

# Royal Newfoundland Regiment & Newfoundland Forestry Corps 1914-1918

Glenn Wright looks at records for two groups who fought for Britain in the Great War

IN 1914, NEWFOUNDLAND was a separate Dominion and while small in terms of size and population, made a significant contribution to the war effort. If the war had a dramatic effect on families all across Canada, the same can be said and more for the impact on the people of Newfoundland. On 1 July 1916, the first day of the infamous Battle of the Somme, the Newfoundland Regiment was almost completely wiped out at Beaumont Hamel. On that

fateful day, about 780 men, all ranks, entered the fray, and only 110 escaped unscathed in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Researchers interested in the soldiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (RNR) and the Newfoundland Forestry Corps (NFC) are fortunate because the service files, still in their entirety, have been digitized and are available online. Even though Newfoundlanders fought as part of the British Army and

not the CEF, the original service records are held by Library and Archives Canada. The digitized version of the records are located on the website of "The Rooms", the provincial archives of Newfoundland and Labrador as part of a very informative online exhibition, "The Newfoundland Regiment and the Great War", [www.therooms.ca](http://www.therooms.ca). The site includes an excellent historical summary of Newfoundland's contribution to the war, an overview of a typical service file with explanations of the various documents, the war diary of the RNR and much more.

The records are also available at LAC (reference: R1183-25-1) on microfilm and are searchable by surname on "Archives Search". For additional information about Newfoundlanders in the war, websites for the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, [www.rnflr.ca](http://www.rnflr.ca), and Newfoundland's Grand Banks, [www.ngb.chebucto.org](http://www.ngb.chebucto.org), are worth a visit.



*Newfoundland Regiment, No. 3 Platoon, A Company, Fort George, Scotland, ca. 1915. (Public domain. Courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL B-3-18), St. John's, Newfoundland)*