



Herbert Walsh
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 1872

Born: August 1st, 1892

Place: Bay Roberts

Parents: William and Rebecca Walsh

Prior to enlisting for service, Herbert was a fisherman by trade, but all that Herbert knew changed upon his enlistment on 25th September 1915 when he officially became part of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Herbert was 22 when he enlisted and since there is no signature on his paper, it is assumed that he could not write well, if at all.

The service record for Private Walsh reads as follows:

- 1) Embarked St John's by train to Quebec, Canada on 27th of October 1915

- 2) Embarked for the British Expeditionary Force 25th of June 1916
- 3) Joined the BEF Battalion 24th of July 1916
- 4) Wounded 15th of September 1916 near Ypres, Belgium
- 5) Admitted to the General hospital at Boulogne, France suffering from shell wounds to the arm, shoulder and side
- 6) Invalided to England on 20th September 1916 and admitted to hospital Wandsworth 21st of September 1916
- 7) Once healed, he was furloughed and then attached to depot 18th January 1917
- 8) Transferred to Newfoundland to be discharged 17th February 1917 and arrived in Newfoundland where he was demobilized and termed medically unfit for further service 28th March 1917
- 9) He re-attested for special duty at Bay Roberts on 30th June 1917.
- 10) Discharged at his own request on 16th November 1917 and officially struck off strength

The wounds he suffered on September 15th, 1916 at Ypres, were severe. So severe that he initially he had been reported as having been killed in action. His wounds were to his left arm and left side of his chest mainly. He was operated on, but the operation was not successful in removing all the metal from his body.

Herbert brought more home than physical scars and wounds. It seems that in early 1915 he met a young lady by the name of Mary Conway of Ayrshire Scotland. They married in 1915 and had a son (William).

Mary, with baby William made her way to Newfoundland on the S.S. Scandinavian from Liverpool on February 17th, 1917.

The 1921 Newfoundland census shows Herbert, Mary and William living with Herbert's parents in Bay Roberts East.

By 1935, the family had now grown to five in all. Parents and three children.

1945 shows the same picture of a family of five still living in Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts with two of their own children and one adopted son.

1959 saw Herbert pass away and later Mary in 1984. They are buried at the New St. Matthew's Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts.

Below are several clippings from The Bay Roberts Guardian that make reference to Herbert:

14 January 1916

**Letter From
Herbert Walsh**

Of the Nfld. Regiment

Gailes Camps, Scotland,
Dec. 4th, 1915.

My Dear Mother:—Just a few lines to let you know I am in good health. We arrived O. K. after a splendid trip. I wrote to you before I left St. John's, but I don't know if you received it or not. I am having a good time over here.

I was talking to Stephen and Will in North Sydney. They are well. I was sorry I did not get home to see you while we were at St. John's. I will send you my photograph later on, sometime before we go to the front.

I can never say what time I will be home. It may be in 2 or 3 years, and it may be never. I think of you often.

This is a nice place. There are no people living around here where we are stationed, but we go to a town about 2½ miles away every evening. Tell father I will write to him again the next mail. Tell him not to work too hard and take care of himself. Give my love to all my sisters and brothers. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas. Hoping to hear from you as soon as you get my letter. So good bye. From your loving son,

HERBERT WALSH.

[Herbert Walsh is a son of William and Elizabeth Walsh, Crane's Brook.
—Editor.]

04 February 1916

Letter from Herbert Walsh

Gail's Camp,
Scotland, Dec. 23, 1915.

Dear Ethel,—I received your letter last night, and I was delighted to hear from you and to know that you did not forget about me. Well, dear sister, you may think that we find it hard over here on this kind of a job, but no, we find it allright. I expect that in the course of about 6 weeks we will be going to the front, which I am very pleased to say myself or any of us are not afraid to face.

It will be a long time before you and I will meet again, because I am signed on for 12 months, and if the war is not over then I am going to sign on till it is over supposing it costs me my life.

I received mother's letter last night. Tell her there is no need to worry about me, because if it is my good fortune to be saved out of this war I will come home alright. I have not received the socks nor gloves yet.

I hope you will have the same old Christmas time as we always had at home. Here Christmas is not kept so much, but it is in England. As soon as you receive this letter please answer and tell me all the news, and send me some cigarettes, cakes and a pair of socks. Good bye for now.

Your loving brother,

HERBERT.

29 September 1916

In the Official Casualty List of the First Newfoundland Regiment, dated September 23, the following appears:—"1872 Private Herbert Walsh, Bay Roberts, admitted Wandsworth. Gunshot wound in right arm."