

Branches of Service

Memorial University is named in honor of those who died in battle. At MUN and in the Confederation Building, there is a *Book of Remembrance* in which the names, branches, and date of death are recorded for those who passed on.

There were several branches of service which men could join to help in the war. While some were at the front fighting, others were helping in the background. All were important in the war effort. The following enlistees came from a population of only 230, 000 people.

Newfoundland Regiment

- ▶ 6240 enlisted
- ▶ First 500 known as the Blue Puttees (See why? below).
- ▶ Formed in the late summer of 1914; call for men ages 19 and 36 years.
- ▶ First 500 to enlist sailed out of St. John's October 4, 1914.

Royal Naval Reserve

- ▶ 2050 enlisted
- ▶ Only military group at start of war.
- ▶ Fought as part of the British Navy.
- ▶ Established in 1902 .
- ▶ NL sailors served on over 30 naval ships.
- ▶ No ships crewed solely by NL's; no NL ships.
- ▶ There were 30 naval ships such as HMS New Zealand and the HMCS Niobe on which these men served.

Merchant Marines

- ▶ 5000 enlisted
- ▶ 115 lost their lives in WW1
- ▶ Worked as sailors on cargo ships bringing supplies and men across the Atlantic through hazardous seas patrolled by enemy submarines.
- ▶ Not listed in the Book of Remembrance; were considered part of civilian employment; only recently have they been recognized as veterans.

Forestry Corps

- ▶ 500 enlisted
- ▶ Worked in the forests of Britain and Scotland.
- ▶ Cut wood for mines (metals for war) and trench warfare at the front.
- ▶ Went in 1917 to cut wood due to the huge wartime demand.

Volunteer Aid Detachment (VAD)

- ▶ Female nurses and health care workers.
 - ▶ Total numbered served: 40
 - ▶ Went overseas to England and France to work in military hospitals.
- Canadian and other Allied forces totaled a number of 3100.
 - The **First Five Hundred** of the **Newfoundland Regiment** were known as the **Blue Puttees** because they were the only Newfoundland soldiers to wear navy blue puttees. A puttee is a strip of cloth wound around the leg from ankle to knee for protection and support. Navy blue was substituted because there was no khaki woolen material available.