

**Walter Snow**

**The Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Regimental No. 2060**

**World War I**

**Born:** 29 September 1898

**Died:** 05 March 1981

Walter was born in Bay Roberts to parents Henry and Susie Snow in 1897 or 1898. Walter's dad, Henry remarried a lady named Ellen following the death of his first wife.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1916, at 18 Walter enlisted in the First Newfoundland Regiment (the regiment had not received the title "Royal" yet).

He cleared the necessary paperwork and examinations and was determined fit for service. He was accepted as Pte. Snow, posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Battalion of the Regiment and provided the service No. 2060.

Interestingly on his enlistment papers, he gives his occupation as coachman. For those

who may not know, like this researcher, what a coachman was, it is a man whose business it is to **drive a coach or carriage**, a horse-drawn vehicle designed for the conveyance of passengers. A coachman has also been called a coachee, coachy or whip).

His term of service for King and Country would last two (2) years and two hundred forty-three (243) days in total, from 1916 – 1918.

Walter served in France and Belgium and was at the battle of Cambrai in Northern France. The 17-day offensive commenced on 20 November and ended on 06 December 1917.

In August 1917, while involved in fighting near or in a small town called Le Treport, Walter was exposed to poison gas. As a result, he was admitted to the Second Canadian General Hospital on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917, and was reported to be "suffering from severe gas poisoning"

He recovered and was sent back to the fighting but was back in hospital on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1917, suffering from a gunshot wound to his left arm. He was invalided to England and admitted to the Fourth London General Hospital where the diagnosis was "a slight GSW to upper left arm". This was not entirely accurate and upon later inspection, it was found that the bullet had passed through the arm nicking the brachial artery of the arm reducing blood flow and damaging both the ulna bone of the lower arm and the bicep muscle of the upper arm. It would mean the end of service for Walter who after some convalescence was examined, declared disabled and medically unfit to return to service.

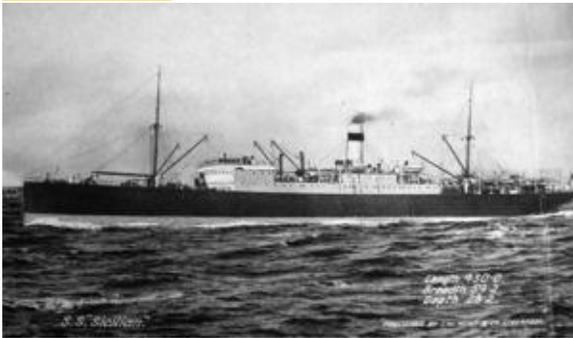
Pte Snow's medical report regarding discharge was completed at the Hazeley Down Camp near Winchester, England. It provides the date of "disability" as 20<sup>th</sup>

He was repatriated to Newfoundland and officially discharged from service on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1918.

The following items, by date are excerpts from Walter's official service record:

1. 24 – 03 – 16: Embarked St. Johns on board the SS Sicilian for the UK.

### S.S. Sicilian



2. 09 – 07 – 16: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
3. 21 – 07 – 16: Joined unit
4. 06 – 11 – 16: Admitted to 9<sup>th</sup> general hospital with Nephritis (*Inflammation of the kidneys that may involve the glomeruli, tubules or interstitial tissue (functional units of kidney) surrounding them. This causes swelling of the face, hands, feet and legs, blood pressure, blood in urine, and reduced kidney function.*)
5. 08 – 11 – 16: Admitted to London general hospital
6. 20 – 01 – 17: Furloughed and the attached to H Company depot
7. 03 – 06 – 17: Embarked for BEF
8. 19 – 06 – 17: joined battalion
9. ?? - ?? – 17: Admitted to CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) with severe gas poisoning
10. 24 – 08 – 17: Admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian hospital Le Treport
11. 29 – 08 – 17: Discharged to depot

November 1917, noting the gun shot wound and declaring him as "permanently unfit" for active service. Walter was just 20 at the time.

12. 09 – 09 – 17: Rejoined unit in the field
13. 20 – 07 – 17: Admitted to 89<sup>th</sup> FA (field ambulance) with Tonsillitis
14. Admitted to 56<sup>th</sup> general hospital
15. 13 – 10 – 17: Discharged to base depot
16. 25 – 10 – 17: Rejoined unit
17. 20 – 11 – 17: Wounded in action and admitted to 37<sup>th</sup> FA with gsw (gunshot wound) to the left arm. *The bullet passed through the arm but did significant damage to the ulna bone.*
18. 21 – 11 – 17: Admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> general hospital and then invalided to England
19. 28 – 11 – 17: Admitted to 4<sup>th</sup> London general
20. 28 – 12 – 17: Furloughed and attached to depot
21. 10 – 01 – 18: Command depot at Ripon
22. Rejoined Battalion
23. 04 – 07 – 18: To Newfoundland for discharge
24. 04 – 08 – 10: Arrived Newfoundland
25. 05 – 09 – 18: Discharged as "Medically unfit for future service"

Once out of the service, Walter becomes difficult to locate in any Newfoundland official documentation but is found in the 1940 US Federal census living and working in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts. He is widowed, his first wife, Ellen, having passed away in 1933. He is a single parent with five (5) boys, William (18), Harry (16), Walter jr. (15), Elmer (13) and Arthur (11). Living in the home is Katherine Clarke (21), who is working as housekeeper. Katherine would later become Walter's second wife.

Walter would pass away 1981 at 82 in Lynn, Mass and he is buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery there.

The Rooms at St. John's have a complete copy of the service record for Pte. Walter Snow consisting of some 121 pages on file and is accessible online.

Provided below is a partial file of his medical history during service

Regimental Number.....

**Casualty Form - Active Service**

Regiment or Corps **THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGT.**

Rank *Pte* Surname *Snow* Christian Name *Walter*

Religion *Presb (Ch)* Age on Enlistment *18* years *0* months

Enlisted (a) *St Johns* Terms of Service (a) *Duration of War* Service reckons from (a) *Jan 6/16*

Date of promotion to present rank ..... Date of appointment to lance rank .....

Extended (.....) Re-engaged (.....) Qualification (b).....

or Corps Trade and Rate.....

Occupation ..... Signature of Officer. *(Sgd) Gene Leant*

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c. during active service, as reported on Army Form B.211, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.211, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
			Embarked <i>Apkestone</i>	<i>3/6/17</i>	
			Disembarked <i>Boulogne</i>	<i>3/6/17</i>	
			<i>Joined Battalion</i>	<i>19/6/17</i>	<i>B 213</i>
<i>9/9/17</i>	<i>DC Unit</i>	<i>Wounded in Action (Gas)</i>		<i>21/8/17</i>	<i>News</i>
<i>20/8/17</i>	<i>64 CCS</i>	<i>Ad "W" Gassed Shell</i>		<i>21/8/17</i>	<i>SD 9250.</i>
<i>6/9/17</i>	<i>2 Can G Hosp</i>	<i>Ad do</i>	<i>Les Hospital</i>	<i>24/8/17</i>	<i>HA 13381</i>
<i>29/8/17</i>	<i>29 I Bd</i>	<i>Joined Base Depot</i>	<i>Rouen</i>	<i>29/8/17</i>	<i>Home Roll</i>
<i>15/9/17</i>	<i>DC Unit</i>	<i>Joined Battalion</i>		<i>9/9/17</i>	<i>B 213</i>
<i>22/9/17</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Ad Hospital</i>		<i>25/9/17</i>	<i>B 213</i>
<i>22/9/17</i>	<i>89 Troop</i>	<i>Ad Toxicities trans</i>	<i>14 CCS</i>	<i>24/9/17</i>	<i>ED 916</i>
<i>22/9/17</i>	<i>63 CCS</i>	<i>Ad Hepatitis</i>		<i>24/9/17</i>	<i>CA 736</i>
	<i>56 Gen Hosp</i>	<i>" Albuminia</i>	<i>Etaples</i>	<i>25/9/17</i>	<i>HA 14456</i>
	<i>29 I Bd</i>	<i>Joined Base Depot</i>	<i>Rouen</i>	<i>14/10/17</i>	<i>Home Roll</i>

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

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# 2060 Pte W Snow

Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.21, Army Form A. 9, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.21, Army Form A. 9, or other official documents.
26/11/17	DC	Reformed Battalion		25/10/17	
		Wounded in Action		28/11/17	B 213
21/11/17	37 HA	Ad Esd Am trans	5 CCS	20/11/17	ERD 3827
	12 Pen Sp	" do	Armen	21/11/17	HA 16574
	15 "Giantully Co"	Transferred to England		24/11/17	W 3083
		(Sgd) S. Henry			2d Lt for Major
		of the 1st Buff Regt			
		GHQ			3rd Echelon