

## **BOWLY, Reginald Walter**

Service Number

Rank Lieutenant

Manchester Regiment, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion attached Cheshire Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Born 1885, Messing, Essex

Died May 29, 1918, near Forêt de Nieppe, France

Occupation Farmer, Parksville

Marital Status Single

The 1914 Henderson's Vancouver Island Gazetteer lists Reginald Walter Bowly as a farmer living in Parksville. He had only just arrived, having travelled to Canada on the same ship as another Parksville settler, F M Badham. In November 1914, they returned to the UK together to enlist and serve in WWI.

The image of him was found in a photograph album owned by Nellie Cheney, the daughter of one of Errington's earliest settlers. During her youth, Nellie collected photographs of her contemporaries and local residents, as well as some of the parties and picnics held for the young men going to war. Her photograph of Bowly has a caption, "Mr. Bowly on Horne Lake".

He was the son of the late Rev. Canon C H Bowly of Essex, and left England following his father's death in 1913.

He saw heavy fighting under the German offensive into the north of France and was killed near the Nieppe Forest on May 29, 1918. Reginald Walter Bowly is buried at the Tannay British Cemetery, Thiennes, France. He is mentioned in the First World War diaries of Charlie May, published as, "*To Fight Alongside Friends*".

Sources: Photo: Parksville Museum & Archives; Nellie Cheney Photograph Album  
British Columbia City Directories / Vancouver Public Library  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Holmesacourt.org  
Artists Rifles. Regimental Roll of Honour compiled by S Stagoli Higham  
Livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk

