



**George William White**

**Cape Breton Highlanders Regiment**

**42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian  
Expeditionary Force**

**World War I**

**Born:** 24 July 1896

**Died:** Oct 1984

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** John and Rosana White

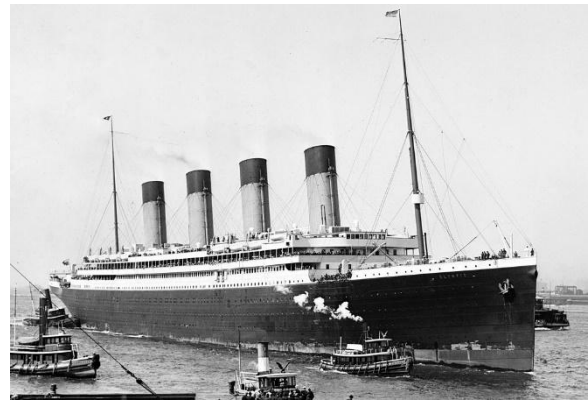
George enlisted in the Cape Breton Highlanders of the CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1916 at Sydney, Nova Scotia, where he was working at the time.

According to his enlistment papers, George was nineteen (19) years old, stood just 5' 2" tall, weighed 120 lbs, was of light

complexion with brown hair and blue eyes. He was single, a Methodist and gave his trade as labourer.

George's service career is marked with a series of hospitalizations, gas exposure, wounds and even time in military prison. His record below, provided by date, gives evidence of this.

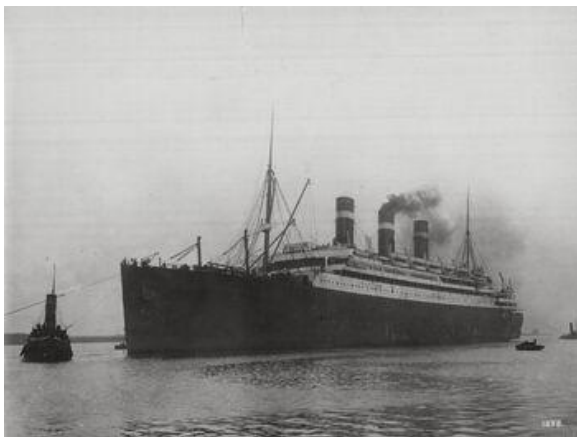
1. 31 – 03 – 1916: Enlisted at Sydney, Nova Scotia.
2. 13 – 10 -16: Embarked Halifax on board the SS Olympic



RMS *Olympic* arriving at [New York](#) on her maiden voyage, 21 June 1911.

3. 18 – 10 – 16: Disembarked Liverpool, England
4. 05 – 12 – 16: Proceeded overseas for France
5. 06 – 12 – 16: Landed in France
6. 12 – 12 – 16: TOS (taken on strength) of 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion
7. 30 – 12 – 16: Left for unit
8. 03 – 01 – 17: Arrived unit for duty
9. 17 – 07 – 17: "In confinement awaiting trial and convicted of: when on active service deserting HM Forces."
10. 23 – 08 – 17: sentenced to 8 years penal servitude at #7 military prison
11. 25 – 08 – 17: In hospital

12. 20 – 09 – 17: Discharged to base details
13. 13 – 10 – 17: sentence commuted to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour.
14. 07 – 07 – 18: Released under “Suspension of Services Act.
15. 08 – 08 – 18: Wounded
16. 29 – 08 – 18: Exposed to gas shelling
17. 21 – 02 – 19: Sentence of 2 years IHL awarded
18. 10 – 02 – 19: Proceeded to England
19. 21 – 05 – 19: Sentenced to forfeit 4 days pay whilst a patient in hospital was absent from the ward.
20. 24 – 05 – 19: Forfeited 3 more days pay for being absent from ward.
21. 18 – 06 – 19: Sentenced to 168 hours detention for being absent from hospital without authority.
22. 08 – 09 – 19: Out of hospital
23. 10 – 07 – 19: To Buxton for return to Canada
24. 20 – 09 – 19: To Canada on the SS Belgic



**The Belgenland was built in 1914 and originally served as a freighter and world war 1 troopship for the White Star Line under the name SS Belgic.**

25. 16 – 10 – 19: Discharged

Somewhere in his service and despite all its challenges, George met and married his wife, Lizzie D (war bride) of England..

Following the war, George is found in the 1921 Newfoundland general census living in Bay Roberts. He is still married to Lizzie D. (23) and they have a one-year old son, Leslie. George’s parents are both alive and living in Bay Roberts as well. John is 66 and Rosana is 57.

Fourteen years later with the 1935 census, George and Lizzie are still in Bay Roberts and their family now consists of Leslie (15), Dorothy (12), and Wilfred (15, a nephew). Both George’s parents are still alive and now 77 (John) and 69 (Rosana) respectively.

By 1945 George now 48 and Lizzie (49) are alone except for his mother. Rosana at 78 and a widow.

George was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion at Bay Roberts for a number of years. He passed away in October 1984 and Lizzie in 1992. They are buried in the Central United Church Cemetery at Bay Roberts.