

Albert Charles Joseph Selo
Grade: 2^{ième} classe
Regimental Number: 3972
66^{ième} Régiment d'Infanterie territoriale

born: 26 January 1875 - died: 27 November 1918

Albert Charles Joseph Selo was born on 26 January 1875 in Roubaix, in the department of Nord.¹ He enlisted in Lille, France, with the recruitment number 3972.

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 two days later² of war wounds.³ He was buried three days later in the Cimetière Communale in Gosselies (Grave 244) with a French cure presiding. He has the distinction of "Mort pour la France."

When Albert arrived at the 1st CCCS, it was "...was now the foremost on the advance to Germany and close to the outpost line. Large number of patients were received mostly R.P.O.W ..." These returning prisoners were in very poor condition. As noted the following day, "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."⁴

The 66^{ième} Régiment d'Infanterie territoriale was created in August 1914 in Le Blanc. According to some records, the Regiment was dissolved in June 1918.⁵ Others suggest it was dissolved at the end of the war.⁶

In 1921, Albert's body was exhumed and reburied in the Military Cemetery in La Grande Motte (Grave 682) in Aiseau, Belgium.⁷ This cemetery, which is about fifteen kilometres from Charleroi, includes the graves of many French and North African soldiers. It is one of the biggest French cemeteries of the First World War, even though it is located in Belgium.⁸

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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 Selo, Albert

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 725

³ "Morts pour la France de la Première Guerre mondiale," entry for Selo, Albert

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ « 66e régiment d'infanterie territoriale, » Wikipédia (http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/66e_r%C3%A9giment_d'infanterie_territoriale; accessed 14 April 2015)

⁶ Mémorial GenWeb (<http://www.memorial-genweb.org/~memorial2/html/fr/resultregi.php?nunit=66&tunit=R.I.T.>; accessed 14 April 2015)

⁷ Mémorial GenWeb

⁸ « Cimetière Militaire Français de Belle-Motte, » (www.horizon14-18.eu; accessed 14 April 2015)