

The Gallipollian

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The River Clyde at V Beach, 25 April, 1915
by Charles Dixon

Best wishes
Philip

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sleeping on duty, although his sentence was commuted to 5 years Penal Servitude^[7]. His company is not known. So perhaps there were on-going disciplinary problems in 5/Wilts, especially in Robins' company. If so, it may be another reason why Robins' death sentence was upheld. Unfortunately, no papers survive for either of Brooks' courts martial on Gallipoli or for that of Attwell.^[8]

NOTES

1. Throughout this note, John Robins' rank is omitted deliberately. At the date he was charged he held the rank of Serjeant but he was a Private when executed, having been reduced to the ranks as part of his sentence.
2. Autumn 2005 (No. 108) and Spring 2006 (No. 110)
3. WO71/442
4. 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment War Diary 26 August 1915.
5. WO 213/5
6. 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment War Diary 21st August 1915
7. WO 213/6
8. Brooks later returned to active service as a result of the Suspension of Sentences Act 1915. He was posted to 6/Wilts and while serving with them at Aveluy, France was sentenced to death a second time on 11 November 1916 for desertion. This sentence was commuted to 15 years penal servitude. (WO 213/12).

A NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMAN REMEMBERS GALLIPOLI

Philip E. L. Smith

In 1957 an elderly fisherman in a small village in Newfoundland read Alan Moorehead's book *Gallipoli*. It moved him to set down his own memories of the Dardanelles campaign and his sometimes strong opinions about army life. His aim was to pass on to his family the story of his experiences in the war before, during and after Gallipoli. After his death the notebooks were transcribed and circulated among family members. More recently a typescript including photographs has been made available online on a website dedicated to the military history of the former Dominion of Newfoundland. It can be found at: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/NFREG/WWI/ww1-add-morry726.shtml>

Readers may find intriguing this spontaneous recollection of life in the only North American contingent at Gallipoli. It is one of the small number of first-hand accounts by Newfoundlanders who participated in the Dardanelles campaign. Several of these accounts have been published earlier in book form^[1].

Howard Leopold Morry was born 24 July 1885 in the historic fishing community of Ferryland, founded by English colonists in the early 1600s on the Atlantic coast of

Newfoundland. His Morry ancestors, originally from Devonshire, had lived there for several generations and most of them were involved in the cod fishery. His father was a fish dealer and farmer. As a young man Howard lived for some years in western Canada, knocking about at various jobs on farms, ships, in logging camps and construction work. After his return home about 1909 he worked with his father fishing and farming. On 17 December 1914 he enlisted in the First (later Royal) Newfoundland Regiment which had recently been raised from scratch by a Citizens' Patriotic Association in the capital, St. John's.^[2] His regimental number was 726. On the attestation paper his occupation was shown as fisherman, earning \$400 yearly. He was described as 5' 11½ inches in height, weighing 180 pounds, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. A gunshot wound in one leg was the result of an accidentally discharged revolver.^[3]



Howard Morry and Fredris Minty's Wedding, Edinburgh, 2 June 1915

After some preliminary training in St. John's his draft sailed for overseas in February 1915 to join the regiment's earlier volunteers. They were stationed in Scotland at Edinburgh Castle and Stobs Camp near Hawick and during his time in Scotland, Morry met and married Fredris Minty. The Regiment then moved to Aldershot for advanced training in preparation for service in France. At that point Kitchener unexpectedly diverted them to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force instead. On 20 August the First Battalion of 1076 officers and men embarked for Egypt where it spent over two weeks near Cairo. The Commanding Officer was Lt. Col. R. de H. Burton, a retired officer of the Middlesex Regiment. It landed at Suvla Bay on 19 September and was attached to the 29th Division's 88th Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. D. E. Cayley of

the Worcester Regiment. It was then the only non-regular unit in the division, having replaced a territorial battalion of the 5th Royal Scots that had been withdrawn after heavy losses earlier at Cape Helles.

In the more than three months on Gallipoli the Newfoundlanders suffered 142 battlefield casualties, including 49 killed. Others died of diseases after evacuation while a number were invalided out. The greatly depleted battalion embarked from Suvla as part of the rearguard on 19 December, spent several days on Imbros and Mudros, returned to the peninsula at Lancashire Landing, and with the rest of the army left Gallipoli for good on 8-9 January 1916. The battalion now had a new CO, Lt. Col. A. L. Hadow of the Norfolk Regiment who, as Morry and others have indicated, was not initially popular. After two months of recuperation and refitting in Egypt it was sent to France, still with the 29th Division, and was almost wiped out at Beaumont-Hamel on the Somme on 1 July.

Morry survived the battle and served in France and Belgium until August, when he was hospitalised with trench and rheumatic fevers and eventually declared medically unfit for active service. He was sent back to Newfoundland, discharged from the regiment in January 1917 and returned to his native village. After the war, he worked with his father as a fish dealer and farmer, and also operated a general store and the local post office. He and his wife raised a family of nine children and Morry became a well-known community figure, amateur historian and folklorist. Throughout his life he kept diaries, many of which unfortunately have been lost. Luckily the war memoir was preserved. In his later years he endured poor health, perhaps a consequence of wartime hardships. He died of cardiac failure in Ferryland on 8 February 1972 in his eighty-seventh year.

Acknowledgments. I thank Chris Morry of Ottawa for information on his grandfather's life and for the photograph reproduced here.

NOTES

1. See John Gallishaw, *Trenching at Gallipoli. The Personal Narrative of a Newfoundlander with the Ill-fated Dardanelles Expedition*, The Century Co., New York, 1916; David R. Facey-Crowther, ed., *Lieutenant Owen William Steele of the Newfoundland Regiment: Diary and Letters*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, 2002; Anthony J. Stacey & Jean Stacey, *Memoirs of a Blue Puttee. The Newfoundland Regiment in World War I*, DRC Publishers, St. John's, 2002.
2. On the unusual circumstances of the creation of this infantry regiment and its activities throughout the war, see Col. G. W. L. Nicholson, *The Fighting Newfoundlander. A History of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment*, Government of Newfoundland, St. John's, 1964.
3. Howard Morry, Reg. No. 726, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa.

Editor's Note: Dr. Philip E. L. Smith is a retired professor of Middle Eastern archaeology living in Montreal. He is the author of four previous articles in *The*

Gallipolian: 'John Gallishaw and Gallipoli', No. 118, Winter 2008, 'Gallishaw after Gallipoli', No. 119, Spring 2009, 'A Gallipoli Stamp from Newfoundland', No. 120, Autumn 2009, and 'Fighting Mac' in Montreal', No. 131, Spring 2013.

QUARTERMASTER'S STORES

The following items are available from the 'Stores'.

Standard Ties – in Association colours are available price **£8.50** including UK postage. [Europe £10.30. Rest of the World £10.90]

Silk Ties – silk, non-crease ties in the Gallipoli Association colours – green bands for the land of Gallipoli and blue-grey for the waters of the Dardanelles, with narrow stripes of navy-blue and scarlet for the services – are available at **£17.50** including UK postage. [Europe £19.30, Rest of the World £19.90]

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'**Gallipoli Trench Map CDs**' – includes over 400 maps and 10 Watercolours, the latter by Sapper Moore-Jones, the New Zealand Official War Artist. Price **£17.00** including UK postage & packing. [Europe £18.80, Rest of the World £19.40]

[Note: *The Gallipolian Archive CD* is currently out of print but it is proposed to issue an updated version later this year or early in 2014.]

Orders with payment, cheques and postal orders made out to 'The Gallipoli Association', to the Secretary, James Watson Smith, Earleydene Orchard, Earleydene, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 9JY.