

Jean Lacroix

Grade: 2^{ième} classe

Regimental Number: 442

31^{ième} Chasseurs à Pied

born: 9 July 1886 - died: 29 November 1918

Jean Lacroix was born on 9 July 1886 in Sourzac, in the department of Dordogne.¹ He enlisted in Périgueux, France, with the recruitment number 442.

He was a returning prisoner of war when he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 November 1918 and he died there four days later² of bronchitis, contracted when he was a prisoner of war.³ He was buried the next day in the Cimetière Communale in Gosselies (Grave 246) with a French cure presiding. He has the distinction of "Mort pour la France."

When Jean was at the 1st CCCS, it was a very busy time for the unit. It had accommodated all patients from the 36th and 17th CCCS which were moving.⁴ Over the previous days, the unit had received many patients who were returning prisoners of war in very poor condition. "Continuing receiving patients – large numbers of R.P.O.W.s arriving in shocking condition, starved, emaciated, very scantily clad, very lousy and dirty with wounds and sores showing gross lack of care or treatment. Very busy."⁵

The 31^{ième} Chasseurs à Pied was formed in 1913 in Corcieux, Vosges, made up of five companies from five different battalions.⁶ The Battalion lost 2,300 ordinary soldiers in the First World War. The Battalion also won 60 Croix de la Legion d'Honneur and 244 Medailles Militaires.

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¹ "Morts pour la France de la Première Guerre mondiale," Mémoire des hommes, Ministère de la défense (<http://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/article.php%3Flarub%3D24%26titre%3Dmorts-pour-la-france-de-la-premiere-guerre-mondiale>; accessed 14 April 2015), entry for Lacroix, Jean

² "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 727

³ "Morts pour la France de la Première Guerre mondiale," entry for Lacroix, Jean

⁴ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," Library and Archives Canada (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINND&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ « Historique du 31e Bataillon de Chasseurs a Pieds, » (<http://www.chtimiste.com/batailles1418/divers/historique31BCP.htm>; accessed 14 April 2015)