



Lieutenant W. C. E. Bower of the Royal Army Medical Corps lies buried in the Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs – Grave reference VI.C.1.

Lieutenant Bower of the Royal Army Medical Corps was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the (Royal) Newfoundland Regiment and to the 88<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.

The husband of Mrs. M. M. Bower (later *Hopkinson*) of Court End, Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon (*Oxfordshire*), Lieutenant Bower was reported as having been *killed in action* by a direct hit on his dug-out on October 19, 1916.

(continued)



**(Right: The sacrifice of Lieutenant Bower is honoured on the Allesey Village War Memorial and Roll of Honour.)**

**Excerpt from The Fighting Newfoundlander by Gerald W.L. Nicholson: After their fight at Hilt Trench The Newfoundlanders spent a week in brigade reserve in Switch Trench which had formerly been part of the German 3<sup>rd</sup> Position, midway between Delville Wood and Flers. Here they were under periodic shelling by high explosive and on one occasion many were reduced to enforced tears as the Germans sent over lachrymatory shells. It was miserably cold and wet. A heavy rain on the 19<sup>th</sup> caused a portion of the trench to cave in. On the same day the Royal Army Medical Corps Officer attached to the Regiment, Lieutenant W.C.E. Bower, was killed by a direct hit on his dug-out.**

**Lieutenant Bower had previously served during the fighting in the North Cameroons in the campaign against the Germans which lasted from 1914 until February of 1916. There he had distinguished himself by rendering aid to the wounded under heavy enemy fire.**

**Neither his age nor any other information a propos this officer has been recorded in the Regimental files.**

**Lieutenant W.C.E. Bower was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).**



**The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to [criceadam@yahoo.ca](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – February 12, 2023.**