



# The Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum

Museum Newsletter

Volume I Issue II

August 2017

## In This Issue...

### *Remembering The Fallen*

The Newfoundland Book of Remembrance has copies on both sides of the World, and all are set to the same strict schedule.

### *Fall Hours 2017*

With Summer coming to a close, the Museum's hours are changing!

### *Becoming Royalty*

The Newfoundland Regiment's title and how it came to be.

### *Regiments of the Past*

Part 1 of a 7-part series on the past incarnations of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment

### *Gift Shop Updates*

We've got new inventory in our 'Kit' Shop!

### *Upcoming Events*

We're participating in Doors Open Days again this year!



## Remembering the Fallen

*The Set Schedule of Remembrance from The Peace Tower to Beaumont-Hamel*

According to Veterans Affairs, the idea for the "Books of Remembrance" came after the original plan for a memorial list on Parliament Hill was scrapped. On July 1, 1917, Sir Robert Borden chose an area of the Centre Block of Parliament to act as a "memorial to the debt of our forefathers and to the valour of those Canadians who, in the Great War, fought for the liberties of Canada, of the Empire, and of humanity." The original plan for the Memorial came after the Prince of Wales laid the corner stone for what was then known as "The Tower of Victory and Peace", in 1919. The idea was to have all of the names of the Canadians who sacrificed their lives written on the walls of the Memorial Chamber. The planners quickly realized there wouldn't be enough room, and after a suggestion from Colonel A. Fortesque Duguid, DSO, the Books of Remembrance were born.

Officially, there are seven Books of Remembrance housed in what is known today as 'The Peace Tower', on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, with an eighth in production. Five books represents a different conflict where Canadian lives were lost: South Africa/The Nile Expedition, the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, and the 'In Service of Canada' Book of Remembrance. One is filled with names of the Canadians who served in the Merchant Navy during the First and Second World Wars, and the eighth in production is for the War of 1812. It's the seventh is the one of the most significance to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

...Continued on Page 4

## Fall Hours 2017

Fall Hours are in effect as of Tuesday, September 5, 2017. The Museum will be open to the public during the following times:

**Tuesdays 6pm - 9pm**

**Thursdays 6pm - 9pm\***

**Saturdays 10am - 4pm**

*\*As the Museum is run by volunteers, it would be best to call ahead on Thursdays before heading to the Museum.*

As always, appointments can be made to see the Museum outside of these hours, but the appointments must be made in advance. Appointments can be made by calling the Museum and leaving a message (709-733-3910) or by emailing [rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com).

The Museum's Summer hours ended Saturday, August 26, and the Museum Committee would like to thank all this Summer's visitors for making it such a wonderful Summer.

**Please Note:** The Museum will be closed to the public from Sunday, August 27 to Monday, September 4, 2017. If you would like to visit the Museum during this time, please make an appointment by emailing [rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com) with the time and date you would prefer.

*Thank you for a wonderful summer, and we hope to see you in the Fall!*

## Becoming Royalty

### *How the Newfoundland Regiment Came to Be "Royal"*

While many forms of the Newfoundland Regiment have been allowed to bear the "Royal" title, the Regiment of the First World War perhaps has the most impressive story behind it. The Regiment had been going above and beyond since entering battle for the first time in 1915 at Gallipoli, and by the end of 1917, many people were starting to take notice. Especially after their efforts in Ypres and Cambrai, then-Governor Sir Walter Davidson requested that the Regiment be awarded the title of "Royal".

By early December 1917, His Majesty King George V notified the new Governor, Sir Charles Alexander Harris, that they had indeed been awarded the title. The title was officially promulgated in February of 1918. Considering the number of incarnations of the Regiment that have held the title "Royal", it may be easy to mistake this for common practice. However, the Newfoundland Regiment of the First World War was in fact only the third Regiment to have been awarded the title Royal *during* hostilities, and the *only* regiment during the entirety of the First World War. The other two instances occurred in 1695 and 1885.

Today's Regiment was remustered in 1949 as part of the terms of confederation, and in November 1949 King George VI granted the title of "Royal" to the newly reformed regiment. They still bear the title today. ■

Right: The original insert to the Newfoundland Regiment's colours, given to them at Stob's Camp, June 10, 1915. It was removed and replaced upon being awarded the title "Royal".



# Regiments of the Past – Part One:

## His Majesty's Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Foot

Part One of a Seven-Part Series on the Incarnations of "The Royal Newfoundland Regiment"

---

His Majesty's Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Foot takes its official birthdate as April 25, 1795. Permission had been given by the crown for Captain Thomas Skinner of the Royal Engineers to raise a Fencibles Infantry of 600 men for various garrisons on the island. Troops were from the garrison but also from local volunteers - a fact that would cause problems later in the Regiment's career. Officers were taken from other regiments, and other notable men from town were tapped to lead. By 1796, official roll had the Regiment listed as having:

33 officers and 615 men, of which:

- 77 of these men were stationed on Signal Hill
- 33 were stationed on South Side
- 5 were stationed at Quidi Vidi
- 40 were stationed at Placentia

Due to accommodations shortages in the city of St. John's, expansions to barracks were added to Fort William, Fort Townshend, and Signal Hill.

This incarnation of the Regiment was not to have a glorious ending, though. Issues had plagued the Regiment and their forts for quite some time, with devastating crop failures and other disasters causing damage. Desertions had reached a record high, and dissent was growing among the ranks. By April 1800, at least fifty men had been found to be sympathizers of the United Irish Movement. A plot between these men had been discovered, wherein they would abandon their posts, and meet at the powder magazine behind Fort Townshend. Only around ten-twelve managed to get off Signal Hill before the alarm sounded. Several were also able to get away from Fort Townshend, but the plot was ultimately a failure. The mutineers were caught, and sixteen were sentenced to hang at a make-shift gallows at the Powder Magazine (today the area is occupied by Belvedere Street). The rest of the Regiment was sent to Halifax in July 1800 on a prison ship at the request of General Skerret, the current Commanding Officer. He had begun to question the Regiment's loyalty, considering almost the entire Regiment was of Irish descent. The remainder of the mutineers were supposedly forced to march behind their own coffins en route to Fort George on Citadel Hill. Eight were spared and instead given life sentences, while three more were hanged in front of the entire garrison.

Only the grenadier and light infantry companies were allowed to stay in Newfoundland. As well, the Duke of Kent sent over the 66th Regiment of Foot to Newfoundland.

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Foot then provided garrison duties in Halifax until 1802, at which time the Regiment was completely disbanded with the signing of the Treat of Amiens. ■



Pictured Above:  
Museum mannequin  
wearing the uniform of  
His Majesty's Royal  
Newfoundland Regiment  
of Foot, circa 1795.



*Continued from page 1...*

The Newfoundland Book of Remembrance contains the names of the Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First and Second World Wars, but includes many others from other conflicts who made the ultimate sacrifice before the province joined confederation.

The dedication within the book reads:

"To the Newfoundlanders  
who  
steadfast and true  
answered the call of duty and  
died in the defence of freedom  
1914-1949."

Along with the names of those who died, there are also special pages for major battles and actions that the Newfoundlanders faced. Examples include Gallipoli, Beaumont-Hamel, and the various Second World War campaigns including North Africa and Italy.

The original copy of the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance sits within the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, and a replica sits in the Confederation Building in St. John's. Since its original creation, more replicas have been produced and placed in places of particular

relevance to the men who lost their lives. Such places include in the Arts & Administration atrium at Memorial University of Newfoundland, the visitor's centre memorial chamber at Beaumont-Hamel, at the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Museum, and numerous Royal Canadian Legion branches across the province.

With so many copies of the Book in existence and so many pages and names inside, a schedule was created to ensure all names are seen throughout the year. Every single day from January 1 through to December 31 is accounted for on the schedule. Every day, the schedule is checked, and the pages are supposed to be changed at 11 a.m.. Many of the scheduled pages reflect a particular event, such as the Battle of the Atlantic, the outbreak of the First World War, and on the days surrounding July 1, pages are scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of Beaumont-Hamel.

To find out when your loved one's name is open, go to To view the book, visit the Museum during our new Fall hours, or schedule an appointment. ■ *Lest We Forget.*

---

## Gift Shop

**New Inventory has Arrived!**



**NEW** Embroidered T-Shirts, S-XL .... \$25 +tx  
*Sizes 2XL and 3XL available for \$30 +tx*

**BACK IN STOCK** Embroidered Baseball Hats...  
\$25 +tx

**AVAILABLE SOON** Embroidered Polo Shirts

For more information on our 'Kit' Shop and souvenirs, visit us at the Museum during our opening hours, or visit our Facebook Page, and look under "Shop"!

# Upcoming Events: September 2017



Join us at we participate in Doors Open Days again this year!

Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

We'll have authors, experts, contests, special exhibits,  
and more!

As always, admission is free, but a photo ID is required for adults.



Come get your books signed, your questions answered, and while you're here, pick up some souvenirs from our new inventory!

**Hope to see you there!**

# About Us

---

## WHERE

CFS St. John's

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander W. Anthony Paddon Building

The Boulevard, St. John's, NL

*As this is an active Canadian Forces Station, photo ID is required upon entry.*

## WHEN

Fall Hours 2017:

Tuesdays & Thursday 6pm - 9pm

Saturdays 10am - 4pm

*Other Times or Large Groups by Appointment*

## CONTACT

Phone: (709) 733-3910

Email: [rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rnfldrmuseum@gmail.com)

Website: [www.rnflldr.ca](http://www.rnflldr.ca)

Facebook: "The Royal Newfoundland  
Regiment Museum"

Instagram: [@rnfldrmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/rnfldrmuseum)

Twitter: [@RNFLDRmuseum](https://twitter.com/RNFLDRmuseum)

---

## INSTAGRAM CONTEST

---

Don't forget - our Instagram contest is still ongoing! Our first 100 followers\* will be entered to win a Brenda McClellan print!

*\*Contest Open to North American Residents Only*

---

We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have feedback for us? Ideas for future Newsletter stories? Is there an item from our collection you'd like to know more about? Let us know!

**Content Created By: Amber Williams, Museum Assistant**