

Pte. Rodrick D. "Rod" MacDougall (1891-1916)

Rod MacDougall was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, on New Year's Day, 1891, to parents Hugh and Arabella J. MacDougall. His father was the fishery warden for the county and resided in Cross Roads, Ohio, Antigonish County. Rod may have come from a large family for he had a brother, Colin F. MacDougall, who served in the Second World War and could have been as much as twenty years younger than him.

As a young man, Rod served three years with the 18th Field Battery in Nova Scotia.

Rod's first known record in Hedley is in October of 1913 when he was employed as a millman working on the crusher, with the Hedley Gold Mining Co. He was 22 years old. In 1914, in Hedley, he served as a pallbearer with another "J." MacDougall for a fellow Nova Scotian whom had passed away. This second MacDougall may have been his brother or possibly an uncle. We know for sure he had a brother, "W." MacDougall, who was mentioned in the *Gazette* as having received notification when Rod was later killed.

Rod enlisted into the 54th Kootenay Battalion on 24 August 1915 with sixteen other volunteers from Hedley. After training in Vernon, B.C., and England, the 54th crossed over to the action in France, mid-August 1916. And just over a short two months later, Rod was killed in action on the Somme.

Rod and another Hedleyite of the 54th Battalion, Bert Schubert, were both killed in the same action within two days of each other. They were both machine gunners - a very precarious responsibility, as such men were targeted by the enemy. Rod was killed on 23 October 1916. His war record states he was killed at Tara Hill, northeast of Albert, France.

Pte. MacDougall is buried at Courcellette British Military Cemetery, Somme, France. He was 25 years of age.

The Casket, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, 16 November 1916

Death Notice of Rodrick D. MacDougall

“Killed in Action” is becoming a common phrase in *The Casket's* news items. Each week we note that some son of our County has given up his young life in defence of his country and some Antigonish home is saddened by the great sacrifice it is called upon to make. The latest native of the County reported “Killed in Action” is Roderick MacDougall, son of Mr. Hugh MacDougall, Cross Roads Ohio, Fishery Warden for the County. His death was reported last week. Roddie, though young in years, had grown to be a fine type of physical manhood. Tall and strong, he also was endowed with that quality of self-confidence that goes with fine physical development, and he early ventured from home, going to the Canadian West, the goal in late years of many of our ambitious youth. With other boys from his native community he joined one of the Western battalions, and some fourteen months ago sailed for overseas. For a year he had been in the trenches on the Western battle line. His parents and other members of the family have the deep sympathy of the community in their great loss.

The Casket, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, 23 November 1916

Family Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacDougall and family offer their profound thanks to their neighbors, their kind and thoughtful friends in the Town of Antigonish and elsewhere, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and condolence in their great sorrow for the death of their beloved son and brother Roderick, who gave his young life on the battlefield of France for God, King and country.