

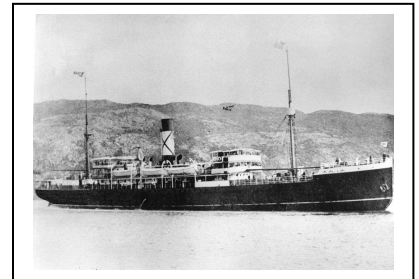


Private George Thomas Kane (Regimental Number 208), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated on the bronze beneath the Caribou in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel.



His occupation previous to military service recorded as that of a five-dollar-a-week job as a clerk with *James Baird Co., General Merchants, Importers, Exporters and Ship Owners* of 183, Water Street, in St. John's, capital city of Newfoundland, George Thomas Kane presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on August 31 of 1914, four weeks less a day after the *Declaration of War*. The examination having pronounced him as...*fit for foreign service*...he then enlisted two days later – engaged at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 (this included a ten-cent Field Allowance) - on September 2. He was a recruit of the First Draft.

There was now to be a four-week wait – although training was to be ongoing - before Private Kane would attest on October 1 and then a further two days before he embarked on October 3 with the others of the *First Five Hundred* onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting in St. John's Harbour.



The ship sailed on the morrow to its rendezvous off the south coast of the Island where she was to join the convoy transporting the 1st Canadian Division across the Atlantic.

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

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



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

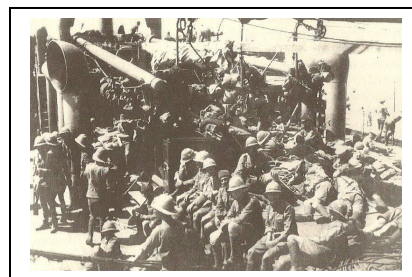


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(Right: *Kangaroo Beach, where the officers and men of the 1st Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is to be seen in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on 'A' Beach. – photograph taken in 2011*)



(Right 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*)



The *Gallipoli Campaign* was to be a debacle: Flies, dust, disease, frost-bite, floods – and the casualties inflicted by an enemy who was to fight a great deal better than the British High Command* had ever anticipated – were eventually to overwhelm the British-led forces and it would be decided to abandon not only *Suvla Bay* but the entire *Gallipoli* venture.

**Many of the commanders chosen were second-rate, had been brought out of retirement, and had little idea of how to fight – let alone of how to win. One of the generals at Suvla, apparently, had handed in his resignation during the Campaign and had just gone home.*



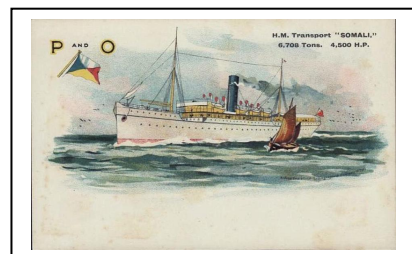
(Right: *A century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Private Kane was to serve in the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011*)

On November 29, Private Kane was admitted into the 26th Casualty Clearing Station at *Suvla* suffering - as were many others of both sides – the consequences of the aforementioned freak rain, snow and ice-storm of November 25, and the subsequent floods. Within hours, severe frostbite and the aforementioned trench-foot were to be rampant.



(Right: *An un-identified Newfoundland soldier in the trenches at Suvla Bay – from Provincial Archives*)

From *Suvla Bay* Private Kane was evacuated on December 2 to the 18th Stationary Hospital at *Mudros Bay*, on the Greek island of *Lemnos*. From there, on December 5, three days later, His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Somali* transported him to the British-held Mediterranean island of *Malta* where Private Kane was admitted into the Military Hospital at *Tigne*.



(Right: *The image of a peace-time Somali of the P and O Line, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

(Right below: *One of several former British medical establishments, now abandoned, which still stand on the small island of Malta, a British possession during both the Great War and the Second World War – remaining thus until 1964 when the island gained its independence - photograph from 2011*)



Some six weeks later, on January 17, 1916, Private Kane found himself once more on board a hospital ship, the vessel the *Regina d'Italia*, as it evacuated him from Malta back to the United Kingdom. Upon his arrival in England, he was admitted on January 24 into the 3rd London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth.

(Right: *The main building of what became 3rd London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1st, 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010*)



(Right below: *Newfoundland patients, almost all of them unfortunately unidentified, with staff at Wandsworth: apparently Joseph is the fourth from the right in the second row - courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)



After convalescence and the customary ten-day furlough – in the case of Private Kane from March 23 until April 1, and apparently spent in London - a period of leave granted to military personnel upon release from hospital, he was thereupon posted to service with 'E' Company at the Regimental Depot at Ayr on the west coast of Scotland. There he reported to duty with his new unit on April 3.

(Right: *A view of Marble Arch, London – in fact, it is technically in the City of Westminster – from 1913, the year prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

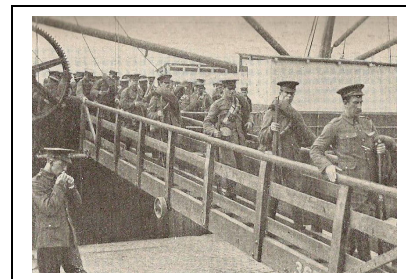


The Regimental Depot had been established since the summer of 1915 in the Royal Borough of Ayr to serve as a base for the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment. It was from there – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 – that the new-comers from home were to be despatched in drafts, at first to *Gallipoli* and later to the *Western Front*, to bolster the four fighting companies of the 1st Battalion.

(Right: *An aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr, where the 'other ranks' were billeted, is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough, where lived the officers, is to the right. – by courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)



On June 25 of 1916, the 7th Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr – Private Kane among its ranks - embarked through the English south-coast port of Southampton for Rouen, capital city of Normandy. Landing there on the next day, the Newfoundland detachment made its way to the principal British Expeditionary Force Base Depot, there to undergo final days of training and organization* before leaving to seek out the parent unit *in the field*.



(Right above: *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, Étapes, LeHavre and Harfleur that became known as the Bull Rings.*

On July 11, according to the Regimental Diary - other sources record the 12th – Private Kane was one of the draft of one-hundred twenty-seven *other ranks* to report to duty with the 1st Battalion, the first sorely-needed re-enforcements after the debacle of July 1 at Beaumont-Hamel.

The survivors of the parent Newfoundland unit were at the time billeted in tents and huts just behind the forward area, in and about the village of Mailly-Maillet.

(Right: *The re-constructed village of Mailly-Maillet is today twinned with the community of Torbay, St. John's East. – photograph from 2009*)



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In the intervening months after the evacuation of Private Kane from *Suvla Bay* the Newfoundland Battalion had seen its service at *Gallipoli* brought to a conclusion, this to be eventually followed by its transfer to the *Western Front*.

On the night of December 19-20, the British had abandoned the area of *Suvla Bay* – the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, to form a part of the rear-guard. Some of the Battalion personnel was to be evacuated to the nearby island of Imbros, and some to Lemnos, further away, but in neither case would the respite be of a long duration; the 1st Battalion had been transferred only two days later to re-enforce the failure at *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 in the picture. – photograph from 2011*)

The British and the Anzac forces – the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps were also to serve at *Gallipoli* – had now been only marking time until a complete withdrawal of the Peninsula would be undertaken. This operation had taken place on the night of January 8-9, and the Newfoundland Battalion was to provide some of the rear-guard for this second withdrawal as well*.



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

**Lieutenant Owen Steele of St. John's, Newfoundland, is cited as having been the last soldier of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to step into the final small boat to sail from the Gallipoli Peninsula.*

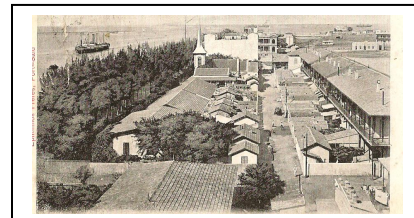


(Right above: *The same 'W' Beach almost a century after its abandonment by British forces and by the Newfoundlanders who were the last soldiers off the beach: vestiges of the wharves in the black-and-white picture are still to be seen. – photograph from 2011*)

(Right below: *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 the British evacuation of the entire *Gallipoli Peninsula* in January of 1916, the 1st Battalion had been sent to the Egyptian port-city of Alexandria, having arrived there on the 15th of that month. The Newfoundlanders were thence to be immediately transferred southward to Suez, one of the ports at the southern end of the canal which bears the same name, there to await further orders as, at the time, the subsequent destination of the British 29th Division to which the 1st Battalion was attached had not yet been decided*.



(Right: *Port Tewfiq at the south end of the Suez Canal just prior to the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)

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

On March 14, the Newfoundlanders had taken ship through Port Tewfiq, also at the southern end of the *Suez Canal*, for the French port of Marseilles, and had disembarked there on March 22, en route to the *Western Front*.



(Right: *British troops march through the port area of the French city of Marseilles. – from a vintage*

(continued)

Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Newfoundland Battalion's train would arrive at the small provincial town of Pont-Rémy, a thousand kilometres to the north of Marseilles. It had been a cold, miserable journey, the blankets provided for the troops having travelled unused in a separate wagon. De-training at the local station at two in the morning, the Newfoundlanders still were to have a long march ahead of them before they would reach their billets at Buigny l'Abbé.

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

It is doubtful if many of those tired soldiers were to pay much attention to the slow-moving stream flowing under the bridge over which they had marched on their way from the station. But some three months later, *the Somme* would have become a part of their history.

On April 13, the Newfoundland Battalion paraded into the village of Englebelmer – perhaps some fifty kilometres in all from Pont-Rémy. There its personnel would be billeted, would receive reinforcements and, in two days' time, would be introduced into the trenches of the *Western Front*.

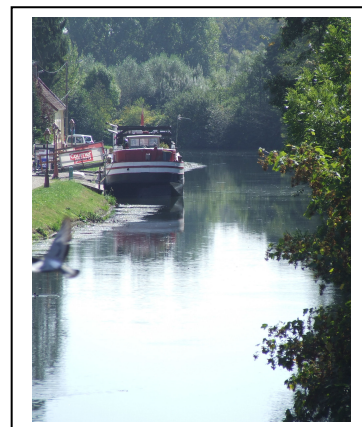
For the remainder of the spring of 1916, the Newfoundlanders were to be preparing for the British campaign of that upcoming summer, the battles to be fought on the ground named for the languid, meandering river flowing through the region, and over which the parent unit of the 1st Battalion had marched only some few weeks previously at Pont-Rémy: *the Somme*.

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

If there is one name and one date in Newfoundland history which is etched in the collective once-national memory, it is that of *Beaumont-Hamel* on July 1 of 1916; and if any numbers are remembered they are those of the eight-hundred who went over *the top* in the third wave of the attack on that morning, and of the sixty-eight unwounded present at muster some twenty-four hours later*.

**Perhaps ironically, the majority of the Battalion's casualties was sustained while advancing 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.*

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

In fact, Beaumont-Hamel was a commune – it still exists today – at the time comprising two communities: Beaumont, a village on the German side of the lines, and Hamel which was behind those of the British. No-Man’s-Land, on which the Newfoundland Memorial Park lies partially today, was on land that separated Beaumont from Hamel.



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 would prove to be the biggest disaster ever in the annals of the British Army...and, perhaps worse, it was to continue for the next four and a half months.

After the events of the morning of July 1, 1916, such had then been 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 - 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 Mailly-Maillet.

There on July 11, that draft of one-hundred twenty-seven re-enforcements – a returning Private Kane among its ranks - 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 confusion and pure folly of July 1, 1916, 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 – 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.

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(Right: *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*)



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

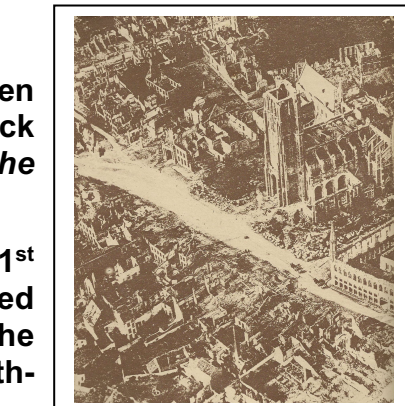
The Salient – close to the front lines for almost the entire fifty-two month conflict - was to be relatively quiet during the time of the Newfoundlanders' posting there; yet they nonetheless incurred casualties, a number – fifteen? - of them fatal.

Then on October 8, after having served in Belgium for some ten weeks, the 1st Battalion had followed orders 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.

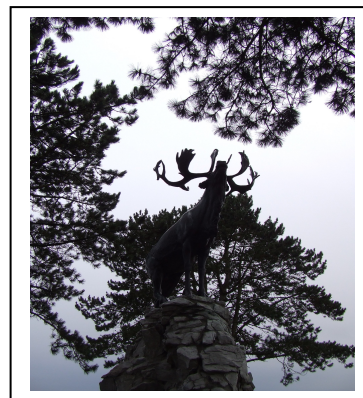
The encounter had proved to be another costly affair – two hundred and thirty-nine casualties all told - for little gain.

(Right: *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*)



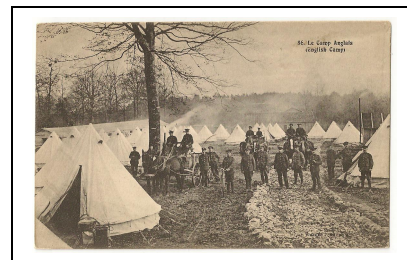
After Gueudecourt, the Newfoundland Battalion was to continue its watch in and out of the trenches of *the Somme* – not without casualties – during the late fall and early winter, a period to be broken only by the several weeks spent in *Corps Reserve* during the Christmas period. It was a time during which the Regimental personnel was to be encamped well behind the lines and in close proximity to the city of Amiens.

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



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.

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

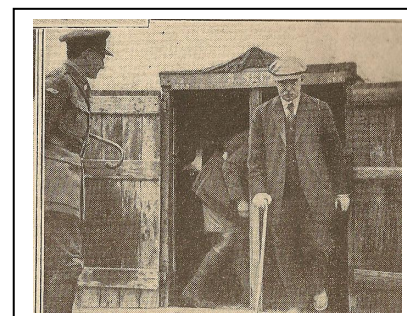


The only infantry activity directly involving the 1st Battalion during that entire period – from the action at Gueudecourt in mid-October of 1916, until Monchy-le-Preux in April of 1917 – was to be the sharp engagement at Sailly-Saillisel at the end of February and beginning of March, an action which would bring this episode in the Newfoundlanders' War – in the area of *the Somme* - to a close.



(Right: *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 was to be a quiet time for the Newfoundlanders; having departed from the trenches, they had now spent their time in the encampments 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.



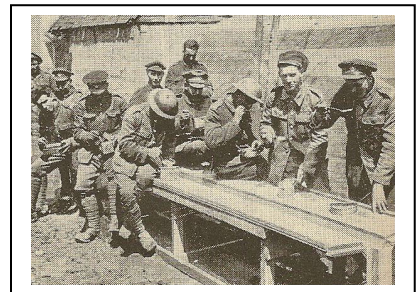
While the British campaign would prove an overall disappointment, the French *Bataille du Chemin des Dames* was to be yet a further disaster.

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. One of those MMs for the engagement was to be 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 already-noted confrontation of April 23 at *Les Fosses Farm*. The engagement 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.

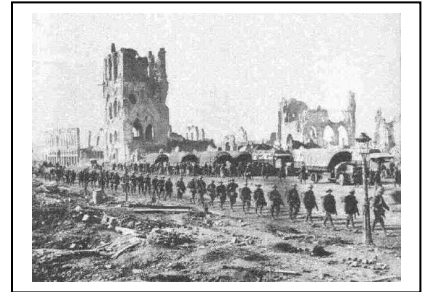
May of 1917 had then been a period when the Newfoundland unit was to be ordered hither and thither on the *Arras Front*, in and out of the trenches. Apart from the ever-present artillery duelling, there appears to have been little infantry activity undertaken by the unit – apart from the marching. At the beginning of June, the 1st Battalion retired from the forward area to Bonneville and was to spend its time re-enforcing, re-organizing and training for the upcoming British offensive of the summer – and as it transpired, of the autumn as well.



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

(continued)

The Newfoundlanders had then soon once again been moving north into Belgium – at the end of June - and once again into the area of Ypres – *the Salient*. This low-lying ground had been selected by the High Command to be the theatre of the British summer offensive of 1917.



(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*)

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.



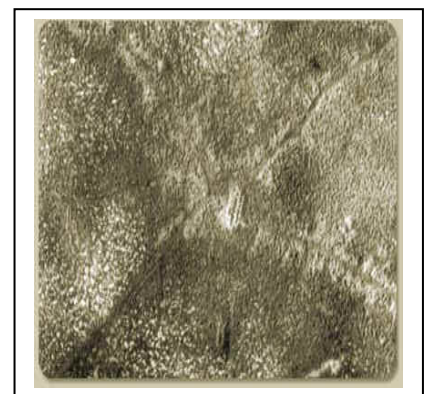
(Right above: *An unidentified – perhaps unidentifiable – part of the Passchendaele battlefield in the autumn of 1917 – from Illustration*)

(Right: *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.

Notably the Newfoundland Battalion at *Passchendaele* was to fight in two major engagements: at the *Steenbeek* on August 16; and at the *Broembeek* 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*)

Apparently during this period, on or about September 17, Private Kane was to receive a parcel which had been addressed to Private Robert Hickey (Regimental Number 1309). Private Hickey (see elsewhere in these files) had been reported as having *died of wounds* on April 15 after the fighting of Monchy-le-Preux. The two had been friends and it was Private Hickey's mother whose request this had been.

(Right: *An otherwise innocuous-looking stream, the Broembeek was to overflow its banks in the autumn of 1917, transforming its surrounds into a quagmire. – photograph from 2010*)



A week after the encounter of October 9 at the *Broembeek*, the Newfoundlanders were to be withdrawn from the *Passchendaele* Campaign in order to prepare for yet another upcoming offensive: the *Battle of Cambrai*. The 1st Battalion was ordered to move back south from Belgium on October 17 into northern France, there to re-enforce, to organize and to train in the vicinity of Berles-au-Bois, a small community a dozen kilometres or so to the south-west of the city of Arras.

That so-called *Battle of Cambrai* was to last for barely three weeks, from November 20 of that 1917 until December 4, the Newfoundlanders directly involved at all times during that period. The battle would begin well for the British who used tanks on a large scale for the first time; but, as had happened on prior occasions, opportunities were squandered and by the close of it, the British had relinquished as much territory to German counter-attacks as they had gained.



The Newfoundland Battalion was again dealt with severely, at Marcoing and at Masnières - where a Caribou stands today: of the total of five-hundred fifty-eight officers and men who had advanced into battle on November 20, two-hundred forty-eight were to become casualties by the end of the following day.

(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 initial day of the Battle of Cambrai. – photograph from 2009*)

(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 this was ever achieved is at best controversial. – photograph from 2012*)



The son of Patrick Kane, District Chief of the Western Fire Hall, and of Bridget Kane (née *Crotty*)* – to whom he had willed his all - of 43, Job Street in St. John's, he was also brother to John-Joseph, to Rose, Nicholas-Alexander, Patrick-Joseph, to Hugh-Edward and – according to the 1921 Census but not the Roman Catholic Parish Records – to Mary and to Annie. There may also have been a 'Baby Kane' born in 1886.

**The couple are recorded as having married on January 27, 1885.*

Private Kane was at first reported as *missing in action* on December 3, 1917, in the actions during the hard-fought retreat near the French villages of Masnières and Marcoing.

However, in an official German list subsequently received via the offices of the Red Cross in the Swiss city of Geneva, he was reported as having been *buried in Seranvilles Military Cemetery* – apparently never to be found - almost immediately after the recapture of the area by the Germans. Private Kane's personal record was thus amended so as to read *killed in action or died of wounds on or shortly after December 3, 1917.*



George Thomas Kane had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty years: date of birth in St. John's, Newfoundland, November 1, 1893 (from Roman Catholic Parish Records).

As, however, Private Kane has no known last resting-place, it is like that the cemetery was destroyed in later fighting as happened in a goodly number of instances.

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

(Right above: A family memorial which stands in Belvedere Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. John's commemorates the sacrifice of Private Kane. – photograph from 2015)



Private George Thomas Kane was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).



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 13, 2023.