



**George “Graham” Crosbie  
Royal Newfoundland Regiment  
Regimental No.1447  
World War I**

**Born:** 15 Aug 1898

**Died:** 03 July 1916

**Place of Birth:** The Bronx, New York City, New York, United States

**Parents:** Walter and Mary Rebekah (nee Bursell) ‘Minnie’ Crosbie

Like a lot of Newfoundlanders over the years, it seems that Walter and Mary immigrated to the United States in search of work in 1897. It was there in New York that their first child, George Graham was born in August 1898. Baptized George Graham, he

went by his second name Graham for his lifetime.

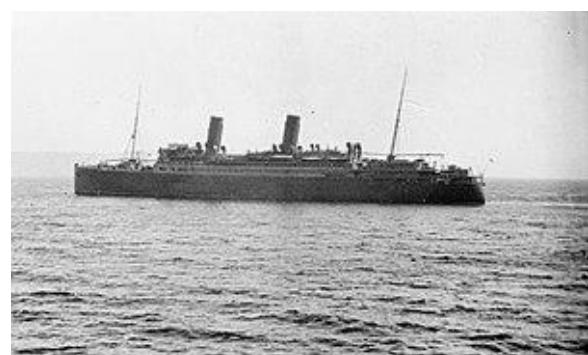
Sister Eva would follow in 1900 being born in New York as well. Then three (3) years later Robert-Oswald was born but this time in New Jersey. The Crosbie family would add Walter (1910) and William (1915) both born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland.

Graham grew up in Bay Roberts and it is Bay Roberts listed as his home address on his enlistment papers.

Graham’s enlistment or attestation papers dated 19 April 1915 give insight as to his physical stature. He stood 5’8” tall, weighed 138 lbs, was of fair complexion with light brown hair and blue eyes. He had a scar behind his left ear and one on his left shin. He gave his occupation as student and his faith as Church of England. He was four (4) months shy of his seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) birthday at the time, his age is given as 19 on the enlistment papers. He had to have lied about his age in order to enlist.

Graham’s service record covered a year and 76 days and is recorded on his official service record as follows:

1. 19 Jun 1915: Enlisted at St. John’s
2. 20 Jun 1915: Embarked St. John’s on board the SS Calgarian



*SS Calgarian* was an Allan Line steam turbine ocean liner that was built in 1914 and converted into a Royal Navy armed merchant cruiser. Until 1916 she served with the 9th Cruiser Squadron, patrolling off West Africa and then off the east coast of the United States. She spent the remainder of her career making transatlantic crossings between Canada and Britain.

3. 28 Mar 1916: Embarked Southampton for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) in France
4. 01 Jul 1916: Wounded at Beaumont-Hamel on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.
5. 03 Jul 1916: Died at 10<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Rouen, France.

Graham is buried in St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. A Cenotaph to his memory exists in St. John the Evangelist Cemetery at Coley's Point Newfoundland. He is also commemorated on Page 33 of The Newfoundland Book of Remembrance. He is also remembered on the Cenotaph in Bay Roberts.

Below are clippings from The Guardian a local Bay Roberts weekly newspaper at the time.

**23 April 1915**

The following members of the C. L. B., Bay Roberts Company, have enlisted for service: Jack Parsons, Gus Mercer and Graham Crosbie. Not a bad showing.

**14 July 1916**

## **Graham Crosbie Dies of Wounds**

"Regret to inform you that Record Office Nfld. Regiment, London, to-day reports that the Tenth General Hospital, Rouen, reports that your son, No. 1449 Private George G. Crosbie, died of wounds out of hospital July 4.

J. R. BENNETT, Col. Secy."

The above is a copy of the message received by Mrs. Walter Crosbie on Monday last, informing her of the death of her son, Graham.

Private George Graham Crosbie was the eldest son of Walter and Minnie Crosbie, of Bay Roberts West. He was but 17 years of age when he enlisted, and barely 18 at the time of his death. He was a member of the C. L. B. of this town, and was popular and well-liked.

Leaving St. John's with F. Co. 1st Nfld. Regt., in June, 1915, he was, on arrival in France, transferred to D Company, attached to the 29th Division.

No particulars regarding his death have as yet been received, but it is presumed he must have been in the thick of the fight during the great forward movement on July 1st, when our regiment suffered such heavy casualties.

His parents will have, we feel confident, the deepest sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement, and the Guardian joins with them.

PRIVATE	<b>Cron, James Matthew</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	April 14, 1917
PRIVATE	<b>Crosbie, George Graham</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	July 3, 1916



SEAMAN	<b>Cross, William</b> HMS Briton, Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve	April 4, 1910
CORPORAL	<b>Crotty, Leo</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	October 25, 1918
PRIVATE	<b>Croucher, James E.</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	November 20, 1917
PRIVATE	<b>Croucher, Nathaniel</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	July 1, 1916
PRIVATE	<b>Cuff, George Little</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	April 14, 1917
PRIVATE	<b>Cullen, Alfred</b> 7th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force	September 2, 1918
SEAMAN	<b>Cullmore, Elijah</b> Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve	December 13, 1919
SEAMAN	<b>Cumby, Erastus</b> HMS Laurentic, Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve	January 25, 1917
PRIVATE	<b>Cummings, Arthur</b> Royal Newfoundland Regiment	September 4, 1917