The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme Offensive, British launched the largest battle of the war on the Western Front, against German lines. The offensive was one of the bloodiest in human history. Over the course of five months, approximately 1.2 million men were killed or wounded at the Somme. The Canadian Corps (see Canadian Expeditionary Force) was involved in the final three months of fighting. The Battle of the Somme produced little gains and has long been an example of senseless slaughter and the futility of trench warfare. 24,000 Canadians and 700 Newfoundlanders)

Hundreds of injured men were left to fend for themselves on the battlefield through the night, where they died of their wounds or were killed by German snipers. More than 700 soldiers of the First Newfoundland Regiment were cut down at Beaumont-Hamel.

The seemingly pointless slaughter on the Somme led to questions and severe criticism of the Allied leadership, especially General Douglas Haig, commander of the British Expeditionary Force, of which both the Canadian Corps and the First Newfoundland Regiment were a part. the offensive’s failures also sparked new thinking about military tactics — including the design of shells and the use of artillery, better planning and coordination among attacking forces on the battlefield, and the importance of allowing small groups of ordinary soldiers to exercise leadership and personal initiative during the changing fortunes of an assault.

with manpower on the Somme running low, the first three divisions of the Canadian Corps (see Canadian Expeditionary Force) were relocated to the battle to help with the offensive, still grinding on under the orders of British generals.