



Private Walter Bowe (Regimental Number 4575) is interred in the United Church Cemetery in Cupids.

His occupation prior to enlistment military service recorded as that of a miner, Walter Bowe presented himself for medical examination at Headquarters at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on April 22, 1918, enlisting - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldiers rate of \$1.10 per diem – and also attesting on that same day.

Private Bowe did not leave for overseas service until some seven weeks later, the date June 11 and, according to his papers, he and his draft took the train* for the cross-island journey en route for Halifax. From there(?)* he sailed on an unspecified troop transport to the United Kingdom.

****Although a second paper in his file documents that he... Embarked for Overseas with draft 11-6-18... implying that the contingent took ship.***

****Other personnel had sailed to Halifax, then to be transferred elsewhere for passage overseas.***

In the early part of the New Year of 1918, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had moved quarters from the Royal Borough of Ayr, Scotland, to southern England, to Hazely Down, Hampshire, near the historic cathedral city of Winchester. This transfer was finalized during the late part of January, 1918, and it was to Hazely that Private Bowe proceeded upon his arrival in from Newfoundland.



(Right above: a bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp at some time during the winter of 1918 – from *The War Illustrated*)

He was apparently still at Hazely Camp in October when he was admitted on the 17th into the Alexandra Hospital at Cosham to spend two days having treatment for a corneal ulcer and for cellulitis – skin infection – of his left arm.

The next report of Private Bowe is also of a medical nature, his initial complaint being keratitis – an inflammation of the cornea – for which he was once again hospitalized, on this occasion at Hazely Down Camp Hospital for the period of February 2 until March 3 of 1919.

From there he was forwarded to the 3rd London General Hospital in the Borough of Wandsworth, but now not only because of his keratitis: Private Bowe had been diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis.

(Right: The main building of what became 3rd London General Hospital during the Great War was opened, on July 1st, 1859, as a home for the orphaned daughters of British soldiers, sailors and marines. – photograph from 2010)

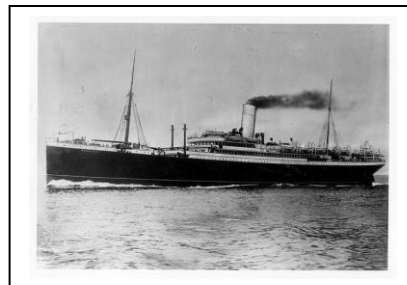


(Above far right: Newfoundland patients, unfortunately unidentified, convalescing at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo)

Despite the fact – or maybe because of it – that on May 7th he was considered to be *progressing favourably*, it was decided to repatriate Private Bowe. On May 18 he was transferred to the 1st Northern General Hospital in the port-city of Liverpool where he remained until discharged on the 22nd.

(continued)

By now categorized as a *Hospital Case* – he was to be placed on board His Majesty’s Transport *Corsican* (right) for the trans-Atlantic crossing – likely directly to Newfoundland.



Arriving back in St. John’s on June 1, Private Bowe was admitted into the Escasoni Hospital* at which time it was recommended that he be discharged from service and remain in hospital. His discharge was confirmed and came into effect on July 20.

**A house and farm in St. John’s were confiscated from its German owner in 1917 by the government for use as a sanatorium, the Escasoni Hospital, for returning service personnel. This institution complemented the privately-funded Jensen Camp on Blackmarsh Road already in service since the previous year. The Escasoni Hospital closed at the end of 1920 and Jensen Camp a month later due to the expansion of a third facility on Topsail Road which became the St. John’s Sanitorium.*

While from September 26 to October 6 of 1918 he was well enough to be granted furlough, Walter Bowe’s overall condition was not improving.

The son of George Bowe, fisherman, and Mary Jane Bowe (née *Bussey*, deceased July 2, 1917) – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Cupids, he was also brother to Fanny, to Willie, to Beatrice and to Elsie who died at nine months of age.

Walter Bowe was reported as having *died of sickness* – pulmonary tuberculosis – on August 3, 1920.

He had enlisted at a *declared* age of twenty years: however, his birth date is recorded as 20/10/1899.

Private Walter Bowe was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

