



Private Arthur Helroyd Wyatt (Regimental Number 8130) of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps is interred with Private Gerald Hogan in Kenmore Churchyard in Scotland.

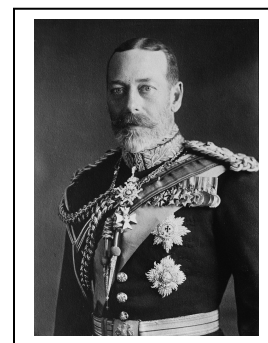
His occupations prior to his enlistment recorded as those of *lumberman*, *blacksmith* and also, later, *clerk*, Arthur Helroyd Wyatt enlisted in the central Newfoundland industrial town of Grand Falls on May 10 of 1917. He was engaged *for the duration of the war* at the rate of pay, \$1.00 per diem, of a private soldier, to which would be appended a daily ten-cent Field Allowance.**

(continued)

****The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

*****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. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the ‘Duration’ at the time of their original enlistment.***

Whether or not he was at this time to undergo the medical assessment mandatory for all recruits into the Armed Forces is not to be found among his papers, but on the day following his enlistment, May 11, Arthur Helroyd Wyatt attested, swearing an oath of allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon he officially entered into the service of the King.



(Right: George V, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India – the photograph is taken from the Bain News Services as presented by the Wikipedia web-site.

As will be seen further below, Private Wyatt (Number 8130) was to marry on July 19, ten weeks following his enlistment. There appear to be no records of his doings during that interim although his given address on or about the above-mentioned May 10-11 was Traytown, Alexander Bay, in the District of Bonavista Bay.

Thus he could not have departed St. John’s with the contingent of May 19 or that of early June (which may not have included *Foresters*)*. But on August 4 the Bowring Brothers vessel *Florizel* sailed for Halifax, the first stage of her commercial service to New York. On board were re-enforcements destined for the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment serving at the time on the continent of Europe and there were also some recruits for the Newfoundland Forestry Corps, the first detachments of that unit already in Scotland.

****Nicholson in his book ‘The Fighting Newfoundlander’ states that a unit of Foresters left home for overseas during the month of July under the command of the newly-commissioned Major Sullivan. This, however, appears not to be so and Major Sullivan, according to his own documents, was in fact charged with accompanying the re-enforcements of August 4 mentioned in the above paragraph. (Incidentally, he was apparently later to be one of the survivors of the sinking of the ‘Florizel’.)***

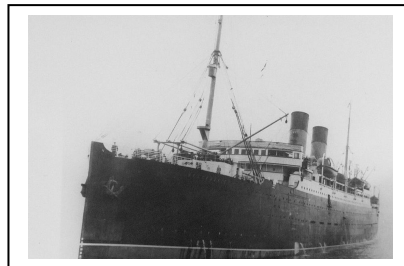
Once in Halifax the Newfoundlanders were to be quartered in the *Halifax Armoury*, but even at the time the officer in charge, Major Carty, does not appear to have been sure as to when his charges were to board ship – or which ship – for passage to the United Kingdom.



(Right: The Halifax Armoury, its construction begun in 1895, is still an imposing edifice in the city of Halifax to this day. – photograph from 2019)

The vessel may have been 'Missanabie' but this has been difficult to confirm. And by the end of August, whether they were busy chopping down trees or still at the Regimental Depot at Ayr awaiting events has also been difficult to ascertain.

(Right: *The image of Missanabie is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site. A new vessel in 1914, she was a ship of the Canadian Pacific (Railway) Company. She was one of many requisitioned larger ocean-going vessels to carry troops from Canada to overseas service in the United Kingdom, unlike her sister-ship Metagama which continued to serve commercial routes during the War. On September 9, 1918, while crossing from Liverpool to New York, Missanabie was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland with the loss of forty-five lives.*)



Arriving – if it were on *Missanabie* ,– likely in the English west-coast port of Liverpool, on August 27 the Newfoundland contingent entrained for the west coast of Scotland. By this time, the Regimental Depot at Ayr had already been in existence as the base for reinforcements from home – these in the Spring of 1916 to form the nucleus of 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment - for some two years. It was from here – since November of 1915 and then 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.

The Foresters of course were bound eventually for elsewhere in Scotland.

(Right: *An aerial view of Ayr – probably from the period between the Wars: Newton-on Ayr is to the left of the River Ayr and the Royal Borough is to the right. – courtesy of the Carnegie Library at Ayr*)



The Forestry men were to remain at Ayr until such time as prospective sites for felling had been seen and decided upon. The axe was to fall first on the area of Dunkeld, to the north of Perth and in the area where the Highlands begin.

The terrain to be used was a part of the estate of the *Duchy of Atholl*, some of the forest being the *Birnam Wood* which...*shall come to Dunsinane...*, made famous in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.



Later, as the forests on the Duke of Atholl's estate began to become depleted, the operations of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps were moved further up the Tay Valley to the area of Kenmore and onto the estate of the Marquis of Breadalbane.

(Right above: *The River Tay seen here as it flows through the community of Dunkeld. The Newfoundland Forestry Corps at first worked here, on the hills that one sees in the distance. – photograph from 2011*)

(Right below: *Dalguise Castle, sited within a distance of two or three kilometres or so of the Forestry Corps' logging operations – and apparently associated with the Beatrix Potter stories – was offered by its owner as an infirmary for the Newfoundland loggers. – photograph from 2011*)

It was not easy work and three men accidentally died while serving with the Corps in Scotland during this time. Private Wyatt was one of them.

He was the son of William Wyatt, manager of *Wyatt Bros., Wheelwrights and General Blacksmiths*, and of Catharine Wyatt*, of 5-7, Barter's Hill, in the City, and resident of 13, Monroe Street.

**Whether she was still living at the time of her son's enlistment is not certain, but her name figures nowhere among Private Wyatt's documents.*

Private Wyatt, his own address at the time of enlistment given as Traytown, Alexander Bay, was also the husband of Mabel Julia Wyatt (née *Pike**), at the time of 42 Flower Hill, St. John's, she later resident of 68, Livingstone Street.



**The couple had married in St. John's on July 19 of 1917, and apparently was to have no children.*

Private Wyatt was reported as having been...*accidentally drowned*...on December 10, 1918, while on duty in Scotland.

Arthur Helroyd Wyatt had enlisted at the *declared* age of forty-two years and four months, his age likely the reason for enlisting in the Forestry Corps: date of birth on Prince Edward Island, January 8, 1877 (from a Prince Edward Island birth register).

Private Arthur Helroyd Wyatt was entitled to the British War Medal for his *overseas service*.



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 – January 30, 2023.