

Austin James McDonald - WW1





Soldier Profile

- Full Name: Austin James McDonald (signed as Austin James MacDonald) (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 7)
- Regimental Number: 4050733 (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 3)
- Rank: Private (Pte.) (MacDonald,... p. 3)
- Date of Birth: April 2, 1897 (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Place of Birth: Ballantyne's Cove, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Next of Kin: Mrs. Margaret McDonald (Mother), Ballantyne's Cove, Nova Scotia (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Trade/Occupation: Farmer (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Physical Description on Enlistment: 21 years old, 5'8½" tall, 130 lbs, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 7).



Service Timeline

1. Draft Evading & Apprehension (1917–1918)

- November 11, 1917: His official service reckoning date begins here, which is when his age class was legally called to report under the *Military Service Act, 1917* (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 11).
- Defaulter Status: He did not register or report for duty when called (MacDonald,... p. 1). He was officially classified on his paperwork as a "Defaulter (Did not Register)" (MacDonald,... p. 1).

2. Enlistment and Medical Rejection (July 1918)

- July 3, 1918: Following his apprehension or surrender, he was taken to Aldershot Camp in Nova Scotia (MacDonald,... p. 1). He signed his Attestation Paper and was taken on strength by the 1st Depot Battalion, Nova Scotia Regiment (N.S.R.) (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 11).
- Medical Board: On July 5, 1918, a military medical board examined him at Aldershot Camp (MacDonald,... p. 7). The physicians diagnosed him with Pulmonary Tuberculosis (T.B.) (MacDonald,... p. 7). Because of this infectious, life-threatening lung disease, the board immediately placed him into Category "E" (Permanently unfit for any military service) (MacDonald,... pp. 3, 7).

3. Immediate Military Discharge (July 1918)

- July 9, 1918: Just six days after formally entering uniform, Private McDonald was officially discharged from the army at Aldershot, Nova Scotia, due to his Category "E" medical unfitness (MacDonald,... pp. 11, 13).
- Total Active Service: 7 days (MacDonald,... p. 14). He never left Nova Scotia and saw no combat or active training (MacDonald,... p. 11). He returned home to his family farm in Ballantyne's Cove (MacDonald,... p. 13).

Financial Settlement on Discharge

Upon his discharge, his back-dated military pay account was settled to reflect the period since his draft class was called up:

- His statement accounts for 240 days of service spanning from November 11, 1917, to July 8, 1918 (MacDonald,... p. 9).
- He accumulated \$240.00 in Regimental Pay (\$1.00 per day) and \$24.00 in Field Allowance (\$0.10 per day) (MacDonald,... p. 9).
- His entire balance of \$264.00 was cleared out upon his discharge under Part II Daily Order 188 (MacDonald,... p. 9).