

Duncan McDonald - WW1





Soldier Profile

- Full Name: Duncan Roderick McDonald (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Regimental Number: 3189400 (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Rank: Private (Pte.) (MacDonald,... p. 3)
- Date of Birth: May 5, 1894 (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Place of Birth: Morvan, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Next of Kin: Roderick McDonald (Father), Morvan, Antigonish County (MacDonald,... p. 1)
- Trade/Occupation: Farmer / Lumberman (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 12)
- Physical Description: 23 years old, 5'9" tall, 128 lbs, medium complexion, dark/grey eyes, dark brown hair (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 11, 23).



Service Timeline

1. Conscription under the Draft (June 1918)

- June 14, 1918: Drafted under the *Military Service Act, 1917* at Aldershot Camp, Nova Scotia (MacDonald,... p. 1). He was taken on strength by the 1st Depot Battalion, Nova Scotia Regiment (N.S.R.) (MacDonald,... pp. 1, 13).
- Medical Fitness: A medical board examined him on June 17, 1918, and passed him fit for service in Category "A-2" (Fit for overseas service) (MacDonald,... p. 1). He signed his military will the same week, leaving his personal estate to his father (MacDonald,... p. 31).

2. Immediate Illness & Hospitalization Pipeline (1918)

Private McDonald never deployed overseas because he spent nearly his entire seven months in uniform inside military isolation wards fighting a sequence of continuous illnesses (MacDonald,... pp. 11, 26):

- July 3–17, 1918: Caught Measles just weeks into basic training and was admitted to the Aldershot Field Hospital (MacDonald,... pp. 7, 24).
- August 6 – October 3, 1918: Developed a sudden onset of weakness, trembling, muscle atrophy, and involuntary twitching across his body, which doctors diagnosed as Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance) (MacDonald,... pp. 7, 21, 26). He was confined to bed for two months at Aldershot (MacDonald,... pp. 21, 26).
- October 4 – November 16, 1918: Transferred south to Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax for advanced testing (MacDonald,... pp. 7, 15). Specialists discovered he had a heavily diseased, submerged tonsil that was leaking toxins into his bloodstream, mimicking the nervous system attacks (MacDonald,... pp. 15, 17). He underwent a successful tonsillectomy and was returned to duty when the tremors vanished (MacDonald,... p. 15).

3. Medical Corps Transfer and the Influenza Pandemic (Winter 1918)

- December 3, 1918: Following the Armistice, he was transferred out of the infantry to the Canadian Army Medical Corps (C.A.M.C.) Training Depot in Halifax (MacDonald,... pp. 10, 13).
- December 13, 1918: Struck down by the deadly historic Spanish Influenza pandemic (MacDonald,... pp. 7, 39).
- December 19, 1918: Moved to Cogswell Street Military Hospital in Halifax (MacDonald,... pp. 10, 13). He ran a severe fever of 103.8°F but successfully survived the respiratory infection (MacDonald,... pp. 37, 39). He was discharged back to his unit on January 4, 1919 (MacDonald,... pp. 7, 39).

4. Demobilization and Discharge (January 1919)

- January 18, 1919: Given a final medical clearance confirming his lungs and nervous system had returned to normal with no lasting disabilities (MacDonald,... p. 29). He was formally discharged on demobilization in Halifax (MacDonald,... pp. 11, 33).
- Financial Status: His final pay ledger was cleared with a standard \$35.00 civilian clothing allowance (MacDonald,... p. 41). He also had a \$15.00 down-payment credit toward a war Victory Bond (MacDonald,... p. 41). He returned home to his family farm in Morvan (MacDonald,... pp. 12, 33).