

Duncan Alexander MacDougall - WW1



260th Battalion, Canadian Rifle Regiment (Siberia)

Personal Profile

- Full Name: Duncan Alexander MacDougall (pp. 1, 3).
- Date of Birth: January 22, 1894 (p. 1).
- Place of Birth: Morar, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (p. 1).
- Next of Kin: Mary MacDougall (Mother; Widow), living in Morar, N.S. (p. 1).
- Trade: Civil Brakeman for the Canadian Government Railways (CGR) (p. 1).
- Physical Description: 5 feet 7 1/2 inches tall, medium complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, with a distinctive birthmark on the side of his right arm (pp. 1, 15).

Service Timeline

- Enlistment: Drafted under the Military Service Act on June 4, 1918, at Aldershot, Nova Scotia (p. 1).
- Initial Unit: Posted to the 1st Depot Battalion, Nova Scotia Regiment (pp. 1, 31).
- Siberian Deployment: Transferred to the 260th Battalion, Canadian Rifle Regiment (Siberian Expeditionary Force) (pp. 23, 31). He embarked from Vancouver on October 11, 1918, and arrived in Vladivostok, Russia, on October 26, 1918 (p. 23).

The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (CSEF) was a distinct contingent of 4,192 Canadian soldiers sent to Vladivostok, Russia, between October 1918 and June 1919. Authorized during the chaos of the Russian Revolution, it formed part of a larger 140,000-troop multi-nation Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War.

Conscription Controversy: Roughly 70% of the troops were drafted via the contentious Military Service Act. Because the Western Front war ended right as they mobilized, many soldiers felt they were being illegally sent to fight another country's civil war. This sparked the famous Victoria Mutiny in December 1918, where troops refused to march to their transport ships until forced by guards.

Garrison Boredom: The vast majority of the troops spent a miserable, freezing winter inside Vladivostok. They undertook routine guard drills, local police work, and dealt with rapidly tanking morale.

- Duties: Assigned to the Base Guard Company in Vladivostok (pp. 23, 31).
- Return home: Evacuated from Russia on May 9, 1919, aboard the *S.S. Empress of Japan*, arriving back in Canada on May 21, 1919 (pp. 23, 25).

Growing domestic political pressure and labor union backlash back home forced Canada to abandon the campaign early. Troops evacuated aboard vessels like the *S.S. Empress of Japan* and *S.S. Monteagle*, returning home by June 1919.

- Discharge: Officially discharged on June 13, 1919, at Halifax, N.S., due to general demobilization (p. 15).

Medical History

- Measles: Suffered a bout of measles shortly after draft signup, spending time in the Aldershot Field Hospital from June 26 to July 11, 1918 (p. 7).
- Tonsillitis: Hospitalized at No. 11 Stationary Hospital in Vladivostok from January 20 to February 3, 1919, presenting with a severe sore throat, cough, and swollen tonsils (pp. 23, 33). He recovered completely and returned to his unit (pp. 22-23).
- Final Assessment: Deemed physically fit (Category A2) with no lingering military disabilities upon leaving the service (pp. 15, 17).