

GOWER REMEMBERS

Company Sgt. Major Donald Lance Moore

(1896-1939)



No. 646, Corporal D. L. Moore, who was previously reported as suffering from rheumatic fever at Mudros on November 30th, was admitted to the Third General Hospital, Wandsworth, on January 28th [1916]. (Letter to Fred Moore, 96 Lemarchant Road, from John R. Bennett, Newfoundland Colonial Secretary, January 29, 1916)

Donald Lance Moore was born in St. Anthony on April 05, 1896,

the third of nine children of Julia Crowley and Frederick Moore. His older brother, Henry Frederick Spurgeon was born on September 20, 1893, but died of strangulation in his crib on November 08, 1894, at age 14 months. Four other children, Milley Emma Avalon (b. September 28, 1894), Ettie Beryl (b. March 11, 1898), Mabel Silvia (b. October 1899) and Jonathan (b. July 1901) were also born in St. Anthony, while the three youngest, Chesley Raymond (b. September 28, 1904), Frederick Douglas Peary (b. December 16, 1909) and Hannah Jane Isabel (b. January 01, 1912), were born after the family moved to St. John's.

Frederick Moore and his brother Joseph operated a general dealership and mercantile establishment, with branches in St. Anthony and St. John's. Sometime between 1901 and 1904, Fred Moore relocated his family to St. John's, where he became the manager of the branch there. The family lived first at 17 Cook Street, but Moore later built a house at 96 LeMarchant Road.

Donald Moore attended the Methodist College in St. John's, where, in addition to his regular studies, in the Spring of 1911, he completed a First Aid course under the direction of Dr. George T. Duncan. Shortly after graduating from the College, probably in 1912, he returned to St. Anthony, where he worked in the family business for several years before returning to St. John's at the end of 1914. While in St. Anthony, he was a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen, a paramilitary group that had been founded in Great Britain in 1905 and had been introduced to northern Newfoundland and Labrador by Dr. A. W. Wakefield of the Grenfell Mission in 1911.

Moore travelled from St. Anthony to St. John's in December 1914 aboard the SS *Prospero* to join in the Newfoundland Regiment. His enlistment occurred on December 14, 1914, at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury. According to his Attestation Paper, he was 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a dark complexion, black hair and brown eyes. He lists his father as his nearest relative and his occupation as manager of a supply store, at a salary of \$420.00 per annum. He was given Regimental number 646 and assigned to C Company. It would appear that Moore's leadership abilities were

recognized soon after his enlistment: just six weeks after joining up, on January 26, 1915, he was made a Lance Corporal and put in charge of a small group of his fellow soldiers.

Following a few weeks of training in St. John's, C Company, 244 soldiers strong, left St. John's for Europe on February 5, 1915, on board the SS *Dominion*. Getting on board the *Dominion* proved to be a challenge, as the cold weather and ice conditions common in St. John's harbour at that time of year prevented the *Dominion* from entering the Narrows. The men had to be taken through the Narrows on board the sealing vessel *Neptune*, which brought them to where the *Dominion* was waiting for them off Bay Bulls. They then had to cross over the frigid water of the North Atlantic from the *Neptune* to the *Dominion* before they could embark upon their journey.

C Company arrived in Liverpool on February 16, and left straight away by train for Edinburgh Castle in Scotland. They were joined there two days later by A and B companies of the Regiment, thereby becoming the first colonial force assigned duty at the famous castle. They remained at the Castle until May 11, when they were relocated to Stobs Camp, near the Scottish town of Hawich. While there, on July 10, Moore was promoted to Corporal. The Regiment remained in training at Stobs Camp until August 02, 1915, when they were sent to Aldershot, in southern England.

It was while they were undergoing a period of rest and relaxation at Aldershot that the Newfoundland Regiment learned that its first encounter with the enemy was to take place in September in Turkey. Some 1,000 plus members of the Regiment left Aldershot on August 19 for the nearby town of Devonport; the following day they left Devonport on board the HMT *Megantic*, which took them down the western coast of Europe, through the Strait of Gibraltar, and across the Mediterranean Sea to Alexandria, Egypt. The Regiment arrived in Alexandria on August 31, and were immediately put on a train for Cairo, where they spent almost two weeks of additional training and acclimatization. Then, on September 13, they went back to Alexandria and sailed north aboard the SS *Ausonia* for Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos. From there, on the night of September 19-20, they were

ferried across the Aegean Sea to Suvla Bay on Turkey's Gallipoli Peninsula. As they landed, they were greeted by heavy shellfire from the Turks.

The Newfoundland Regiment was at Suvla Bay for three months, from September 20 until December 20, 1915. They spent the three weeks that followed at nearby Cape Helles, evacuating from there on January 09, 1916. During those almost four months, the Newfoundlanders experienced the most inhospitable conditions. A total of 46 died but 15 of those deaths were a result of disease. Hundreds more were evacuated because of the various diseases or suffering from frostbite.

Moore was one of those evacuated; on November 30, 1915, he was admitted to the 16th Stationary Hospital at Mudros with rheumatic fever. After nearly six weeks there, he was transferred to the 24th Casualty Clearing Station on January 11, 1916, and a week later, on the 18th, was taking aboard the HS *Dongola* for England. He arrived there on January 28 and was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth, where he was diagnosed with bronchitis and laryngitis, both, in all likelihood, brought on by the rheumatic fever. After several months at Wandsworth, he was sent to the Brookland Military Hospital at Weybridge. He was released from hospital on April 25, declared fit for light duty, and granted ten days furlough.

At the end of his furlough, on May 04, 1916, Moore was attached to the Regimental Headquarters at Ayr, Scotland. While there he got himself into a little bit of trouble, but not enough to prevent him from rising in the ranks once again. On June 08, he was absent from tattoo and received a reprimand. Eight days later, on June 16, he was made a sergeant. On July 02, he was absent from church parade and severely reprimanded and, on August 30, he was again absent from parade and severely reprimanded. However, none of these infractions was enough to cause him to lose his sergeant's stripe.

It would appear that Moore never fully recovered from his bout with rheumatic fever. On September 08, 1916, he was granted a second furlough, and sailed for Newfoundland on board the SS *Corsican*. After arriving in St. John's, on September 22, he was attached to the local Regimental Headquarters. Six months later, on March 27, he was declared medically

unfit and was discharged from the Regiment. He had served for two years and 86 days.

Not one to sit around while friends and colleagues were still fighting overseas, Moore decided that if he was not medically fit for the Regiment, then he would offer his services to the Newfoundland Forestry Corps, which was just in the process of being formed. Newfoundland's Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, had issued the call for volunteers on April 04, 1917 for skilled lumbermen and others who were not medically fit for army or naval service.

Moore attested for the new unit on April 17, less than a month after being discharged from the Regiment. Interestingly, during his time in the Regiment, he had grown, as he was now 5 feet 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall; his eye colour had gone from brown to grey and his hair colour from black to dark brown. It was also noted that he had a scar on the third finger of his right hand. As a member of the Forestry Corps, he was given a new number: 8057. All members of the corps were given the prefix number eight, so Moore, in effect, was the 57th person to enlist in that unit.

The first group of these volunteers, 99 men, left St. John's for Great Britain on May 19, 1917, on board the SS *Florizel*. Moore was among them. They were assigned to a forested hillside named Craigvinean, which was part of an estate owned by the Duke of Atholl at Dunkeld, in central Scotland. Two camps were built: one for those who would cut the logs upon the hill and one for the sawmill workers further down the hill. In the eight months that followed their arrival, the Newfoundland Forestry Corps cleared 1,200 acres of timberland at Craigvinean, before moving to Drummond Hill, to the east, early in 1918.

Again, Moore leadership skills were recognized by his superiors. On September 01, 1917, he was named Company Sergeant Major. However, before the end of the year, on December 23, he was repatriated to Newfoundland, where, on January 10, 1918, he was attached to the St. John's Headquarters. Nine days later, he was recommended for a permanent medical discharge, which he eventually received on April 03. Almost a year

later, on March 01, 1919, he received a War Service Gratuity of \$420.00 from the Newfoundland Government's Department of Militia.

Moore married Bessie Tetford, a nurse at the General Hospital in St. John's, at her father's house in Harbour Grace, on December 19, 1919. It is quite possible that they relocated to St. Anthony early in 1920, although the exact date is unknown. They were there by 1920: the 1921 Newfoundland Census records Donald, Bessie and their daughter Helen, age 11 months, as being resident in St. Anthony when the census was taken sometime in the Spring-Summer of 1921. Furthermore, the census lists St. Anthony as Helen's birthplace. Moore resumed his managerial duties at J & F Moore Ltd., and continued to be employed there until his death. The family grew to include two additional children, both boys: Frederick (b. 1922) and Donald (b. 1930). Newspaper notices indicate that the family made regular visits to St. John's and Harbour Grace.

Like so many of his comrades who returned from the war, Moore was a member of the Newfoundland Great War Veterans Association. In that capacity he represented veterans at the ceremony held in St. Anthony on July 25, 1927 to formally open the new hospital there, and unveiled a memorial tablet, which had been placed in the building, bearing the names of the 23 men from the area who had been killed in the war.

In addition to his work and his community involvement, Moore spent some of his spare time as an inventor. On March 19, 1929, he was granted patent number 1,706,034 by the United States Patent Office for a nursing bottle container that would maintain the temperature of the liquid within the bottle regardless of atmospheric conditions. Two years later, on June 09, 1931, he received a second patent (number 1,809,349), this one for supports for ear phones. Both patent applications were complete with elaborate drawings and descriptions of how each of the products were created and how they worked. Whether they were ever put into production or whether Moore ever received royalties or other monies for these inventions is unknown.

Donald Moore died at St. Anthony on October 05, 1939, at the age of 43. He was buried in Fishing Point United Church Cemetery, St. Anthony. His cause of death was listed as tuberculosis, but it is quite likely that his

early demise was a result of his war illness, a theory the Corner Brook newspaper *The Western Star* for April 04, 1949 ascribes to, stating that he “died of a war disability”. His son Donald followed in his father’s footsteps, serving in the Canadian armed forces in Korea from 1950 to 1953.

June 9, 1931.

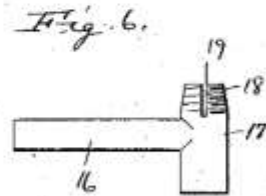
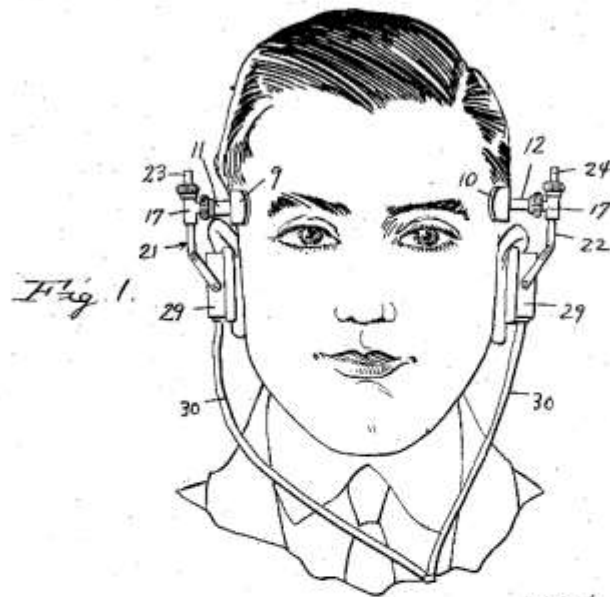
D. L. MOORE

1,809,349

SUPPORT FOR EAR PHONES

Filed Aug. 23, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor

Donald L. Moore

By *Clarence A. O'Brien*
Attorney

Drawing that accompanied Moore’s patent application for ear phone supports.

On Sunday, November 16, 2014, Gower Street United Church initiated a program of commemoration that will last for approximately four to five years. On roughly every second Sunday through to the end of 2018, a brief write-up on one of these individuals, similar to this one, will appear as an insert in the Bulletin and there will be a reference to that person in the service. In this way, we hope to recognize their contribution to the war effort, the many sacrifices they made, some with their very lives, and the debt of gratitude we owe to each of them.

We also hope to learn more about them from their descendants or other relatives, thereby fostering a link between our past and our present, as we begin our 203rd year as a faith community.

If you know of any relatives of these servicemen and women please contact Bert Riggs at briggs@mun.ca or at 726-6169.