, where it would arrive on the 15th of that month.

The unit was then to be almost immediately transferred – on January 17 - 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*.

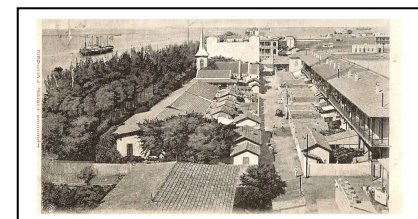


**Bulgaria had entered the conflict on the side of the Central Powers, and Salonika was soon to become a theatre of war.*

(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*)

It was during that period at Suez that Corporal Stephenson, on February 27, was further promoted, on this third occasion to the rank of sergeant.

After a two-month interim spent in the vicinity of Port Suez, 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.



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The Newfoundlanders would disembark eight days afterwards in the Mediterranean port-city of Marseilles, on March 22.

(Preceding page: *Port Tewfiq at the southern 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)

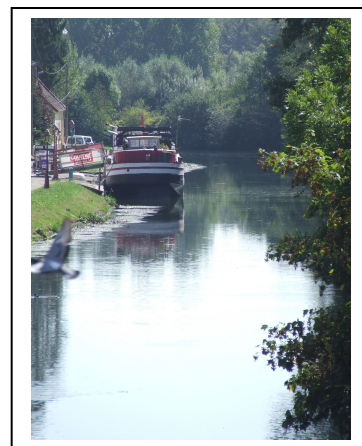
Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Newfoundland Battalion's train was to find its way to the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy, a thousand kilometres to the north of Marseilles. It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for the troops having inexcusably 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 then marched on their way from the station. But some three months later *the Somme* was to become a part of their history.

(Right: *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.*



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(Preceding page: *Two views of the re-constructed trench system to be found in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel – photographs from 2009(?)*)

Having then been withdrawn, at the end of that April after the completion of their first tour in the trenches to the areas of Maily-Maillet and Louvencourt where they would be based for the next two months, the Newfoundlanders were soon to be preparing – this to include the construction of a light railway in the Louvencourt area - for the now-impending British campaign of that summer to be fought on the ground named for the languid, meandering river, *the Somme*, flowing sedately – as it still does today – through the region on its journey to the sea.

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)*



(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 French commune, not a village**. – photographs from 2010 and 2015)

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...)



Although on the nominal roll of the Newfoundland Battalion on July 1, 1916, the first day of *the Somme*, Sergeant Stephenson did not figure in the fighting at Beaumont-Hamel. The likelihood is that he was among the fourteen officers and eighty-three *other ranks* held back at Louvencourt in the ten per cent reserve. This detachment was not called to the field until late in the day when the fighting had all but abated.

****These men answered a roll call of the following day as did those who had fought the battle and survived it unscathed. Where the documentation shows ‘with Battalion’ on July 4, this is the date on which the roll call of July 2 was eventually officially recorded.***

There happened now one of those strange situations that bureaucracy now and again spawns: eleven days later after the horrendous experience at Beaumont-Hamel, on July 12, Sergeant Stephenson again received promotion, at this time to the rank of a company quarter master sergeant. Then on August 8 there came a Regimental Order to the effect that CQMS Stephenson had been granted an Imperial Commission and an accompanying appointment to the rank of second lieutenant...and that this promotion was retroactive to July 1 - undoubtedly because of the high casualty rate among junior officers at Beaumont-Hamel.

He was still to serve with ‘A’ Company.

After the events of the morning of July 1, 1916, such was at the time 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 - were thus to remain 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.

It would then be a further two days before the unit marched further again to the rear area and to their billets in the village of Maily-Maillet.



(Right above: *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 re-enforcements – a second source cites one-hundred thirty – reported *to duty*. They would be the first to arrive following the events at Beaumont-Hamel but even with this additional manpower having arrived, the Regimental War Diary records that on the 14th of July, 1916, the 1st Battalion was still to number 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 – was ordered moved north and to enter into the *Kingdom of Belgium* for the first time.

(Right above: *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*)

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.

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 would nonetheless incur casualties, a number – fifteen? - of them fatal.

Then on October 8, after having served in Belgium for some ten weeks, the 1st Battalion followed orders 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: 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 to be at a place called Gueudecourt, the vestiges of a village some dozen or so kilometres to the south-east of Beaumont-Hamel.



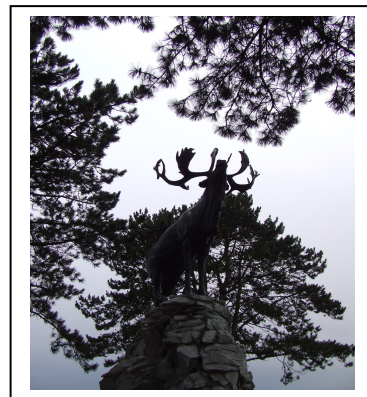
The assault was on a two-company front, with Second Lieutenant Stephenson's 'A' Company in the first wave on the left; but the encounter proved to be another ill-conceived and costly affair – two hundred and thirty-nine casualties all told - for little gain.

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

However, during the action at Gueudecourt, Lieutenant Stephenson, although an officer of 'A' Company, had been ordered to the rear area and was not, therefore to play an active role. He was once more to be one of the ten per cent reserve force, having been withdrawn from the front to the transport lines on the eve of the engagement, October 11.

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.



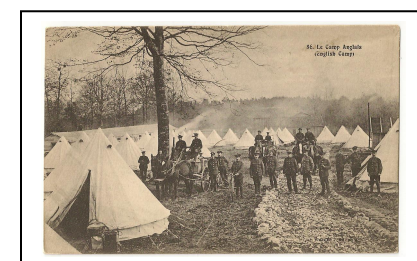
(Right below: *Stretcher-bearers not only shared the dangers of the battle-field with their arms-bearing comrades, but they often spent a longer period of time exposed to those same perils. This photograph was likely taken during First Somme. – from Illustration*)

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*)

After that presumed-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.

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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 Sully-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 Sully-Saillisel during the winter of 1916-1917. – from *Illustration*)

(Right: The fighting during the period of the Battalion’s posting to Sully-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 Sully-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: The remnants of the Grande Place in Arras in early 1916, after only eighteen months of the Great War – from *Illustration*)

(Right: 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 .*

Second Lieutenant Stephenson was to be one of those casualties.

The son of James Edward Stephenson and of Elizabeth (also recorded as Eliza, née Almond(?))* – to whom he had willed his all - of 31, Reginald Terrace, Chapeltown, Leeds, England - his own place of residence recorded as both St. John's and Leeds, England, where his parents lived - his family possessed a thriving dry-goods business – *Stephenson's Drapery Market: "Drapers and Milliners, Ladies' and Children's Outfits"*, he was also brother to Kate-Winnifred, Dorothy, Gladys, Henry, Percy and to Fanny (Frances)-Muriel.

**The couple married at some time during the first three months of 1888.*

Second Lieutenant Stephenson was reported as *wounded and missing* on April 14, 1917, while serving with Number 1, Platoon, 'A' Company in the fighting at Monchy-le-Preux. Some thirty weeks later, on November 17, 1917, he was officially recorded as *presumed dead*.



However, some six weeks later again, in a memo dated May 27, 1917, it was reported that his body had been found and buried in the cemetery where he lies today. His personal file was thus amended so as to read *killed in action on 14/4/17*.

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John Sydney Stephenson was aged twenty-five years at the time of his enlistment: his birth in Skipton, Yorkshire, England, at some time during the months of April, May or June of 1890.

(Preceding page: A vintage photograph of the Caribou at Monchy-le-Preux which still stands today atop the vestiges of the same German strongpoint in the centre of the village – from a post-card of the 1930s)

(The photograph of Private Stephenson is from the Provincial Archives)

I actually saw Lieut. STEPHENSON fall in the retirement but cannot say killed or wounded, but believe killed. – Signaller John William BROWN, 1676, 1st Newfld Batt., interned at Giessen.



Second Lieutenant John Sydney Stephenson was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



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.

FROM *Home address - 31 Reginald Terrace, Chapeltown, Leeds 804*

STEPHENSON'S DRAPERY MARKET

Drapers and Milliners
Ladies' and Children's Outfitters

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16
 — CROSS ARCADE —
 17 & 19 KING EDWARD STREET
 and 23 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET

.. LEEDS ..

April 19th 1914