



Second Lieutenant Arthur John Herder (Regimental Number 1863*) is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery – Grave reference III. B. 22.

****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.***

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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.

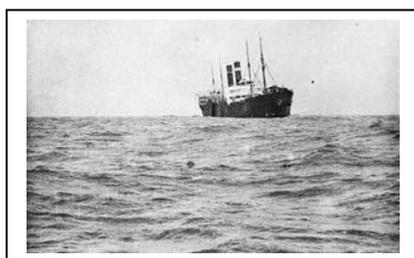
Arthur John Herder’s occupation prior to enlistment is recorded as having been that of *barrister-of-law* in the town of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Having apparently previously served in the 27th Light Horse of Canadian Militia and in the Officer Training Corps, his first pay records show that he was *taken on strength* on December 1, 1914, by the 32nd Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On the 29th day of that December, Lieutenant Arthur John Herder presented himself for medical examination in the city of Winnipeg, a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force*. On that same day he underwent attestation, his oath witnessed by the Officer Commanding the 32nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Harry James Cowan.

This same officer then brought to a conclusion the formalities of Lieutenant Herder’s engagement to the 32nd Battalion when he declared, on paper, that...*Arthur John Herder...having been finally approved and inspected by me this day...I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this attestation.*

Less than two months later, Lieutenant Herder’s 32nd Battalion was on its way by train to the east-coast port of Halifax. Where it had undergone its training – if any – in the interim is unclear: the unit had mobilized in Winnipeg where construction of the new *Minto Armoury* had begun in 1914, to be opened the next year, 1915. But whether this opening had been early enough to accommodate the 32nd Battalion has been difficult to ascertain.

On February 23 of 1915 the 32nd Canadian Infantry Battalion boarded His Majesty’s Troopship *Vaderland** in Halifax for passage to the United Kingdom.



(Right: The image of ‘Southland’ (ex-Vaderland), here seen after having been struck by a torpedo in 1915, is from the Wikipedia web-site.)

**The vessel was a ‘Red Star Line’ ship before being requisitioned as a troopship in early 1915 for some eighteen months. In mid-1916 she returned to commercial service, on this occasion with the ‘White Star-Dominion Line’ by which time, in 1915, her Dutch but German-sounding name, ‘Vaderland’, had been changed to ‘Southland’. She was eventually torpedoed and sunk in June of 1917 off the coast of Ireland.*

Vaderland sailed later in the day on that same February 23 and, after an uneventful crossing, entered into the English west-coast port of Avonmouth, Bristol, on March 7. Upon its disembarkation, the Battalion was transported across the country to the large Canadian military complex at the time being established in the county of Kent and on the Dover Straits in the vicinity of the town and harbour of Folkestone.



(Preceding page: *Little remains of Shorncliffe Military Camp today apart from a barracks occupied by Gurkha troops. The Military Cemetery almost alone serves as a reminder of the events of a century ago. – photograph from 2016*)



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

Lieutenant Herder and the 32nd Battalion were now to undergo training at Shorncliffe. It was also at this time that the unit, likely anticipating imminent *active service*, was to find itself instead re-designated as the 32nd Reserve Battalion, from now on until its dissolution in 1917 to provide personnel for those Canadian Infantry battalions already serving – or later to serve – on the *Western Front* on the *Continent*.

**Before the end of the Great War, Canada was to have despatched overseas just over two-hundred fifty battalions – although it is true that a number of these units, particularly as the conflict progressed, were below full strength. At the outset, these Overseas Battalions all had aspirations of seeing active service in a theatre of war.*

However, as it transpired, only some fifty of these formations were ever to be sent across the English Channel to the Western Front.

By far the majority of the Overseas Battalions remained in the United Kingdom to be used as re-enforcement pools and these were gradually absorbed, particularly after January of 1917, by new units that had by then been designated as Canadian Reserve Battalions.

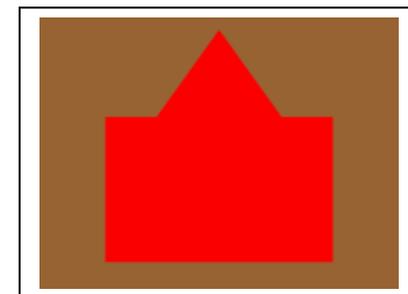
On May 2 of 1915 Lieutenant Herder was one of a draft to be despatched across the English Channel to France, likely to travel through the ports of Folkestone and its French counterpart, Boulogne. He was now to report to the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion (*90th Winnipeg Rifles*) – which he did on the following day, May 3.



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

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The 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion (*90th Winnipeg Rifles*) was a component of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, itself an element of the 1st Canadian Division. This last-named formation had sailed from Canada to the United Kingdom in early October of 1914, there to train in the cold and damp of Salisbury Plain until the second week of February, 1915, when it had taken ship - the troop-transport *Archimedes* - in Avonmouth for the French port of St-Nazaire.



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(Preceding page: *The image of the shoulder-patch of the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion (90th Winnipeg Rifles) is from the Wikipedia web-site.*)

The entire Division had at first served in northern France, the area of the Franco-Belgian frontier, in the *Fleurbaix Sector* just south of Armentières, before then having moved to the *Ypres Salient* in April of that same 1915.

(Right: *While the caption reads that these troops are 'English', this could mean any unit in British uniform – including Empire (Commonwealth) units. This is early in the war as there is no sign of a steel helmet. – from a vintage post-card*)



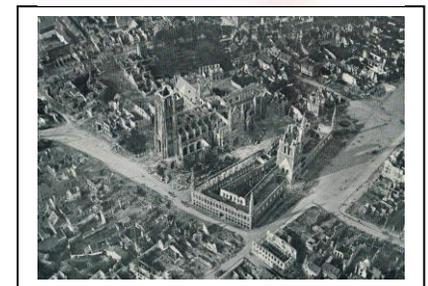
**Before the advent of the 2nd Canadian Division, the 1st Canadian Division was often designated simply as the Canadian Division.*

The 8th Battalion had crossed the Franco-Belgian frontier in busses on April 14. This transport had carried the unit as far as the village of Vlamertinghe, to the west of Ypres, from where it had then proceeded on foot to the north-east area of the *Ypres Salient*. There it was to take over trenches from the 69th French Regiment at Gravenstal, a name soon to become a part of the Battalion's – and of Canada's - history.



(Right above: *Troops on their way to the front on board one of the busses requisitioned from the London area: it would appear that some have preferred to walk. – from Illustration*)

(Right: *An aerial photograph, taken in July of 1915 – just after the battle - showing the shell of the medieval city of Ypres, an image entitled Ypres-la-Morte (Ypres the Dead) – By the end of the conflict there was little left standing. – from Illustration*)



The first major confrontation between the Canadian Division and the German Army was to occur only days later, a confrontation that has become known to history as the *Second Battle of Ypres* or as simply *Second Ypres*.

It had come about at five o'clock in the afternoon of April 22 of 1915.

The *2nd Battle of Ypres* was to see the first use of chlorine gas by the Germans in the *Great War*. Later to become an everyday event, with the advent of protective measures such as advanced gas-masks, gas was to prove no more dangerous than the rest of the military arsenals of the warring nations. But on this first occasion, to troops without means to combat it, the yellow-green cloud of chlorine would prove overwhelming.



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(Preceding page: *The very first protection against gas was to urinate on a handkerchief which was then held over the nose and mouth. However, all the armies were soon producing gas-masks, some of the first of which are seen here being tested by Scottish troops. – from either Illustration or Le Miroir*)

(Right: *Entitled: Bombardement d'Ypres, le 5 juillet 1915 – from Illustration*)



The cloud had been noticed in the afternoon of April 22. In the sector subjected to the most concentrated use of the gas, the French Colonial troops to the Canadian left had wavered and then had broken, thus to leave the left flank of the Canadians uncovered.

The 8th Battalion, in the area of Gravenstafel, having been posted in trenches just to the right of the French position, had found themselves suddenly exposed to the German advance. They had held firm – just.

On the 23rd the situation had become relatively stable, the positions in the vicinity of Sint-Juliaan (*St-Julien*) having remained intact until the morning of the 24th when a further retirement by both British and Canadian units in some areas was to become necessary.

However, according to the War Diary of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade, on April 25, some sixty hours after the onset of the German attack, the 8th Battalion had still been holding its original positions. It had not been until later on that afternoon that the unit was to be relieved by British troops.

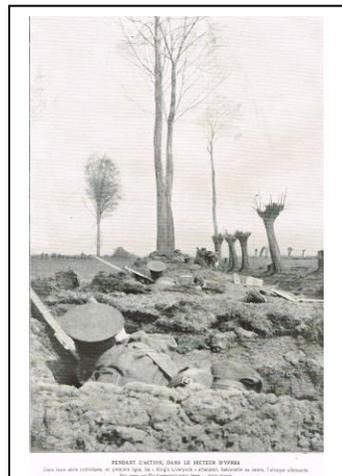


At times there had been gaps in the defensive lines but, fortuitously, either the Germans had been unaware of how close they had come to a breakthrough, or they had not possessed the means to exploit the situation.

And then the Canadians would close the gaps.

(Right above: *The Memorial to the 1st Canadian Division – the Brooding Soldier – stands just to the south of the village of Langemark (at the time Langemarck) – at the Vancouver Crossroads - where the Canadians withstood the German attack – abetted by gas – at Ypres (today Ieper) in April of 1915. – photograph from 2010*)

As had many other units, the 8th Battalion had incurred numerous casualties; in the appendices of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade War Diary are to be found the following numbers: *killed in action, fifty-five; wounded, two-hundred eight; wounded and missing, forty-two; missing in action, one-hundred fifty-five; sick from fumes, one-hundred thirteen; shock, three; died from wounds, one.*



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(Preceding page: *Troops – in this instance British – in hastily-dug trenches in the Ypres Salient. These are still the early days of the year as witnessed by the lack of steel helmets which only came into use in the spring and summer of 1916. – from Illustration)*

During the first six days of May the 8th Battalion had been... *Still in reserve on Canal Bank*... Intermittently shelled.* (Excerpt of May 1 entry of 8th Battalion War Diary)

And as seen on an earlier page, it was apparently during this frantic period, on May 3, that Lieutenant Herder, according to his own papers, had reported *to duty* with his new unit (although see five paragraphs below).

****This was the Yser Canal which flows through Ypres and which, to the north of the city, at times became a part of the front line.***

(Right: *The Yser Canal at a point in the northern outskirts of Ypres almost a century after the 8th Canadian Infantry Battalion moved into defensive positions on its western bank– west is to the left – photograph from 2014)*



* * * * *

Finally, on May 6, the 8th Battalion was to retire the considerable distance from the northern outskirts of Ypres through the village of Vlamertinghe to the west, and as far as the area of northern French town of Bailleul where it arrived on the following day, May 7*.

There it was to re-enforce and re-organize, but not until *after* that first day during which... *no work done, men allowed to sleep until afternoon...*

****According to the Regimental War Diarist it was on this date, May 7, that Lieutenant Herder, accompanied by two other officers and ninety other ranks was to report from the 32nd Battalion at Shorncliffe.***

There had now followed two weeks of rest – as restful as it ever was to get during the *Great War* – before the 8th Battalion had been ordered south, on May 19 and in pouring rain, further into France to fight in actions to be undertaken near places by the names of Festubert and Givenchy. The French had been preparing to undertake a major offensive just further south again and had requested British support in order to prevent the Germans re-enforcing the French front.

There at Festubert a series of attacks and counter-attacks were to take place in which the British High Command would manage to gain three kilometres of ground but would also contrive to destroy, through the use of the unimaginative tactic of the frontal assault, what had been left of the British pre-War professional Army after *Second Ypres*. The Canadian Division was now also to serve during the Festubert campaign but – not contributing the same numbers of troops as the British – was logically not to participate to the same extent. It had nonetheless suffered.

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The 8th Battalion had first entered the line, in reserve dugouts, in the area of Festubert on that May 20, 1915. This tour was to be of three days duration, the Battalion having then been relieved on June 22. By that time the unit had been involved in attacks against German strongpoints and had also been heavily shelled: casualties for that short period had amounted to thirty-one *killed in action* and one-hundred forty *wounded*.

A second tour had seen less ambitious attacks delivered by the Battalion which was also to supply large working parties for digging trenches; casualties had inevitably once more been incurred, although fewer in number. The unit had been withdrawn from the forward area to Essars on May 27 – to be ordered into trenches at Givenchy five days later.

Indian troops of the Meerut Division also served – and lost heavily – in other battles in this area in 1915 before being transferred to the Middle East.

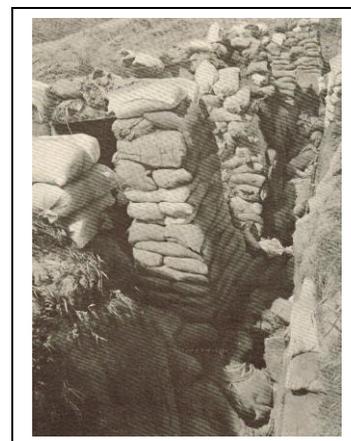
(Right: A one-time officer who served in the Indian Army during the Second World War, pays his respects to those who fell, at the Indian Memorial at Neuve-Chapelle. – photograph from 2010(?))



(Right: German trenches nick-named the Labyrinth captured by the French at their Pyrrhic victory at Notre-Dame de Lorrette – from Illustration)

The Canadian Division and Indian troops, the 7th (Meerut) Division* also having been ordered to serve at Festubert, had hardly fared better than the British, each contingent – a Division - incurring over two-thousand casualties before the offensive drew to a close.

The French effort – having employed the same suicidal tactics - was likewise to be a failure but on an even larger scale; it was to cost them just over one hundred-thousand *killed, wounded* and *missing* during their campaign in the Artois region.



Givenchy-les-la-Bassée* is a small village not far distant south of Festubert. Having been ordered into the forward trenches on June 1, the 8th Battalion had experienced a very quiet seven-day posting there. A further three-day posting into the front line was to occur from June 17 to 19 inclusive; little infantry activity had been undertaken – although the German artillery had paid the 8th Battalion a great deal of attention.

Only a single day after its retirement the unit had returned to the forward area – and once again the enemy guns were to be responsible for most if not all of the casualties incurred on this second occasion – until the night of June 22-23 when it had then retired from the field and from that particular theatre of the war.

At about the same time, over a number of days, the entirety of the units of the Canadian Division was to retire from the vicinity of Givenchy. Thus this unsatisfactory short-lived venture drew to its conclusion.

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**Since the place is oft-times referred to simply as Givenchy it is worthwhile knowing that there are two other Givenchys in the region: Givenchy-le-Noble, to the west of Arras, and Givenchy-en-Gohelle, a village which lies in the shadow of a crest of land which dominates the Douai Plain: Vimy Ridge.*

As a part of that withdrawal from Givenchy, the 8th Battalion was to march to billets in Béthune. From there it was to move northwards and into Belgium, to the *Ploegsteert Sector*, just across the frontier.

Having reached the *Ploegsteert Sector* on June 26, there the 8th Battalion had remained – as had the entire Canadian Division. In the next months it was to become well-acquainted with the Franco-Belgian area between Armentières in the east – any further east would have been in German-occupied territory – Bailleul in the west, and Messines in the north. It had been to the vicinity of this last-named community that the unit was now posted.



(Right above: *Some of the farmland in the area of Messines, a mine crater from the time of the 1917 British offensive in the foreground – photograph from 2014*)

It was to be soon after the 8th Battalion had been transferred to the aforementioned *Ploegsteert Sector* that Lieutenant Herder fell afoul of the Battalion authorities, for a pair of transgressions exacerbated by the fact that the unit was on *active service*.

Details of the incidents are sparse. The 8th Battalion was still serving in and out of the trenches in the *Ploegsteert Sector* at the time and they had occurred while the unit had been withdrawn to billets in the area of the communities of Neuf Berquin and Nootte Boom - or perhaps both since he was charged on two successive days - on June 24/25 and 25/26: *When on active service drunkenness on the line of march*.

A court martial was ordered for July 4, the British Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, General Sir Edwin Alderson, apparently being present.

On July 6, 1917... *SOS (Struck off Strength) as of 6/7/15 & discharged to England*

On July 7, 1915, Lieutenant Herder... *Is dismissed the service by sentence of General Court Martial (Struck off 8th Bn) (From his personal records)*

* * * * *

There appear to be no records available of Arthur John Herder subsequently taking passage back to either Moose Jaw or to Saint John's, Newfoundland, his family home. It is therefore not impossible that he remained in the United Kingdom with relatives and/ or friends during the weeks and months that followed. Certainly during that period there was to be a great deal of ongoing activity – much of it involving his father and Governor Davidson of the Dominion of Newfoundland - with the goal being his military re-engagement, more specifically, on this occasion, in the Newfoundland Regiment*.

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**It is not unlikely that the values of family honour, unfashionable a century later, but important in certain social strata of the day, had much to do with these activities.*

In fact, his case was to involve even the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the British Government of the time, Sir Andrew Bonar Law – later to be British Prime Minister – who was to send a coded telegram to the aforesaid Governor: *...regret unable to rescind finding of Court Martial but should Herder think fit to enlist and thereafter be recommended for a Commission by reason of meritorious service in the field, Army Council will not have any objection. Do your ministers agree with his enlisting forthwith in the Newfoundland Contingent?*

The answer was of course in the affirmative, the series of several months of correspondence between Newfoundland and the Mother Country then eventually culminating towards the end of January, 1916, with the following missive, dated the 31st of that month, from the Officer Commanding the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment to the Pay & Record Office on Victoria Street, London: *Will you please attest Herder and send him to join the Battalion. I have today instructed him to place himself in communication with you. Enclosed is a warrant for him...*

Thus Arthur John Herder joined the Newfoundland Regiment, enlisting officially at the *Newfoundland Pay & Record Office* at 58, Victoria Street, London. He is recorded as having attested on February 2 of 1916 (elsewhere documented as on the 4th, the day on which both his enlistment and attestation were, in fact, registered). There were apparently, nevertheless, conditions attached to his being *taken on strength* by the Regiment and he would join with the rank of corporal rather than with that of an officer.

By this time the Regimental Depot had been established for some six months, since the summer of 1915, at the Royal Borough of Ayr on the west coast of Scotland. As the base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment in the summer of 1915 it was from there that re-enforcements were – as of November, 1915 up until January of 1918 – to be despatched to bolster the numbers of the fighting Companies of the 1st Battalion, 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 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*)

On March 28th of 1916 the 3rd Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr – Corporal Herder among its number - embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Archangel* at the English south-coast port of Southampton for the British Expeditionary Force Depot at Rouen, capital city of Normandy, to arrive there on the 30th.



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Upon its arrival in France, the contingent was sent to the nearby British Expeditionary Force Depot for final training and organization* before moving onward to rendezvous with the parent unit.

(Preceding page: *The image of a troop-laden Archangel on its way to the Continent is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

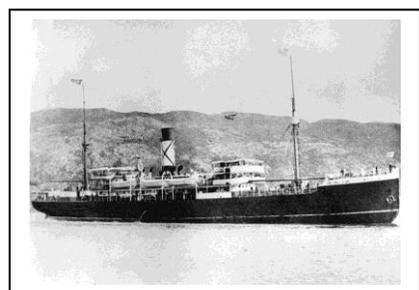
(Right: *British troops disembark at Rouen en route to the Western Front. – from Illustration*)

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



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Some seventeen months before Sergeant Herder's arrival on the *Western Front*, and late in 1914, the original contingent of the Newfoundland Regiment, comprising 'A' and 'B' Companies and known collectively to posterity as *The First Five Hundred*, after a short period of training in the vicinity of *Quidi Vidi Lake* in St. John's, had embarked on October 3, onto the *SS Florizel*, in the harbour at St. John's.



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

From there the vessel had sailed on the morrow to its rendezvous off the south coast of the Island with the convoy transporting the 1st Canadian Division and other Canadian units to the United Kingdom.

The convoy had docked in the harbour and Royal Navy facility of Plymouth-Devonport on the south coast of England some ten days after having sailed. There several more days were to be necessary before all the force could eventually be landed, thence to be taken by train to camps on the Salisbury Plain.

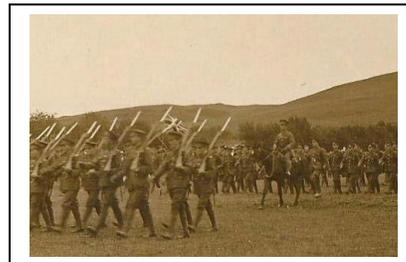
Having then spent a month in filthy weather in training, 'A' and 'B' Companies of the Newfoundland Regiment had been transferred north, to Scotland, and near to the city of Inverness – likely best-known for its nearby loch and its legendary inhabitant – to Fort George where it was now to spend most of the impending winter. At least, so some of the Newfoundland soldiers were reported to have said, even if they were still cold, they were now indoors – on the Salisbury Plain they had survived in tents.



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

Then, as briefly seen above, the Newfoundlanders, in the month of February, were ordered to be posted to Edinburgh Castle where they were to provide the first garrison of the place to be drawn from forces from outside the British Isles. From there on May 11, and with the coming of more clement weather conditions, the contingent was transferred to the tented *Stobs Camp* near the Scottish town of Hawick - to the south-east of Edinburgh - where it was not only to train but to await the arrival of yet further re-enforcements from home.

(Right: The Newfoundland Regiment – still awaiting the arrival of ‘F’ Company - 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)

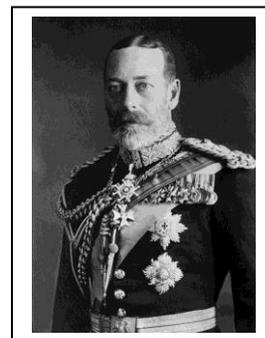


On July 10, 1915, ‘F’ Company arrived at *Stobs Camp* from Newfoundland, its personnel raising the numbers of the unit to battalion establishment strength, and thus permitting it to be ordered to active service.

The 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment, comprising the four senior Companies, ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’ and ‘D’, was thereupon attached to the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

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 furnish the nucleus of the newly-forming 2nd (Reserve) Battalion*.

**By the time of the Newfoundland Battalion’s departure to active service the Canadian Division had already been fighting on the Western Front for six months and the confrontations of Second Ypres, Festubert and Givenchy – Lieutenant Herder having served at the latter two - were by then a part of Canadian history.*



(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)

It had then been during the period spent at Aldershot – on or about the 13th and 14th day of the month - that the majority of the 1st Battalion personnel was to be called 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.*

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As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist.

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



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

On August 20, 1915, the four Companies of the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment 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 where, a month later – having spent two weeks billeted in British barracks in the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, he disembarked with the 1st Battalion at *Suvla Bay* on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.



(Right above: 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. – by courtesy of the Provincial Archives)



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

Not only in the area where the Newfoundland Battalion was to 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*, would 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 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.



Thus it would finally be decided by the same High Command 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 the 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 Bay, apparently, had handed in his resignation during the Campaign and had just gone home.*



November 25 was to see 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.

Those officers and men of the Newfoundland Battalion not to be evacuated at that time in need of medical treatment, and having recovered from the wrath of nature which had struck *Gallipoli* on that November 25 and subsequently, were to remain stationed at *Suvla Bay* for only a further twenty-five days.

By that time they were to have served there for exactly three months to the day.

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 Newfoundland 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 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 were also to serve at *Gallipoli* – were now only marking time until a complete withdrawal of the *Peninsula* was undertaken.



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

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

When the British had evacuated the entire *Gallipoli Peninsula* in January of 1916, the Newfoundland Battalion was to be ordered to the Egyptian port-city Alexandria, having arrived there on the 15th of that month. The Newfoundlanders were then to be immediately transferred southward to 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, the almost six-hundred officers and *other ranks* of the 1st Battalion had boarded His Majesty's Transport *Alaunia* at Port Tewfiq on March 14, from there to sail up 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 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 had found 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 travelled unused in a separate wagon.

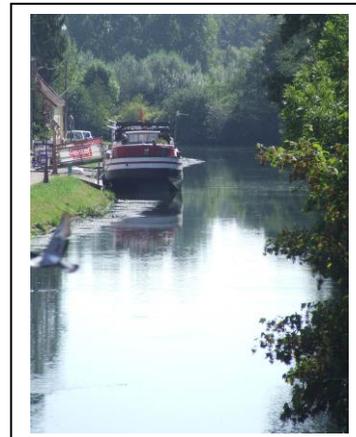
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Having de-trained at the local station at two o'clock in the morning, the Newfoundlanders were now still to endure the long, dark march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.

(Preceding page: *A languid 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 then marched on their way from the station. But some three months later *the Somme* was to become a part of their history.

On April 13, the 1st Battalion had marched into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy - where they would be billeted, would receive reinforcements – Corporal Herder among their ranks and now to be attached to 'D' Company - from Scotland via Rouen and, in two days' time, would be introduced into the communication trenches of the *Western Front*.



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

* * * * *

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 the only units at the Somme from outside the British Isles - true also on the day of the attack on July 1.*

The Newfoundlanders were also soon to be preparing for the 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*.



(continued)

(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*)

**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 Somme* butchery was to continue for the next four and a half months.

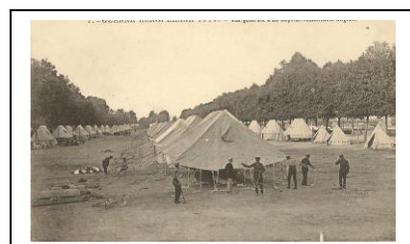
(Right above: *Beaumont-Hamel is a commune, not a village. – photographs from 2010 & 2015*)

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

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 above: *This is Hawthorn Ridge Cemetery Number 2, to be found in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel, in which lie twenty-four Newfoundland dead. – photograph from 2009(?)*)

Having been promoted on June 14 while the 1st Battalion was out of the lines at Louvencourt, Sergeant Herder was to be present at Beaumont-Hamel during the fighting of that first day of *the Somme*, July 1, 1916. There and then he incurred a penetrating bullet wound in his left arm as well as shrapnel wounds to the back; by the following day had been evacuated to the 2nd South Midland Casualty Clearing Centre at Puchevillers.



(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)

Sergeant Herder was next recorded in the 6th Stationary Hospital at Le Havre* on the morrow, July 3, and was, apparently, discharged to duty at the Base Depot at Rouen on only the following day, July 4**. From France* he was evacuated back across the English Channel on His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Asturias* on the following day, to be admitted into the 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, on July 7, not to be discharged from there, by then deemed to be *fit for duty*, until September 15.



**This hospital is documented as having been established at Le Havre only until May of 1916 when it had been transferred north and east to the area of Frévent.*

***This seems curious: he was also at the time reported as being in the 2nd General Hospital in Le Havre from where he was embarked onto the same hospital ship for the United Kingdom on the 7th. His medical records confirm that the treatment accorded him in England was for a bullet wound to the left arm and for a shrapnel wound to his back.*

(Right above: *The image of HMHS Asturias is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. In 1917 a German U-boat torpedoed the vessel but her crew managed to beach her. Raised and subsequently towed into port, Asturias spent the remainder of the Great War as an ammunition storage site.*)

Having been discharged from medical care, Sergeant Herder was then granted the customary ten-day furlough accorded to military personnel released from hospital, in his case from September 15 to 24, before being again posted to the Regimental Depot at Ayr. At some time during this period he was elevated to the rank of Company Sergeant Major, and then, on November 1, received an Imperial Commission and an appointment to the rank of second lieutenant.



(Right above: *The High Street in Ayr – looking at the time much as it still does today – in 1917 - with its dominating Wallace Tower - as shown on a postcard of the time – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs Lillian Tibbo*)

For the following seven months, Second Lieutenant Herder would remain at Ayr on duty with the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion. It was not all to be work: On a more personnel note, before he was to be drafted back to the Continent, Lieutenant Arthur John Herder, on April 24 of 1917, became the husband of Madge Houston Lindsay of Holinston Road, Lynwood, Ayr.

(continued)

The marriage must have taken place almost on the eve of Second Lieutenant Herder's second departure for the Continent although there appear to be no details of this occasion among the papers in his dossier. But by May 4 he was with his unit in the remnants of the venerable city of Arras – and in trouble once more.

* * * * *

After the events of the morning of July 1, 1916, and then the departure of Sergeant Herder for medical attention, such had been the dire condition of the attacking British forces that it was to be 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.

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 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 – 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 Newfoundland unit - 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 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*)

(continued)

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



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*.

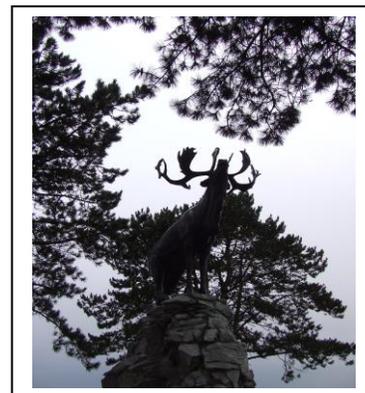
Four days after its return to France, on October 12, 1916, the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment had again been ordered to the offensive; it was at a place called Gueudecourt, the vestiges of a village some dozen or so kilometres to the south-east of Beaumont-Hamel.

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



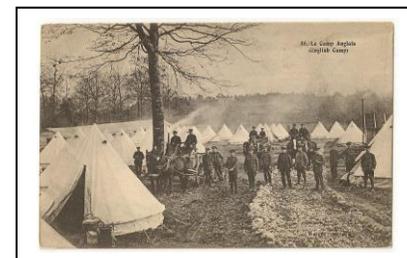
(Right above: *This is the ground over which the 1st Battalion advanced and then mostly conceded at Gueudecourt on October 12. Some few managed to reach the area where today stand the copse of trees and the Gueudecourt Caribou, on the far right horizon. – photograph from 2007*)

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



After Gueudecourt, the Newfoundland 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 to be broken only by the several weeks spent in *Corps Reserve* during the Christmas period of that 1916. It was a time during which the Regimental personnel was to be encamped well behind the lines and in close proximity to the city of Amiens.

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



After that welcome six-week Christmas respite spent in *Corps Reserve* well 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.

The only infantry activity directly involving the 1st Battalion during that entire period – from the time of the action at Gueudecourt in mid-October of 1916, until Monchy-le-Preux in April of 1917 – was to be the sharp engagement at Sailly-Saillisel at the end of February and beginning of March, an action which 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 which was no more than a heap of rubble at the time. - photograph from 2009(?)*)

After Sailly-Saillisel the month of March had been a quiet time for the Newfoundlanders; having departed from the trenches, they had now spent their time near the communities of Meaulté and Camps-en-Amienois re-enforcing, re-organizing, and training for upcoming events. They even had had 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 above: *The Prime Minister of Newfoundland visiting the 1st Battalion encamped at Meaulté – from The War Illustrated*)

On March 29, the 1st Battalion had begun to make its way – on foot – from Camps-en-Amienois to the north-east, towards the venerable medieval city of Arras and eventually beyond. The march was to finish amid the rubble of a village called Monchy-le-Preux.



(Right above: *The remnants of the Grande Place of the city of Arras in early 1916 after some eighteen months of bombardment – from Illustration*)

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

On April 9 the British Army had 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 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 having been 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.

(continued)

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 .*

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

The final action in which the Newfoundland Battalion was to be involved during the *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 and accompanied by heavy losses.

Late on that same evening the Newfoundlanders had retired to the relative calm of Arras which would have been about the time and the place that Second Lieutenant Herder would return *to duty*.

* * * * *

On May 4, during a further respite at Arras – the Newfoundland Battalion had arrived there by train on only the previous afternoon – Second Lieutenant Herder had once again succumbed to the temptations of drink. Another court martial had ensued ten days later, the result on this occasion, however, having been nothing more than a reprimand.

The remainder of the month of May which followed had then been a period during which the Newfoundlanders were to be moving hither and thither on the *Arras Front*, marching into and out of the trenches. While there was to be the ever-present artillery-fire, there had been little infantry activity – apart from the marching.



(continued)

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

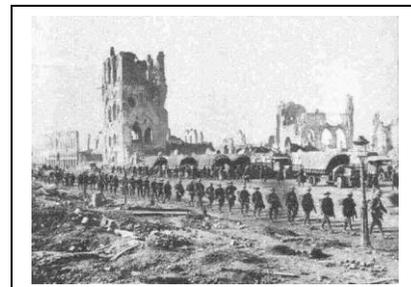
At the outset of June, the 1st Battalion retired from the line to Bonneville, there to spend its time re-enforcing, re-organizing and training for the upcoming British offensive of the summer – and as it would transpire, the autumn as well.

(Right above: *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)



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 the banks of the *Yser Canal* just north of the city.

(Right above: *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*)



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



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.

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 adjacent: *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 which had floundered their way across the sodden and shell-torn countryside of Flanders.

(continued)

Notably the Newfoundland Battalion at *Passchendaele* was to fight in two major engagements: at the *Steenbeek* on August 16; and at the *Broembeek* (see 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 had been higher: forty-eight *killed or died of wounds*, one-hundred thirty-two *wounded* and fifteen *missing in action*.

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



As an officer of 'D' Company, Second Lieutenant Herder took part in the infantry engagement of August 16 at the *Steenbeek*, to survive the action unscathed. Just days prior to that he had also been one of the party of two officers and fifty *other ranks* which had undertaken an unsuccessful raid on the early hours of the morning of July 12 against certain German positions.

(Right: *This is the area of the Steenbeek – the stream runs close to the trees - and in the immediate vicinity to where the 1st Battalion fought the engagement of August 16, 1917. It is also some eight kilometres distant from a village called Passchendaele. – photograph from 2009*)



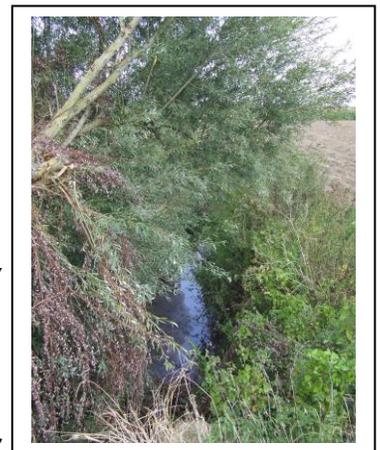
There being no evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that Second Lieutenant Herder served – although possibly in the reserve – and played his unsung role during the further confrontation of October 9, at the *Broembeek*.

After a respite during much of the month of September, during which the British – and thus the Newfoundlanders - re-enforced and re-organized, the *Battle of Passchendaele* recommenced. The 1st Battalion was now again to go to the offensive at the *Broembeek*, otherwise recorded as the *Battle of Poelkapelle*.

'*The Batt'n formed up for attack astride the STRAVEN* Railway and about 300 yds south of BROOMBEKE River. After attack line extended across the railway to Tranquil House...*' – from a written report in another soldier's file.

**In fact it was the Ypres-Staden railway line which today no longer exists except as a walking-trail.*

(Right above: *An apparently innocuous stream, the nondescript Broembeek seen here would overflow its banks in the autumn of 1917, and transform its surrounds into a quagmire. – photograph from 2010*)



It was to be only two days after this last-mentioned confrontation, on October 11, that Second Lieutenant Herder's unit 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 Newfoundland 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.

On November 17 the Battalion once again travelled by train, on this occasion in a south-easterly direction to the town of Peronne. From there it was to begin to move further eastward on foot towards the theatre of the battle now imminent. On November 19, while on the move once more, it was issued as it went with... *war stores, rations and equipment*.

For much of that night it then 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, then moved up into its forming-up area. From those forward position, some hours later, at ten minutes past ten, with bugles blowing, the 1st Battalion would advance 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 would begin well for the British who were to use tanks on a large scale for the first time; but opportunities would be squandered, there were to be 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 Newfoundland Battalion had again been 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 had gone into battle, two-hundred forty-eight were to become casualties by the end of only the second day*.

**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 were encountering the same problem.*

(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*)

(continued)

(Right: *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 the termination of the final fighting retreat of the *Battle of Cambrai*, on December 4 the Newfoundlanders of the 1st Battalion had left behind them the chaos and the exertions of it all – it had been a difficult period.

(Right: *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)*



But by that date, Second Lieutenant Herder had played his role to its conclusion. It was recorded that he had been struck while going from ‘...one to another of the posts that the remnants of ‘B’ Company were holding’. The date of his injury is to be found on a single document: December 1, 1917, exactly three years to the day after his enlistment into the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The son of William James Herder, proprietor of the *St. John’s Evening Telegram* and of Elizabeth Herder (née *Barnes*) of 40, Rennie’s Mill Road in St. John’s, and husband of Madge Herder (née *Lindsay*) – to whom he had willed his all - of *Lynwood*, Ayr, Scotland, he was also brother to Elsie, Isabel, Jean, Hubert*, Ralph**, James, William, Douglas and to Herbert-Augustus.



(Right above: *Not British, but similar French trench mortars of the Great War, shown here standing in the entrance to Les Invalides in Paris – photograph from 2015)*

Second Lieutenant Herder, Battalion Mortar Officer at the time, was reported as having *died of wounds* on December 1, 1917, in the 5th Casualty Clearing Station in the village of Tincourt, succumbing to *bullet wounds to the abdomen* incurred while commanding ‘B’ Company in the fighting at Marcoing and Masnières.



(Right adjacent: *transferring sick and wounded from a field ambulance to the rear through the mud by motorized ambulance and man-power – from a vintage post-card)*



(continued)

(Preceding page: *The Caribou at Masnières stands on high ground at the furthest point of the 1st Battalion's first-day objective. A controversial subject, it was an objective probably never realized. – photograph from 2012*)



Arthur John Herder had enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment at thirty-three years of age: date of birth in St. John's, Newfoundland, January 28, 1883.

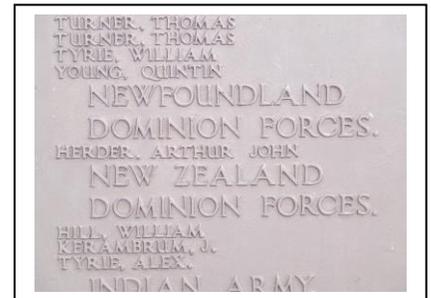
(Right above: *The photograph of Lieutenant Herder is from the Royal Canadian Legion publication... 'Lest We Forget'.*)

**His brother, Lieutenant Hubert Clinton Herder of the Newfoundland Regiment, Regimental Number 3, had died on July 1, 1916, at Beaumont-Hamel, killed in action during the fighting of the first day of the Somme.*



***Another brother, Lieutenant Ralph Herder, Regimental Number 34, was to be wounded both at Beaumont-Hamel and at Monchy-le-Preux. He would survive the conflict.*

Mrs. Madge Herder travelled to Newfoundland in May of 1919 on board the SS *Corsican*. She returned to the United Kingdom that August on the SS *Digby*.



(Right above: *the statue of Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, which stands in Wellington Square, Ayr, where the Newfoundland officers were quartered – photograph from 2011*)

(Right above: *On the stone plinth of Wellington's statue, on the bronze Memorial Plaque, and for some undisclosed reason, the name of Arthur John Herder stands alone in memoriam of the Newfoundland Dominion Forces. – photographs from 2011*)



(Right: *On this family memorial to be found in the General Protestant Cemetery in St. John's are commemorated the sacrifice of Lieutenant Arthur John Herder and that of Lieutenant Hubert Clinton Herder. – photograph from 2015*)

Second Lieutenant Arthur John Herder was entitled 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 8, 2023.