

John James McNeil - WW1

Personal Profile

- Full Name: John James McNeil (p. 1).
- Date & Place of Birth: December 17, 1895, in Georgeville, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, Canada (p. 1).
- Trade or Calling: Farmer (p. 1).
- Next-of-Kin: John James McNeil (Father), residing in Georgeville, Nova Scotia (p. 1).
- Regimental Number: 4050744 (p. 1).

Units Served In

- 1st Depot Battalion, Nova Scotia Regiment (N.S.R.): Drafted under the Military Service Act of 1917, he was officially taken on strength at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia, on July 10, 1918 (pp. 1, 7).
- August 21, 1918: The exact date his desertion officially went into effect (p. 7).
- August 31, 1918: The date specified by the military to legally strike his name from the active payroll records (p. 17).
- September 27, 1918: The date his unit's paymaster finalized his account, calculated his kit fines, and officially closed his file (p. 11).
- October 21, 1918: His finalized descriptive file and desertion papers were formally stamped, processed, and archived by Military District No. 6 headquarters in Halifax, Nova Scotia (p. 17).

The Official Circumstances

- The Investigation: After being physically missing from his barrack blocks for several weeks, a formal military Court of Inquiry was legally convened at camp (p. 7).
- The Verdict: The court formally declared him to be illegally absent (p. 7). Under the rules of the Canadian Contingent Expeditionary Force, this legal declaration automatically updated his status to Deserter (pp. 11, 17).
- The Administrative Action: He was officially Struck Off Strength (S.O.S.), meaning he was completely cut off from all military privileges, pay, and allowances (pp. 7, 17).
- Conduct Rating: Because he walked away from training, his official wartime conduct and character sheet was permanently stamped by his commanding major as "Indifferent" (pp. 17, 19).