



Victor Charles Dawe
Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)
18th Battalion
Regimental No. 54240

World War I

Born: 06 Feb 1891

Died: 22 June 1916

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Henry and Naomi (nee Parsons) Dawe

Victor was one of the “boys” who did not return but died in Belgium at the age of twenty-five (25).

Although born in Newfoundland, Victor enlisted in the CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force) at Windsor, Ontario where he was working as a teacher.

He enlisted on February 17th, 1915, and at the time was described physically as being 5' 11" inches tall, of fresh complexion with brown hair and grey eyes. He was of the United Church faith and single.

According to his official record of Service, the entries by date are as follows:

1. 17- 02 – 1915: Enlisted at Windsor, Ont.
2. 18 – 04 – 1915: Sailed for Halifax on the SS Grampian



SS Grampian

was a transatlantic ocean liner that in the First World War remained in commercial service but carried Canadian troops

3. 29 – 04 - 1915: Arrived England.
4. 01 – 09 – 1915: Transferred to M G section (Machine Gun).
5. 18 – 09 – 1915: Embarked overseas (to France)
6. 04 – 10 -1915: NYD 5th Canadian field ambulance
7. 06 – 10 – 1915: Transferred to 36th Battalion
8. 11 – 10 -1915: No 3 CCS Canadian Casualty Station (in the field) with eye infection.
9. 20 – 10 – 1915 to the 27 – 10 – 1915: in hospital at 2nd Western Hospital, Manchester with conjunctivitis.
10. 10 – 11 – 1915: Transferred to Coy (Company) London
11. 03 – 02 – 1916: Transferred to the 18th Battalion
12. 26 – 02 – 1916: joined unit
13. 22 – 06 – 1916: Died of wounds received in action

The medical file notes that he died at 9:30 PM of gsw (gun shot wound) to the head.

He was killed at Leper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Victor was 25 years old at the time. He is buried in Soldier's Cemetery Lijssenthoek, Belgium. There is a cenotaph in his honour placed by his parents in the St. Matthew's (Old) Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. Victor is also remembered on the Cenotaph in Bay Roberts.



Victor and his sister Belle

Below are several clippings from The Guardian, a weekly newspaper in Bay Roberts that make mention of Victor:

05 March 1915

Victor Dawe, son of Capt. Henry Dawe, who was studying civil engineering at Valparaiso University, near Chicago, has volunteered for the front and joined a Canadian regiment in London, Ontario. Mr. Fenwick Crane, of Job Bros., has a son a member of the same regiment.

29 October 1915

Victor Dawe, who is fighting with a Canadian regiment somewhere in France, has been wounded in the eye, a message to this effect having reached his parents recently. He had been in the trenches only a week. Very many friends will hope that the wound is not serious.

25 August 1916

Royal Sympathy

Mrs. (Capt.) Henry Dawe, mother of the late Victor Dawe, received a message recently from King George and Queen Mary assuring her of their true sympathy in her sorrow.

Note of Thanks

Captain and Mrs. Henry Dawe and family wish to thank all those who sympathized with them (by letter, message or otherwise) in the loss of their beloved son and brother, Private Victor C. Dawe, who died of his wounds in Belgium on June 22nd, 1916.

On the next page is a clipping from The St. John's Daily Star dated 06 July 1916 that provides more information on Victor.

Tuesday Mr. George Dawe, of Ayre & Sons, received a message from Bay Roberts stating that Victor Dawe had died as the result of wounds received in action. Private Dawe, who is a son of Capt. Henry Dawe, of Bay Roberts, was a student at an American University when the war broke out and he immediately proceeded to Canada and offered his services to the Empire. He was accepted and became a member of the 10th Battalion A. Co., Second Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Went to France.

After undergoing some preliminary training in Canada, he was drafted to Great Britain and eventually went with his Battalion to France. After being in the trenches for some time he was forced to return to England to undergo an operation which, apparently was successful. Some time afterward, however, his old trouble recurred and he pluckily submitted to a second operation, hoping that it would complete the cure. His hopes were realised and he

returned to duty in France, where he died of wounds on June 22nd.

Victor Dawe, who was about twenty-six years of age when he made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of the great cause of liberty, was a general favorite with friends and intimates, both for his abilities and his attractive personality. He joined the Imperial Forces at the cost of great personal self-sacrifice and his is the high honor of having done what he could to ensure success to the cause which he regarded as typifying righteousness and justice.

Died at His Post.

Capt. Dawe and his wife have sustained a great loss in the death of their promising son and **The Star** hopes that the blow will be somewhat softened by the reflection that Victor died in the discharge of a duty that he regarded as more precious than life itself. Two sisters, Mrs. George Dawe, and Miss Gertrude Dawe, reside in the city; two brothers, Gus, at Canso, and Stephen, at Bay Roberts, are cable operators, and to these with the other members of the family **The Star** extends sincerest sympathy in the hour of their bereavement and sorrow.