

Thomas William MacEachern - WW1



Personal Profile

- Full Name: Thomas William McEachern (MacEachern... pp. 5, 11).
- Date & Place of Birth: March 3, 1896, in Winchester, Massachusetts, USA (MacEachern... pp. 1, 11).
- Trade or Calling: Stenographer (MacEachern... pp. 1, 13).
- Next-of-Kin: Miss Bella McEachern (Sister), residing at 199 Swanton Street, Winchester, Massachusetts, USA (MacEachern... pp. 5, 12).
- Marital Status: Single (MacEachern... pp. 1, 11).

Physical Description & Health

- Height & Weight: 5 feet, 4 inches; 135 lbs (MacEachern... pp. 2, 13).
- Complexion & Features: Medium complexion, grey eyes, and black hair (MacEachern... p. 2).
- Religious Denomination: Roman Catholic (MacEachern... p. 2).

Military Service & Timeline

- Enlistment: Formally attested on October 29, 1915, at Halifax, Nova Scotia (MacEachern... pp. 1, 5).
- Regimental Number: 223300 (MacEachern... pp. 1, 5).
- Primary Unit: Assigned to the 85th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (Nova Scotia Highlanders) (MacEachern... pp. 1, 3).

The 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders), CEF, was one of Canada's most famous and highly decorated infantry units of the First World War. Known affectionately as the "Never Fails" battalion, the unit was raised entirely from Nova Scotia and built a legendary reputation for tactical reliability and sheer grit on the Western Front.

- Prior Service: Documented 3 years of service with the 3rd U.S. Field Artillery (MacEachern... pp. 1, 5).
- Service Timeline: Spent much of 1916 on home service in Canada, with records noting a period of furlough in May 1916 and a brief hospital stay in June 1916 (MacEachern... p. 7). He was transferred to the 6th Special Service Company on September 20, 1916 (MacEachern... pp. 7, 9).

Fate and Administrative Corrections

- Death: Private McEachern passed away on October 27, 1916, in Halifax, Nova Scotia (MacEachern... pp. 9, 15).

While stationed at the massive wartime military transit hub in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he suffered a sudden and severe rupture of the appendix. He was rushed to the military hospital in Halifax but medical staff could not save him, and he passed away from the resulting infection at just 20 years old.

- Clerical Errors & Correction: Due to administrative confusion following his sudden absence/death, his paperwork was initially marked on March 19, 1917, as "S.O.S. (Struck Off Strength) as a Deserter" (MacEachern... p. 9). Upon administrative review, this error was corrected; the "Deserter" status was completely deleted, and his official status was updated to "S.O.S. Deceased" effective from his actual date of death on October 27, 1916 (MacEachern... pp. 9, 15).
- Financial Closure: His final balance of \$163.00 was closed out and transferred to the Estates Branch in Ottawa on March 22, 1923 (MacEachern... p. 15)