

Roderick McPherson - WW1



Personal Profile

- Full Name: Roderick McPherson (MacPherson... p. 1).
- Date & Place of Birth: September 15, 1882, in Morar, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Trade or Calling: Laborer (MacPherson... p. 1).
- Marital Status: Single (MacPherson... p. 1).
- Next-of-Kin: Mrs. May McPherson (Mother), residing in Morar, Nova Scotia
- Regimental Number: 2383897 (MacPherson... p. 1).

Physical Description & Health

- Age at Enlistment: 35 years, 7 months (MacPherson... pp. 2, 7).
- Height & Weight: 5 feet, 4¾ inches; 127 lbs (MacPherson... pp. 2, 7).
- Medical Profile: Examined at Port Arthur, Ontario, on April 26, 1918 (MacPherson... pp. 2, 7). The medical board rated him as physically fit (Category A-2) (MacPherson... p. 7).
- Prior Rejection: His attestation notes he previously attempted to enlist elsewhere but was rejected as "medically unfit" (MacPherson... p. 1).

Units Served In & Timeline

- Enlistment: Formally volunteered and signed his attestation papers on April 26, 1918, at Port Arthur, Ontario (MacPherson... p. 1).
- Assigned Unit: Placed into "H" Company, 1st Depot Battalion, Manitoba Regiment (MacPherson... pp. 1-2).

Desertion & Financial Settlement

Private McPherson's active military career lasted less than a month before he vanished from training:

- The Absence: Records indicate he went missing from his unit on April 26, 1918—the exact same day he formally enlisted (MacPherson... p. 11).
- Struck Off Strength: After a mandatory period of unapproved absence, a formal military Court of Inquiry officially declared him a deserter. He was officially Struck Off Strength (S.O.S.) as a Deserter on May 17, 1918, under the authority of Battalion Order 270.
- Final Pay Account: His Last Pay Certificate was compiled later that year on October 8, 1918, in Winnipeg (MacPherson... p. 11). The paymaster noted that he had earned \$39.60 in base pay and field allowances for his 36 structural days on the ledger (MacPherson... p. 11). However, the military deducted \$24.20 for his period as an absentee, and his remaining baseline credit of \$15.40 was legally forfeited and reverted to the public treasury (MacPherson... p. 11).