



Private David Michael Carew (Regimental Number 776) lies in Hill 10 Cemetery at Suvla Bay: Grave reference, III. A. 7..

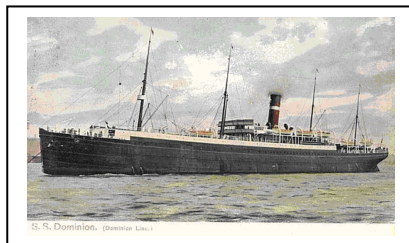
His occupations previous to military service recorded as being those of both *shoe-worker* and *clerk* earning seven dollars per week, David Michael Carew was a volunteer of the Second Recruitment Draft. He presented himself for medical examination on December 1, 1914, at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on Harvey Road in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.

Some two weeks after having undergone this medical appraisal, on December 17 David Michael Carew was to return to the *C.L.B. Armoury*, on this second occasion to enlist. He was thereupon engaged at the private soldier's daily rate of a single dollar a day to which a ten-cent per diem *Field Allowance* was to be added.

Later in the day of that December 17 and again at the same venue, there came the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. Thus he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, David Michael Carew became...*a soldier of the King*.

Now for Private Carew, Number 776, there was to be a seven-week waiting period. How he was to occupy himself during that prolonged period appears not to have been recorded among his papers; he may, of course, have temporarily returned to work or have trained at various location in and about the city but this is only speculation.

On the fourth day of February of 1915, the first reinforcements – this was ‘C’ Company - for the Newfoundland contingent – the unit was not yet at battalion strength - which by this time was serving in Scotland (see further below), were to embark via the sealing tender *Neptune* onto the SS *Dominion* – the vessel having anchored to the south of St. John’s, off Bay Bulls, because of ice conditions.



The vessel was then to sail - and Private Carew thus departed Newfoundland for overseas service - a day later again, on February 5, for trans-Atlantic passage to the United Kingdom.

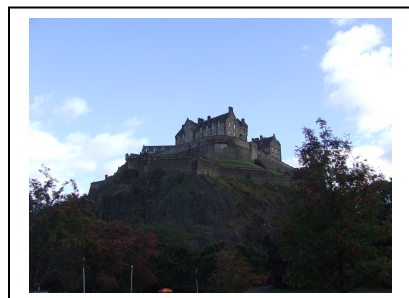


(Right above: *The image of the steamer ‘Dominion’ - launched in 1894 as the ‘Prussia’ - is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. An older vessel, she was to be requisitioned during the latter part of the Great War as a store and supply ship. She survived the conflict to be scrapped in 1922.*)

*\*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 above: *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 (again see further below) having by this time been ordered posted to the historic Castle in Scotland’s capital city. There the unit was to provide the Castle garrison, thus being the first unit from overseas ever to do so.



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

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

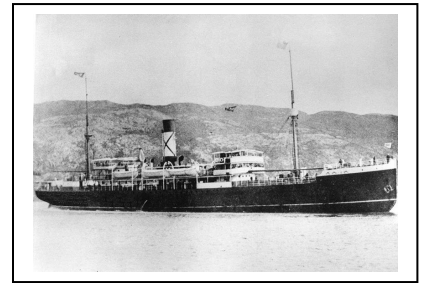
\* \* \* \* \*

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 – they soon



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 off the south coast of the Island with the convoy carrying the (1<sup>st</sup>) Canadian Division overseas,

(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' Company and Private Carew, as also cited beforehand, would arrive from Newfoundland on February 16 of 1915.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some three months later – having been joined by 'D' and 'E' Companies during the interim - on May 11, and three weeks into spring – although in Scotland there was apparently still snow - the entire Newfoundland unit was ordered transferred from the Castle to the large *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 was to welcome the re-enforcements from home – 'F' Company which arrived on July 10, 1915 - which would bring its numbers up to that of British Army establishment battalion strength\*. The now-formed 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment was thus rendered eligible to be sent on 'active service'.

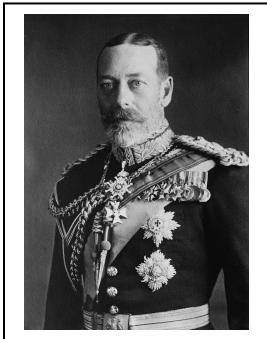


(Right above: *The Newfoundland Regiment marches past on the training ground at Stobs Camp and is presented with its Colours on June 10, 1915. – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

***\*‘Establishment strength’ was a personnel of approximately fifteen hundred, sufficient to furnish four ‘fighting’ companies, two re-enforcement companies and a headquarters staff.***

**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 having become the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, was thereupon attached to the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.**

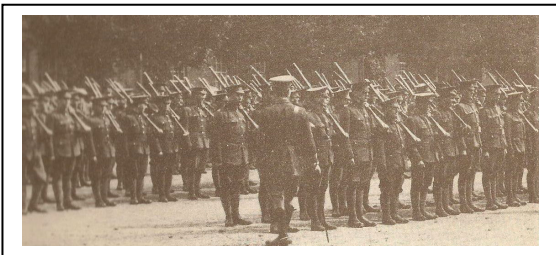
**Meanwhile the two junior Companies, ‘E’ – the last to have arrived at Edinburgh - and the aforementioned ‘F’, were ordered transferred to Scotland’s west coast, to Ayr, there to provide the nucleus of the first re-enforcement drafts to be sent to compensate the losses of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion..**



***(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 – the photograph is from Bain News Services via the Wikipedia web-site.)***

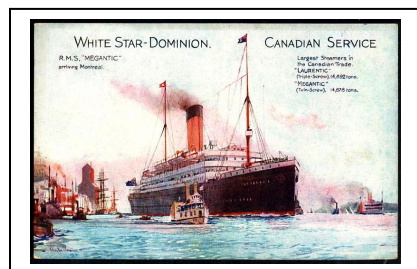
**It was during this posting to *Camp Aldershot* that, on August 15 of 1916, and only the day before his eventual departure on *active service*, Private Carew re-enlisted for the duration of the War\* .**

***\*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 a limited period of a single year. As the War progressed, however, this would likely cause problems and they were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits signed on for the ‘Duration’ at the time of their original enlistment.***



***(Right above: Some of the personnel of ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’ Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Private Carew 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.)***



(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)



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



When the Newfoundlanders landed from their transport ship at Suvla Bay on that September night of 1915 they were to disembark into a campaign that was already on the threshold of collapse.

Not only in the area where the Newfoundland Battalion was to 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, had proved 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 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 above: No-Man's-Land at Suvla Bay as seen from the Newfoundland positions looking toward the Turkish lines – from Provincial Archives)



(Right: 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.

During the short period of three months which now followed, things were to worsen at *Gallipoli*\* for the British in general and perhaps for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment in particular.

*\*The French know the place as ‘Les Dardanelles’ while the Turks call it ‘Çanakkale’.*

Thursday October 7 was a day on which there was apparently nothing in particular to be reported. During the short period during which it had been at *Suvla Bay* the Battalion personnel had already perhaps become hardened to the realities of war. While serving with ‘C’ Company, Private Carew was shot through the head, likely by a sniper’s bullet.

The son of David Carew (also found as *Carey*), labourer, and of Carrie Carew (née *Eddicott*\*) – to whom he had allotted an allowance of fifty cents daily from his pay - of 33, Patrick Street in St. John’s, he was also brother to William-Henry, Bertha-Maud, Anastasia and to John\*.



*\*The couple had been married in St. John’s on April 21 of 1883.*

Private Carew was reported as having been...*killed in action*...on that same October 7, 1915.

(Above right: *The photograph of Private David Michael Carew is from the Provincial Archives.*)

David Carew had enlisted at a *declared* nineteen years of age: date of birth in St. John’s, Newfoundland, October 1, 1895 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

*\*His brother John Carew (Private, Regimental Number 651) was reported at first as...missing in action...the record to be later amended to...killed in action...at Beaumont-Hamel on July 1, 1916. He lies in Y-Ravine Cemetery in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel (see to the right and elsewhere in these documents).*



Private David Michael Carew 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](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 30, 2023.