



Private Walter (4056690*) White of the 1st Depot Battalion (Nova Scotia), Canadian Infantry, is buried in Princeton Methodist Cemetery, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland: Grave #4, Lot 8.

****The CWGC records his regimental number as 4056690 as does a dental file: the above is the one registered by the Library and Archives of Canada and on others among his papers.***

(continued)

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *labourer*, there is little history – apart from that of his family members (see below) – documented *a propos* the early life of Walter White in the Bonavista Bay community of Seal Cove. But - although this requires confirmation - he may have been the young man whose name is to be found on the passenger list of the SS *Ivermore* which crossed the Cabot Strait on July 11, 1911, *en route* from Port aux Basques, Dominion of Newfoundland, to North Sydney in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia.

He was on his way to the Cape Breton industrial city of Sydney, Cape Breton, there to find work. If that Walter White were indeed the subject of this dossier, he apparently found the work he was seeking, for in 1918 his declared address was Victoria Road in Sydney itself.

It does not appear that Walter White volunteered for military service as his recruiting form reads partially thus: *Drafted under Military Service Act, 1917 – Defaulter (If a man is defaulter, i.e. has not registered under Proclamation, this fact should be stated, together with date of apprehension, or surrender) – North Sydney, N.S. – January 7th, 1918**

**It should be said in Walter White's defence, that while the Canadian Military Service Act (Conscription by another name) came into force in 1917, such a law did not come about in Newfoundland until the spring of 1918. Whether he was violating the law or not surely depended on whether Walter White was a citizen of Newfoundland or of Canada at the time. The answer to this appears not to be in his file, but neither does the question of him paying any penalty for his late appearance on the scene.*

All of this having been said, on other papers it appears that Walter White did not enlist until June 7, 1918, other associated formalities – a medical and then a dental examination - having then taken place either on or after that date. Those affairs of June 7 were undergone in the city of Sidney, soon after which Private White was posted to *Camp Aldershot* in King's County as this was where he was on June 14, a week later, when he penned a Will in which he left his all to his father.

He was still at Aldershot on July 12 as this was the day on which he was admitted into the camp hospital for treatment to a...*large abscess in the left lumbar region...which was eventually lanced to allow a large discharge to be evacuated. The problem, however, was not reconciled and it was decided to send him elsewhere for an X-ray examination – as the abscess was close to the lower ribs - and for further treatment.*

The facility to which Private White was to be transferred as of July 24 was the *Camphill Military Hospital* in Halifax where he was to remain eight weeks plus a day, until September 19, when he was deemed to have recovered and was released from there.

Whether he then returned to duty at *Camp Aldershot* or was sent for convalescence is not documented among his papers. The report which follows is of his re-admission into care, *Cogswell Street Military Hospital*, on October 19, a bare month afterwards. On this occasion he was now diagnosed as suffering from pneumonia and influenza.

On the day after his admission a slight improvement was reported but by October 22 his condition was being considered as severe...*Very ill*. On the morrow the medical report was brief...*23/10/18 Apparently dying, blue, delirious, chest filled up...*

...Died at 3-55 PM 23/10/18

The son of John White, fisherman, and of Christina White of Seal Cove, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Samson, to Lily and to Willis.

Walter White had enlisted at the *apparent* age of twenty-six years and nine months: date of birth (from his papers and from the Newfoundland Birth Register), September 28, 1891.

Private Walter White, not having been on *active service*, nor having served overseas with the Canadian Armed Forces, was not eligible for any medal.

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. Last updated – January 23, 2023.