

# William Samuel Cowan



**Service Number:** 802722

**Rank:** Private

**Branch:** 135th and 15th Battalion

**Years Served:** 1916 - 1919

**Summary:** William `Bill` Samuel Cowan was also a dry good clerk in Strathroy who attested in the 135th Btn on the 14th Jan 1916. He ended up in the 15th Btn and sustained a shrapnel wound to his left hand on the 31st Aug 1918. He returned to Canada and was discharged from the CEF on the 23 April 1919. He died at Strathroy on the 11 October 1931 and is interred in Strathroy Cemetery.

**Name:** William Samuel Cowan

**Birth Date:** January 24, 1894

**Relatives:** Father - Robert Leslie Cowan

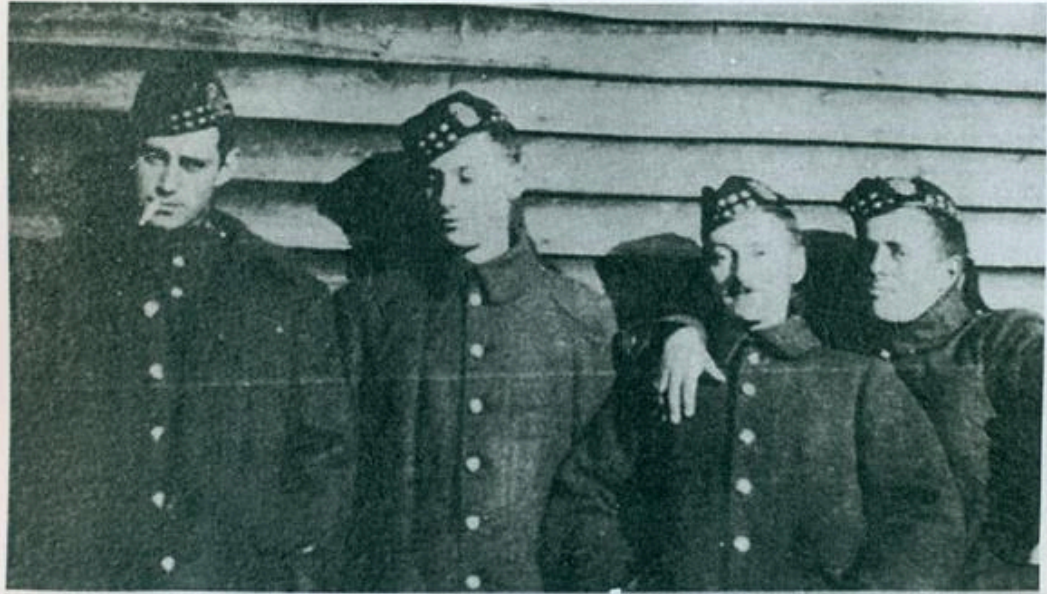
**Address:** Strathroy, ON

**Attestation Date:** January 14, 1916

**Death Date:** October 11, 1931

**Burial Site:** Strathroy Cemetery





A Company, 135 Battalion  
At Camp Witley in England 1916  
Left to Right: Walt Beer, Winston Pearson, Harold Conkey, Bill Cowan





<b>Date</b>	<b>Particulars</b>
<b>Card</b>	802722 Pte Cowan, William Samuel, 15 Btn, France Date of service 6 Dec 1916,
<b>14 Jan 1916</b>	Attested in 135 <sup>th</sup> Btn at Strathroy ON Dry good clerk, born 24 Jan 1894, next of kin Leslie Cowan, Strathroy ON No previous military experience 5'4 and half inches tall, 137 lbs, dark complexion, grey eyes, brown hair. Methodist, Clear medical
<b>4 May 1916</b>	Insurance form – shows mother at Clara Cowan of Strathroy ON, and that he's insured with the Canadian Order of Forresters
<b>21 Jul 1916</b>	Pneumonia at Camp Borden
<b>22 Aug 1916</b>	Sailed from Halifax on SS Olympic for England with the 135 <sup>th</sup> Btn
<b>30 Aug 1916</b>	Arrived England SS Olympic
<b>15 Oct 1916</b>	To Bramshott England for training
<b>15 Oct 1916</b>	Transferred to 134 <sup>th</sup> Btn Witley
<b>6 Dec 1916</b>	TOS ( <i>Taken on Strength</i> ) in the field by 15 <sup>th</sup> Btn
<b>11 Mar 1917</b>	To hospital sick
<b>14 Mar 1917</b>	Rejoined unit
<b>14 Dec 1917</b>	To 3 <sup>rd</sup> Canadian Field ambulance –impetigo
<b>24 Dec 1917</b>	Discharged to unit 15 <sup>th</sup> Btn
<b>30 Dec 1917</b>	Granted 14 days leave to England
<b>31 Aug 1918</b>	To 3 <sup>rd</sup> Australian General hospital Abbeville – Shrapnel wound left hand
<b>16 Sept 1918</b>	Cable sent to Next of kin Leslie Cowan, father
<b>22 Oct 1918</b>	Discharged to Base Etaples
<b>16 Apr 1919</b>	Sailed from Liverpool England on SS Belgic
<b>16 Apr 1919</b>	SOS to Canada from Rhyl England
<b>23 Apr 1919</b>	Discharge Certificate – shows scar on left hand
<b>25 Apr 1919</b>	Proceedings on Discharge – Discharged CEF 25 Apr 1919 at London ON, Residence to be Strathroy ON, Written across form ; Deceased 11 Oct 1931
<b>28 Apr 1919</b>	Disembarked SS Belgic at Halifax
<b>No date</b>	Medal Card – P&S to Mr Robert L. Cowan father, Strathroy On Memorial Cross not sent as not married and mother dead

**Attestation Paper:**

Card 14.

a.

# ATTESTATION PAPER.

DUPLICATE

No. 802722

Folio.

## CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

### QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? Cowan
- 1a. What are your Christian names? William Samuel
- 1b. What is your present address? Strathroy, Ont.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Strathroy, Ont.
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Lester Cowan
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Strathroy Ont.
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? Father
5. What is the date of your birth? Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1894
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Card in store
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No  
If so, state particulars of former service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force? Yes

### DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, W. S. Cowan do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

William Samuel Cowan (Signature of Recruit)

Date Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1916 D. M. Campbell (Signature of Witness)

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, W. S. Cowan do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

William Samuel Cowan (Signature of Recruit)

Date Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 1916 D. M. Campbell (Signature of Witness)

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as required, and the said Recruit has read and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Strathroy this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1916.

D. M. Campbell (Signature of Justice)



Description of William Samuel Cowan on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 21 years 7 months.  
(To be indicated according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has never before, he will indicate the same accordingly in the prescribed form, which is also to be filled in by the recruiting officer.

Height 5 ft 4 in  
Girth when fully expanded 34 in  
Range of expansion 8 in  
Complexion dark  
Eyes grey  
Hair brown

Character of Enlistment  
Protestantism  
Medical Officer yes  
Regulation-Compensation  
Surrender Certificate  
Protestant  
Other designations  
(Indicate whether to be retained.)

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force.

Date June 14/16 1916. W. B. Bardeau  
Place St. Catharines Enl. Off. 135 Bat.  
Medical Officer.

"Insert here 'fit' or 'unfit'."

Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate with the name of those who have been similarly and who before him before the issue of this form.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

William Samuel Cowan having been duly approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

B. Robson W. G. (Signature of Officer)

Date 22-1- 1916.

Casualty Form:





Army Form B. 103. *Just to CLASS A* **Casualty Form Active Service.** Regimental Number *802722*

Rank *W.S.M.* Surname *Down* Christian Name *H.S.*

Religion *Anglican* Age on Enlistment *25* years *11* months

Enlisted (a) *1914* Term of Service (a) *5* years Service reckons from (a) *1914*

Date of promotion to present rank *1915* Date of appointment to lance rank *1914*

Extended *1915* Re-engaged *1915* Qualification (b) *1915* or Corps Trade and rate.

Occupation *1915* Signature of Officer *1915*

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
Date	From whom received			
<i>1914</i>	<i>CCCC</i>	<i>14 Days leave to H.R.</i>	<i>27-19 B.C. 1914</i>	
<i>1914</i>	<i>Return from leave</i>		<i>1914 B.C.</i>	
<i>1915</i>	<i>Transferred to Cdn. Reserve List.</i>		<i>1915</i>	

*Apply for P.O. No. 81*

*1915*

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
Date	From whom received			
<i>22-10-18</i>	<i>160th Bn</i>	<i>Brit. Bn. Details</i>	<i>Empire</i>	<i>22-10-18 C.E.A. 362</i>
			<i>for final - Colonial Report D.M.C.</i>	
<i>7-3-19</i>	<i>Spd. Res.</i>	<i>I.O.B. from 1st. CORD.</i>	<i>Witley</i>	<i>7-3-19 D.C. 68</i>
<i>1919</i>	<i>S.O.S. to E.D.</i>	<i>Witley Camp</i>	<i>1919</i>	
<i>1919</i>	<i>160th Bn</i>	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>1919</i>	
<i>1919</i>	<i>S.O.S.</i>	<i>1919</i>	<i>1919</i>	
<i>1919</i>	<i>O.C.M.D.C.W.I. T.O.S. For return to Canada, Rhyd.</i>	<i>1919</i>	<i>D.O. No. 1919</i>	
<i>1919</i>	<i>S.O.S. on Proceeding to C.E.F. Can. Rhyd.</i>	<i>1919</i>	<i>D.O. No. 1919</i>	
	<i>Embarked Liverpool SS BION</i>			
	<i>April 16th 1919</i>			
	<i>Disembarked Halifax Apr 23</i>			
	<i>Capt &amp; A</i>			

Other Documentation:

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=pffww&id=121741&lang=eng>

