

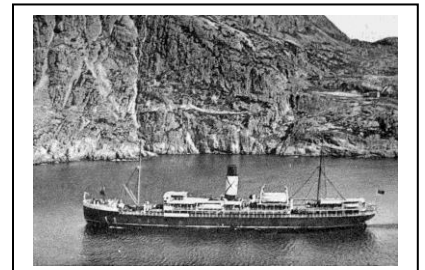


Corporal Richard Fowlow (Regimental Number 886) lies in Ta' Braxia (Pieta) Military Cemetery – Grave reference D. VIII. 6.

His occupations previous to military service recorded as those of clerk and draper and earning a monthly \$45.00, Richard Fowlow presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on December 10 of 1914.

It was almost four weeks before he enlisted – engaged at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem - on January 5 of the New Year, 1915, and sixteen days later again when he attested on the 21st. On February 24, while awaiting passage for overseas, Private Fowlow was promoted to the rank of lance corporal.

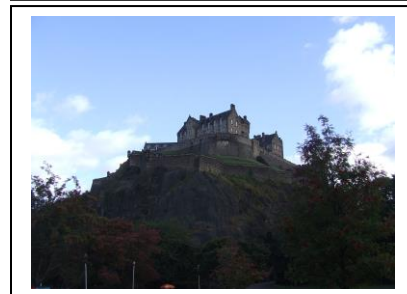
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Thus it was Lance Corporal Fowlow who embarked in St. John's with 'D' Company onto the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Stephano* (preceding page – from *Provincial Archives*) on March 20, 1915, for passage to Halifax. There he again took ship, on His Majesty's Transport *Orduna* (right), for the trans-Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom.



Sailing from Nova Scotia on March 22 for Liverpool, the draft landed there eight days later, on the 30th, and entrained to Edinburgh, arriving at the historic Castle on the same day. For the next six weeks, having been united with 'A', 'B' and 'C' Companies already stationed there, the Newfoundlanders formed the garrison – the first troops from outside the British Isles to do so - of the guardian of Scotland's capital city.



(Right above: *The venerable bastion of Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline of the Scottish capital city from the summit of Castle Hill. – photograph from 2011*)

On May 11 the Newfoundlanders were transferred to Stobs Camp, near Hawick, to the south-east of Edinburgh. There they remained for some three months until the beginning of August when the senior Companies, 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D', were sent south to Aldershot in the south of England. There they received final training – and a royal inspection - to prepare for *active service* in Gallipoli.

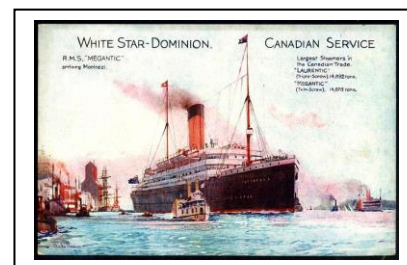


It was during the period while at Stobs Camp that Lance Corporal Fowlow received a second stripe and was appointed to the rank of corporal.

(Right above: *the Regiment on parade at Stobs Camp on June 10, the day it received its Colours – courtesy of Reverend Wilson Tibbo and Mrs. Lillian Tibbo*)

The later arrivals, 'E' and 'F' Companies, were sent to the new Regimental Depot recently being established at Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland. There they were to become the nucleus of the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion.

During the period that he was at Aldershot, and as was the case with the great majority of the Newfoundland troops there, Corporal Fowlow was prevailed upon to re-enlist *for the duration of the war*. This he did on August 15*.



**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.*

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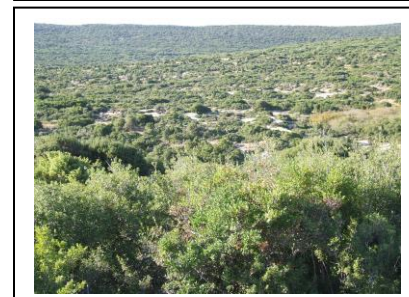
On August 20, 1915, Corporal Fowlow took ship on board the requisitioned passenger liner *Megantic* (preceding page) for passage to the Middle East and to the fighting in Gallipoli where, a month later – of which two weeks had been spent billeted at the British barracks at Abbassia, near the Egyptian capital, Cairo - on September 20, 1st Battalion landed on the beach at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula.



(Right above: *Newfoundland troops on board a troop-ship anchored at Mudros, either Megantic on August 29, Ausonia on September 18, or Prince Abbas on September 19 – Whichever the case, they were yet to land on Gallipoli. – from Provincial Archives)*



(Right adjacent: *'Kangaroo Beach', where the men of 1st Battalion landed on the night of September 19-20, 1915, is in the distance at the far end of Suvla Bay. The remains of a landing-craft are still clearly visible in the foreground on 'A' Beach. – photograph from 2011)*



(Right: *almost a century later, the area, little changed from those far-off days, of the Newfoundland positions at Suvla, and where Corporal Fowlow served during the fall of 1915 – photograph from 2011)*

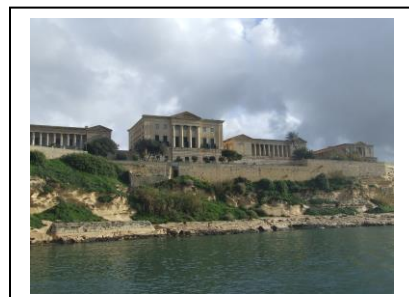
Corporal Fowlow of 6 Platoon was evacuated from Suvla on October 10 and – likely at first ferried to the Greek island of Lemnos – was embarked onto His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Nevasa* (right). He was suffering from dysentery.

He was then transported for further treatment to the British-held Mediterranean island of Malta. Admitted to the Military Hospital, Cottonera, on the 14th, Corporal Fowlow was there additionally diagnosed as having contracted typhoid as well as para-typhoid, and was deemed as *dangerously ill*.



(Right below: *one of the several now-disused – abandoned since Malta's independence in 1964 - British military hospital facilities which still stand on the island – photograph from 2011)*

The son of Thomas Jenkins Fowlow, fisherman, and Elizabeth Fowlow (née *Fowlow* (sic)) – to whom he had allotted a daily allowance of 70 cents from his pay - of Trinity East (they today lie together in Port Rexton Cemetery) – he was also brother to Margaret, Edgar, Ronald, Pearce, Elsie, Louis (*Lewis*), Alexander, Ethel, Hilda, Archibald, Leon and Gertrude.



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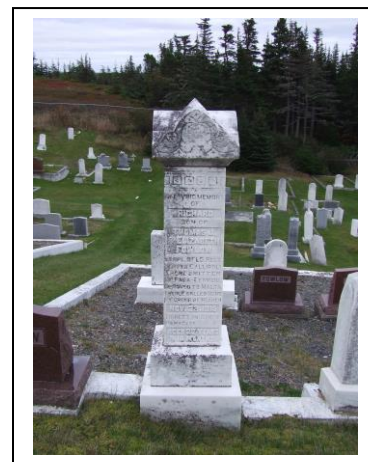
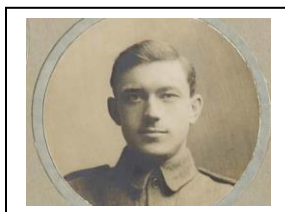
Corporal Fowlow was reported by the Commandant, Malta, as having *died of sickness – para-typhoid* - in hospital on Malta on November 23, 1915. At home it was the Reverend A. Pittman of Trinity East who was requested to bear the news to his family.



Richard Fowlow had enlisted at twenty-two years of age: date of birth, January 18, 1893.

Private J. K. Foster of the Royal North Devon Hussars and Sergeant J. W. Warrington, of the Royal Field Artillery, share his tomb and tombstone.

(Right above: *the Grand Harbour at Valetta, Malta, at or about the time of the Great War – from a vintage post-card*)



(Right above: A family memorial in Port Rexton Cemetery commemorates the sacrifice of Corporal Richard Fowlow. – photograph from 2014)

(*The photograph of Private(?) Fowlow is from the Provincial Archives.*)

Corporal Richard Fowlow was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, as well as to the British War Medal (centre) and to the Victory Medal (Inter-Allied War Medal) (right).

