

Richard Fowler

Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force

Regimental No. 229342

World War I

Born: 22 May 1888

Place of Birth: Turks Water, Makinsons, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

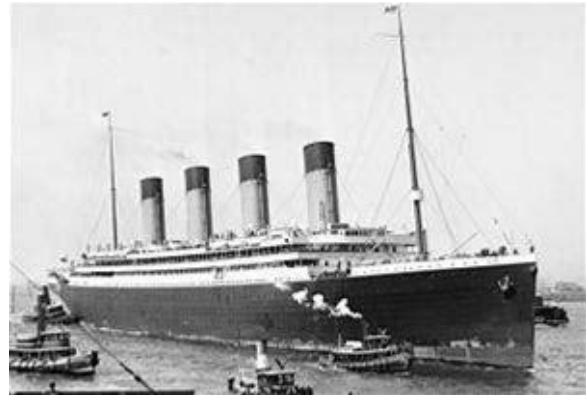
Parents: John and Lucy Fowler

Richard enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on June 4th, 1915 at a recruiting station in Winnipeg. His attestation or enlistment papers note that Richard was twenty-seven (27) years old at the time, stood 5' 4" tall, weighed 127 lbs and had black hair with brown eyes. He was Roman Catholic, single and was working as a labourer. He enlisted in the 61st Battalion of the CEF but was subsequently transferred to the 44th Battalion. He had previous militia experience with the 106th Regiment.

His official service record provides a sketch of his war experience as the handwritten entries are entered by date and event.

Service Record:

1. 04 Jun 1915: Enlisted at Winnipeg
2. 01 Apr 1916: Embarked Halifax on board the SS Olympic



S.S. Olympic

3. 11 Apr 1916: Arrived Borden, England
4. 12 May 1916: SOS (struck off strength) of 61st Battalion, transferred to the 44th
5. 08 Jun 1916: Admitted to Connaught hospital
6. 16 Jun 1916: Discharged
7. 31 Aug 1916: Embarked for France
8. 09 Nov 1916: Admitted #3 station hospital, Rouen with GSW (gunshot wound to back. In fact, the wound was more than a gsw as he had been hit by shrapnel as well
9. 10 Nov 1916: Transferred to CCAC (Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre) Shoreham on sea (West Essex, England)
10. 14 Nov 1916: At Welsh Metro War Hospital, Whitechurch
11. 17 Nov 1916: TOS (taken on strength) CCAC

12. 11 Mar 1917: SOS (struck off strength) on transfer to Manitoba Regiment
13. 20 Mar 1917: Transferred to Kings Battalion Regiment Hospital
14. 10 Apr 1917: On command to 1st CCD
15. 03 Aug 1917: Discharged Kings Regiment Hospital
16. 30 Jun 1917: Ceases on command to 1st CCD
17. 03 Aug 1917 Admitted to Moore Hospital
18. 01 Aug 1917: To the 18th Reserve Battalion
19. 25 Nov 1917: To Canada
20. 30 Nov 1917: Discharged “medically unfit for service”

The wound suffered by Richard consisted of a gsw (gunshot wound) plus 3 large lacerations to his middle and lower back from shrapnel. Although the shrapnel was removed and the wounds healed, Richard was never the same. He was unable to regain full control of muscles affected making him unable to walk without incurring pain.

Once discharged and home in Newfoundland, Richard is found in the 1921 General census in Turks Water with his parents and three (3) of his siblings.

Richard passed away in January 1935. He is buried at South River in the All Hallows Roman Catholic Cemetery.