



**Private Christopher Dawe (Regimental Number 4864) is interred in the United Church Cemetery in Cupids.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Christopher Dawe presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury\** in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on May 1 of 1918. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

**(continued)**

***\*The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, May 1, while at the same venue, that Christopher Dawe would enlist. He was thus engaged...*for the duration of the war\**...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.

***\*At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.***

Only some few hours were now to follow before there subsequently came to pass, while still at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On the same first day of that month of May he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Christopher Dawe became...*a soldier of the King.*

Private Dawe, Number 4864, now expected to wait six weeks less a day before his departure for...*overseas service.* However, only three weeks after his enlistment, and before he could even undertake the first stage of his journey, across the island by train, on May 21 he was admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in St. John's.

He had been diagnosed as suffering from pneumonia.

The son of George Holwell Dawe and of Elizabeth Dawe (née *Reeves*) of Cupids, he was also brother to Ida, Joseph, Bessie-Louise, Thomas, Jack, Samuel and to Susie-Jane (*Jennie*).

Private Dawe was reported as having *died of sickness* – the precise cause of death cited as *pneumonia* - on May 31, 1918, only ten days subsequent to his admission, in the same Military Hospital, St. John's.

His remains were taken home to Cupids to be buried.

Christopher Dawe had enlisted at the *declared* age of eighteen years. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive.

(continued on following page)

W F Rendell  
Chief Staff Officer  
Dept of Militia  
St John's

Cupids  
Jan: 16<sup>th</sup>, 1919

Sir.

In reply to your enquiry re No 4864 Christopher Dawe I would say  
(1) his grave is situated in the Meth. Cemetery at Cupids.  
(2) There is no mark whatever to the grave. I am unable to put a headstone to the grave.

I am  
Yours respectfully  
his  
George X Dawe  
mark

Witness: Alex Senior (Math Teacher at Cupids)

**The Commonwealth War Graves Headstone was sent on July 5, 1923, and it was agreed that the work be done... *by a local man as soon as the caplin school is over.* The lumber used for making the forms for the grave was afterwards given over to the father, George Dawe, to repair his house.**

**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 – January 31, 2023.**