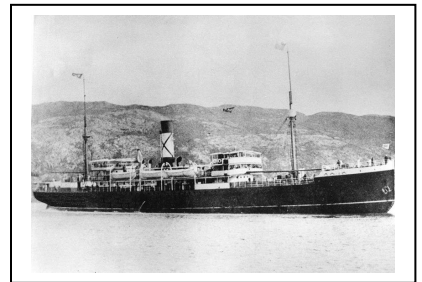


Lance Corporal Henry (also known as *Harry*) Tilley (Regimental Number 307), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated on the bronze beneath the Caribou in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont-Hamel.



His occupation previous to enlistment recorded as that of an *upholsterer* and *cabinet-maker* working for *J. Daymond, Cabinet Makers*, and earning a weekly eight dollars, Henry Tilley was to be a recruit of the First Draft. Having presented himself for medical examination on September 6, 1914, at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* on Harvey Road in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, he was to be found by the Medical Officer as...*fit for foreign service*.

Henry Tilley then enlisted at the same venue two days later – engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem (of which a daily ten cents was considered to be a field allowance).



Some three weeks later again – having trained during that interim period - Private Tilley attested on October 1 before then embarking on October 3 with the other recruits of the *First Five Hundred* onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Florizel* awaiting the contingent in St. John's Harbour.

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division across the Atlantic.



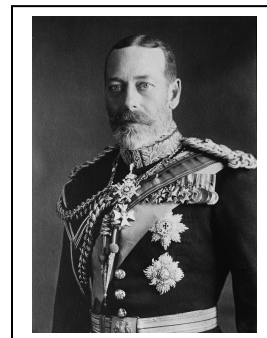
(Right above: *Fort George, constructed in the latter half of the eighteenth century, still serves the British Army to this day. – photograph from 2011*)

In the United Kingdom Private Tilley 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.



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

At the beginning of that August of 1915, the four senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', were then sent south 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 provide the nucleus of the newly-forming 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion.



(Right: *George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India* – photograph from *Bain News Services* via *Wikipedia*)

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

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, comprising those four Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', was thereupon attached to the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division of the (British) Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.*

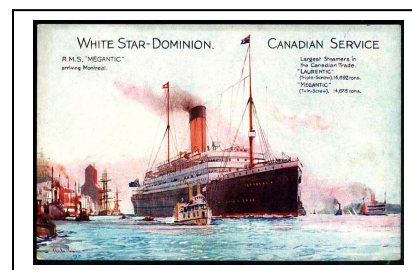
It had then been during the period spent at Aldershot that Private Tilley of 'B' Company – he was not alone in doing so - had been prevailed upon, he on August 13, to re-enlist *for the duration of the war\**.

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



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

On August 20, 1915, Private Tilley and his comrades-in-arms 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at *Suvla Bay* on the *Gallipoli Peninsula*.



(continued)

(Preceding page: *The image of Megantic, in peace-time a 'White Star Line' vessel, is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)



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



(Right: *Newfoundland troops on board a troop-ship anchored at Mudros: the vessel must be one of three, either Megantic on August 29, Ausonia on September 18, or Prince Abbas on September 19 – Whichever the case, they were yet to land on Gallipoli. – from Provincial Archives*)

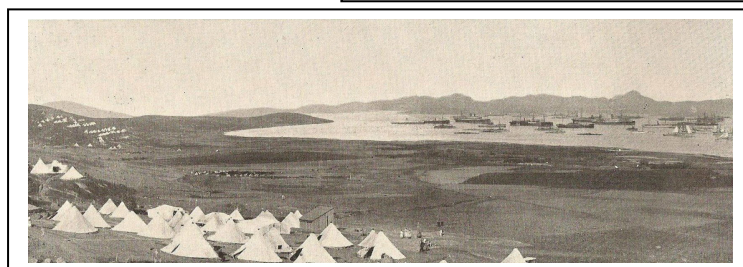
(Right: *A century later, the area shown, little changed from those far-off days, is that of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla Bay, and where the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was to serve during the autumn of 1915 – photograph from 2011*)



\* \* \* \* \*

Whether Private Tilley was, in fact, among those who landed at *Suvla Bay* is not clear.

If he were, then he was surely evacuated almost immediately afterwards since he was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Stationary Hospital at Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos on that same date, September 20, 1915 - another source has the 25<sup>th</sup>.



Either that or he remained on Lemnos when the Battalion changed ships at *Mudros Bay* on September 19 before the final fifty-kilometre run into the beaches.

Whatever the case, by that time Private Tilley was suffering from diarrhoea, subsequently diagnosed as only a side effect of the real problem: dysentery.

(Right above: *A busy Mudros Harbour, Lemnos, in 1915, showing some of the many Allied medical units – mostly under canvas as in the foreground – that were eventually established there – photograph from Illustration*)

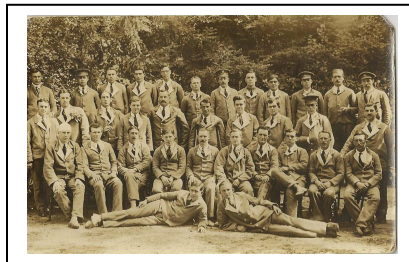
Some four weeks later, Private Tilley was invalided on an unspecified hospital ship from the Middle East back to the United Kingdom and there admitted into the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital in the southern Borough of Wandsworth, on October 27, 1915.

(continued)

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



**(Right below: *A group of unfortunately unidentified Newfoundland patients convalescing at in the grounds of the 3<sup>rd</sup> LGH at Wandsworth – by courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)**



Following his convalescence Private Tilley was granted the customary ten-day furlough accorded to military personnel released from hospital. It was a furlough – dated from November 12 to 21 – most or all of which was apparently spent in Edinburgh, at the residence of a Mrs Kenneth MacLennon of 6, Clunie Gardens.

Following this interlude, Private Tilley was posted to the Regimental Depot at Ayr on the west coast of Scotland; he was to report *to duty* with the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion there on November 22, 1915.

The Depot had been established as a base for the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment some four months previously, during the summer of 1915, and it was from there – as of November of 1915 up until January of 1918 - that reinforcements were to be despatched to bolster the numbers of the four fighting Companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. At the time of Private Tilley's arrival there, the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft had just sailed to the Middle East; a second contingent would follow in March; but thereafter all would be posted to the Western Front.



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

Private Tilley was now to spend some fifteen months at Ayr before being recalled *to duty* with the Newfoundland Battalion and it was during this period spent at the Regimental Depot that on December 5 of 1916 that he received a promotion: to the junior non-commissioned officer's rank of lance corporal.

It was then not to be until the first day of February, 1917, that Lance Corporal Tilley embarked with the 17<sup>th</sup> Re-enforcement Draft from Ayr, in the English south-coast port-city of Southampton en route for Rouen, capital city of Normandy, where the British Expeditionary Force had its large continental Base Depot. Having arrived in France on February 2, the newcomers were now to spend some time undergoing final training and organization\* before moving on to their rendezvous with the parent unit.

(continued)

(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.*

Lance Corporal Tilley re-joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on February 17 in the vicinity of the community of Coisy, there to report *to duty* as one of the draft of fifty-nine *other ranks* – for the most part *returning wounded* - which arrived from Rouen on that day. At this time the Newfoundlander unit had been withdrawn from the front...*for rest* – although the Regimental War Diary reports daily running and rapid marching, as well as training in sniping, the use of a Lewis gun, bombs (hand-grenades), and rifle grenades.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of the month the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion moved forward into the trenches once more.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the meantime, during the term of Private - later Lance Corporal – Tilley's absence from service with the Newfoundland Battalion, the unit had been active, at first on the *Gallipoli Peninsula* and then on the *Western Front*.

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

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



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

November 26 was to see a freak rain-, snow- and ice-storm strike the *Suvla Bay* area and the subsequent floods had wreaked havoc amongst both the British and Turkish forces. For several days, survival rather than the enemy was to be the priority.

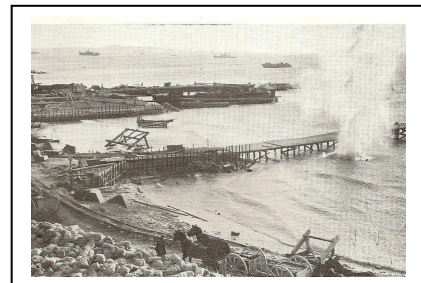
There had been a high number of casualties on both sides, some of them, surprised by the sudden inundation of their positions, fatalities who had drowned in their trenches – although no Newfoundlanders were to be among that number. Numerous, however, were those inflicted by trench-foot and by frost-bite.

On the night of December 19-20, the British had abandoned the area of *Suvla Bay* – the Newfoundlanders, the only non-British unit to serve there, to form a part of the rear-guard. Some of the Battalion personnel had been evacuated to the nearby island of *Imbros*, some to *Lemnos*, further away, but in neither case was the respite to be of a long duration; the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 providing 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 – 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*)

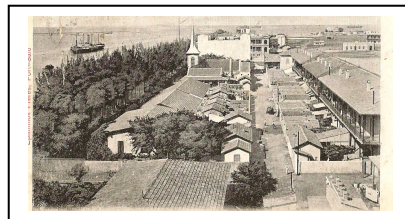
When the British had evacuated the entire *Gallipoli Peninsula* in January of 1916, the Newfoundland Battalion was to be ordered to the Egyptian port-city *Alexandria*, having arrived there on the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month. The Newfoundlanders were then to be immediately transferred southward to *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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.*

(Preceding page: *The British destroy their supplies during the final evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The men of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had boarded His Majesty's Transport *Alaunia* at Port Tewfiq on March 14 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*)

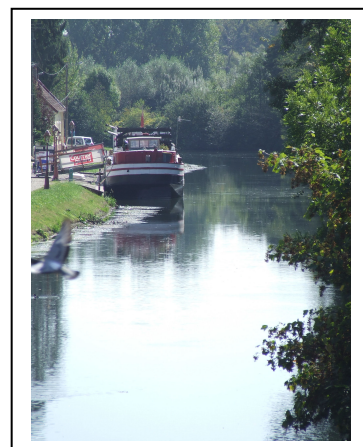
(Right: *British troops march through the port area of the French city of Marseilles. – from a vintage post-card*)



Some three days after the unit's disembarkation on March 22, the Newfoundland Battalion's 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.

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

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



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

On April 13, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and, in two days' time, would be introduced into the communication trenches of the *Western Front*.

Just days later 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 then to move further up into forward positions on the *Western Front* for the first time, on April 22.

(continued)

***\*It should be said that the Newfoundland Battalion and two-hundred men of the Bermuda Rifles who were serving at the time in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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\*.



***\*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.***

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

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

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



***(Right: Beaumont-Hamel is a commune, not a village. – 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.***





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 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 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

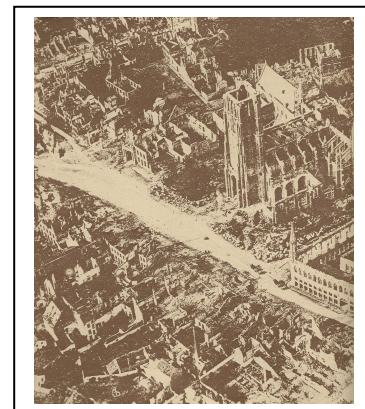
(Right: *The entrance to 'A' Company's quarters – obviously renovated since that time - in the ramparts of the city of Ypres when it was posted there in 1916 – photograph from 2010*)



The Newfoundlanders had been ordered into the *Ypres Salient*, one of the most dangerous pieces of real estate on the entire *Western Front*, there to continue to re-enforce and to re-organize after the ordeal of Beaumont-Hamel

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

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



(continued)

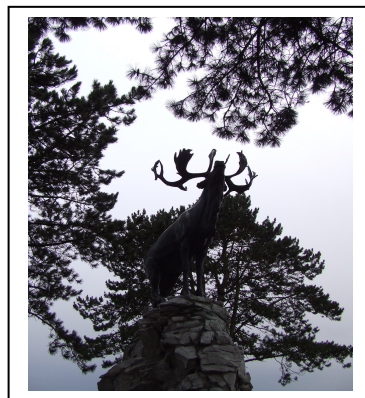
Then on October 8, after having served in Belgium for some ten weeks, the Newfoundland unit had been ordered to return south, back into France and back into the area of – and the battle of – *the Somme*.



Four days after its return to France, on October 12, 1916, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

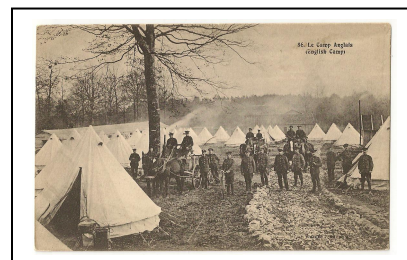
(Right above: *This is the ground over which the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion advanced and then mostly conceded at Gueudecourt on October 12. Some few managed to reach the area where today stand the copse of trees and the Gueudecourt Caribou, on the far right horizon.* – photograph from 2007)



(Right: *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.

And, as has been recorded above, it was during this winter period of 1917, on February 17 during a period of training in the area of Coisy, that Lance Corporal Tilley and his reinforcement draft from Rouen had reported *to duty* with the Newfoundland Battalion.

\* \* \* \* \*

(continued)

The only infantry activity which was to directly involve the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during the 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. This was the engagement 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion encamped at Meaulté – from The War Illustrated*)

On March 29, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



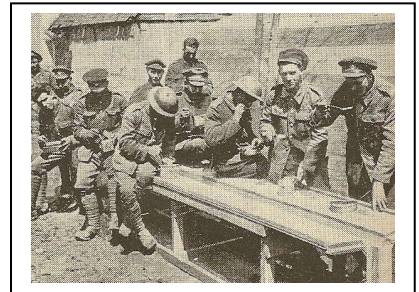
While the British campaign would prove an overall disappointment, the French *Bataille du Chemin des Dames* was to be yet a further disaster.

(continued)

The 1<sup>st</sup> 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\*.

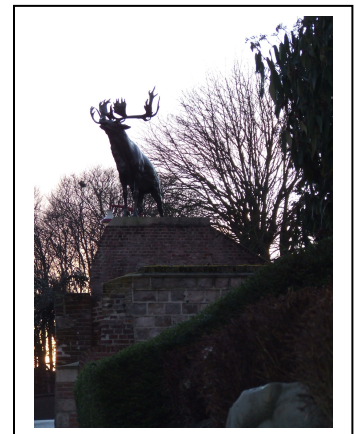


*\*It was also an action in which a DSO, an MC and eight MMs were won by a small group of nine personnel of the Battalion – the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) awarded to the unit's Commanding officer. An MM for the same action was also presented to a private from the Essex Regiment .*



(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*)

The son of William James Tilley, carpenter and miner, and of Selina Tilley (née *Andrews*)\* of 46, Pennywell Road in the city of St. John's, he was also brother to at least Laura(?), Mabel-Maria, Kathleen-Maud, Lizzie and to Phoebe.



*\*The couple was married in Topsail on January 12, 1888. Their children were born in Kelligrews where the family was resident at the time.*

Lance Corporal Tilley was reported as *missing in action* on April 14, 1917, while fighting at Monchy-le-Preux during the *Battle of Arras*. Some thirty weeks later, on November 17, 1917, he was officially *presumed dead*.



Henry Tilley had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-four years. The year of his birth is recorded by *Ancestry.ca* as having been 1890.

(Right above: *The Caribou at Monchy-le-Preux stands in the centre of the village community atop the vestiges of a German strong-point. – photograph from 2012*)

(The above photograph of Private Tilley is from the *Provincial Archives*.)

(Right: *A memorial – to the right – in the family plot in the Old Anglican Cemetery on Forest Road, St. John's, commemorates the sacrifice of Lance Corporal Tilley. – photograph from 2015*)



(continued)

Lance Corporal Henry Tilley 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).



Boston  
Somerset

Road

Hawkshill  
Ayr  
Scotland  
18/5/17

Capt Timewell

Dear Sir

excuse me writing you but I would be very much obliged to you if you could give me any information concerning L/Cpl Harry Tilley 307 1/1<sup>st</sup> Nfld. Regt. B.E.F. France. - as I have been told he has been posted as missing & now his name does not appear on the sheet. I would be obliged if you could tell me if he is a prisoner or wounded or killed. - trusting I will have a reply from you at your earliest.

Yours sincerely  
Kate Glen

**Noted on letter – Missing, No other news**

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to [criceadam@yahoo.ca](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – February 11, 2023.

