



Herbert Walsh
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 1872

Born: August 1st, 1892

Place: Bay Roberts

Parents: William and Rebecca Walsh

Prior to enlisting for service, Herbert was a fisherman by trade, but all that Herbert knew changed upon his enlistment on 25th September 1915 when he officially became part of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Herbert was 22 when he enlisted and since there is no signature on his paper, it is assumed that he could not write well, if at all.

The service record for Private Walsh reads as follows:

- 1) Embarked St John's by train to Quebec, Canada on 27th of October 1915

- 2) Embarked for the British Expeditionary Force 25th of June 1916
- 3) Joined the BEF Battalion 24th of July 1916
- 4) Wounded 15th of September 1916 near Ypres, Belgium
- 5) Admitted to the General hospital at Boulogne, France suffering from shell wounds to the arm, shoulder and side
- 6) Invalided to England on 20th September 1916 and admitted to hospital Wandsworth 21st of September 1916
- 7) Once healed, he was furloughed and then attached to depot 18th January 1917
- 8) Transferred to Newfoundland to be discharged 17th February 1917 and arrived in Newfoundland where he was demobilized and termed medically unfit for further service 28th March 1917
- 9) He re-attested for special duty at Bay Roberts on 30th June 1917.
- 10) Discharged at his own request on 16th November 1917 and officially struck off strength

The wounds he suffered on September 15th, 1916 at Ypres, were severe. So severe that he initially he had been reported as having been killed in action. His wounds were to his left arm and left side of his chest mainly. He was operated on, but the operation was not successful in removing all the metal from his body.

Herbert brought more home than physical scars and wounds. It seems that in early 1915 he met a young lady by the name of Mary Conway of Ayrshire Scotland. They married in 1915 and had a son (William).

Mary, with baby William made her way to Newfoundland on the S.S. Scandinavian from Liverpool on February 17th, 1917.

The 1921 Newfoundland census shows Herbert, Mary and William living with Herbert's parents in Bay Roberts East.

By 1935, the family had now grown to five in all. Parents and three children.

1945 shows the same picture of a family of five still living in Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts with two of their own children and one adopted son.

1959 saw Herbert pass away and later Mary in 1984. They are buried at the New St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts.