

Dan Hugh McInnis - WW1



The 2nd Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops did not receive a newly minted, separate railway-style badge. Instead, because they were originally raised as a combat unit, the men of the 2nd CRT proudly wore their original 127th Battalion (York Rangers) cap badge throughout the entire war.

Personal Profile

- Full Name: Daniel Hugh McInnis (p. 1).
- Date & Place of Birth: June 11, 1894, in Georgeville, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (p. 1).
- Trade or Calling: Railroadman, Trainman, and Bridgeman (pp. 1, 25).
- Next-of-Kin: Daniel John McInnis (Father), residing in Georgeville, Antigonish, Nova Scotia (p. 1).
- Regimental Number: 2140521 (p. 1).

Units Served In

Private McInnis did not serve overseas, spending his entire military career within Canada moving through the following units:

- 2nd Depot Battalion, B.C. Regiment: Drafted under the Military Service Act of 1917 and formally taken on strength at Victoria, British Columbia, on July 23, 1918 (pp. 1, 9).
- 6th Company, Canadian Engineers: Transferred locally on August 7, 1918 (p. 9).
- 2nd Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops Depot (C.R.T.D.): Transferred to this specialized railway mobilization unit on August 8, 1918, and moved to Niagara Camp in Ontario by August 23, 1918 (pp. 9, 15). He remained with the C.R.T.D. until his official discharge upon demobilization on November 28, 1918, at Hamilton, Ontario (p. 19)

The Canadian Railway Troops Depot (C.R.T.D.) was the central training, processing, and administrative headquarters in England for all Canadian railway units serving in World War I. Because World War I was a heavily industrialized, mass-logistics conflict, moving millions of tons of ammunition, food, and casualties was entirely dependent on rail power. The C.R.T.D. served as the vital pipeline that organized Canada's skilled railroaders into specialized military units before sending them to the Western Front. There were also units in Canada stationed at camps in Ontario.

Injuries & Medical History

The file contains no record of combat-inflicted injuries or wounds (p. 19). Instead, his medical profile highlights two distinct non-combat developments:

1. Pre-existing Conditions & Medical Board

- During his medical examinations, doctors noted congenital physical anomalies.(p. 25).
- A Medical Board subsequently lowered his physical classification from a frontline rating to Category B-2 (fit for light base duty or domestic service) (pp. 15, 25).
- Notes also indicate a marked goitre on his neck, which caused him to cough or experience labored breathing when running (p. 15).

2. Base Hospitalizations (Niagara Camp)

- Mumps: Admitted to the Niagara Camp Hospital on September 12, 1918, presenting with a heavily swollen, painful jaw and difficulty opening his mouth (pp. 15, 26). He was treated locally with ice bags and routine care, successfully recovering and discharging on September 30, 1918 (p. 15).
- Influenza: Immediately following his mumps recovery, his secondary ledger outlines a subsequent 22-day hospital admission from October 2 to October 24, 1918, for influenza, from which he fully recovered (p. 26).