

Alexander McInnis - WW1



(Photo enhanced with AI technology)

Personal Profile

- Full Name: Alexander McInnes (MacInnis, ... p. 1)
- Date & Place of Birth: September 16, 1894, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada (MacInnis, ... p. 1)
- Trade or Calling: Brakeman (MacInnis, ... p. 1)
- Marital Status: Single (MacInnis, ... p. 1)
- Next-of-Kin: D. J. McInnes (Father), residing in Antigonish, Nova Scotia (MacInnis, ... p. 1)

Military Service & Timeline

- Enlistment: Formally attested on March 3, 1915, at Victoria, British Columbia (MacInnis, ... p. 1).
- Regimental Number: 430184 (MacInnis, ... p. 3).
- July 1, 1915: Embarked from Canada with the 48th Battalion, arriving in England later that month (MacInnis, ... pp. 25, 31).
- Assigned Units: Originally enlisted with the 48th Battalion (CEF) (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 35). He was transferred to the 10th Battalion (Canadian Infantry) for frontline service in France (MacInnis, ... pp. 5, 31).

The 10th Battalion, CEF (famously nicknamed "The Fighting Tenth") was one of the most renowned and aggressive frontline infantry battalions in the Canadian Corps during the First World War.

First Frontline Tour (10th Battalion)

- October 27, 1915: Transferred from the 48th Battalion and taken on strength by the 10th Battalion (Canadian Infantry) for frontline service in France (MacInnis, ... p. 31).
- February 2 – 9, 1916 (Away from Front – 7 Days): Admitted to No. 3 Canadian Field Ambulance with influenza (MacInnis, ... pp. 20-21). He rejoined the 10th Battalion in the field on February 9 (MacInnis, ... pp. 20-21).
- April 9, 1917: Hit by shrapnel/gunshot during the Battle of Vimy Ridge (MacInnis, ... pp. 19, 31).

On April 9, 1917, the 10th Battalion (commonly known as the "Fighting Tenth") was heavily engaged in the historic opening assault of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on the Western Front in northern France.

While the assault across the entire Canadian Corps is celebrated historically as a masterpiece of military engineering and the battle where Canada "came of age" as a unified country, it came at an immense physical cost: The 10th Battalion alone suffered 374 casualties on April 9 and the immediate days that followed. Across all four attacking Canadian divisions, over 3,500 soldiers lost their lives on that opening day.

- April 10 – 15, 1917: Treated at No. 7 Canadian General Hospital in Étaples, France, for wounds to his left eye, left shoulder, and left leg (MacInnis, ... pp. 20-21).
- April 15, 1917: Struck off strength from the 10th Battalion after being severely wounded (Vimy Ridge sector) and evacuated back to England via hospital ship (MacInnis, ... p. 32).

Hospitalization & UK Reserve Units

- April 17, 1917: Formally taken on strength by the Alberta Regimental Depot (A.R.D.) at Bramshott while recovering in English hospitals (MacInnis, ... p. 32).
- June 27, 1917: Upon being discharged from the convalescent hospital, he was transferred and taken on strength by the 9th Reserve Battalion at Bramshott to undergo retraining (MacInnis, ... p. 32).

Second Frontline Tour (10th Battalion)

- August 26, 1917: Struck off strength from the 9th Reserve Battalion and proceeded back overseas to France with the 10th Battalion (CEF) (MacInnis, ... p. 32).
- September 6, 1917: Re-joined and was taken on strength by the 10th Battalion in the field.
- On November 10, 1917, the 10th Battalion was fighting in the final, brutal phase of the Battle of Passchendaele (the Third Battle of Ypres) in Belgium.

The Battle of Passchendaele (officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres) was one of the most notoriously brutal and costly campaigns of the First World War. Fought in Belgium between July 31 and November 10, 1917, it became the ultimate symbol of the horrific mud and slaughter on the Western Front.

Casualties: The battle resulted in immense losses for very little territorial gain. Total Allied casualties were estimated around 275,000 to 300,000, while German casualties hovered around 200,000 to 250,000. The Canadian Corps alone suffered 15,654 casualties.

- He later rotated through the 9th and 21st Reserve Battalions (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 11).

The 9th Reserve Battalion was a vital training and reinforcement unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) based in England during World War I. It served as a staging pipeline, taking in newly arrived Canadian recruits, training them to frontline standards, and sending them across the English Channel to replenish battered combat units in France and Flanders.

The 21st Reserve Battalion was an important training and holding unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) based in England during World War I. Like the 9th Reserve, its main job was to absorb incoming soldiers from western Canada, train them, and send them to the front lines as replacements.

- Frontline Service: Served a total of 40 months in France and Belgium (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 35).



Gallantry Award: The Military Medal (MM)

Private McInnes was officially gazetted for the Military Medal on March 13, 1918 (London Gazette issue 30573) (MacInnis, ... pp. 5, 29).

The Citation Details: On November 10, 1917, at Bellevue (during the Battle of Passchendaele), his unit was in reserve when a German shell struck, wounding and burying McInnes and two comrades (MacInnis, ... p. 5). McInnes managed to extricate himself from the debris (MacInnis, ... p. 5). Under intense, ongoing shellfire, he manually dug out his two buried companions, secured a stretcher-bearer to render first aid, and assisted in carrying the most severely injured soldier to a Dressing Station (MacInnis, ... p. 5). The logs note his "cheerfulness and fortitude" highly inspired his unit (MacInnis, ... pp. 5-6).



Canadian Military Medal

■ Discharge & Later Life

- Return Voyage: Sailed back to Canada from Liverpool aboard the *H.M.T. Northland* on March 27, 1919, arriving in Halifax on April 5, 1919 (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 33).
- Official Discharge: Formally discharged upon demobilization on April 11, 1919, at Halifax, Nova Scotia (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 35).
- Proposed Residence: Listed his post-war intended home address as Revelstoke, British Columbia (MacInnis, ... pp. 7, 23).