

CANADIAN MACHINE GUNS IN WWI

Three different machine gun elements were to serve during WWI in the CEF. The Canadian Cavalry Brigade Machine Gun Squadron, the Motor Machine Gun squadrons, (later brigades), and infantry machine gun sections, these later being augmented with brigade machine gun companies and eventually divisional machine gun brigades under command of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade Machine Gun Squadron 1916 - 1917 1st Canadian Machine Gun Squadron 1917 - 1918)

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade Machine Gun Squadron was formed at Tully in France under command of Captain W.T. Lawless (Permanent Force) February 20th 1916. The unit was formed from the machine gun sections of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC), and the Fort Gary Horse. On April 4th 1917 the designation was altered to the 1st Canadian Machine Gun Squadron, the unit using the .303 Lewis light machine gun.

Machine Guns in the 1st Canadian Contingent 1914- 1915

On the outbreak of WWI Canada's armed forces had a total of just 43 machine guns, 35 Maxims (these obsolescent), three Vickers, three French Laird Montyne Dagaille and two Colts, the RNWMP also had three Vickers. An outstanding order for 50 Vickers was in place but was never delivered to Canada as all output from the factory was requisitioned by the British Government. On its formation in 1914 the prescribed complement for each CEF Battalion was for two machine guns and to meet this need an order was placed in September 1914 with Colt in the USA to purchase 50 Colt Machine Guns a further order for 250 additional guns was placed in October 1914. The first contingent sailed with the 20 guns that Colt could provide only an additional 51 Colts being shipped to England before the 1st Division sailed for France in February 1915. After the arrival of the first Contingent in England the complement of machine guns for each infantry battalion was increased from two to four machine guns. A further request to Vickers for 30 Light Machine Guns to meet the shortfall was made but could not be filled. The Company offering instead 30 Maxims which were declined.

Light Machine Gun Companies 1915 - 1918

After the battalion machine sections were amalgamated into brigade machine gun companies light machine gun section armed with Hotchkiss and later Lewis Guns manned by infantry personnel within each battalions provided light machine gun support. Initially the Lewis gunners wore the "M.G. skill at arms badges but in 1917 'L.G.' badges was instituted. These were produced in both metal and embroidered cloth many different varieties were produced. Below are examples of both these worn by all imperial troops with the exception of the the A.I.F. (Australian Expeditionary Force) which wore a more elaborate pattern.



30-6-17-101 Sleeve badge Gilding metal. (1 part example)



30-6-23-103 Sleeve badge Embroidered worsted cloth

‘Machine Gun Section’ titles

As the 2nd Division was being organized at Camp Valcartier Battalion metal distinguishing battalion shoulder badges were introduced under Militia Order No.164 of 29th March 1915, Canadian Expeditionary Force - Clothing and Equipment. Badges- Cap 1, collar, pairs 1. Shoulder- Canada pairs 1, Initials sets 1, Numerals- sets 1.’ Though not listed in general Orders additional ‘specialist’ shoulder badges were also issued. These include ‘MGS’ (Machine Gun Section) ‘Scout’, ‘Band’ ‘Signals’, ‘Bugler’, and others.



30-6-14-105 Title Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. By Caron Bros not maker marked



30-6-14-105 Title Brown OSD finish. Pin fastener. By Caron Bros not maker marked

It is undetermined if these were worn at the Canadian Machine Gun School established at the Canadian Machine Gun Depot at Seaford in 1917.



30-6-14-107 Title Natural gilding metal not maker marked

Machine Gun Depots

The Canadian Machine Gun Depots served as training depots for the Lewis and Hotchkiss light machine guns operated by the Light Machine Gun Section of each infantry battalion and the heavy Vickers machine guns operated by the Canadian Machine Gun Companies. The Canadian Machine Gun Depot in England also served as the reserve unit for the 1st and 2nd Motor Machine Gun Brigades and the Canadian Machine Gun School, a sub unit of the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, and as the reserve unit of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps reinforcing the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Machine Gun Battalions as well as the Machine Gun Squadron of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade.

The (Overseas) Canadian Machine Gun Depot was formed at Seaford Camp being formed from the 86th Machine Gun Battalion CEF. The 86th Battalion was raised with headquarters at Hamilton Ontario effective December 22nd 1915 and sailed for England May 22nd 1916 where on its arrival was reorganized as the Canadian Machine Gun Depot. (Being fully depleted of all ranks the 86th Infantry Battalion was officially disbanded effective September 1st 1917 this under General Order 82 of 1918.)

THE CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS (Military District No.2)

The Canadian Machine Gun Corps was formed at Hamilton under General Order 101 of October 1st 1917 by the conversion of the 205th Battalion to a Machine Gun (Draft giving) Depot Battalion for the Canadian Machine Gun Depot in England. The 205th Battalion was authorized under General Order 69 of July 1916, the Canadian Machine Gun Corps served in Canada until being disbanded under General Order 209 of November 1920. On its formation the Canadian Machine Gun Corps requested to be allowed to adopt CMGC badges in place of their 205th Battalion Badges.



30-6-14-109 Title Gilt lacquer on gilding metal by Caron Bros not maker marked

Generic Machine Gun Corps badges

A number, but not all, Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges in 1916 none of which were authorized. By 1918 all units were authorized to wear the 'official' Canadian Machine Gun patterns.

Most OR's badges were struck in natural gilding metal and officers in bronzed OSD (Officers Service Dress). The authorized collar badges were the General Service Maple Leaf patterns until August 1918 when the crossed Vickers Machine Gun patterns were authorized. (It is almost certain that these were worn prior to the official date of authorization.) These designs were the authorized pattern for the post WWI Canadian Machine Gun Corps (please see General Order 80 of 1929)

Authorized generic UK pattern Machine Gun Corps badges (Examples attributed to J.R.Gaunt & Son)

Other Ranks

30-6-11-111 Cap



30-6-12-111 Collar Brass or gilding metal. 2 lug configuration. Not maker marked

Officers

30-6-11-113 Cap



30-6-12-113 Collar Brown OSD. Die struck. 3 lug configuration.

Manufactures sample cap badge by Tiptaft

A letter written March 3rd 1917 by the officer commanding the Canadian Training Division in England to the headquarters of the Overseas Military Forces Canada suggesting that the Territorial Reserve Battalions in England be allowed to adopt regiment pattern badges was dismissed. However prior to this date Tiptaft had supplied a number of reserve battalions with badges. On being denied permission many of these were converted to menu holders. These badges are usually encountered with additional metal on the reverse. This unusual sample bears the motto "Maxim Machine Gun" these never used by the Canadian Machine Gun Corps.



30-6-11-104 Cap Gilt and enamels.

Vickers MG with Canada ribbon patterns



30-6-11-112 Cap Gilding metal. lug configuration



30-6-11-114 Cap Brass. Slide fastener. Also noted with two lug fasteners.



30-6-12-114 Collar Brass. 2 lug configuration.



30-6-11-116 Cap Gilding metal. 2 lug configuration.

30-6-11-118 Cap Brown OSD



30-6-12-118 Collar Brown OSD. Die struck. 2 lug configuration.



30-6-12-120 Collar Brown OSD. Die cast. 4 lug configuration.



30-6-11-122 Cap White metal with brass slider



30-6-11-124 Cap Brown OSD. 4 lug configuration. Not maker marked



30-6-12-124 Collar Broad Vickers. Brown OSD. Die struck. 4 lug configuration.

Badges by Joseph Jennens & Company



30-6-11-126 Cap Brown OSD. Two lug configuration. Marked J & Co.

Counterfeit cap badge

The cap badge pictured below is a counterfeit this 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. A brass example will almost certainly have been produced.



30-6-11-128 Cap Pressure cast brass.



30-6-11-130 Cap Pressure cast silver.

Badges by J.R. Gaunt & Son



30-6-11-132 Cap Brass. Wide motto ribbon. 3 lug configuration. J.R.Gaunt London makers tab

Modern re-strike



30-6-11-134 Cap Brown OSD. Wide motto. 4 lug configuration. J.R.Gaunt London makers tab

Counterfeit cap badge

The cap badge pictured below is a counterfeit this 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.



30-6-11-136 Cap Pressure cast brass.



30-6-11-136 Cap Pressure cast silver.

Un-identified maker



30-6-11-138 Cap Gilding metal. Narrow motto ribbon. Heavy brass slide. Not maker marked

Re-strike



30-6-11-140 Cap Brass. Brass slide fastener easily being bent with just light finger pressure.



30-6-11-142 Cap Gilding metal. Narrow motto ribbon. Long slide fastener. Not maker marked



30-6-12-144 Collar Gilding metal. Framed 'Canada'. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Counterfeit collar badges

The 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 examples.



30-6-12-146 Collar Pressure cast brass.



30-6-12-148 Collar Pressure cast silver.

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft

The initial order of Canadian Machine Gun Corps badges were recalled and returned to Tiptaft as 'not being of the specified pattern'. (Please see proto types above.) Between May and August 1918 J.W. Tiptaft supplied 20,500 machine gun corps cap and 14,500 collar pairs to the Ordnance Depot at Ashford in Kent. By January 1919 only 1550 cap badges remained in stock. Three different dies were used to strike the cap badges one with a large Tudor crown a second with a small crown and a third with feint lines on the maple leaf, collars are encountered both voided or solid.

Other ranks



30-6-11-150 Cap Small Tudor crown. Natural gilding metal



30-6-12-150 Collar Natural gilding metal. Non-voided

Officers



30-6-11-152 Cap Small Tudor crown. Die cast. Fold over tangs. Tiptaft B'ham maker tab



30-6-12-152 Collar Die struck. Brown OSD finish. Not maker marked



30-6-11-154 Cap Large Tudor crown. Die struck. Lug fasteners. Maker marked Tiptaft B'ham



30-6-12-154 Collar Die struck. Brown OSD finish. Hexagonal lugs



30-6-14-154 Title Gilding metal. Hexagonal lugs



30-6-14-156 Title Unidentified but of similar fabric to Canadian made badges

The CANADIAN MOTOR MACHINE GUN BRIGADE

Independent Motor Machine Gun Companies

Although prior to the War the Canadian Government was slow to adopt the Machine Gun some far sighted individuals saw that in any future conflict this weapon would hold a decisive role. Major Raymond Bruitinel persuaded a number of wealthy Canadian Businessmen to defray the cost of purchasing the equipment for an armoured car battery. Eight armoured cars, each with two colt machine guns, 12 unarmored trucks, four cars, 18 motorcycles (scouts) and a motor ambulance. On August 29th 1914 Sir Clifford Sifton's offer was accepted and Automobile Machine Gun Brigade No. 1 was formed with a compliment of nine Officers and 114 other ranks. The armoured cars being built by the Autocar Company of Ardmore, Pennsylvania to Bruitinel design.

Automobile Machine Gun Brigade No.1

(The Canadian) Automobile Machine Gun Brigade No. 1, or Sifton's Battery, was formed under General Order 150 of September 15th 1914 and sailed for England with the 1st Contingent in October 1914, where it was located at Bustard Camp. The AMGB was joined in England by the 'Houghton Detachment'. This was a group of 2 Officers and 55 OR's who enlisted at Winnipeg and Port Arthur as a machine gun section for the Fort Garry Horse, though not part of the battalion establishment. One officer and 15 OR's sailed with the 6th Battalion (FGH) on the 3rd October 1914 the rest of the detachment, one officer and 40 OR's arrived to late to sail as part of the 1st Contingent and sailed in civilian clothes at their own expense sailing to Scotland where the British Army arranged their transport to join the rest of the detachment on Salisbury Plains, where the unit became part of the Automobile Machine Gun Brigade. The Automobile Machine Gun Brigade did not sail for France with the 1st Division but remained in England attached to the British South Eastern Mounted Brigade at Ashford in Kent on a Home Defence role until June 1915. The brass 'AMGB' over a Colt machine gun 'regimental' shoulder title is believed to be a post WWI pattern.

The Independent Machine gun Batteries

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The Independent Machine gun Batteries

After the 1st Automobile Motor Machine Gun Corps had been raised and proceeded to England with the first Contingent three other machine gun batteries, two of them motorized, were raised and financing from private funds. All three proceeded to England with the 2nd Division although the War Office had advised against their inclusion, and they sailed without equipment or vehicles.

Borden's Armoured Battery 1915

Borden's Armoured Battery, named for the Prime Minister Robert Borden, was raised in Ottawa and Northern Ontario under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915 the first members of the unit two officers and 16 OR's having been taken on strength by December 31st 1914. Legend on the collar badges reads 'Borden's Armoured Battery'.

Regimental numbers block 201 - 450 changed to 201 - 600.

Badges by Leo McCarthy (Montreal)

30-6-11-150 Cap



30-6-12-150 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Maker marked Leo McCarthy

Badges by Hemsley

Other Ranks



30-6-11-152 Cap Pickled finish. Noted with either lugs, tangs, and pin fastener



30-6-12-152 Collar Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



30-6-12-154 Collar Pickled finish. Fold over tangs.. Not maker marked

Officers



30-6-11-156 Cap Gilt. Pin fastener. Not maker marked



30-6-12-156 Collar Gilt. Pin fastener. Maker marked Leo McCarthy Montreal

30-6-11-158 Cap Pickled with silver overlay. Not maker marked

30-6-12-158 Collars Pickled with silver overlay. Not maker marked

Borden's Motor Machine Gun Battery 1915 - 1918

During the spring of 1915 the name was changed to Borden's Motor Machine Gun Battery. The Battery sailed for England on May 16th 1915 aboard the Carpathia, of the Titanic disaster fame, with seven officers and 53 OR's. In England Borden's Motor Machine Gun Battery was billeted at Dibgate Camp in tents until sailing for France with the 2nd Canadian Division September 14th 1915.

Eaton's Machine Gun Battery 1915 - 1918

The Eaton Machine Gun Battery was raised at Toronto by Sir John Craig Eaton owner of the T. Eaton Department Store being authorized under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915. The regiment was formed in January 1915 with 9 Officers and 92 OR's and sailed for England June 4th 1915 with a total of 24 officers and 254 OR's. Prior to sailing for England in March 1915 the Battery was presented with cap and collar badges by Mrs. J.C. Eaton these designed and produced by the T.E. Eaton Co. Ltd.

Regimental numbers block 451 - 650 changed to 601 - 1000

In England the battery was located at Caesar's Camp North under canvas. Eaton's Motor Machine Gun Battery was to remain in England, the name being changed from the Eaton Machine Gun Battery when new badges were introduced, sailing for France as divisional troops assigned to the 3rd Canadian Division in the spring of 1916.

Bill Bird, a notable collector of CEF badges having started collecting badges during WWI while a sergeant in the 42nd Battalion. His only son left Mount Allison College to join the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in WWII and was killed at Caen just after D'Day 1944. In 1946 Bill Bird who had hoped to pass his collection on to his son sold his collection to a collector by the name of Mills who lived in San Diego. The collection which was mounted in 30 large frames was photographed and along with a description sent to Mr. Mills. In the copies of the letters, the descriptions and the photographs are a number of pertinent facts concerning the sources from which Mr. Bird had acquired his large and varied collection which contained some of the rarest of all the CEF badges. Regarding his badges for the Eaton Motor Machine Gun Brigade he received these from a woman who had entertained the unit at its formation and looked after its mail over the war years.

First pattern badges by the T.E. Eaton Company



30-6-11-160 Cap Darkened gilding metal 'large beaver' proto-type (?) by T.E. Eaton Co.



30-6-12-160 Collar Dark brown finish. Flat back. E/W lugs not maker marked

Second 'wide' pattern badges by unidentified maker



30-6-11-162 Cap Pickled finish. Flat back. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.



30-6-11-164 Cap Brown finish. Flat back. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.



30-6-12-164 Collar Dark brown finish. Flat back. N/S lugs not maker marked

Officers collars matching cap badges not confirmed



30-6-12-166 Collar Silver plate.



30-6-12-168 Collar Die struck. Red brown OSD finish. N/S lug fasteners. Not maker marked



30-6-12-170 Collar Die cast. Brown OSD finish. N/S lug fasteners. Not maker marked

An example of an other ranks Canadian seven button tunic to the Eaton's Motor Machine Gun Battery in the collection of Victor Taboika shows the British Motor Machine Guns title being worn. This would indicate that these were adopted immediately after arrival in England but unlikely worn on the adoption of the British five button tunic.



30-6-22-172 Cloth shoulder title 'MOTOR MACHINE' over 'GUNS' Red letters on khaki worsted

Overseas Pattern Badges 1916 by J.R. Gaunt

Other ranks



30-6-11-172 Cap Gilding metal overlay on gilding metal leaf



30-6-12-172 Collar Gilding metal. Two lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



30-6-11-174 Cap Brass overlay on red brown finished Maple leaf



30-6-11-176 Cap Brass overlay on gilding metal leaf. J.R. Gaunt London makers tab



30-6-14-176 Title Brass . (Apparently darkened when worn in the field as were the buttons.)

Proto-type sleeve badge

Little information regarding this badge has so far been reported. The design appears to be based on a similar British badges to the Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Car Section..



30-6-14-178 Title* Gilt. Pin fastener. Maker currently unidentified

* Illustrations courtesy of Mr. Lovat Dawson

Boyle's Machine Gun Draft

The Yukon Infantry Detachment, 50 volunteers, were raised by Mr. J. W. Boyle as a machine gun unit being authorized under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915. The detachment proceeded to Vancouver where the unit was initially attached to the 29th Battalion CEF. Before sailing for England on June 12th 1915 the unit now titled the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery was attached to the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. The unit sailed without machine guns or vehicles being billeted in Tents at Caesar's Camp South. The Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery remained in England until proceeding to France as divisional troops with the 4th Canadian Division in 1916.

Badges marked 'Made in B.C./Jacoby Bros/Vancouver'

Other ranks



30-6-12-178 Collar Brass. N/S lug fasteners. Oval makers tab

Officers

30-6-12-180 Collar Gilt with pin fastener. Oval makers tab

Yukon Infantry Company (Later the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery then 17th Machine Gun Company)

After the Yukon MG Battery had sailed for England on June 12th 1915 Commissioner George Black RNWMP raised a 226 man Yukon Infantry Company with headquarters at Dawson City. This proceeded to Victoria in three drafts between in June and July 1916 being attached to the 231st Battalion for training until October 1916. The Yukon Infantry Draft sailed for England in January 1917 where February 9th it was renamed the 17th Machine Gun Company being assigned to the 5th Division in formation in England. After the decision to abandon the 5th Division in January 1918 the 17th Machine Gun Company proceeded to France March 25th 1918 where on June 25th it was absorbed into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

Regimental numbers block 2,004501 - 2,004750

Prototype (First) Dawson City Rifles badges

Presumably the unit perpetuated the Dawson Rifle Company raised July 1st 1900 and disbanded November 2nd 1905 but continued by the Dawson City Rifle Company, Dominion Rifle Association captained by Lieutenant (Temporary Major) J.V.W. Howard and the No.213 Dawson City Cadet Corps established October 2nd 1909.

The only previous listing for these badges are in the photographs of the Bill Bird collection sold to a Mr. Mills of San Diego USA in 1946, an other ranks set of cap and collars being illustrated. The Bill Bird collection was mounted in 30 large frames and with photographs and descriptions sent to Mr. Mills. In the copies of the letters, the descriptions and the photographs are a number of pertinent facts concerning the sources from which Mr. Bird had acquired his large and varied collection which contained some of the rarest of all CEF badges. Listing this badge as only two known.

The motto on the badges reads 'Vox Clamant Sin Deserono' (A Voice Crying in the Wilderness')

Other ranks



30-6-11-182 Cap Pickled finish. Voided Not maker marked. Fabric consistent with George F. Hemsley.

Officers



30-6-12-184 Collar Antique brown finish. Die cast non voided. Not voided Hemsley pattern lugs.

Overseas

Other ranks



30-6-11-186 Cap Gilding metal. Maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'

Officers



30-6-11-188 Cap Gilt. Maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'

Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery

Other ranks



30-6-11-190 Cap Brown finish. Gold plated gold nuggets in pan. Marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'



30-6-12-190 Collar Brown finish. Gold plated gold nuggets. Not maker marked



30-6-14-190 Title Generic Yukon Territory shoulder title. Not maker marked.



30-6-11-192 Cap Brown finish with gilt nuggets overlay, maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'



30-6-12-192 Collar Brown finish with gilt nuggets overlay, maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (Divisional Troops June 1915 to August 1916)

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade, the name having been changed prior to sailing for France, arrived at Vendin on the 21st June 1915 to join the 2nd Division. The Brigade was 'dismounted' for some time being engaged both as infantry and anti-aircraft support. In July and August 1916 the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery unit along with the Bordon and Eaton Motor Machine Gun Batteries were attached to the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade for training. However on August 19th 1916 the Divisional Motor Machine Gun Batteries were withdrawn from the Divisional establishment and the batteries assigned to the Motor Machine Gun Brigade as Corps troops serving at the discretion of the Corps HQ. 'Regimental' pattern badges were adopted in 1916 without approval from HQ.

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (1916 - 1917)

Badges by H.B. Sale

Other ranks



30-6-11-200 Cap Brown finish. Not maker marked



30-6-12-200 Collar Die struck. Brown finish. Not maker marked

Officers



30-6-11-202 Cap Silver plate. Not maker marked.



30-6-12-202 Collar Silver plate. Not maker marked.

30-6-11-204 Cap Gilt on gilding metal die detail not known.



30-6-12-204 Collar Gilt on gilding metal. Not maker marked



30-6-23-204 Insert Red felt roundel worn behind both cap and collar badges



30-6-11-206 Cap Proto-type silver plated collar mounted on Tiptaft maple leaf.

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade ((September 1918)

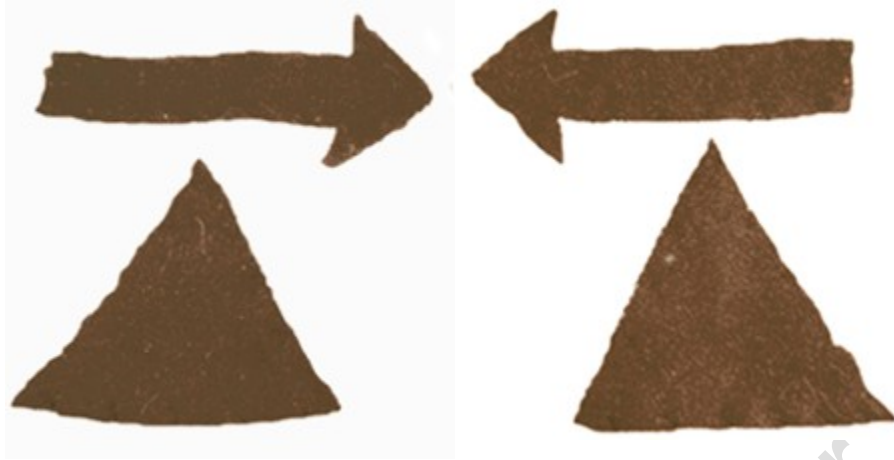
On September 19th 1918 permission was granted for the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade to adopt the unofficial original pattern collar badge. Presumably these cast examples were produced in the field likely in the workshops of the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Mechanical Transport Company.



30-6-12-208 Collar Die cast. Brown finish. Not maker marked

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade

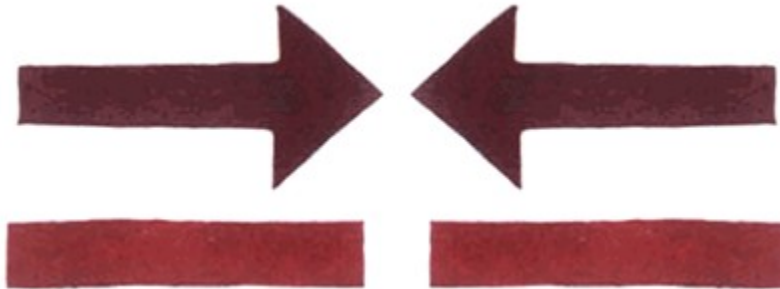
Formation patches



The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (Corps Troops August 1916 to Demobilization.)

The Motor Machine Gun Brigade was formed with five batteries 'A', and 'B' (from the 1st Motor Machine Gun Brigade), 'C' Battery, (Borden's Motor Machine Gun Battery), 'D' Battery, (Eaton's Motor Machine Gun Battery), and 'E' Battery, (the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery).

The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade First pattern formation patches



Second pattern





Eaton's Motor Machine Gun late war tunic

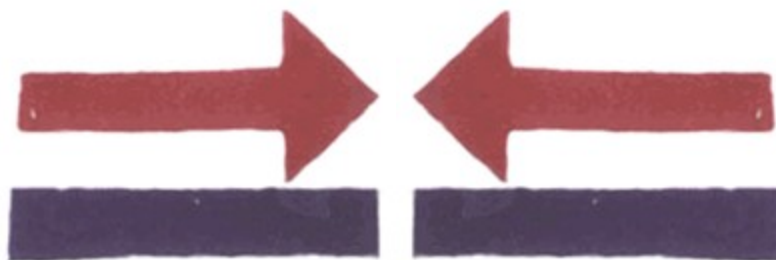


The 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade (June 3rd 1918)

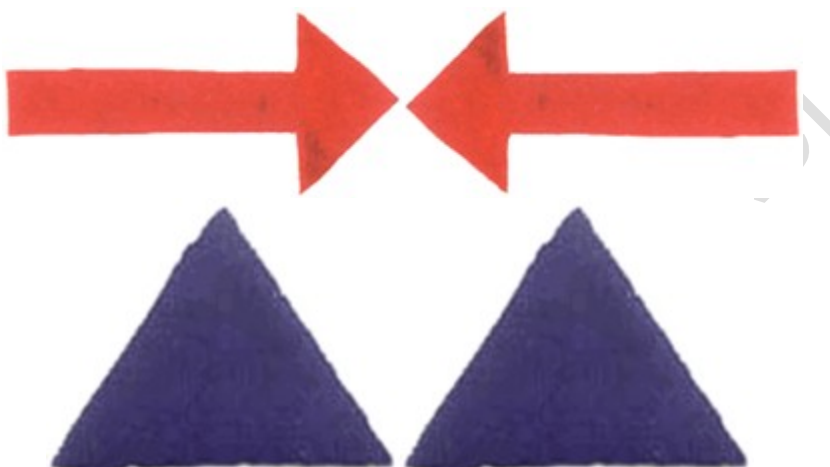
On June 3rd 1918 a second Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade was formed by splitting the Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade in two with additional Machine Gun Companies from the defunct 5th Canadian Division the formation this having been disbanded early in 1918. Only the 5th Divisional Machine Gun and Artillery Batteries proceeding to join the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade now comprised 'A' and 'B' Batteries (of the original Motor Machine Gun Battery, the Bordon's MMG Battery and the 18th CMG Co. (from the 5th Division).

The 2nd Motor Machine Gun Brigade was organized in France on June 3rd 1918 from the Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery, Eaton's Motor Machine Gun Battery the 17th Machine Gun Company (mobilized as the Yukon Infantry Company in October 1916), and the 19th Machine Gun Company (organized from personnel of the 26th Infantry Battalion) January 1917. Both Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigades were disbanded under General Order 209 of November 1920.

The 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade First pattern formation patches



First pattern formation patches



The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Mechanical Transport Company (CASC)

The Canadian Motor Machine Gun Mechanical Transport Company comprised of a Headquarters and two sections one for each Motor Machine Gun Brigade. Because of the mobile nature of the CMMGB the two sections of the CMMG (M.T.) Company were responsible for maintaining the vehicles of the is unit. The CMMG (M.T.) Company is a Canadian Army Service Corps unit but administered by the Senior Mechanical Transport Officer at Canadian Corps Headquarters.

Proposed CASC Mechanical Transport Co. CMGC Brodie Helmet decal



Brodie Helmet decal (un-used)

Post WWI manufactured badges worn by the Motor Machine Gun Brigade

(Beaver with head upright)

After assessing the success of the machine gun in WWI Canada's Military leaders decided to add a machine gun component to the Canadian Army. In 1919 a small Regular Army unit the Permanent Canadian Machine Gun Corps was established this being granted the prefix 'Royal' in 1922, twelve infantry regiments of non-permanent machine gun brigades were established. Plus three brigades of motor machine gun units. The designation 'Brigade' being changed to 'Battalion' in 1928. Each Machine Gun Brigade consisted of a headquarters plus three companies, squadron's in the case of the MMGB, these not necessarily being located in one location. The RCMGC was disbanded in 1923 but the N.P.A.M. machine gunners continued to serve in the Militia until the 1936 reorganization of the Canadian Militia when most were merged into other non permanent units.

30-6-11-210 Cap



30-6-12-210 Collar

Die struck brown OSD finish. Attributed to G. Hemsley

MACHINE GUN COMPANY BADGES

1st Canadian Contingent Machine Guns

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The 1st Canadian Division, Brigade Machine Gun Sections January 1st 1915 - January 1916

The 1st Division sailed for France with each of the three infantry brigades being assigned a machine gun section with four colt machine guns this under command of an NCO, the only known distinguishing badges currently noted being woven cloth Colt machine gun sleeve badges.



30-6-23-212 Sleeve badge Believed to have been worn on the left sleeve only.

In August 1915 the Colt machine guns were replaced with Vickers Machine Guns and for light machine gunners Hotchkiss Guns and in a few units, particularly the Cyclists and Cavalry Brigade, with Lewis Guns.

1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company January 1st 1916 - July 1916

In January 1916 the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Mont du Cats in France in January 1916 from the machine gun sections of the 1st Infantry Brigade under command of Lieutenant J.T. Anglin. (2nd QOR) (Later by Captain W.J.A. Lalor, 23rd Northern Pioneers). In July 1916 the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was redesignated the 1st Canadian Machine Gun Company.

1st Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 - April 1917

During 1916 a number of the Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges none of which were authorized. On October 27th 1917 the M.G. Companies were informed the approved badges for the Corps were those of the British Machine Gun Corps. "Unauthorized badges now worn in the units of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps should be replaced as soon as possible in accordance with Canadian Corps Routine Order 1766, of May 7th 1918." Photographs show this Order was never fully complied with.



30-6-11-212 Cap Brown finish. 4 Lugs. Not maker marked. (Attributed to Joseph Jennens Co.)
Illustration courtesy Wendy Hoare (Jeffrey Hoare Auctions)



30-6-11-214 Cap

Brown finish. Not maker marked. (Attributed to Joseph Jennens Co.)

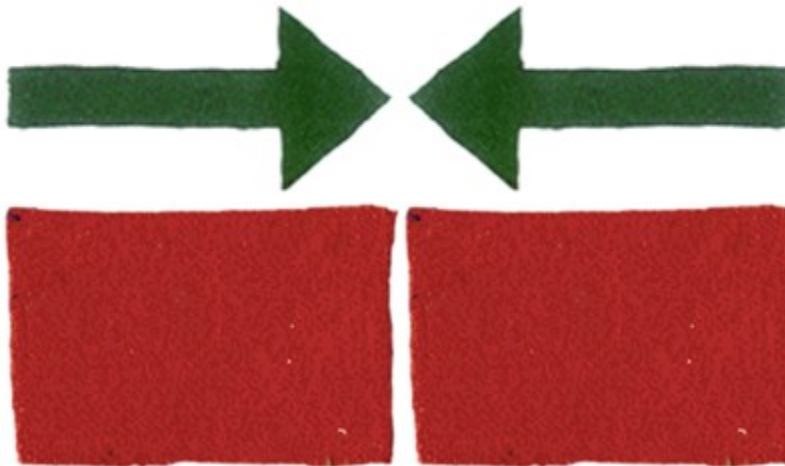


30-6-11-216 Cap

Black finish. Not maker marked. (Likely a proto-type)

Formation patches introduced in the fall 1916 and worn until March 1918

Green arrow worn above the red divisional patch



On September 8th 1917 the 1st Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 1st Infantry Brigade and redesignated the 1st Machine Gun Company, 1st Division. On March 27th 1918 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Companies and 13th Machine Company were amalgamated as the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

**2nd Infantry Brigade Canadian Machine Gun Company
January 1st 1916 - July 1916**

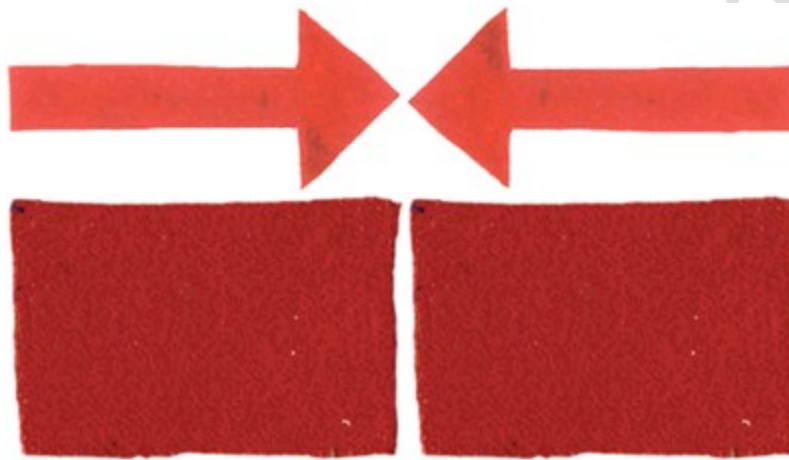
The 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Ploegstraat in Belgium in February 1916 under command of A/ Captain T.H. Raddall (Canadian School of Musketry, Halifax) from the machine gun sections of the 2nd Infantry Brigade being redesignated as the 2nd Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 under command of Major R.M. Stewart.

2nd Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 - April 1917

The 2nd Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 2nd Infantry Brigade and redesignated the 2nd Machine Gun Company, 1st Division on September 8th 1917. On March 27th 1918 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Companies and 13th Machine Company from the disbanded 5th Division were amalgamated as the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 - March 1918

Red arrow worn above the red divisional patch



3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company February 1916 - July 1916

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Meteren in France in February 1916 being raised from the machine gun sections of the 3rd Infantry Brigade under command of Major E.H. Houghton and redesignated as the 3rd Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

Other ranks



30-6-11-220 Cap White metal. Not maker marked



30-6-12-220 Collar Brass. Flat back. Not maker marked

Officers



30-6-11-224 Cap Gilt on white metal.



30-6-12-226 Collar Gilding metal. Flat back. Not maker marked

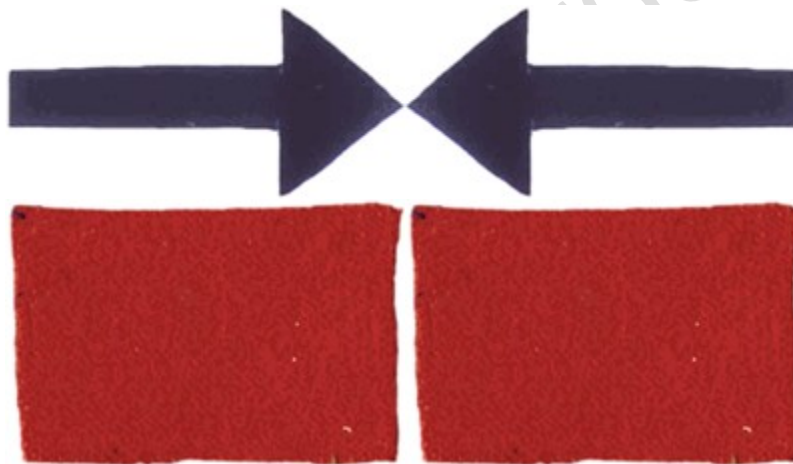
A cap badge in pickled finish with a white metal overlay is reported but has not been confirmed

A brass two bar 'CMGC' title surmounted with a numeral '3' is a post WWI pattern for the 3rd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps

3rd Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 - April 1917

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 - March 1918

Blue arrow worn above the red divisional patch



3rd Machine Gun Company, 1st Division September 8th 1917 - March 27th 1918

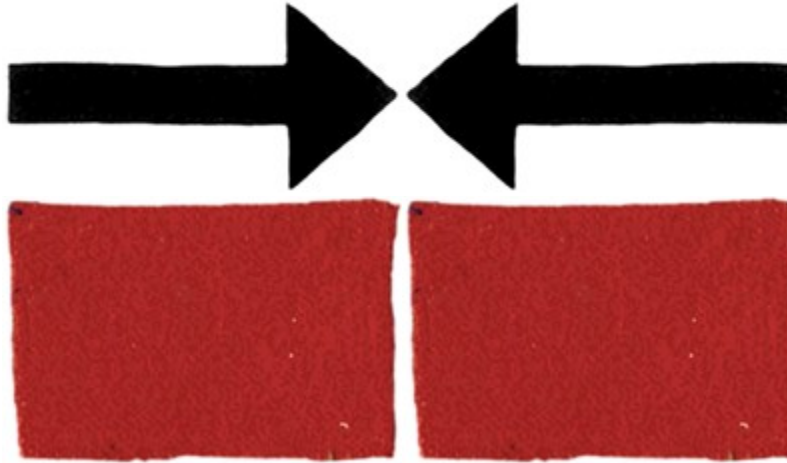
On September 8th 1917 the 3rd Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 3rd Infantry Brigade and redesignated the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 1st Division. On March 27th 1918 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Companies and 13th Machine Company were amalgamated as the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

13th Machine Gun Company, 1st Division January 1917 - March 27th 1918

The 13th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was formed in January 1917 at Floringham under command of Major J. Kay (48th Highlanders) by taking sections from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Machine Gun Companies of the machine gun brigades of the 1st Division.

Formation patches worn between January 1917 - March 1918

Black arrow worn above the red patch divisional patch



On March 27th 1918 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Companies and 13th Machine Company were amalgamated as the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

Machine Gun Units of the 2nd Division

The 2nd Division Machine Gun Battalion was established in France in October 1915 with the 4th, 5th and 6th Machine Brigades these being formed with personnel withdrawn from the infantry brigades.

4th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company, December 1915 - July 1916

The 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed in Belgium in October 1915 with infantry personnel of the 4th Brigade. After initial training the company was attached to the 4th Brigade December 22nd 1915 under command of Captain J. Edwards (21st Bn.), being redesignated as the 4th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

4th Canadian Machine Gun Company December 1915 - April 1917

During 1916 a number of the Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges none of which were authorized. On October 27th 1917 the M.G. Companies were informed the approved badges for the Corps were those of the British Machine Gun Corps. "Unauthorized badges now worn in the units of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps should be replaced as soon as possible in accordance with Canadian Corps Routine Order 1766, of May 7th 1918." Photographs show this Order was never fully complied with.

Proto-type by J.W. Dingley



30-6-11-230 Cap

Brown OSD finish. Maker marked J.W. Dingley B'ham

Proto-type by unidentified maker



30-6-11-232 Cap Brown finish. Two lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Badges by George Jamison & Son



30-6-11-234 Cap Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked. (Finish polished off?)



30-6-12-234 Collar Pickled brass. N/S Flat cut sheet lugs. Not maker marked

The badges were possibly issued with a pickled finish

Officers

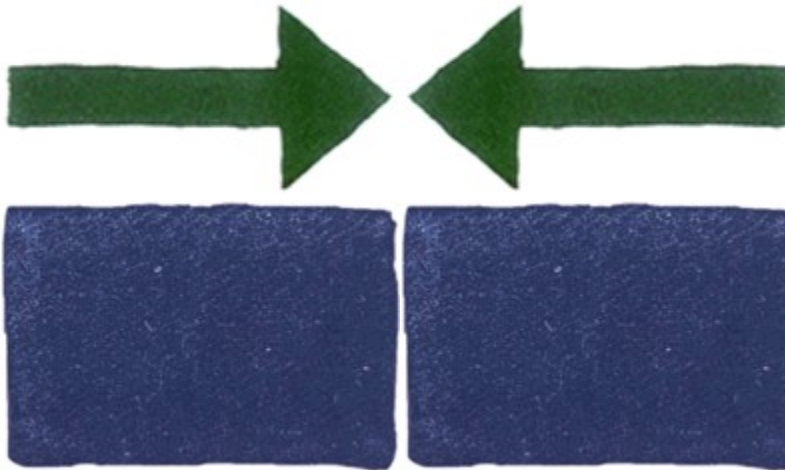


30-6-11-233 Cap Brown OSD finish. Slide fasteners. Not maker marked



30-6-12-236 Collar Brown OSD finish. N/S lugs. Not maker marked

4th Canadian Machine Gun Company 2nd Division
Formation patches worn between fall 1916 - March 1918
Green arrow worn above the blue divisional patch



In September 1917 the 4th Machine Gun Company was detached from the 4th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 4th Machine Gun Company 2nd Division being redesignated on reorganization March 27th 1918 as the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

5th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company December 1915 - July 1916

The 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed in Belgium in December 1915 from the machine gun sections of the 5th Infantry Brigade under command of Lieutenant S.W. Watson (5th RH of C) being redesignated as the 5th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

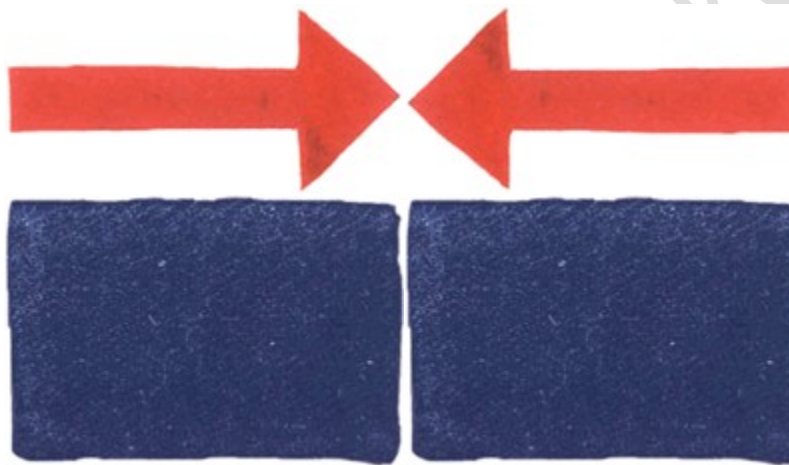
During 1916 a number of the Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges none of which were authorized. On October 27th 1917 the M.G. Companies were informed the approved badges for the Corps were those of the British Machine Gun Corps. "Unauthorized badges now worn in the units of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps should be replaced as soon as possible in accordance with Canadian Corps Routine Order 1766, of May 7th 1918." Photographs show this Order was never fully complied with.

45-3-4-41 Collar Brass. J.R.Gaunt makers tab. 3 lug configuration. J.R.Gaunt makers tab

5th Canadian Machine Gun Company 2nd Division

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 - March 1918

Red arrow worn above the blue divisional patch



In September 1917 the 5th Machine Gun Company was detached from the 5th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 5th Machine Gun Company 2nd Division being redesignated on reorganization March 27th 1918 as the 5th Company, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

5th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division September 8th 1917 - March 27th 1918

On March 27th 1918 the 4th, 5th and 6th amalgamated with the 14th Machine Gun Company as the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps

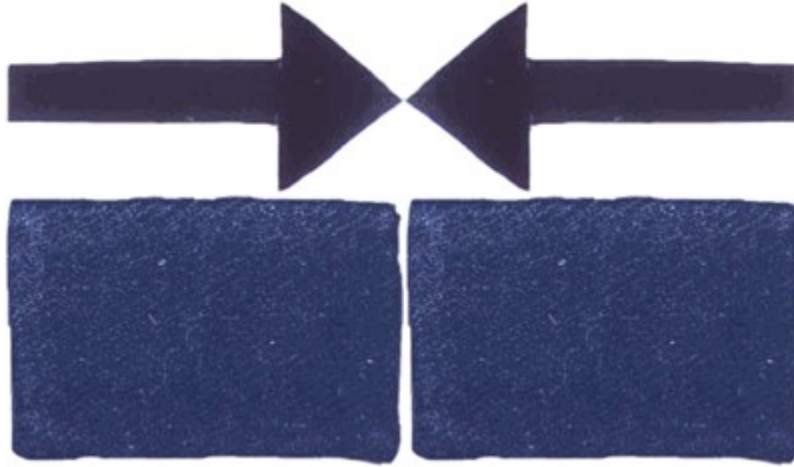
6th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company December 1915 - July 1916

The 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed in Belgium in December 1915 from the machine gun sections of the 6th Infantry Brigade under command of Captain T.A.H. Taylor. (6th DCOR) being redesignated as the 6th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

6th Canadian Machine Gun Company 2nd Division

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 - March 1918

Blue arrow worn above the blue divisional patch



In September 1917 the 6th Machine Gun Company was detached from the 6th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 6th Machine Gun Company 2nd Division being redesignated on reorganization March 27th 1918 as the 6th Company, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

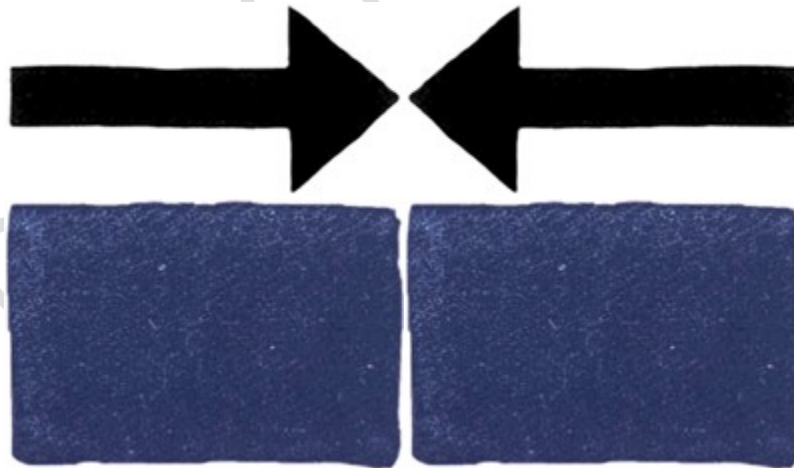
14th Canadian Machine Gun Company January 1917 - September 8th 1917

The 14th Canadian Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division was formed in January 1917 at Floringham under command of Major J. Barcevi (14th CLH) with personnel from the 4th and 5th Machine Gun Companies with additional personnel from the Machine Gun Depot.

14th Canadian Machine Gun Company 2nd Division

Formation patches worn between January 1917 - March 1918

Black arrow worn above the blue divisional patch



On March 27th 1918 the 4th, 5th and 6th amalgamated with the 14th Machine Gun Company as the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps

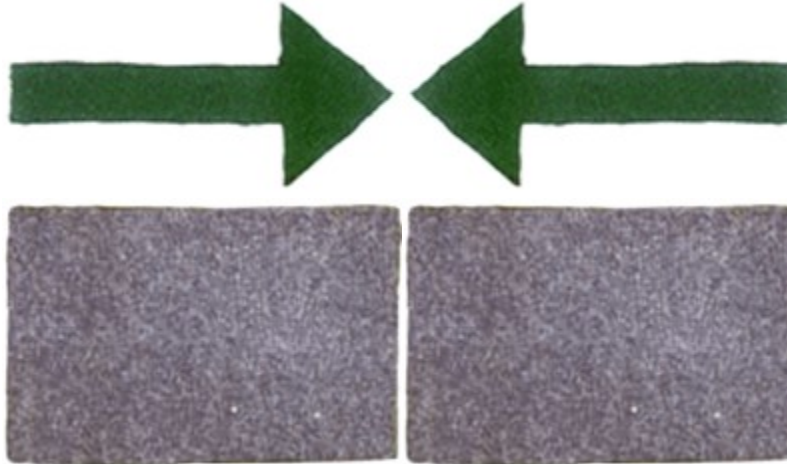
MACHINE GUN COMPANIES OF THE 3rd DIVISION

The 3rd Division Machine Gun Battalion was established at Florsheim in Belgium in March 1916 with the 7th, 8th and 9th Machine Brigades these being formed with personnel from the machine gun brigades.

7th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 7th Infantry Brigade March 1916 - July 1916

The 7th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was formed at Florsheim in Belgium in March 1916 being formed from the machine gun sections of the 7th Infantry Brigade under command of Captain H.T. Cock (RCR) being redesignated as the 7th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 and March 1918

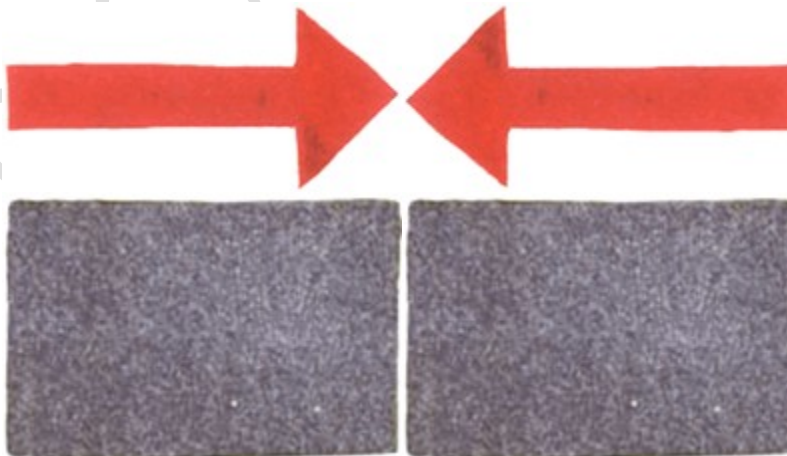


In September 1917 the company was detached from the 7th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 7th Machine Gun Company 3rd Division.

The 8th Machine Gun Company

The 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Florsheim in Belgium in April 1916 from the machine gun sections of the 8th Infantry Brigade under command of Captain W.M. Balfour DSO (19th Alberta Dragoons) being redesignated as the 8th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 and March 1918



In September 1917 detached from the 8th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 8th Machine Gun Company 3rd Division. On March 27th 1918 reorganized as a component of the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

The 9th Machine Gun Company

The 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company Formed in Belgium in April 1916 from the machine gun sections of the 9th Infantry Brigade under command of Captain W.H Bothwell. (60th Rifles) being redesignated as the 9th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916.

During 1916 a number of the Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges none of which were authorized. On October 27th 1917 the M.G. Companies were informed the approved badges for the Corps were those of the British Machine Gun Corps. "Unauthorized badges now worn in the units of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps should be replaced as soon as possible in accordance with Canadian Corps Routine Order 1766, of May 7th 1918." Photographs show this Order was never fully complied with.

The original badges for the 9th Canadian Machine Gun Company are a single strike. Many 'made up' patterns with a numeral '9' being added to a standard Canadian Machine Gun Corps pattern are noted. It is not determined if these were used in the field but possibly made by or for collectors in the post WWI period. Even these 'made up' badges are scarce and it would appear that these were produced for the small number of collectors of the day, and not with the intention to defraud as is the case with the modern British restrikes.

Badges by Moore, Taggart & Co



30-6-11-240 Cap Natural gilding metal. Slide fastener. Not maker marked



30-6-12-240 Collar Brass. Four lug configuration. Not maker marked.



30-6-14-240 Title Gilding metal with three hexagonal lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers

30-6-11-242 Cap Silver. Lug fasteners



30-6-12-242 Collar Silver. Four lug configuration

Badges by unidentified maker



30-6-11-244 Cap Brown OSD. Example likely re-lugged

Made up badges likely post WWI concoctions

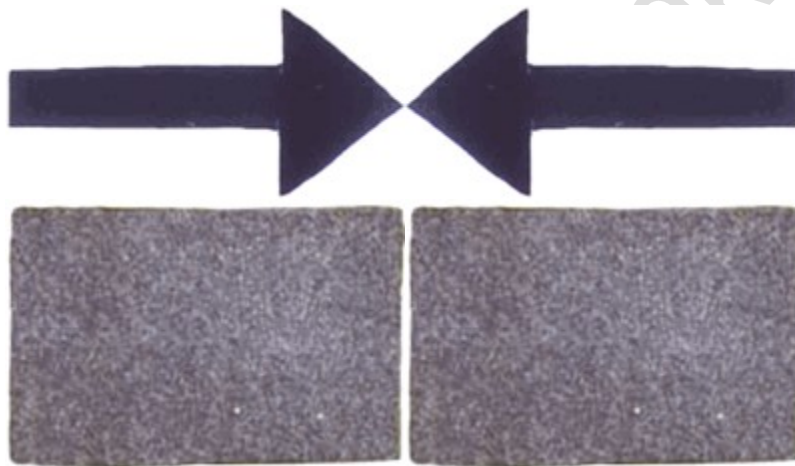


30-6-11-246 Cap Brass with added numeral and 'Canada' ribbon



30-6-11-248 Cap White metal numeral '9' on gilding metal with added numeral and 'Canada' ribbon

Formation patches worn between fall 1916 and March 1918

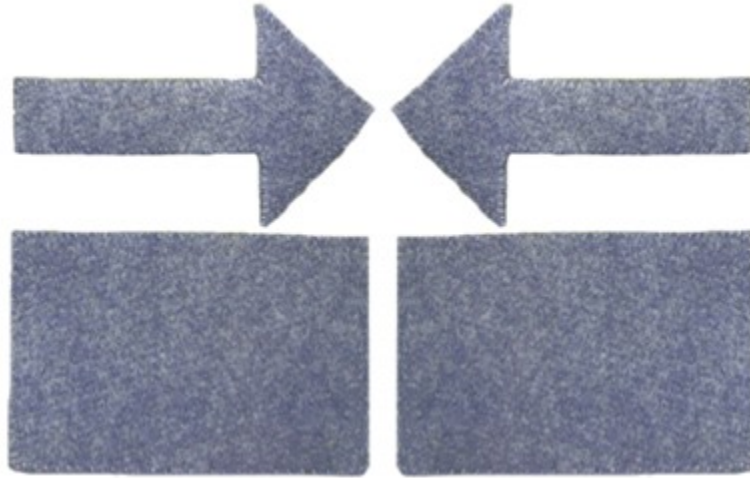


In September 1917 detached from the 8th Infantry Brigade and assigned as the 9th Machine Gun Company 3rd Division. On March 27th 1918 reorganized as a component of the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

15th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company January 1917 - March 1917

The 15th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was formed in January 1917 at Floringham under command of Captain W.N. Moorhouse (9th Mississauga Horse) by taking sections from the 7th and 8th Machine Gun Companies of the brigades of the 3rd Division with additional gunners from the M.G. Depot. This formed as a divisional machine gun company.

Formation patches worn between January 1917 and March 1918



MACHINE GUN UNITS OF THE 4th DIVISION

The 4th Division Machine gun Battalion was formed in England in June 1916 with the 10th, 11th and 12th Machine Gun Brigades the personnel being raised from infantry battalions then in England.

10th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 10th Infantry Brigade June 1916 - July 1916

Formed as the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company in June 1916 at Bramshott in England from personnel from the 44th, 46th, 47th and 50th Infantry Battalions the under command of A/Major A.R.. Ness (CFA). Redesignated as the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Company in July 1916.

A number of the Machine Gun Companies obtained 'regimental' badges in 1916 none of which were authorized. On October 27th 1917 the M.G. Companies were informed the approved badges for the Corps were those of the British Machine Gun Corps. "Unauthorized badges now worn in the units of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps should be replaced as soon as possible in accordance with Canadian Corps Routine Order 1766, May 7th 1918." Photographs show this Order was never fully complied with.

Proto-type/Officers (?) cap badge by unidentified maker



30-6-11-250 Cap Brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

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 "C.A. Hodgkinsons London". (UK patterns worn with maple leaf collars)

10th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 - April 1917

Formation patches introduced April 1917 to March 1918

Green arrow worn above the green divisional patch



On September 8th 1917 the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 10th Infantry Brigade and re-assigned and redesignated the 4th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division.

**11th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 11th Infantry Brigade
June 1916 - July 1916**

Formed at Bramshott in England as the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company in June 1916 from personnel from the 53rd, 54th, 74th and 75th Infantry Battalions the under command of Major B.M. Clerk (35th Peel Regt.). Redesignated as the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company in August 1916.

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 'Townshend, Birmingham'. (UK patterns worn with maple leaf collars)

11th Canadian Machine Gun Company July 1916 - April 1917

Red arrow worn above the green divisional patch



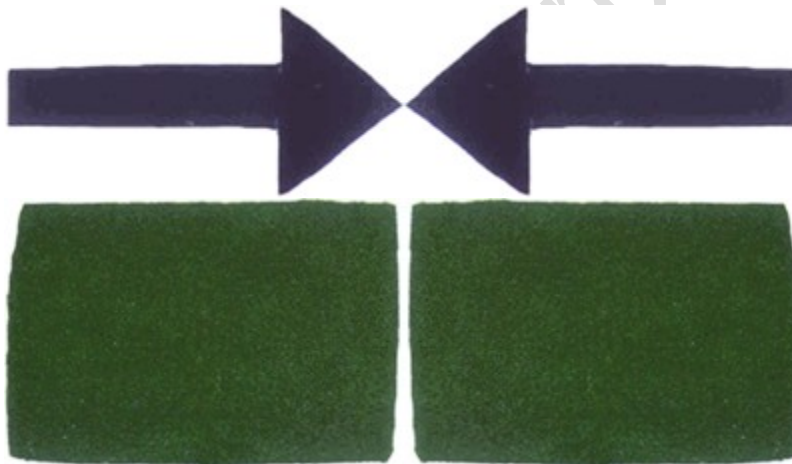


On September 8th 1917 the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 11th Infantry Brigade and re-assigned and redesignated the 4th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division.

12th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 12th Infantry Brigade June 1916 - July 1916 (UK pattern worn with maple leaf collars)

Formed at Bramshott in England as the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company in June 1916 from personnel from the 51st, 72nd, 73rd and 81st Infantry Battalions the under command of Captain H.E. Hodge (40th Northumberland Regt.). Redesignated as the 12th Canadian Machine Gun Company in August 1916.

Blue arrow worn above the green divisional patch

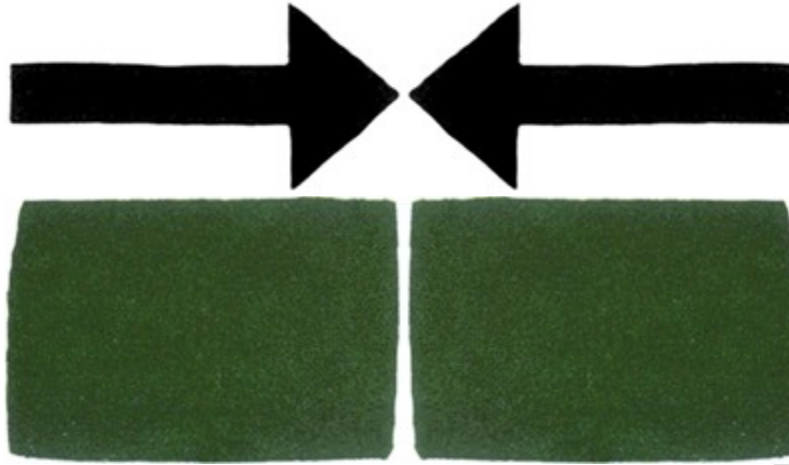


On September 8th 1917 the 12th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 12th Infantry Brigade and re-assigned and redesignated the 4th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division.

16th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company December 1916 - September 1917

The 16th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was formed December 27th 1916 at Floringham under command of Captain E.W. Sansom (71st York Regt.) with personnel from the 73rd, 75th, 87th and 102nd Infantry Battalions plus personnel from the 10th, 11th and 12th Machine Gun Companies. In September 1917 the personnel of the machine gun companies were detached from their respective infantry brigades forming divisional machine gun battalions and on March 21st 1918 the 16th Infantry Machine Gun Company was designated the 16th Company, 2nd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

Black arrow worn above the green divisional patch



On March 27th 1918 the 10th, 11th and 12th machine gun companies amalgamated with the 16th Machine Gun Company as the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps

MACHINE GUN UNITS OF THE 5th DIVISION

Absorbed into the Motor Machine Gun Brigades in 1918

5th Division Divisional Machine Gun Brigade

The 5th Divisional Machine Gun Brigade was formed at Whitley Camp in England February 9th 1917 with the 17th, 18th and 19th Machine Gun Brigades under overall command of Major J.H. Brownlee.

The 17th Machine Gun Company

Formed at Whitley in England as the 17th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company February 9th 1917 from the Yukon Infantry Draft under command of Major H.F.V. Meurling. (This officer is illustrated on the cover of "A Source of Pride" by J.H. Harper) In February 1918 the formation of the 5th Division taking place at Witley was abandoned. The infantry battalions were broken up and used as reinforcements. Both the 5th Divisional Artillery and 5th Divisional Machine Gun Companies embarked for the Continent, the 17th Machine Gun Company proceeding to France March 25th 1918 where on June 25th it was absorbed into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

The 17th Machine Gun Company (Duplicate of above CMMGB)

Yukon Infantry Company (17th Machine Gun Company)

After the Yukon MG Battery had sailed for England on June 12th 1915 Commissioner George Black RNWMP raised a 226 man Yukon Infantry Company with headquarters at Dawson City. This proceeded to Victoria in three drafts between in June and July 1916 being attached to the 231st Battalion for training until October 1916. The Yukon Infantry Draft sailed for England in January 1917 where February 9th was renamed the 17th Machine Gun Company being assigned to the 5th Division in formation in England. After the abandonment of the 5th Division in January 1918 the 17th Machine Gun Company proceeded to France March 25th 1918 where on June 25th it was absorbed into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

Regimental numbers block 2,004501 - 2,004750

Prototype (First) Dawson City Rifles badges

The proto type badges are listed in Harper's "A Source of Pride" page 16 "specimens of the Yukon Infantry Company were sent to Militia Headquarters 4 October 1917, but there no record of approval on file." The only previous listing for these badges are in the photographs of the Bird collection sold to Mills in 1946, an other ranks set of cap and collars being illustrated. The Bird collection was mounted in 30 large frames was

photographed and along with a description prior to being sent to Mr. Mills of San Diego USA the purchaser. In the copies of the letters, the descriptions and the photographs are a number of pertinent facts concerning the sources from which Mr. Bird had acquired his large and varied collection which contained some of the rarest of all CEF badges. Presumably the unit perpetuated the Dawson Rifle Company raised July 1st 1900 and disbanded November 2nd 1905 but continued by the Dawson City Rifle Company, Dominion Rifle Association captained by Lieutenant (Temporary Major) J.V.W. Howard and the No.213 Dawson City Cadet Corps established October 2nd 1909.

The motto on the badges reads 'Vox Clamant Sin Deserono' (A Voice Crying in the Wilderness')



30-6-11-134 Cap Pickled finish. Not maker marked. Fabric consistent with George F. Hemsley.



30-6-12-136 Collar Antique brown finish. Die cast. Not voided Hemsley pattern lugs.

Oversea



30-6-11-140 Cap Gilding metal. Maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'



30-6-11-142 Cap Gilt. Maker marked 'J.R. Gaunt London'

The 18th Machine Gun Company

Formed at Whitley in England as the 18th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company February 6th 1917 from personnel from the Machine Gun Depot at Crowborough in England under command of Lieutenant G.W. de la Poer-Berisford. (GGFG) In February 1918 the formation of the 5th Division taking place at Witley was abandoned. The assigned infantry battalions being broken up in England and used as reinforcements for the Canadian Corps on the Continent. Both the 5th Divisional Artillery and 5th Divisional Machine Gun Companies embarked for the Continent, the 18th Machine Gun Company proceeding to France March 25th 1918 where on June 7th it was absorbed into the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

The 19th Machine Gun Company

Formed at Whitley in England as the 19th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company February 6th 1917 with personnel from the Crowborough Machine Gun Depot under command of Major J.H. Brownlee. (31st Grey Regiment) In February 1918 the formation of the 5th Division taking place at Witley was abandoned. The assigned infantry battalions being broken up in England and used as reinforcements for the Canadian Corps on the Continent. Both the 5th Divisional Artillery and 5th Divisional Machine Gun Companies embarked for the Continent, the 19th Machine Gun Company proceeding to France March 25th 1918 where on June 7th it was absorbed into the 2nd Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

The 20th Machine Gun Company

In Canada a further Machine Gun Company, the 20th, was formed for inclusion in the Siberian Expeditionary Force. This authorized under General Order 128 of November 1st 1918 and disbanded under General Order 215 of November 15th 1920.

THE CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS 1917 - 1918

The Canadian Machine Gun Corps was organized in France April 16th 1917 bringing all Canadian machine gun units under its command; this being authorized under Routine Order 558 of February 22nd 1917. A machine gun depot was organized at Seaford in England on January 4th 1917 to train gunners and provide reinforcements. In September 1917 the machine gun companies were detached from the Infantry Brigades and redesignated as Divisional Machine Gun Battalions under the nominal command of Divisional Headquarters. Each under command of a Lieutenant-Colonel the batteries being self contained in regard to transportation and command. At this time the personnel of each machine gun battalion was increased to eight Officers and 1100 OR's. During active operations the Battalion Commander served at Divisional HQ, the Company Commanders at Brigade Headquarters with Companies attached to Infantry Brigades or Battalions as necessary. In January 1918 an additional machine gun company was added to each of the divisional machine gun battalions. These were usually formed with an echelon withdrawn from the existing machine gun companies with additional personnel. In March 1918 the 1st Machine Gun Battalion absorbed the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and the 13th Machine Gun Companies. The 2nd Machine Gun Battalion absorbed the 5th, 6th, 14th and 17th Machine Gun Companies, The 3rd Machine Gun Battalion absorbed the 7th, 8th, 9th

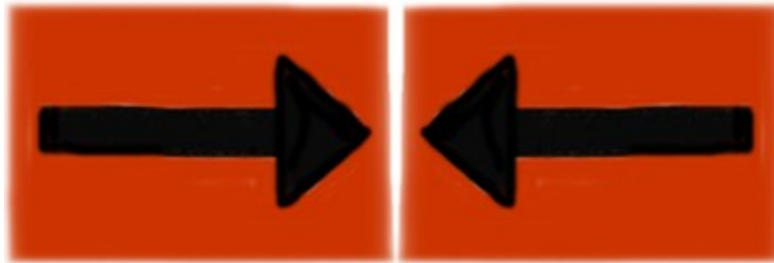
and 15th Machine Gun Companies. The 4th Machine Gun Battalion absorbed the 10th, 11th, 12th and 16th Machine Gun Battalions.

THE CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS 1917 - 1918

1st Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps March 27th 1918

**1st Machine Gun Company
2nd Machine Gun Company
3rd Machine Gun Company
13th Machine Gun Company**

Formation patches worn between March 1918 and November 1918



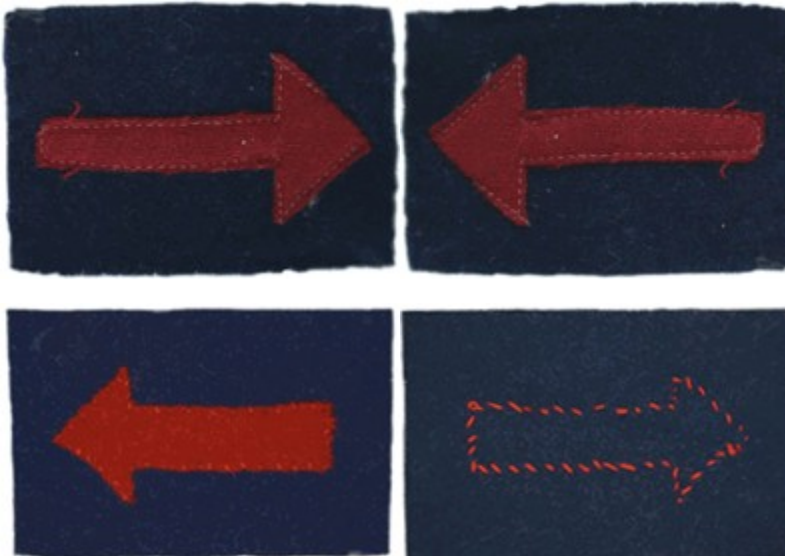
Black arrow worn on the red divisional patches

2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps March 27th 1918

**3rd Machine Gun Company
4th Machine Gun Company
5th Machine Gun Company
14th Machine Gun Company**

Formation patches introduced circa March 1918

Crimson or red arrow worn on the blue divisional patches



3rd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps March 27th 1918

**7th Machine Gun Company
8th Machine Gun Company
9th Machine Gun Company
15th Machine Gun Company**

3rd Battalion Canadian Machine Corps formation patches March 1918

Maroon arrow worn on the grey divisional patches



4th Battalion Canadian Machine Corps formation patches March 1918

**10th Machine Gun Company
11th Machine Gun Company
12th Machine Gun Company
16th Machine Gun Company**

Formation patches introduced circa March 1918

Crimson or red arrow worn on the green divisional patches



5th Division formation patch 1917 - 1918 (worn without regimental favors.)

**17th Machine Gun Company
18th Machine Gun Company
19th Machine Gun Company**



THE NEW BRUNSWICK MACHINE GUN DRAFT

The New Brunswick Machine Gun Draft was formed in 1916 with one officer and 41 other ranks. Though not listed in the General Orders. Regimental numbers block 2,000251 - 2,000750 these consistent with other drafts raised under General Order 69 of 1916 and raised in early 1917. The badges which were unauthorized are some of the rarest of the entire CEF series.

Badges attributed to Geo. Hemsley

Other ranks



30-6-11-260 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



30-6-12-260 Collar Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



30-6-14-260 Title Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers (Unique only single specimens known)

30-6-11-262 Cap Brown OSD. Not maker marked



30-6-12-262 Collar Brown OSD. Not maker marked

1st TANK BATTALION, CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

The 1st Tank Battalion C.M.G.C. was authorized under General Order 64 of June 1st 1918 with headquarters at Ottawa the unit having been placed on Active Service on April 1st 1918. 1st Canadian Tank Battalion badges were authorized April 17th 1918. The establishment of the 1st Tank Battalion is described under General Order 81 of June 1st with a total of 790 All Ranks. The Break down being a tank crew of nine all ranks, five tanks forming a Section this with a headquarters of 4 for a total of 49. Four Sections forming a Company with a headquarters of 18 for a total of 214 All Ranks. The Tank Battalion consisted of four Companies with a headquarters of 35 All Ranks for a total of 677 All ranks plus attached to Headquarters six medical personnel, five Pay Corps and 102 reinforcements. The majority of the volunteers for the 1st Canadian Tank Battalion came from Canadian Universities, one Company being raised at McGill, a second at the University of Toronto and a third from other Canadian Universities. The 1st Canadian Tank Battalion arrived in England in June 1918 and after quarantine at the Segregation Camp at Frensham Pond in Surrey proceeded to the Imperial Tank Training Camp near Wareham in Dorsetshire. The 1st Canadian Tank Battalion had just completed its training when the Armistice was declared. The 1st and 2nd Canadian Tank Battalions C.M.G.C. were both disbanded under General Order 209 of November 15th 1920. The original Regimental numbers for the 1st Tank Battalion were TK 5001 to TK6000 these being changed to 2,765001 to 2,766000.

Badges by Hemsley

Other ranks



30-6-11-270 Cap Pickled brass. By Hemsley not maker marked



30-6-11-270 Collar Pickled brass. By Hemsley not maker marked

Other Ranks

Officers



30-6-11-272 Cap Silver overlay on pickled brass by Hemsley



30-6-12-272 Collar Silver overlay on pickled brass. Flat cut metal lugs. By Hemsley not marked

30-6-11-274 Cap Silver plate by Hemsley



30-6-12-274 Collar Silver plate Die struck. Pin fastener. By Hemsley not maker marked



30-6-12-276 Collar Silver plate Die struck. Pin fastener. By Hemsley not maker marked

Sweetheart(?)



30-6-12-278 Collar Marked Sterling. Believed to be a sweetheart pin. No left facing examples noted

Badges by Tiptaft



30-6-11-280 Cap Brown finish. Not maker marked



30-6-12-280 Collar Brown finish. Not maker marked



30-6-14-280 Title 'T.C.' British pattern (Westlake 195)



30-6-23-280 Shoulder strap ribbon

Officers

30-6-11-282 Cap Hallmarked sterling silver (Reported but not confirmed)

30-6-12-282 Collar Hallmarked sterling silver (Reported but not confirmed)



30-6-23-282 Shoulder strap ribbon

Counterfeit cap badges



Pressure cast copies of the above genuine badge, 30-6-11-280 have been used to make a mould, for badges that appeared for sale on eBay in the United Kingdom. Note the blurred detail and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck examples. Brass examples will also certainly exist.

Counterfeit of above cap badge



30-6-11-281 Cap Pressure cast silver. Note lack of and blurred detail

2nd TANK BATTALION, CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

The success of tanks at the August 8th Battle of Amiens saw the British Government asking if Canada could supply a second tank battalion for service on the Western Front. The 2nd Tank Battalion C.M.G.C. was authorized under General Order 123 of October 15th 1918 as an Active Unit of the Active Militia of Canada also 'and the raising and dispatching of such reinforcing drafts for the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Canadian Machine Gun Corps as may be needed from time to time.' The 2nd Canadian Tank Battalion arrived in England October 18th 1918 with a strength of 44 Officers and 960 Other Ranks. The unit was still in Segregation Camp when the Armistice was declared. No specific regimental numbers are listed for the 2nd Tank Battalion these likely being incorporated in the Depot Battalion block numbers.

A sample of prototype cap badge for the 2nd Canadian Tank Battalion is held in the collection of the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. It is not determined if this is a second example.



30-6-11-284 Cap Pickled finish. '2nd' designation overlay. Possible manufacturers sample



30-6-12-284 Collar Pickled finish. '2nd' designation overlay. Possible manufacturers sample

30-6-11-286 Cap Brown OSD finish. Not currently reported

30-6-12-286 Collar Brown OSD finish. '2nd' designation overlay. Possible manufacturers sample

3rd TANK BATTALION CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

There is no mention in the General Orders for the formation of a 3rd Canadian Tank Battalion. A number of finely worked sterling silver 3rd Canadian Tank Battalion badges are known. One was included in the Lenard Babin Collection and illustrated as 32-3 in his Catalogue. The Battalion is purported to have been organized October 29th 1918 and disbanded December 2nd 1918 possibly at McGill University, but there is no mention of this unit in the General Orders



30-6-11-288 Cap Hand made sterling silver badge

THE CANADIAN TANK CORPS

With the arrival of the 2nd Canadian Tank Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps in October 1918 preparation was begun in Canada to form a Canadian Tank Corps. Under General Order 134 of December 2nd 1918 the Canadian Tank Corps CEF was named as a Corps of the Active Militia of Canada. This was to consist of the 1st and 2nd Tank Battalions “, together with the personnel presently on strength thereof or attached thereto, are from the 29th November 1918 deemed to be units of the Canadian Tank Corps, C.E.F., and to form part thereof.” Authority is also granted for the formation of such additional Battalions or other administrative units within the said Corps.’ We find no further mention of the Canadian Tank Corps in the General Orders so presumably the project was never initiated though badges were produced by Tiptaft these authorized February 19th 1919, two minor die variations were produced the first with a coarse veined maple leaf the second with a textured leaf. The 1st and 2nd Canadian Tank Battalions were both disbanded in November 1920 no further establishment for the Tank Corps being listed.

Regimental numbers block TK 5001 - TK 6000 changed to 2,765001 - 2,766000

Badge by D.E. Black & Co. Calgary



30-6-11-290 Cap Silver. Lug fasteners. Maker marked D.E.Black & Co, 1918 and Sterling

Badges by Tiptaft

Other ranks (Coarse veins variety)



30-6-11-292 Cap Black finish with white metal overlay maker marked 'Tiptaft'



30-6-12-292 Collar Black finish with white metal overlay maker marked 'Tiptaft'

Officers



30-6-11-294 Cap Gilt with silver overlay on tank.

Pebbled leaf variety



30-6-11-296 Cap Black finish with white metal overlay maker marked 'Tiptaft'



30-6-12-296 Collar Black finish with white metal overlay maker marked 'Tiptaft'

Modern fantasy re-strike



30-6-11-298 Gilding metal. The slide easily bent with light finger pressure

This collar 'worn left' has been widely re-struck from the original die. This badge first appeared in the 1970s after the purchase of J.R. Gaunt & Sons Ltd. By the Birmingham Mint when badges were re-struck from the dies acquired in this purchase. Some of the re-strikes have a long die crack on the reverse and though in unworn condition have a blurred worn appearance caused by rusted dies. The restrikes are fitted with a slide fastener and often listed as 'beret badges' this a pure concoction, as the 'beret' was not introduced until WWII.