

Battles of World War 1

The Newfoundland Regiment fought in many battles throughout Europe. Here is a list of a few:

- Gallipoli, Monchy, Courtrai, Cambrai and Amiens
- ****Most famous battle: Battle of the Somme started at a place called “Beaumont Hamel”**.**

Beaumont Hamel

- The Battle of Beaumont Hamel was part of a larger battle: the Battle of the Somme.
- The Battle of Beaumont Hamel was, and still is, a very important part of the province’s history.
- The "Big Push" was a mainly British offensive on the Somme in France. The plan was to break the German defenses and clear a path for the cavalry through to the English Channel.
- It was fought by Newfoundlander’s on July 1st, 1916 in Beaumont Hamel, France.
- A huge explosion was set off at Hawthorn ridge. It was to have stunned the Germans. As noted on the Newfoundland Heritage site: “Promptly at 6:25 a.m. on July 1, the artillery bombardment began. At 7:20 a.m. the mines under Hawthorn Ridge exploded, warning the Germans that an attack was about to begin. The subsequent 10-minute delay in launching the offensive also allowed the Germans time to prepare for battle.”
- That morning 801 soldiers from the Newfoundland Regiment were ordered to advance out of their trenches and across open land called “No Man’s Land”
- No Man’s Land: The space between the front lines of the opposing forces. To get to the enemy line, soldiers crossed over into “No Man’s Land.” Those who completed the task successfully were hailed as heroes; those who were not successful usually suffered injury or loss of life.
- The soldiers of the regiment did not have the machine guns that the Germans had and as a result they suffered heavy casualties.
- The Battle only lasted 30 minutes, and the next morning, only 68 of the soldiers answered the roll call.
- **233** were dead; **386** were wounded; **91** were missing.
- July 1st was declared Memorial Day, national holiday to honor those who had died in the war.
- The national War Memorial downtown St. John’s was opened July 1st, 1924.
- The Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park in France was opened on the site June 27th, 1925.

So why is this Battle so important?

- Loss of life: many families lost brother's, fathers' sons etc.
- Incredible display of courage: pg. 131 for quote from *General Beauvoir de Lisle*.

Losses of World War 1

- Enlisted in Regiment	6240
- Died	1291
- Wounded	2314
Total returning	2635

Approximately 1 out of every 5 Newfoundland soldiers did not return from WW1.