

# Thomas Baird Welch

**Rank:** Lieutenant-Corporal

**Branch:** 1st Battalion

**Years Served:** 1915 - 1916

**Summary:** Thomas Baird Welch was the first soldier from Canada to set foot in France, died at his home 182 Quellerie Ave, Windsor, on Sunday morning, 24 March 1918, following complications which resulted from an operation he underwent for kidney trouble. Lieut. Col Welch had been the central figure in mobilizing and organizing units in Windsor since the war began. When the war broke out he offered his services to the Government and became transport officer for the first Canadian contingent. As officer in charge of this division, he was the first of the Dominion soldiers to set foot on French soil. He also served as Major in the 1st Battalion. After a year's service in France he was recalled to organize and command the 99th (Essex) Battalion, the first county battalion to be raised in Canada. He went to England with the battalion but there it was broken up and the men detailed to fill gaps in other Canadian contingents on the fighting front. He is buried in the Strathroy Cemetery

**Name:** Thomas Baird Welch

**Birth Date:** April 10, 1867

**Relatives:** Wife - Agnes Welch. Sons - Howard Brabant Welch, Joseph Thomas Welch, John Alexander Welch.

Mother - Janet Welch.

**Address:** Born - Scotland. Latest - 630 Quellerie Ave., Windsor, ON.

**Attestation Date:** May 22, 1916

**Death Date:** March 24, 1918

**Burial Site:** Strathroy Cemetery



Date	Particulars
	Card – Lieut. Col. Thomas Baird Welch
	Theatre of War – France
<b>23 Sept 1914</b>	Address- 630 Quелlette Ave, Windsor, ON Chemist born 10 Apr 1867 Kilmarnock Ayrshire Scotland, address 182 Quелlette Ave Windsor ON, attested at Valcartier PQ,
	Medical - 5'9" Fair complexion blue eyes fair hair, Church of England Clear medical
<b>9 Feb 1915</b>	Embarked Avonmouth
<b>30 Mar 1915</b>	To be Town Major for Estaires France
<b>1 Apr 1915</b>	On strength 1 <sup>st</sup> Inf Battalion France
<b>25 May 1915</b>	From Officer commanding Canadian Divisional Headquarters – Taken on Strength to 1 <sup>st</sup> Division
<b>27 May 1915</b>	Attachment Div HQ
<b>30 Sept 1915</b>	Appointed Claims officer 1 <sup>st</sup> Division
<b>9 Dec 1915</b>	To England on Duty from 1 <sup>st</sup> Can Div
<b>29 Dec 1915</b>	Attached 36 <sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion
<b>31 Dec 1915</b>	Struck off Strength 36 Reserve Battalion to return to Canada
<b>14 Mar 1916</b>	Struck off 1 <sup>st</sup> Btn strength having proceeded to England from 14 Mar 1916
<b>12 May 1916</b>	Details of family of officer
	Wife Agnes Welch
	Sons Howard Brabant Welch, Joseph Thomas, John Alexander
	Mother – Janet Welch Strathroy ON
<b>22 May 1916</b>	Officers Declaration Paper – Unit- 99 <sup>th</sup> Overseas Battalion CEF , Lt Col

	Welch, Thomas Baird Born Killwinning Scotland 10 Apr 1867, formerly druggist and Brigade Major 3 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade , present unit Officer Commanding 26 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex Light Infantry,
<b>2 Jun 1916</b>	Returned from Canada 99 <sup>th</sup> Btn left Canada 2 Jun 1916
<b>30 Aug 1916</b>	TOS and posted to General List
<b>31 Oct 1916</b>	Transferred General List and attached to 35 <sup>th</sup> Btn
<b>8 Dec 1916</b>	SOS on return to Canada for disposal of Militia
<b>1 Dec 1917</b>	SOS surplus
<b>24 Mar 1918</b>	Died at his home Windsor ON
<b>27 Jul 1922</b>	Medal Card- Welch, Thos Baird, Lieut. Col. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade
	Medals and Decorations to Widow Mrs. Agnes Welch 630 Quellerie Ave Windsor ON
	Plaque and Scroll – to widow as above
	Memorial Cross – to widow as above and to mother (died subsequently)
	Eligible for 1914/15 Star

# ATTESTATION PAPER.

No.

Folio.

## CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

### QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? *Thos Baird Welch*
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Kilmanock Ardsair Scotland*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Wife - Mrs Agnes Bishop Welch*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *187 Dufferin Ave, Windsor, Ont.*
5. What is the date of your birth? *10 April 1867*
6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Cleric*
7. Are you married? *Yes*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *Yes*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *Yes*  
Has state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force?

*T.B. Welch*

(Signature of Man).

*T. Coghill*

(Signature of Witness).

### DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *T.B. Welch*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

*T.B. Welch*

(Signature of Recruit)

Date *23 Sept* 1914.

*T. Coghill*

(Signature of Witness)

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *T.B. Welch*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

*T.B. Welch*

(Signature of Recruit)

Date *23 Sept* 1914.

*T. Coghill*

(Signature of Witness)

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as required to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Valcartier* this *22* day of *Sept* 1914.

*J. G. White*

(Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

*J. G. White*

(Approving Officer)



# Description of Thos Baird Welch on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 48 years \_\_\_\_\_ months.  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.

Height 5 ft 9 ins.  
Girth when fully expanded 42 ins.  
Range of expansion 3 1/2 ins.  
Complexion Fair  
Eyes Blue  
Hair Fair

2 vacc marks  
left arm

Religious denominations.  
(Church of England) ☒  
Presbyterian \_\_\_\_\_  
Wesleyan \_\_\_\_\_  
Baptist or Congregationalist \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Protestants (Designations to be stated.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Roman Catholic \_\_\_\_\_  
Jewish \_\_\_\_\_

## CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.

Date Sept 22 1914.

Place Valcartier

Detachment  
Captain J. G. M. B.  
Medical Officer.

"Insert here 'fit' or 'unfit'."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

## CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Thos Baird Welch having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

Date Sept 22 1914.

J. G. M. B.  
Det. at Val  
(Signature of Officer)

Original

Unit..... 29th. C. I. Batt. Rahk Lt. Col. Name T. B. Welch.

C. I. P.

**OFFICERS' DECLARATION PAPER**

**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY OFFICER**

(ANSWERS)

1. (a) What is your Surname? Welch.
- (b) What are your Christian Names? Thomas Baird
2. (a) Where were you born? (State place and country) Killbuckinng Scotland
- (b) What is your present address? Windsor Ontario.
3. What is the date of your birth? 10th April 1867
4. What is (a) the name of your next-of-kin? Agnas Welch.
- (b) the address of your next-of-kin? 182 Duellotte Ave., Windsor Ont.
- (c) the relationship of your next-of-kin? Wife.
5. What is your profession or occupation? Formerly Druggist
6. What is your religion? Protestant.
7. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? Yes.
8. To what Unit of the Active Militia do you belong? Brigade Major, 3rd. Inf. Bde.
9. State particulars of any former Military Service. C. I. 26th. Middlesex Lt. Inf.
10. Are you willing to serve in the

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes.

The undersigned hereby declares that the above answers made by him to the above questions are true.

T. B. Welch (Signature of Officer)

**CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

I have examined the above-named Officer in accordance with the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

I consider him Fit. for the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Date May 22 1916

Place London Ont.

\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit".

M. F. W. 51

Rev. 1915.

R. Q. 173, Nov. 15.

J. M. B. B. B.  
Medical Officer.

Rank and Name **WELCH, Thomas** *Beird* **1st Col (Inf. Regt. 158)**  
 Regimental No. **1st Battalion**  
 Unit **1st Battalion**  
 Date of enlistment **22 Sept. 1914**  
 Place of birth **Scotland**  
 Married (Yes or No) **Yes**  
 Is in Permanent Force

Name and Address of Next-of-Kin  
**Mrs T. Welch**  
**182, Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada**

Date and place of discharge **1 NOV 1915**  
**A.F.B. 158**  
**1 AUG 1915**  
**SEP 1 1915**  
**DEC 1 1915**  
**JAN 1 1916**

Reason for discharge **M**  
 Character on discharge

Promotions or appointments **A.F.B. 158**

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
✓ 1	100	Embarked	Donmouth	9/15	
✓ 3	5.6.15	On strength 12 Inf Bde. Taken on strength	France	14/15	D.G. B. 158 R.O. 20.6.657, 2-7-15 Fort H. orders 15.20.
✓ 4	30.9.15	5001 Dis App'd	Claims Officer	17 Dec	12 Dec R.O. 10.9.15
✓ 2	20.9.15	5001 Dis App'd	Town Mayor for 1st time	20.9.15	R.O. 239
✓ 5	20.10.15	1st Com Batt	On strength	France	23/10/15 R.O. 232
✓ 6	24/12/15	Com. Com	Att'd 156 (Rt) Bde. taken on strength	28.12.15	R.O. 232
✓ 7	18.1.16	36 Bde	Struck off strength photo	Canada	3/2/16 R.O. 232
✓ 8	4.4.16	1 Rgt	Struck off having proceeded to England	14/3/16	R.O. 232
✓ 9	15.1.16	2nd Bde	Struck off having proceeded to Canada on duty at Pk	31/2/16	R.O. 232

*For further service see next sheet.* **4028**

Rank and Name **WELCH Thomas Beird** **Lieut-Colonel**  
 Regimental No. **99th Battalion**  
 Unit **99th Battalion**  
 Date of enlistment  
 Place of birth **Killwinning, Scotland**  
 Married (Yes or No) **Yes**  
 Is in Permanent Force

Name and Address of Next-of-Kin  
**Agnes Welch, (Wife)**  
**182, Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada**

Date and place of discharge  
 Reason for discharge  
 Character on discharge

Promotions or appointments **20.10.16** *For further service see next previous sheet*

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
20.10.16	Obtained	Transf'd from 1st to 99th Bn		20.10.16	R.O. 239
15.12.16	Salvo	Sos on return to Canada for dependant of Mother		15.12.16	R.O. 239

**4028**



S. 100 J. H.   
 Surname **WELD.**   
 Rank **1st Lt. Captain**   
 Profession **1st Lt. Captain**   
 Unit **118th Bn.**   
 Place of birth **London, Ontario**   
 Married (Yes or No)   
 Appointments   
 Date of leaving Canada **SAILED 25-6-16 H C 503-6**   
 Christian Name **Douglas Simpson.**   
 Name and Address of Next-of-Kin **Mother, Mrs John Weld, 50 Ridout Street, London, Ont.**   
 (Also Notify) **Harry J. Weld, 149 Leinster Road, London, Ont.**   
 Date and Cause of Resignation **W.O.R.**   
 Report   
 Date From whom received   
 Record of Promotions, reductions, transfers, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case.   
 Place   
 Date   
 REMARKS Taken from Official Documents

1	2-9-16	D.O.C.	2-9-16	2-9-16	2-9-16	2-9-16
2	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
3	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
4	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
5	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
6	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
7	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
8	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16
9	26-10-16	do	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16	26-10-16

**EUROY**   
 -Lieut.-Colonel T. B. Welch, of Windsor, officer commanding the 99th Battalion, raised in Essex County a year ago, has been appointed director of recruiting in Windsor, and has assumed his new duties.   
 He looks as though a daylight

<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/redirect?app=pffww&id=288739&lang=eng>