

Leslie Seward MacPhie - WW1



Personal Profile

- Full Name: Leslie Seward McPhie (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Date & Place of Birth: July 26, 1899, in Cape George, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, Canada (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Trade or Calling: Farmer (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Marital Status: Single (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Next-of-Kin: Seward McPhie (Father), residing in Cape George, Nova Scotia (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Regimental Numbers: 2101081 (CEF) and 2779718 (Permanent Force) (MacPhie, L... pp. 1, 3).

Units Served In & Timeline

1. Canadian Expeditionary Force (1918–1919)

- Enlistment: Formally enlisted on August 6, 1918, at Halifax, Nova Scotia (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- 10th Depot Battery, Siege Artillery: Assigned here for baseline artillery training (MacPhie, L... p. 1).
- Siberian Ammunition Column: On December 28, 1918, he was transferred to New Westminster, British Columbia, and taken on strength by the Ammunition Column, Canadian Field Artillery, slated for deployment with the Siberian Expeditionary Force (MacPhie, L... p. 27).

The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (also known as the CSEF) was a highly unique, controversial, and often forgotten contingent of 4,192 Canadian soldiers dispatched to Vladivostok, Russia, between October 1918 and April 1919.

Authorized just months before the conclusion of the First World War, this force plunged Canada into the chaotic aftermath of the Russian Revolution and the opening phases of the Russian Civil War.

The deployment was heavily criticized back home. Canadian labor and farm unions aggressively opposed sending young men to interfere in Russian domestic affairs.

Furthermore, roughly 70% of the force were conscripts who had been forced into uniform under the Military Service Act to fight Germany, not Russian Bolsheviks. This sparked a notable incident in December 1918 when members of the 259th Battalion mutinied in the streets of Victoria, British Columbia, refusing to board the troopship S.S. Protesilaus until officers forced them aboard at gunpoint.

- Demobilization: He remained on the Pacific coast until February 20, 1919, when the deployment was canceled (MacPhie, L... p. 27). He was transferred back to Military District No. 6 in Halifax and officially discharged from the CEF on April 1, 1919, due to general demobilization (MacPhie, L... pp. 9, 27).

2. Permanent Force of Canada (1919–1920)

- Re-enlistment: On September 11, 1919, he re-enlisted into Canada's post-war Permanent Force at Halifax (MacPhie, L... p. 3).
- Special Guard, Canadian Military Police Corps (C.M.P.C.): Appointed to the rank of Lance Corporal (*L/Cpl*) with pay, performing regional military police and guard duties (MacPhie, L... pp. 5, 25).
- Final Discharge: Honorably discharged from the Permanent Force upon final demobilization on April 8, 1920, in Halifax (MacPhie, L... pp. 5, 25).



Injuries & Medical History

The file confirms he sustained no active combat-inflicted injuries, shell wounds, or gas exposures (MacPhie, L... p. 6). His medical history notes only a minor infectious illness and pre-existing physical markings:

1. The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

- Admission: On October 21, 1918, right as the global Spanish Flu was ravaging military camps, Gunner McPhie was admitted to the Cogswell Street Military Hospital in Halifax (MacPhie, L... p. 15).
- Symptoms & Clinical Progression: His clinical charts document a mild case, presenting with general body aches, chills, a cough, and a fever peaking at 101.4°F on his third day of admission (MacPhie, L... pp. 35, 37).
- Recovery: He was transferred to the Commons Convalescent Hospital on October 28 and discharged fully cured on November 1, 1918, with a recommendation for 6 days of light leave before returning to full artillery duty (MacPhie, L... pp. 15, 35).

2. Physical Marks & Distinctive Characteristics

Medical officers noted two pre-existing physical markings during his enlistment and discharge physicals:

- A small scar on the index finger of his left hand (MacPhie, L... pp. 2, 33).
- A notable split scar on his left great toe, which was his primary distinguishing physical mark on his official discharge certificate (MacPhie, L... pp. 2, 19).

At his final discharge medical board on March 24, 1920, his physical development was rated as "Excellent," his heart and lungs were normal, and he was released into civilian life with zero structural disability (MacPhie, L... pp. 21-22).