

Alexander McIsaac - WW1



Personal Profile

- Full Name: Alexander McIsaac (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).
- Date & Place of Birth: May 24, 1888, in Rear Georgeville, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).
- Trade or Calling: Stationary Engineer (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).
- Marital Status: Single (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).
- Next-of-Kin: Allan McIsaac (Father), residing in Rear Georgeville, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).
- Regimental Number: 4080242 (MacIsaac, ... p. 1).

Units Served In

Private McIsaac did not serve overseas, completing his brief military service entirely on home defense forces in British Columbia (MacIsaac, ... pp. 7, 15):

- 1st Depot Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, C.E.F.: Drafted under the Military Service Act of 1917 and formally taken on strength at Vancouver, British Columbia, on February 28, 1918 (MacIsaac, ... pp. 1, 7). He remained on strength with this domestic depot until his administrative discharge (MacIsaac, ... pp. 7, 23).

The 1st Depot Battalion, British Columbia Regiment was a specialized recruiting, administrative, and primary training unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) operating during the First World War. Unlike frontline fighting units, its sole purpose was to process newly enlisted or conscripted men in Western Canada, provide them with basic military instruction, and ship them overseas as reinforcements.

Battles Fought In

- None: Because his entire service took place within Canada and was cut short by a severe medical condition, Private McIsaac did not fight in any battles or deploy to a theatre of war (MacIsaac, ... pp. 7, 15).



Injuries & Medical History

The file documents no combat-inflicted injuries or wounds (MacIsaac, ... p. 7). His record focuses on a chronic and incapacitating upper respiratory illness that developed shortly after his enlistment (MacIsaac, ... p. 19):

1. Chronic Sinusitis Diagnosis & Hospitalization

- Admission: Admitted to the Military Annex Hospital in Vancouver on March 15, 1918, complaining of being completely unable to breathe through either nostril (MacIsaac, ... p. 19). He stated he had suffered from blockage in his nose for most of his life (MacIsaac, ... p. 19).
- Clinical Findings: Specialists noted his posterior nasal passages were entirely filled with thick, yellowish pus and dynamic nasal polyps (MacIsaac, ... pp. 9, 19).
- Surgical Intervention: He underwent an offline operation consisting of a double turbinectomy (removal of the turbinate bones in the nasal cavity) to manually drain his frontal sinuses (MacIsaac, ... pp. 11, 19). He was discharged from the hospital ward on July 3, 1918, to light base duties, though a moderate amount of active pus remained present (MacIsaac, ... pp. 11, 19).

2. Medical Reclassification & Discharge

- Medical Review: On August 15, 1918, a Medical Board of Review examined him and diagnosed him with Active Suppurating Frontal Sinusitis (MacIsaac, ... p. 15).
- Reclassification: His physical rating was downgraded to Category D3 (unfit for active service, requiring further treatment) (MacIsaac, ... p. 15).
- Demobilization Discharge: Because he was physically unfit for overseas combat deployment, he was officially struck off strength on September 21, 1918, and returned to the civilian Registrar's Records under general demobilization guidelines (MacIsaac, ... pp. 7, 23).