

16th PROVISIONAL BATTALION (as of the 3rd September 1914)

The 16th Battalion was a composite battalion formed in August 1914 at Camp Valcartier Quebec under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. Comprising of volunteers from four Canadian Militia Highland Regiments. The 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders) (262), the 72nd Regiment (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada) (542), The 79th Regiment (Cameron Highlanders of Canada) (263) and the 91st Regiment (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada) (154). The Battalion sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 with 47 officers and 1096 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel R.G. Edwards-Leckie (72nd Seaforth Highlanders).

The 'corrected' regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 15th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 28516 - 30000.

The 16th Battalion had a large Pipe band consisting of 25 Pipes and 16 Drums. Currently no 'special' badges are noted.

The volunteers from the four Highlander Militia Regiments forming the 15th Battalion sailed for England in October 1914 wearing their regimental militia pattern badges.

OVERSEAS

16th BATTALION (3rd Inf. Brigade, 1st Division 1914- 1917 'THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH')

In England the 16th Battalion was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division. The volunteers from the four Highlander Militia Regiments forming the 15th Battalion sailed for England in October 1914 wearing regimental pattern badges and their own regimental pattern kilts after their arrival the McKenzie pattern was adopted for the battalion and the regimental pattern kilts returned to the home depot of each regiment. The 16th Battalion sailed for France in early February 1915 with an establishment of 30 officers and 1002 other ranks, a total of 1032. Regimental pattern hat badges were approved for the 16th Battalion May 31st 1915. The 15th Battalion served in the 3rd Infantry Brigade 1st Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

Regimental pattern hat badges were approved for the 16th Battalion May 31st 1915 but probably adopted prior to this date. The August 1917 Canadian Corps 'Q' file listing the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. Is 'McDougall & Coy. Sackville Street, London. Cap badge 7d (pence) each. Shoulder Badge 11d (pence) per pair. 2000 sets.' Apparently only officers of the 16th Battalion wore regimental pattern collar badges other ranks appear to have worn the 'C' over '16' patterns for the duration of WWI.

16th Battalion pattern badges authorized May 31st 1915

Badges By McDougall

Glengarry badge by McDougall & Co. The numeral '1' in '16' on this issue is narrow and the badge has N/S lug fasteners.



516-11-102 Cap

White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked (45mm)

Elkington pattern 'C' over numeral collar badges

General Alderson also gave verbal authority for all 17 infantry battalions to adopt C over numeral collar badges for other ranks. The manufacturer of the first of these was Elkington & Co. two further issues of 'Elkington' pattern collars were made. It is undetermined if the second and third issues were produced by Elkington & Co. The 'Elkington' pattern collar badges were referred to as NCOs badges in the Charlton Catalogue but in fact are just the earlier patterns, many survivors of the 1st and 2nd Divisions rising to become NCOs over the duration of WWI.

Type 2. An additional order for another 500 sets of collar badges was placed in March 1915 presumably for the use by the reinforcements of the 1st Division after its losses in the second Battle of Ypres in April 1915. Collar badges were also ordered for the battalions of the 2nd Division as they arrived from Canada. The second pattern can be identified by the placement of the narrow brass wire lug fasteners which are attached on the 'bar' separating the letter 'C' from the number and bottom of the numeral. This pattern was worn by the early reinforcements for the 1st Division and the original troops of the 2nd Division.

Type 3. A third order for C over numeral collar badges was placed likely in the late summer of 1915 for both 1st and 2nd Divisions. This pattern has small flat cut sheet metal lugs fasteners noted in brass, copper and white metal and like the type 2 with the lugs attached on the central and bottom 'bars' These collars were worn by reinforcements for the 1st and 2nd Divisions.

Type 1. Other ranks by Elkington & Co. Not maker marked.



516-12-104 Collar

Brass by Elkington & Co. (Type 1)

513-12-106 Collar

Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 2)



513-12-108 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 3)

516-12-110 Collar Theatre made cut sheet brass 'C' over '16'

Some documentary evidence indicates that a number of infantry battalions mounted 'C' over numerals on the shoulder straps or after their adoption moved the General Service maple leaf collar on to the shoulder straps. A sharply worded 1st Divisional Routine Order (RO) 1378 of November 8th 1915 reads "On the collar they will wear the badge C/1: C/2 and nothing else. On the shoulder strap CANADA only will be worn." This is in contradiction to the directive issued in Canada, Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, lists 'Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- cap 1, collar, prs 1. Shoulder- Canada prs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.'.

Officers Badges

Officers Glengarry badges are known to have been made by a number of different makers these being encountered in two different sizes and in both Brown OSD finish as well as sterling silver. The same design was later adopted by the Canadian Scottish Regiment this pattern being worn until 1928. It is likely that the sterling silver collars were adopted either late or after WWI, Coppered Officers Service Dress patterns likely being worn in the field. The OSD collars have a flat back with lugs in a N/S orientation this pattern is identical to the 1918 issue but is not maker marked. More varieties of officers collar badges are currently identified than matching Cap badges



516-11-112 Glengarry Brown OSD. (37mm). By McDougall. Not maker marked



513-12-112 Collar Brown OSD. By McDougall. Not maker marked



516-11-114 Glengarry Silver. (37mm). Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals

Routine Orders of May 25th 1916 states that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles are listed as being available for issue in both England and France. It does not appear that these were adopted for use in France, or if so only on a limited basis. It is likely that the majority of 1st Division battalions adopted regimental pattern titles in place of the three part: numeral, designation, and 'Canada' nationality titles.



516-14-116 Numeral Copper. Ellis Bros 1915



516-14-118 Numeral Copper. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

516-14-120 Numeral Gilding metal. Caron Bros. Not Maker marked

Shoulder titles 1916

Major General A. Currie wrote a letter to the Canadian Corps Headquarters July 29th 1916 stating that in his opinion the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions should wear regimentally designated shoulder titles in place of the Canada titles. All four battalions of the 4th Brigade, (Including the 16th this not listed in General Curry's letter) did adopt regimental titles but the date of their introduction has not been positively identified, certainly by 1917.



516-14-122 Title (type 1) Cut sheet brass.



516-14-124 Title (type 2) Cut sheet brass. ‘

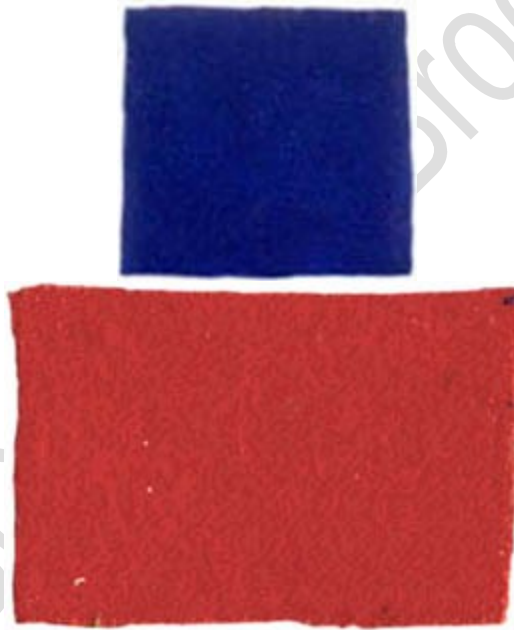
516-14-126 Title (type 3) Die struck. Straight ‘Canadian’ over curved ‘Scottish’. Tiptaft B’ham.

Officers

‘CANADIAN’ over ‘16’ over ‘SCOTTISH’. Narrow lettering with single bar through ‘Canadian’ and ‘Scottish’

516-14-128 Title Natural brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Cloth Formation Patches



16th (CANADIAN SCOTTISH) BATTALION, 3rd BRIGADE, 1st DIV. 1917-1918

Badges attributed to By H. Jenkins



516-11-130 Balmoral Brass. Slide fastener. Not maker marked



516-12-130 Collar Brass. flat oval lug fasteners. Not maker marked

516-14-132 Title Gilt. Small neat lettering, oval lug fasteners. Not maker marked)

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son.

The badges by Tiptaft have a 'broad' '1' in the numeral '16'.

Other ranks (Fall 1917, reinforcements (?))

516-11-134 Balmoral White metal. (45mm) Slide fastener marked 'J.W. Tiptaft & Son Birmingham'



516-11-136 Balmoral Wm (45mm). Three lug configuration. Copper strengtheners Not marked



516-12-136 Collar Brass small 'C' over '16' maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham' (1918)

Officers



- 516-11-138 Glengarry Red brown finish. Slide fastener. Not maker marked (45mm)
516-11-140 Glengarry Red brown finish. Three lug fasteners. Not maker marked (45mm)

Officers badges. Makers unidentified

Sterling Silver. Large size 45mm. Found with lug or pin fasteners.

- 516-11-142 Glengarry Hall-Marked sterling silver
516-12-142 Collar Hall-Marked sterling silver
516-11-144 Glengarry Unmarked sterling silver
516-12-144 Collar Unmarked sterling silver

Type 3 shoulder titles

Maker not identified. 'CANADIAN' over 'SCOTTISH' thick letters with fold over tang fasteners

- 516-14-146 Title Coppered gilding metal not maker marked

Officers 'Service Dress' collar badges by unidentified makers.

There are a number of varieties of officers collar badges for which, so far, there are no known matching Cap badges. These likely being worn with silver or other ranks white metal pattern badges. The chronology of when these were worn has not been established.

Type 1

- 516-12-148 Collar Brown OSD. N/S lugs. Not maker marked.
Single piece in cast bronze with a small Scottish crown

Type 2

- 516-12-150 Collar Brown OSD. Hexagonal lugs (N/S). Not maker marked
Die struck single piece with a large crown. The numeral '16' 'framed'. This pattern is encountered both with round copper wire lugs and also with British hexagonal pattern lugs (Smith Wright Birmingham?).

Type 3

- 516-12-152 Collar Brown OSD. Wire lugs (N/S). Not maker marked

Other ranks collar badges by J.R. Gaunt

Produced for issue on demobilization.



516-12-140 Collar

Gilding metal large 'C' over '16', central bar. Stamped curved Gaunt London

Reinforcements for the 16th Overseas Battalion 1915 -January 1917 (17th Battalion, Training and reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in February 1915 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 16th Battalion were supplied by the 17th Infantry Battalion. By September 12th 1915 the 16th Battalion had suffered 778 casualties, not including troops gassed. Between January 1917 and October 1917 reinforcements were provided by the 14th Reserve Battalion this reinforcing the 16th and 43rd Highlander Battalions serving on the Western Front.

Reinforcements for the 16th Overseas Battalion January 1917 to October 1917 (14th Reserve Battalion)

Between January 1917 and October 1917 reinforcements were provided by the 14th Reserve Battalion this reinforcing the 16th and 43rd (Highland) Battalions serving on the Western Front. The 14th Reserve battalion was formed by the amalgamation of the 108th, 179th and 225th Battalions under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. Snider and supplied reinforcements to the 16th and 43rd Battalions. During the period of its operations the 14th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 174th Infantry Battalion. The badges below have distinctive thick flat oval lug fasteners manufactured by Henry Jenkins & Co. similar badges were produced for the 2nd, 7th and 42nd Battalions likely for reinforcements shortly after the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

Reinforcements for the 16th Overseas Battalion October 1917 - 1918 (11th Reserve Battalion,)

In October 1917 the 14th Reserve Battalion was absorbed into the 11th Reserve Battalion this becoming one of two reinforcing battalions for the Manitoba Regiment, the other being the 18th Reserve Battalion. The 11th Reserve Battalion (Manitoba Regiment) reinforcing the 15th, 27th and 43rd Battalions for the duration of the Great War.

17th Provisional Battalion (as of the 3rd September 1914)

The 17th Infantry Battalion was a composite battalion formed in August 1914 at Camp Valcartier Quebec under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. The battalion was raised from units of Military Area 6 (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island). This one of two, the second being the (first) 18th Battalion, formed from surplus troops over and above those assigned to the first 16 infantry battalions, these each being around 1031 + 20% for base details etc. On September 27th prior to the 1st Contingent sailing for England the Provisional 18th Battalion was disbanded and its 10 officers and 356 other ranks absorbed into other units. The 17th Battalion which included a sizable group of volunteers from the 94th Victoria Regiment (Argyll Highlanders) sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel S.G. Robertson (78th Pictou Highlanders), with a strength of 44

officers and 624 other ranks. Effective September 1st 1915 command of the 17th Infantry Battalion (Training and reserve) was taken over by Lieutenant-Colonel D.D. Cameron, the Commanding Officer of the 78th Pictou Highlanders of Canada, allied with the Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's Regiment).

The regimental numbers block for the 17th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 46001 - 48000.

The 17th Reserve Battalion was assigned a second block of regimental numbers for personnel assigned to the regiment after its arrival in England but less than 100 numbers of the block were actually used. The second regimental numbers block is 169001 - 171000

OVERSEAS

17th Battalion (Training & Reserve) October 1914 - 1917

The 17th Battalion sailed with the First Contingent with 44 Officers and 624 OR's after arrival in England the battalion was designated as a Training and Reserve battalion to provide reinforcements for the 13th, 15th and 16th Highland Battalions serving with the 1st Canadian Division on the Western Front serving in this role until April 1916. With the formation of the 2nd Division an additional three infantry battalions were designated as Reserve and Training battalions these being the 23rd, 30th and 32nd Infantry Battalions. These three battalions were the first of the 2nd Division's to reach England, this in February 1915, and were almost immediately sent to France to make up for the losses suffered by the 1st Division at the 2nd Battle of Ypres. As additional battalions over and above those assigned to the 2nd Canadian Division arrived from Canada they were designated as Training and Reserve Depots.

In England the 17th Battalion wore General Service Maple leaf pattern cap badges until the fall of 1917. (Some unconfirmed reports state the battalion may have adopted UK Seaforth Highlanders cap badges.) When after considerable lobbying the Canadian Government finally provided funds from the public purse to purchase regimental pattern cap and collar badges for the battalions of the CEF. After the introduction of the regimental pattern badges in 1917 these were worn only by the permanent establishment of the Reserve Battalion and not by the personnel assigned to the battalion as reinforcements, these being issued with battalion badges on arrival of their assigned battalion in France.

After the arrival of the 1st Contingent in England in October 1914 General Alderson granted verbal permission for the CEF battalions to purchase regimental cap badges at unit expense and 'C' over numeral collar badges at Government expense. The first issue was made by Elkington & Co. Two further similar issues of these early pattern collars were purchased one in March 1915 a third in the late summer of 1915. Although similar in style it is currently undetermined by whom these collars were made.

Other ranks



517-12-102 Collar Brass by Elkington & Co. (Type 1)



517-12-104 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 2)



517-12-106 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 3)



517-12-108 Collar Theatre made cut sheet brass

Shop made cut sheet brass 'C' Over '17' collar badge and shoulder titles the period of manufacture is at present undetermined but likely in 1916.

Some documentary evidence indicates that a number of infantry battalions mounted 'C' over numerals on the shoulder straps or after their adoption moved the General Service maple leaf collar on to the shoulder straps. A sharply worded 1st Divisional Routine Order (RO) 1378 of November 8th 1915 reads "On the collar they will wear the badge C/1: C/2 and nothing else. On the shoulder strap CANADA only will be worn.". This is in contradiction to the directive issued in Canada, Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, lists 'Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- cap 1, collar, prs 1. Shoulder- Canada prs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.'

Shoulder strap titles & numerals

Routine Orders of May 25th 1916 states that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles are listed as being available for issue in both England and France. It does not appear that these were adopted for use in France, or if so only on a limited basis. It is likely that the majority of 1st Division battalions adopted regimental pattern titles in place of the three part: numeral, designation, and 'Canada' nationality titles.

517-14-110 Numeral Coppered. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'. (Not reported)

517-14-112 Numeral Coppered. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

517-14-114 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not Maker marked. (Not reported)

With the formation of the 3rd Canadian Division in the winter of 1915 the number of reserve and training battalions was set at 18 at which time there was a realignment of the original reserve and training battalions these now conforming to regional areas of Canada with each training and reserve battalion reinforcing just

two of the 36 Battalions serving on the Western Front. At this time the 17th Battalion was assigned as the reinforcing battalion for the 13th and 85th Battalions serving in France, and after its arrival from Canada in October 1916, the 185th Battalion. This remained in England assigned to the 15th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division until February 1918 when plans for sending the fifth Canadian Infantry Division to France were finally abandoned. The 5th Divisional Artillery and the 5th Machine Gun Brigade proceeded to France but the remaining 11 Infantry Battalions were ordered to send a drafts of 100 men each to the battalions in the field, these being increased from approximately 1000 to 1100 other ranks and the remainder absorbed into the Reserve Battalions.

17th RESERVE BATTALION, NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT 1917-1918

In January 1917 the 17th Infantry Battalion absorbed the remaining personnel of the 113th, 179th, and 193rd Battalions under the designation the 17th Reserve Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel D.D. Cameron retaining command. (Throughout WWI Lieutenant-Colonel D.D. Cameron was listed as the Commanding Officer of the 78th Pictou Highlanders of Canada.) However his tenure lasted only until February 12th 1917 when command of the 17th Reserve Battalion was taken over by Lieutenant-Colonel W.H. Muirhead who was to retain command until the end of the War. (Lieutenant-Colonel W.H. Muirhead was previously the CO of the 219th Battalion).

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son

Other ranks



517-11-116 Cap White metal. Not maker marked



517-12-116 Collar White metal. Not maker marked



- 517-12-118 Collar Brass small 'C' over '17'. Maker marked. Tiptaft
- 517-12-118 Collar Brass small 'C' over '17'. Not maker marked.

Officers

- 517-11-120 Cap Sterling silver. Hallmarked 'J.W.T.' (J.W. Tiptaft)
- 517-12-120 Collar Sterling silver. Hallmarked 'J.W.T.' (J.W. Tiptaft)
- 517-11-122 Cap Die cast brown OSD finish. Flat back. Not maker marked



- 517-12-122 Collar Die cast brown OSD finish. Flat back. Not maker marked

During 1917 the 17th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 245th Battalion on its arrival from Canada and in April 1918 the 185th Battalion on it being released from the proposed 5th Division which was broken up for reinforcements. In May 1917 the 17th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 25th Reserve Battalion becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Nova Scotia Regiment, authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918, supplying reinforcements to the 25th and 85th Battalions and the Royal Canadian Regiment serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The Nova Scotia Regiment was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

Counterfeit cap badges

The cap badges pictured below are counterfeits these offered for sale on the United Kingdom eBay site. Note the lack of sharpness and blurred detail, 'off metals' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example.



517-11-124 Cap

Pressure cast brass.



517-11-126 Cap

Pressure cast silver.

18th (Western Ontario) Battalion October 1st 1914 - 1917

The 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion began recruiting in South-Western Ontario October 1st 1914 with mobilization headquarters at Windsor, Ontario, being authorized under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The battalion was recruited by the 21st Essex Fusiliers and sailed for England April 18th 1915 with 36 officers and 1081 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel E.S. Wigle (21st Essex Fusiliers), assigned along with the 19th, 20th and 21st Ontario battalions to the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division. In England the 4th Infantry Brigade was billeted in huts at West Sandling before sailing for France September 15th 1915. The 18th Battalion served in the 4th Infantry Brigade for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 53001 - 55000.

Officers

PROTOTYPE PATTERN BADGE

Ed Denby & Associates Auction of the Lenard Babin collection Sale No.7, March 19th 1977, Lot #41.

518-11-102 Cap

Prototype. In sterling silver with voided center.

Badges by Lees.

Other ranks

518-11-104 Cap Brown finish.. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



518-12-104 Collar Brown finish. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



518-11-106 Cap Red brown finish.. Lug fasteners. Maker marked Lees



518-11-106 Cap Red/brown finish. Lug fasteners. Medium '18' narrow ring

Shoulder strap numerals

A directive issued in Canada, Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, lists 'Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- cap 1, collar, prs 1. Shoulder- Canada prs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.'

It is currently undetermined if or when the numeral and initial sets were introduced into France for wear but orders of May 25th 1916 list that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles were available for issue in both England and France.

Other Ranks

518-14-108 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Not maker marked



518-14-110 Numeral Brown finish. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'



518-14-112 Numeral Brown finish. Flat cut sheet copper lugs. Maker marked Birks 1916

Officers. Unidentified maker

Wide circle and narrow numeral '18'



518-11-114 Cap Red/Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Badges attributed to Tiptaft

Other Ranks



518-11-116 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

NCOs(?)



518-11-118 Cap Brass. Lug fasteners.

Officers

518-11-120 Cap Red/brown finish. Lug fasteners.



518-12-120 Collar Red brown finish . Small '18' framed 'Canada'

Other Ranks

The records of the Canadian Military Headquarters in London, including those pertaining to badges were destroyed in 1917 when the building caught fire. Actual dates of issue of the badges may vary from those listed but we believe to be reasonably accurate. A letter is in the archives at Ottawa requesting approval of battalion badges for all four battalions of the 4th infantry brigade is dated August 1st 1916. Presumably asking for approval for badges already in use however there is no reply on file. Apart from the above patterns no 'specimen or prototype' badges are known for 18th Battalion badges. No Elkington type 1 collar badges were made for the units of the 2nd Division.



518-12-122 Collar Brass. (Elkington pattern type 2)



518-12-124 Collar

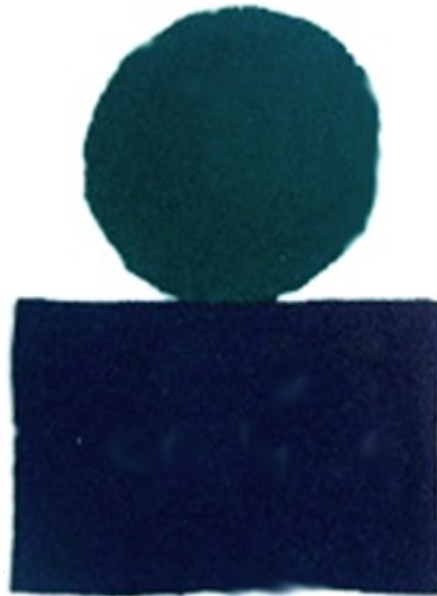
Gilding metal. (Elkington pattern type 3)



518-12-126 Collar

Theatre made cut sheet brass

18th Battalion formation patches introduced September 1916



Officers



THE 1917 REORGANIZATION OF THE CEF

Effective March 20th 1917 Canada's military forces were completely reorganized with the CEF becoming a temporary unit of the Active Militia. After a bitter debate in Parliament conscription was introduced and a new territorial regimental system was instituted for recruiting and reinforcing the Canadian Corps in France. The new system consisted of twelve Provincial regiments in Canada, the Western Ontario Regt., the 1st Central Ontario Regt., the 2nd Central Ontario Regt., the Eastern Ontario Regt., the 1st Quebec Regt., the 2nd Quebec Regt., The Nova Scotia Regt., the New Brunswick Regt., the Manitoba Regt., the Saskatchewan Regt., the Alberta Regt. and the British Columbia Regt. These 'home' regiments in turn supported Reserve Battalions in England which provided reinforcements to the units serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. (The huge permanent military camps at Valcartier, Petawawa, Bordon and Camp Hughes (Manitoba) had also been made temporary military districts under General Order 72 of 1916.) Each of these territorial regiments having a number of battalions at the Front, one or two reserve training battalions in England, a Garrison Battalion in each military district in Canada and up to three Depot Battalions. With the exception of the Nova Scotia Depot Battalion created under General Order 77 of July 1918, all other seventeen District Depot Battalions were authorized April 15th 1918 under General Order 57 of 1918 and disbanded under General Order 213 of November 1920.

In England as of January 1st 1917 there were 57 Reinforcing Battalions. Effective January 15th 1917 the various infantry training and reserve battalions and remnants of the depleted Overseas Battalions were amalgamated to form 26 new Reserve Battalions. In January 1918 a further consolidation took place the number being reduced to 20 and finally in August 1918 a further consolidation to 15 Reserve Battalions.

18th (WESTERN ONTARIO) BATTALION (4th Brigade, 2nd Division 1917 - 1918)

At this time the 18th Western Ontario Battalion was re-designated as the 18th Overseas Battalion also being issued with new pattern badges reflecting the change in unit designation. (The designation of the 1st Battalion was changed to the 1st Western Ontario Regiment.)

Type 1 badges by Sydney Baron Pointed maple leaf , smooth numerals

The August 1917 Canadian Corps 'Q' file listing the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. The tools and dies and supplier of the badges are listed as being held by 'Sydney Baron, Military Outfitters, Folkstone, Kent, England. 8 Pounds 8 Shillings (sets). Annual requirements 2000 sets.'

Cap badges by Sydney Baron

Pointed maple leaf, the numeral '18' is smooth.



518-11-128 Cap

Dark brown finish. Slide fastener. Not maker marked



518-12-130 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



518-11-132 Cap Gilt. Narrow '18'. Lug fasteners. By Baron not maker marked



518-11-134 Cap Red brown OSD. Lug fasteners. By Baron not maker marked



518-12-134 Collar Red brown OSD. Lug fasteners. By Baron not maker marked

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft

Collar badges with framed numerals cap badges maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham'.

Other ranks



518-11-136 Cap

Dark brown finish. Tiptaft lugs. Marked Tiptaft B'ham



518-12-138 Collar

Natural gilding metal. Tiptaft lugs. Marked Tiptaft B'ham



518-12-140 Collar

Dark brown finish. Tiptaft lugs. Not maker marked

Battalion pattern collar badges were authorized in March 1918 but again replaced with 'C' over numeral patterns in August 1918.



518-12-142 Collar

Brass. Maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham'



518-13-144 Collar Brass. Not maker marked.

Officers(?)



518-11-146 Cap Red brown finish.



518-11-148 Cap Chocolate brown finish..

Proposed reinforcements for the 18th Overseas Battalion

Initially the 4th Infantry Brigade was slated to be reinforced by the 23rd Battalion. This was one of three proposed reinforcing battalions for the 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry Brigades of the 2nd Division. These being the 23rd Battalion for the 4th Brigade, the 30th Battalion for the 5th Brigade and the 32nd for the 6th Infantry Brigade. The 23rd Battalion was raised in Montreal and Quebec City but was almost immediately stripped of its French speaking volunteers who were transferred to the 22nd Battalion to bring this up to full strength before sailing for England, being replaced with 500 volunteers from Western Canada, 100 from Winnipeg, 200 from Calgary (103rd Regiment) and 200 from Victoria. The three reinforcing battalions, the 23rd, 30th and 32nd sailed for England in February 1915 prior to the 12 infantry battalions of the 2nd Division. By May 1915 almost all of the personnel of the three reserve battalions had proceeded to France as reinforcements for the 1st Division after its heavy losses in the 2nd Battle of Ypres April 1915.

Reinforcements for the 18th Overseas Battalion September 1915 to August 1916 (33rd Overseas Battalion)

From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 reinforcements for the 18th Battalion were provided by reinforcing drafts from the 33rd Battalion. This was authorized to be recruited at London, Ontario in February 1915 and sailing for England in three different flights the first of five officers and 250 other ranks June 17th 1915 this draft reinforcing the 1st Battalion. A second draft of four officers and 247 other ranks sailing August 17th 1915 reinforcing both the 1st and 18th Battalions. The third flight in March 17th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilson with 40 officers and 946 other ranks (this also providing reinforcements for the 1st Battalion.) In August 1916 the remaining personnel of the depleted 33rd Infantry Battalion were absorbed into the 35th Infantry Battalion, training and reserve which served as the reinforcing battalion for the 1st and 18th Battalions until January 1917.

Reinforcements for the 18th Overseas Battalion

August 1916 to January 1917 (35th Battalion , Training and Reserve)

The 35th Canadian Infantry Battalion CEF was authorized to be recruited at Toronto December 1st 1914 the battalion being authorized under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915. Recruiting began at an unspecified date in April 1915. The 35th Battalion was raised by the 12th York Rangers this regiment previously having contributed 273 volunteers to the 4th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 12th York Rangers also raised or provided volunteers to the 20th, 81st, 83rd, 127th and 220th Battalions. Prior to embarking for England October 15th 1915 the 35th Battalion provided two reinforcing drafts for the CEF. The first of five officers and 250 OR's sailing June 5th 1915, a second of five officers and 250 OR's August 17th 1915. The 35th Battalion sailed for England with 41 officers and 1115 OR's command of Lieutenant-Colonel F.C. McCordick (19th Lincoln Regiment). Effective September 15th 1915 the 35th Battalion was designated as the 2nd Training Brigade serving in this capacity until January 3rd 1917 when this the Training Brigades were disbanded and replaced with Reserve Battalions. During the period of operations the 2nd Training Brigade absorbed the 81st, 99th and 111th Infantry Battalions. The 35th Battalion was disbanded December 8th 1917 under General Order 82 of June 1st 1918.

Reinforcements for the 18th Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918 (4th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 35th Battalion amalgamated with the 99th Battalion to form the 4th Reserve Battalion, this one of 26 newly formed Reserve Battalions. Two Reserve Battalions supplied the units of the Western Ontario Regiment serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 4th Reserve Battalion providing reinforcements to the 1st and 18th Battalions and the 25th Reserve Battalion supplying the 2nd Pioneer Battalion. The 25th Reserve Battalion was absorbed by the 4th Battalion in January 1918 when the Pioneer Battalions were absorbed into the Canadian Engineers. During the period of its operations the 4th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 160th and 161st, Battalions and drafts from the 168th, 185th and 213th Battalions.

19th Battalion, 4th BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION 1914-1915

The 19th Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited at Hamilton and mobilized at Toronto October 19th 1914 under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The battalion was raised by the 91st Highlanders this regiment having previously provided 154 volunteers to the 15th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 91st Highlanders later raised the 173rd Battalion. The 19th Battalion sailed for England May 13th 1915 with 41 officers and 1073 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.I. MacLaren (91st Canadian Highlanders), assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. The four Infantry Brigades of the 2nd Canadian Division sailed for France over a four night period between September 13th and September 17th 1915 serving in the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division for the duration of WWI. The 19th Battalion was disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 19th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 55001 - 57000.

PIPES AND DRUMS

The 19th Battalion had a pipe band consisting of eight pipers and five drummers who joined the battalion from the 91st Regiment (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders). The Glengarry badge worn was the regimental 91st pattern with an added ribbon with battalion designation below.

519-11-102 Glengarry White metal 91st regimental pattern with battalion designation ribbon below.

Badges by Lees.

Wide maple leaf and large numeral '19' low on the Maple leaf.

Other ranks



519-11-104 Cap

Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



519-11-106 Cap

Red/brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



519-12-106 Collar

Red/brown finish on gilding metal. N/S lugs. Not maker marked

519-11-108 Cap

Red/brown finish on gilding metal. Makers tab 'Lees'

Shoulder strap numerals

A directive issued in Canada, Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, lists 'Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- cap 1, collar, prs 1. Shoulder- Canada prs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.'.

It is currently undetermined if or when the numeral and initial sets were introduced into France for wear but orders of May 25th 1916 list that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles were available for issue in both

England and France.



519-14-110 Numeral Coppered. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'

519-14-112 Numeral Coppered. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs



519-14-114 Numeral Gilt lacquer on gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not marked

OVERSEAS

Some, but not all of the battalions of the 2nd Division took advantage of the opportunity to obtain battalion pattern cap badges at unit expense upon arrival in England. Reid produced samples for a number of 1st and 2nd Division Battalions. Photographs extant show examples of the 9th and 10th being worn. However these were not put into general production and the badges pictured were presumably given out as samples by the maker, or possibly sold to a local photographic establishment for use in portraits as studio portraits with these badges in use are known. All are extremely rare with less than ten of any examples known at the present time. Presumably due to the quoted price the Reid and Dingley pattern badges were not adopted and the order for the 19th Battalion badges placed with J.R. Gaunt & Son.

Manufacturer's sample or prototype badges



519-11-116 Cap Silver overlay on bronze maple leaf. Not maker marked



519-11-118 Cap Brass overlay on brass. Marked Reich Folkstone

‘CANADA /19/ DUTY FIRST’

519-11-120 Cap Reported but no further details known.

Other ranks by Elkington pattern collars. Not maker marked

519-12-122 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 2)

519-12-124 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern. (Type 3)

Theatre made ‘C’ Over ‘19’ cut sheet brass collar badge. Period of manufacture is at present undetermined.

519-12-126 Collar Theatre made cut sheet brass ‘C’ over ‘19’ serifs on ‘19’

The August 1917 Canadian Corps ‘Q’ file listing the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. The tools and dies and supplier of the badges are listed as being held by ‘John Gaunt, Ltd. Coventry St., London, W.C. 2 Pounds 2 Shillings (Collar badges). 2000.’

Badges by Gaunt(?) previously attributed to Tiptaft

Other ranks

Wide maple leaf and small numeral ‘19’.



519-11-128 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



519-11-130 Cap Chocolate brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



519-11-132 Cap Red/brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

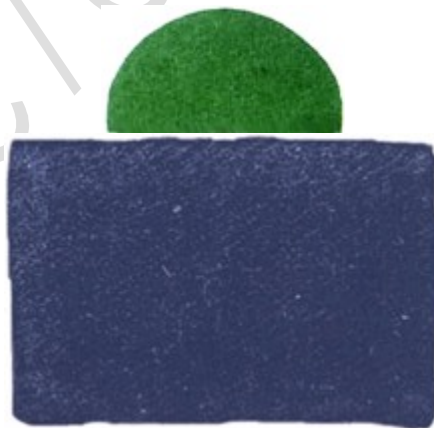


519-12-134 Collar Red/brown finish. E/W lug fasteners. Not maker marked

519-11-134 Cap Brown OSD finish on gilding metal. Lug fasteners 'J.R. Gaunt London' tab

19th Battalion formation patches introduced in September 1916

Other ranks



Officers





2nd Pattern badges

Cap badges by Gaunt

Other ranks



519-11-136 Cap

Red/brown finish on gilding metal



519-12-136 Collar

Brass. Small 'C' over '19'. Some maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham'

Officers



519-11-138 Cap

Gilt. Lug fasteners. J.R. Gaunt London makers tab

Other ranks

The 'C' over '19' by Gaunt were produced for issue on demobilization.



519-12-140 Collar Gilding metal. N/S lug fasteners. Curved 'J.R. Gaunt London'

Reinforcements for the 19th Overseas Battalion September 1915 -January 1917 (35th Battalion, Training and Reserve)

Initially the 4th Infantry Brigade was slated to be reinforced by the 23rd Battalion. This one of three proposed reinforcing battalions for the 4th, 5th and 5th Infantry Brigades of the 2nd Division. These three reinforcing battalions, the 23rd, 30th and 32nd sailed for England in February 1915 before the bulk of the 2nd Division. By May 1915 almost their full compliment had proceeded to France as reinforcements for the 1st Division after its losses in the 2nd Battle of Ypres April 1915. From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 19th Battalion were provided by the 35th Battalion which arrived in England in July 1915.

Reinforcements for the 19th Overseas Battalion January 1917 -1918 (3rd Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 35th Battalion amalgamated with a number of other Ontario Battalions in England to form the 3rd Reserve Battalion. This assigned the reinforcing battalion for the 4th and 19th Infantry Battalions and 123rd Pioneer Battalion serving on the Western Front. In April 1918 the 3rd Reserve Battalion was designated as one of two reserve battalions for the 1st Central Ontario Regiment, this authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918, the other being the 12th Reserve Battalion. The 3rd Reserve Battalion provided reinforcements to the 4th and 19th Infantry Battalions and the 2nd and 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front.

20th Battalion,, 4th Brigade 1914-1917

The 20th Canadian Infantry Battalion began recruiting in in Central and Northern Ontario October 19th 1914 with mobilization Headquarters at Toronto being authorized under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The 20th Battalion was recruited by a number of Militia Regiments in the Toronto area including the 12th York Rangers, 20th Halton Rifles and the 35th Peel Regiment. The battalion sailed for England May 15th 1915 with 35 officers and 1100 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.A.W. Allan (12th York Rangers), assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. The 20th Battalion served in the 4th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the 20th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 57001 - 59000.

Badges attributed to G.H. Lees (Withdrawn?)

This pattern of badges does not feature the authorized words 'Overseas' and 'Canada'. and is believed to have been withdrawn.

Other ranks



520-11-102 Cap Brown finish. Not maker marked



520-14-104 Numeral Brown finish. Maker marked W.Scully (This pattern is rare.)

Officers



520-11-106 Cap Red/brown finish on gilding metal. Not maker marked (Lees ?)



520-12-106 Collar Red/brown finish on gilding metal. Lugs in N/S orientation. Not maker marked

Interim cap badge

Much confusion and speculation has always surrounded the 'interim badges'. It would appear that after the departure of the 1st Contingent many CEF battalions designed and produced their own patterns of badges without authorization from Headquarters. This was a reasonable assumption on their part as they were not paid for from the public purse. This usurping of Government authority however was quickly remedied and

by mid 1915 the words 'Overseas Battalion' became an essential part of all designs sent to Ottawa for approval. When approval for a submitted design was initially denied a number of units modified the General Service government issues with the addition of battalion numbers. These are known for the 99th, 142nd, 157th (there are both other ranks and officers patterns for this battalion); the 168th and 177th Battalion and some others. All of these interim' badges are found on corresponding dated General Service maple leaf pattern badges. There are a number of other 'interim' badges of more dubious origins and these include badges for the 3rd, 9th, 41st, 85th, 135th, 149th and 235th Battalions. These may have been 'made up' in the pre WWII era by collectors 'filling holes' in their displays.

Unverified other ranks battalion interim cap badge



520-11-108 Cap

Overlays on 'correct' dated 'Geo. H. Lees & Co 1915' pattern cap badge

Shoulder strap numerals

A directive issued in Canada, Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, lists 'Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- cap 1, collar, prs 1. Shoulder- Canada prs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.'.

It is currently undetermined if or when the numeral and initial sets were introduced into France for wear but orders of May 25th 1916 list that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles were available for issue in both England and France.



520-14-110 Numeral

Brown finsh. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'

520-14-112 Numeral

Brown finish. Maker marked 'Birks'

520-14-114 Numeral

Gilding metal. By Caron Bros not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Manufacturer's samples by Reiche



520-11-116 Cap Brass overlay on brown maple leaf. Lug fasteners. Maker marked



520-11-118 Cap Silver overlay on bronzed OSD maple leaf. Pin fastener. Not maker marked.

Manufacturer's sample (?) Maker unidentified

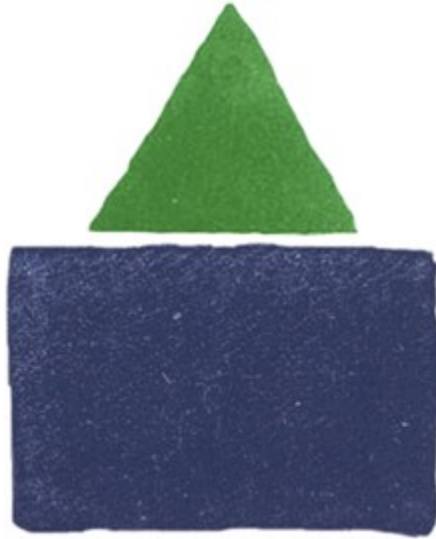


520-11-120 Cap Silver plate. This possibly a post war counterfeit.

Other ranks

520-12-122 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Tyep 3)

20th Battalion formation patches introduced in September 1916



Officers



A letter in the archives at Ottawa requesting approval for battalion badges for all four battalions of the 4th infantry brigade is dated August 1st 1916, however there is no reply on file. A letter dated August 30th 1917 states 'Attention is drawn to the fact that the 20th Battalion have no special badge but, if one is to be issued free, the battalion requests that the badge shown in the attached sketch be adopted.' From this detail and the fact that officers pattern badges without 'Overseas Battalion' exist it must be surmised that the officers continued to buy and use unauthorized pattern badges.

The August 1917 Canadian Corps 'Q' file listing the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges, the 20th Battalion badges are listed as Ordnance Issue 2500 sets per annum. Apparently other ranks badges of regimental pattern not being adopted until provided by government funds in the fall of 1917.

Badges by Tiptaft



520-11-124 Cap

Blackened finish. Fully struck up reverse. Maker marked Tiptaft



520-12-124 Collar

Blackened finish. Flat cut sheet metal lugs. Not maker marked

Officers



520-11-126 Cap

Red brown finish. Die cast not maker marked



520-11-128 Cap Dark brown OSD. Die cast not maker marked

Sweetheart(?)



520-12-130 Collar Gilt. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

20th BATTALION, 4th BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION 1918 '1st Bn. CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIMENT'

Reinforcements for the 20th Overseas Battalion February 1918 (12th Reserve Battalion)

In February 1918 the both the 5th Reserve Battalion and the 134th Infantry Battalion, in England assigned to the 5th Canadian Division, were absorbed into the 12th Reserve Battalion this designated as one of two reinforcing battalions for the 1st Central Ontario Regiment, the other being the 3rd Reserve Battalion; authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918. The 12th Reserve Battalion supplied reinforcements to the 3rd, 15th, 20th and 75th City of Toronto Battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 1st Central Ontario Regiment was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

Other ranks

Late in WWI after the 20th Battalion was assigned a component of the 1st Central Ontario Regiment the battalion adopted newly deigned badges. These badges 1st Central Ontario Regiment / XX design being manufactured by J.R. Gaunt the reverse being marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'. These badges continued to be worn in the post WWI period by the West Toronto Regiment.

Other ranks



520-11-134 Cap

Brass. Fully struck up reverse. 'J.R. Gaunt London' makers tab.



520-12-134 Collar

Brass. Small 'C' over '20' short bar. Marked 'Tiptaft' B'ham'

Officers



520-11-136 Cap

Brown OSD finish on gilding metal. 'J.R. Gaunt London' makers tab.



520-12-136 Collar

Brown OSD finish on gilding metal. Stamped 'J.R. Gaunt London'



520-11-138 Cap

Gilt. Die struck. 'J.R. Gaunt London' makers tab.



520-12-138 Collar

Gilt. Die cast. Stamped 'J.R. Gaunt London'

Reinforcements for the 20th Overseas Battalion October 1915 -January 1917 (35th Battalion, training and reserve)

Initially the 4th Infantry Brigade was slated to be reinforced by the 23rd Battalion. This one of three proposed reinforcing battalions for the 4th, 5th and 5th Infantry Brigades of the 2nd Division. These three reinforcing battalions, the 23rd, 30th and 32nd sailed for England in February 1915 before the bulk of the 2nd Division. By May 1915 almost their full compliment had proceeded to France as reinforcements for the 1st Division after its losses in the 2nd Battle of Ypres April 1915. From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 20th Battalion were provided by the 35th Battalion which arrived in England in October 1915.

Reinforcements for the 20th Overseas Battalion January 1917 -February 1918 (5th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 92nd Battalion amalgamated with a number of other Ontario Battalions in England to form the 5th Reserve Battalion. This assigned the reinforcing battalion for the 15th and 20th Infantry Battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front and the 134th Battalion this being held in England as a component of the 13th Brigade for the proposed 5th Canadian Division.

Fantasy or sweetheart badge (Attributed to D.A Reesor)

Badges with 'Duty First' motto ribbon. Similar cap badges are known for the 122nd, 157th and 177th Battalions. These badges have a centre piece welded over an 91st Elgin Battalion cap badge. Some of these having lower numbers than the date of the formation of the 91st Battalion proves these can not be battalion issued badges.



POST WWI

In the 1920 post WWI reorganization of the Canadian Militia the 20th Battalion was designated as the 1st Battalion, Peel Regiment, with the 74th, 125th and 234th being designated as the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Reserve Battalions. Under General Order 18 and 65 of 1921 the 20th Battalion was designated as the West Toronto Regiment. The West Toronto Regiment continuing to wear the 2nd pattern CEF badges by J.R. Gaunt. Effective August 1st 1925 the West Toronto Regiment amalgamated with the 2nd Battalion, York Rangers (formerly the 127th Bn. CEF) under the designation the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment). This amalgamating in the 1936 reorganization of the Canadian Militia with the York Rangers (1st Battalion, formerly the 35th Bn. CEF) as the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment).