12th CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE

On formation the composition of the 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division was Headquarters and the 38th, 72nd, 73rd and 78th Canadian Infantry Battalions. In a shuffle of the battalions in the 12th Infantry Brigade after the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 the 73rd Battalion was disbanded its place as the third battalion in the brigade taken by the 78th Battalion. The 85th Battalion filling the now vacant fourth slot in the brigade. As formation patches were not introduced in the 4th Division until after the Battle of Vimy Ridge there is no formation patch for the 73rd Battalion.

38th Infantry Brigade 1916 - 1918 72nd Infantry Brigade 1916 - 1918 73rd Infantry Brigade 1916 - 1917 (Withdrawn) 78th Infantry Brigade 1916 - 1918 85th Infantry Brigade 1917 - 1918

12th Brigade Headquarters blue bar worn above the green Divisional patch



38th Overseas (Royal Ottawa) Battalion 1914 - 1918

The 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to recruited in the area surrounding Ottawa with mobilization headquarters at Ottawa December 24th 1914 the battalion being authorized under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915. The 38th Battalion was recruited by the 42nd Lanark and Renfrew Regiment, the 43rd Duke of Cornwall's Own Rifles and the 59th Storemont and Glengarry Regiment and at McGill University, and these regiments previously having provided 128 volunteers to the 2nd Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 38th Battalion provided two reinforcing drafts to England for the CEF the first of six officers and 250 OR's of the No.1 University Company, this raised at McGill University for the PPCLI sailing for England on May 29th 1915. A second draft of five officers and 251 OR's sailed for England June 24th 1915. However the 38th Battalion did not immediately proceed to England but sailed for the Island of Bermuda June 24th 1915 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Edwards D.S.O. (43rd Duke of Cornwall's Rifles) to relieve the Royal Canadian Regiment serving as garrison troops at the request of the British Government. The RCR then proceeded to England where they were assigned to the 7th Infantry Brigade 3rd Canadian Division. The 38th Battalion remained in Bermuda on Garrison duty for almost a year before returning to Canada prior to sailing for England May 30th 1916 with 35 Officers and 1001 OR's. The 38th Battalion was assigned to the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division serving in this capacity for the duration of the War.

The original block of regimental numbers assigned to the 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion was A10001 and A12000 this later being changed to 410001 and 412000.

The 38th Battalion had a bugle band of 30.

38th OVERSEAS BATTALION

Badges by R.J. Inglis

Large numeral 38. The central section of the badge is flat.

Other ranks



538-11-102 Cap

Brown finish. Lug fasteners, maker marked R.J. Inglis Limited



538-12-102 Collar

Brown finish. E/W Hemsley lugs. Marked R.J. Inglis Limited

Officers (?)



538-11-104 Cap

Red/brown finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals



538-14-106 Numeral

Copper. (Flat top '3'). Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'

538-14-108 Numeral

Copper. (Round top '3'). Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat lugs



538-14-110 Numeral

Gilding metal (Flat top '3'). By Caron Bros. not maker marked

Badges by Hemsley



538-11-112 Cap

Pickled gilding metal. Lug fasteners, not maker marked



538-12-112 Collar

Pickled gilding metal. Lug fasteners, not maker marked

NCOs



538-12-114 Collar

Pickled gilding metal. Pin fastener. Maker marked R.J. Inglis Limited

Officers



Brown finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked



538-12-116 Collar

Brown finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked

OVERSEAS

In the CEF files held in the Canadian Archives are the replies to a request from Canadian Corps 'Q' (Quartermaster) of August 19th 1917, which reads "With reference to you're A.O.D.S. 4/1 dated the 19th instant.- Attached hereto, please find Statement in duplicate, regarding the badges worn by the units of this Division, as requested in the above quoted letter." This request was made to all four of the infantry divisions serving in the Canadian Corps in France and lists the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. This information was requested as the Canadian Government had agreed in future to pay for battalion badges for the units of the CEF, the maker selected to supply these badges being J.W. Tiptaft and Son. Ltd. Prior to this, battalion pattern badges if worn, were purchased with regimental funds. From this historically important file we can identify who was the maker of each battalions badges in 1917. The fighting battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front used approximately 2000 sets of badges a year. 'Wastage' as casualties were called, ran at 10% per month for the duration of WWI and it was necessary to purchase new battalion badges for reinforcements arriving from England.

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 J.R. Gaunt & Son, Birmingham, England. The quoted price is Cap Badges 3 Pounds 12 shillings, Collar badges set of 2, three Pounds two shillings per gross. Annual requirements 2400 sets.

Badges by Gaunt

'Blunt' maple leaf (40mm), the central section of the badge is flat. Collar with curved stem.

Other ranks



538-11-118 Cap

Brown finish. Lug fasteners, J.R. Gaunt makers tab



538-12-118 Collar

Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



538-11-120 Cap

Silver overlay on brown. Lug fasteners. Marked J.R. Gaunt London



538-12-120 Collar

Silver overlay on brown finish. Lug fasteners. Marked J.R. Gaunt London



538-11-122 Cap

Silver overlay on gilt. Lug fasteners. Marked J.R. Gaunt London

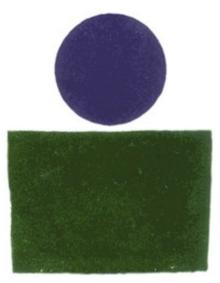
538-12-122 Collar

Matching collar not confirmed

Formation patches introduced in 1917

The first pattern 4th Division. Formation patches were introduced April 2nd 1917 and described as a green rectangle 1 ³/₄ x 3 ³/₄ worn 1 inch below the point of the shoulder. No battalion designations are noted at this time. The second pattern with battalion designations was apparently adopted sometime after the Battle of

4th Division formation patches



Both NCOs and officers were distinctive 4th Divisional patches these embroidered with a 'bullion' maple leaf, silver for NCOs and gold for officers. \cdot

Senior NCOs (1st Pattern)



Senior NCOs (2nd Pattern)







Officers (1st pattern)



Officers (2nd pattern)



Badges by Tiptaft (Die 1)

Small numeral 38. The central section of the badge is domed.



538-11-124 Cap

Pickled finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked



538-12-124 Collar

'Pickled finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked



538-12-126 Collar

538-12-127 Collar

Small wide 'C' over '38'. Not maker marked

Small 'C' over '38'. Maker marked Tiptaft, B'ham

Officers



538-11-128 Cap

Brown finish on gilding metal. Lug fasteners, Marked Tiptaft



538-12-130 Collar

Red/brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners, not maker marked

Bandsmen(?)



538-11-132 Cap

Gilt. Maker marked Tiptaft

Collar badges by J.R. Gaunt, produced for issue on demobilization.



538-12-134 Collar

Gilding metal. Stamped with curved J.R. Gaunt London

Badges by Tiptaft (Die 2)

Blunt leaf. Large '38' curved stem. Fully struck up. Lug fasteners, not maker marked



538-11-136 Cap

Brown finish. Lug fasteners. (This example in original mint condition)

Counterfeit cap badges

The genuine cap badge illustrated below was used to make a mould for counterfeit badges these offered for sale on the United Kingdom eBay site. Note the blurred detail, 'off metals' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example. Brass examples will also exist.

Counterfeit Cap Badges



538-11-136 Cap

Brown finish worn off. Lug fasteners. (This example in field worn condition)



538-11-138 Cap

Pressure cast silver. Note overall lack of detail and blurred appearance.

Reinforcements for the 38th Overseas Battalion 1916 - 1917 (39th Battalion, training and reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in August 1916 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 38th Battalion are believed to have been provided by the 39th Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 38th Overseas Battalion January 1917 - February 1918 (7th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 two reserve battalions were formed to reinforce the battalions raised in Eastern Ontario serving on the Western Front. The 5th and 7th Reserve Battalions. The 7th Reserve Battalion being designated as the reinforcing battalion for the 38th Battalion and the P.P.C.L.I. The 7th Reserve Battalion was formed by the amalgamation of the 154th and 155th Battalions under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A.E. Carpenter. During the period of its operations the 7th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 97th Battalion (this having absorbed the 212th and 237th Battalions whilst still in Canada), and the 254th Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 38th Overseas Battalion February 1918 - November 1918 (5th Reserve Battalion)

In February 1918 the 7th Reserve Battalion was absorbed into the 5th Reserve Battalion this becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Eastern Ontario Regiment, authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918, supplying reinforcements to the 2nd, 21st and 38th Infantry Battalions and the PPCLI serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The Eastern Ontario Regiment was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

Post WWI badges to the Ottawa Highlanders

The 38th Battalion is perpetuated by the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. On adopting Highland dress the Ottawa Highlanders adopted chrome plated 38th Battalion cap badges as the sporran badge.

72nd (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada) Battalion 1915 - 1918

The 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada) was authorized to be raised and mobilized at Vancouver September 10th 1915 under General Order 103a of August 15th 1915. The battalion was raised by the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. This was one of the few CEF battalions raised from the Canadian Militia able to retain its parent regimental number. The 72nd Seaforth Highlanders had previously provided 722 volunteers to the 15th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The regiment also provided drafts to the 2nd Mounted Rifles and later raised the 231st Battalion. The 72nd Battalion sailed for England April 24th 1916 with a strength of 34 officers and 1094 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Clark (72nd Seaforth Highlanders), where it was assigned to the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division serving on the Western Front for the duration of WWI. The battalion was disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 129001 - 132000. A further block of regimental numbers was assigned for a 72nd Regiment Draft, 2,030151 - 2,035150, but a random search of the data-base indicates that none of these were used.

Other ranks badges by O.B.Allan. The nose and eyebrows on the head of the stag form a continuous line on the white metal Glengarry badge this with three flat cut sheet white metal lug fasteners without makers mark. The collar badges and shoulder titles have a dark brown applied finish and are fitted with 'fold over' tang fasteners these maker marked 'O.B. Allan'.

Other ranks



572-11-102 Cap White metal. 3 flat wm lug fasteners. Not maker marked

572-12-102 Collar Dark brown finish. 'Fold over' tang fasteners. Marked 'O.B. Allan'



572-14-102 Title Dark brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

NCOs



572-12-104 Collar Dark brown finish. Pin fastener. Maker marked 'O.B. Allan'

572-13-104 Collar Dark brown finish. Pin fastener. Maker marked 'O.B. Allan'

Shoulder strap numerals

572-14-106 Numeral Bronzed 72. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'.



572-14-108 Numeral Gilding metal By Caron Bros.

NCOs (two part stags head and motto)



731-11-110 Balmoral White metal or silver. Lug fasteners.

731-14-110 Title As for NCOs. Brown finish. Pin fastener. Marked 'O.B. Allan'

OVERSEAS

Officers (three or four part stags head and motto)

The officers purchased British pattern three or four part cast white metal or sterling silver Seaforth pattern

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Glengarry badges these likely already in stock either at the Armouries of the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada or from inventory carried for the regiment by O.B. Allan. Until the 21st century no Canadian made officers patterns are identified.

The letter 'L' ensigned by the coronet of a younger son of the Sovereign is the cypher of Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853-1884) the fourth son of Queen Victoria.



Single piece



Two part





572-11-112 Glengarry

Multi part cast silver. Lug fasteners. Example marked Ludlow London

572-12-112 Collar

Brown OSD. Curved plain back

OVERSEAS

Formation patches introduced 1917

1st pattern 4th Division formation patches were introduced April 14th 1917. Green rectangle $1 \frac{3}{4} \times 3 \frac{3}{4}$ and is worn 1 inch below the point of the shoulder. No battalion designations are noted at this time. The second pattern was apparently adopted sometime later in 1917.

Other ranks



Senior NCOs (1st pattern)



Senior NCOs (2nd pattern)



Officers (1st pattern)



Officers (2nd pattern)



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 '[a] J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd. Northampton Street, Birmingham (Collar and Shoulder Badges)

Moore Taggert & Co. Glasgow Scotland (Glengarry badges and buttons) Collar badges 4 pounds 10 shillings, Shoulder badges 5 pounds 9 shillings Glengarry 3 pounds 12 shillings Buttons (large) 6 shillings, Buttons (small) 5 shillings [c] Badges 2000 sets each, Buttons (large) 10,000, (small) 12,000

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft and Son Ltd.

Balmoral Badge. Wide thistle wreath



572-11-116 Balmoral

White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



572-12-116 Collar

White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked (Scarce)

572-14-116 Title

Dark brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



572-12-118 Collar

Brass. Small 'C' over '72'. Marked Tiptaft B'ham

72nd (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada) Home Depot

Other ranks

Badges by George Hemsley, Montreal. Glengarry badge the stags eyebrows and nose are two separate lines

Badges by Hemsley

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572-11-120 Glengarry White metal. Lug fasteners. Hemsley Montreal maker tab.

572-12-120 Collar Brass. Cougar with open mouth. Not maker marked



572-14-120 Title Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Pipers

Regimental pattern with broad thistle wreath. Rectangular copper 'G. Hemsley Montreal' tab.

572-11-122 Glengarry White metal. Lug fasteners. 'G. Hemsley Montreal' makers tab

Reinforcements for the 72nd Overseas Battalion 1916 - January 1917 (11th Canadian Mounted Rifles)

From the time of its entry into France in August 1916 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 72nd Battalion were provided by the 11th Canadian Mounted Rifles. On its arrival in England the 11th Mounted Rifles was assigned to the Training and Reserve Brigades supplying reinforcements to the 47th and 72nd Battalions and the 2nd Canadian Labor Battalion serving on the Western Front.

Reinforcements for the 72nd Overseas Battalion January 1917 - May 1917 (24th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 11th Mounted Rifles were redesignated as the 24th Reserve Battalion this being absorbed by the 1st Reserve Battalion in May 1917.

Reinforcements for the 72nd Overseas Battalion May 1917 - 1918 (1st Reserve Battalion)

The 1st Reserve Battalion was formed in January 2nd 1917 by the amalgamation of the **30th** Infantry Battalion Training and Reserve and **158th** Infantry Battalions under command of Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Hulme at Seaford Camp to reinforce the **7th** and **29th** Battalions. During the period of its operations the 30th Battalion Training and Reserve absorbed the **62nd Bn** (July 16th 1916) the **88th Bn.** (July 18th 1916) and the **131st Bn**, (November 14th 1916). Between 1917 and 1918 the 1st Reserve Battalion absorbed drafts from the **143rd Bn**. (March 15th 1917) and **231st** Battalions (April 22nd 1917). In May 1917 the 1st Reserve Battalion absorbed the 24th Reserve Battalion in May 1917 and in April 1918 the 16th Reserve

Battalion.

1970s Fantasy

Circa 1973 J.R. Gaunt & Son which had been a supplier to the British military since its establishment in 1750 was acquired by the Birmingham Mint. This firm had been formed in the 18th Century by Mathew Bolton who struck the first 'modern' coins, the copper one and two penny 'cartwheels', on steam powered presses at the Soho Mint, this later becoming the Heaton Mint. The firm had a long association with the Royal Mint for which it struck copper coins for circulation and blanks for other coinage. On its acquisition of Gaunt the Birmingham Mint started to re-strike badges from old Gaunt dies in inventory. Luckily for Canadian collectors only a limited number of dies for Canadian badges existed in their inventory. The firm did produce some 'new' badges to order, an anodized cap badge for the Royal Canadian Regiment being one such example. The Canadian division of the company J.R. Gaunt (Canada) closed June 30th 1984 and its assets acquired by Scully. In 1991 the J.R. Gaunt division of Birmingham Mint was absorbed by the Firmin Group. This company was established in London in 1677 and now incorporates several other long established firms including William Dowler & Son (established 1774), Smith & Wright (established in the 18th century) and Stratton of London (established 1860). On acquiring the dies Firmin discontinued restriking badges.



572-11-124 Cap Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

This cap badge was struck from dies previously prepared in WWI by J.R. Gaunt but never issued to the 72nd Battalion wearing the Glengarry and not the forage cap. (Note the nicely 'aged' reverse with spots of verdigris giving the badges the appearance of age.)

Counterfeit J.W. Tiptaft Balmoral badges

The cap badges pictured below are counterfeit these being 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 white metal example pictured above.



572-11-126 Balmoral

Pressure cast brass.



572-11-128 Balmoral

Pressure cast silver.

73rd (Black Watch) Battalion 12th Brigade

The 73rd Canadian Infantry Battalion CEF was authorized to be recruited in Montreal and Almonte, Ontario with mobilization headquarters at Montreal September 4th 1915 under General Order 103a of August 15th 1915. The 73rd Battalion was the third to be raised by the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada (The Black Watch). All three battalions, the 13th, the 42nd and the 73rd serving as fighting units in France and Flanders. The 73rd Battalion sailed for England April 1st 1916 with 36 officers and 1033 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel P. Davidson (5th Royal Highlanders), being assigned to the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division. In June 1916 the 73rd Battalion provided a reinforcing draft of 250 all ranks for the 42nd Battalion after their losses incurred in the June 1916 Battle of Mount Sorrel. (Another being provided by the 92nd Battalion) In January 1917 the CEF was reorganized and a territorial system was instituted to provide a steady stream of reinforcements for the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. This system consisted of regional garrison regiments in Canada, these with one or more Depot Battalions, which in turn supplied troops to Reserve Battalions in England which then provided reinforcements to the units serving in the field. (By mid 1916 it was no longer possible to raise volunteer battalions and henceforth the reinforcing pool was replenished with conscripts.) After the battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 a realignment of the battalions within the 9th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division and in the 12th Brigade, 4th Canadian Division took place. Two Montreal battalion the 73rd and 60th being disbanded and replaced with the 85th Battalion from Nova Scotia and 115th Battalion from Ontario respectively. (The 78th Battalion which had served as the fourth battalion in the 12th Brigade taking over as the third battalion in the brigade structure replacing the 73rd Battalion, the 85th filling the now vacant fourth slot. This change will be noted in the cloth formation patches.) The surviving personnel of the 73rd were distributed between the 13th, 42nd and 85th Battalions as reinforcements.

The regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 73rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 132001 - 135000.

Hat badges of the 73rd Battalion

The other ranks of the battalion were the Glengarry cap until June/July of 1916 when these were replaced with the Balmoral on which the metal badge was initially worn. The Glengarry badge is of the same design as the white metal badge of the British Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), but with a brown finish. This is unusual as the sphinx incorporated in the design is a battle honour only awarded to the home regiment. On November 11th 1916 the red hackle was adopted replacing the metal badge.

A photograph in the regimental history 'Canada's Black Watch' by Paul P. Hutchinson shows the officers wearing the forage cap while in un-dress this worn with the smaller numbered cap badge. These apparently continued to be worn by the officers for the duration of the 73rd Battalions service as multiple issues were made

Glengarry badges attributed to P.W. Ellis

Other ranks

The Glengarry badges issued before the battalion sailed for England were produced with a brown finish with flat cut sheet copper lugs.



573-11-102 Glengarry Brown finished gilding metal. Not maker marked, flat sheet copper lugs



573-14-102 Title

Natural copper. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co Ltd'. Flat lug fasteners

Shoulder strap numeral



573-14-104 Numeral Gilt lacquered gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not Maker marked. This numeral was likely worn by the 73rd Field Battery and not by the 73rd Battalion.

Officers



573-11-106 Forage Cap Gilt finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



573-14-106 Title Brass. Marked W. .Scully Montreal

Badges by Hemsley (Possibly all Officers)



573-11-108 Glengarry Pickled finish. By Hemsley, not maker marked

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Fully stuck up reverse with the design in retrograde when the badges are viewed from the back. Four jewels in the central arch of the Tudor crown with brass wire lugs.



573-11-110 Forage Cap Pickled finish. Four jewels. Flat back. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



573-12-110 Collar Pickled finish. Four jewels. Flat back. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

A unique example lot 109 sale five of the Lenard Babin collection sold by Ed Denby & Associates July 10th 1976 lists a 'Bi-metal Officers cap badge of the 73rd Battalion CEF (this not illustrated) Bronze background with silvered overlay.' This probably a sample badge.

573-11-112 Forage Cap Brown finish with silvered overlay no further detail currently known.

Sweetheart/Pipers(?)



573-12-114 Collar size Marked Sterling

OVERSEAS

Formation Patches

The 73rd Battalion was disbanded prior to the introduction of 4th Division formation patches.

Officers



573-11-116 Cap Brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners not maker marked.



573-12-116 Collar Brown OSD finish. Maker marked McDougall London

The red feather hackle was adopted by the 13th Battalion on November 16th 1916 but the 42nd were not issued with these until almost a year later on November 30th 1917. As the 73rd Battalion was broken up in April 1917 it is unlikely that they were issued with hackles. In England badges were produced by J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd. The other ranks badges are struck in natural gilding metal. The numeral '73' is larger and thicker than on the Canadian made patterns and 'Canada' is framed. Uniforms for both the 42nd and 73rd Battalion in the Victor Taboika collection have militia ¾-inch size single numerals '4' and '2' and '7' and '3', respectively on the shoulder straps. These being the 1904, non maker marked pattern by Herbert Byshe, Montreal. The 42nd and 73rd are the only known CEF battalions to wear these numerals, these worn in conjunction with the 'RHC' gilding metal title by Henry Jenkins.

573-14-118 Numerals '7' and '3'. Natural gilding metal not maker marked



513-14-120 Title

Natural gilding metal with serifs not maker marked

Officers



573-11-122 Cap Pickled finish. Oval 'J.W. Tiptaft & Son, Birmingham' makers tab



573-12-122 Collar

Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Regimental Depot collars (?)

'Made up' 'C' over '73' collar badge are thought to have been worn by repatriated (wounded) veterans serving at the Bleury Street Armouries similar patterns exist for the 13th and 42nd Battalions.



573-12-124 Collar

'Made up' 'C' braised over '73'. (Both Caron Bros.) Not maker marked

Recruiting posters





78th 'Winnipeg Grenadiers' Battalion 1915 -1918

The 78th Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited and mobilized at Winnipeg July 1st 1915 under General Order 103a of August 15th 1915. The battalion was raised by the 100th Regiment Winnipeg Grenadiers this regiment previously having provided 471 volunteers to the 11th battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914 and later raised the 100th Battalion. Prior to sailing for England April 24th 1916 the 78th Battalion provided a reinforcing draft of five officers and 250 OR's this sailing September 25th 1915. The 78th Battalion sailed for England with 37 officers and 1097 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Kirkcaldy (99th Manitoba Rangers). The battalion was assigned the fourth battalion of the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division sailing for France 12th 1916. The 78th Canadian Infantry Battalion was disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 78th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 147001 - 150000.

Badges by Dingwall.

The badges from this manufacturer are notorious for the poor quality of the metal used to braise the fasteners to their product. The lug and 'fold over' tang fasteners are also brittle making them susceptible to breaking. Badges with replaced fasteners are usually discounted.

Other ranks



578-11-102 Cap

Pickled gilding metal. 'Fold over' tang fasteners. Not maker marked



578-12-102 Collar

Pickled gilding metal. 'Fold over' tang fasteners. Marked Dingwall Winnipeg

Shoulder strap badges



578-14-104 Numeral Brown finish 78. Maker marked 'Caron Bros. 1915'

578-14-106 Numeral 'Made up' gilt lacquer on gilding metal. By Caron not Maker marked. (This issue produced for the 78th Overseas Field Battery)

Officers

No specific officers patterns have as yet been identified presumably officer pattern General Service or other ranks patterns being worn. (The authorized officers badges of the 100th Winnipeg Rifles being 'Bullion' wire)



578-11-108 Cap

Blackened finish polished off. Pin fastener



578-11-110 Cap

Gilt. Pin fastener

OVERSEAS

In the CEF files held in the Canadian Archives are the replies to a request from Canadian Corps 'Q' (Quartermaster) of August 19th 1917, which reads "With reference to you're A.O.D.S. 4/1 dated the 19th instant.- Attached hereto, please find Statement in duplicate, regarding the badges worn by the units of this Division, as requested in the above quoted letter." This request was made to all four of the infantry divisions serving in the Canadian Corps in France and lists the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. This information was requested as the Canadian Government had agreed in future to pay for battalion badges for the units of the CEF, the maker selected to supply these badges being J.W. Tiptaft and Son. Ltd. Prior to this, battalion pattern badges if worn, were purchased with regimental funds. From this historically important file we can identify who was the maker of each battalions badges in 1917. The fighting battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front used approximately 2000 sets of badges a year. 'Wastage' as casualties were called, ran at 10% per month for the duration of WWI and it was necessary to purchase new battalion badges for reinforcements arriving from England.

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 "[a] J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd. Northampton Street, Birmingham Eng. [b] Cap Badges 3 pounds 12 shillings, Collar badges (pairs) 4 pounds 10 shillings. [c] 2400"

Formation patches

Effective April 30th 1917 the 73rd Battalion which had served as the third battalion in the establishment of the 12th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division was disbanded and its place taken by the 78th Battalion (Previously the fourth battalion in the 12th Infantry Brigade.) The 85th Battalion taking over the now vacant position as the fourth battalion in the 12th Brigade. (4th Division formation patches were not introduced until after the 73rd Battalion had been disbanded.)

Formation patched introduced in 1917

1st pattern 4th Division formation patches were introduced April 2nd 1917. Green rectangle $1 \frac{3}{4} \times 3 \frac{3}{4}$ and is worn 1 inch below the point of the shoulder. No battalion designations are noted at this time. The second pattern was apparently adopted sometime later in 1917.

Other ranks



Senior NCOs (1st pattern)



Senior NCOs (2nd pattern)



Officers (1st pattern)



Officers (2nd pattern)



Badges by J.W. Tiptaft.

Other ranks



578-11-114 Cap

Blackened/brown. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



578-12-114 Collar

Blackened/brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked (1916/1917)



578-12-116 Collar

Brass. Small 'C' over '78'. Maker marked Tiptaft B'ham

Officers



578-11-118	Cap	Silver plate. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked
578-12-118	Collar	Silver plate. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked
578-11-120	Cap	Gilt. Lug fasteners. (Not confirmed)
578-12-120	Collar	Gilt Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Counterfeit cap badges

The genuine other ranks Tiptaft cap badge illustrated above was used to make a mould for counterfeit badges these offered for sale on the United Kingdom eBay site. Note the blurred lettering, 'off metals' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example. Brass examples will also exist.



578-11-122 Cap Pressure cast silver

Reinforcements for the 78th Overseas Battalion August 1916 - January 1917 (11th Battalion , Training and Reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in August 1916 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 78th Battalion were provided by the 11th Battalion, training and reserve. In January 1917 the 11th Battalion was designated as the 11th Reserve Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 78th Overseas Battalion January 1917 - October 1917 (11th Reserve Battalion)

In October 1917 the 11th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 14th Reserve Battalion becoming one of just two reinforcing battalions for the Manitoba Regiment at which time a realignment in the Manitoba battalions serving on the Western Front took place.

Reinforcements for the 78th Overseas Battalion October 1917 - 1918 (18th Reserve Battalion)

On the 11th Reserve Battalion absorbing the 14th Reserve Battalion it became the reinforcing battalion for the 16th, 27th and 43rd Battalions whilst the 18th Reserve Battalion now became the reinforcing battalion for the 8th, 78th and 52nd Infantry Battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The Manitoba Regiment was disbanded under General Order 21 of November 15th 1920.

Recruiting Poster



85th (Nova Scotia Highlanders) Overseas Battalion, 12th Brigade

The 85th Battalion was authorized to be recruited September 10th 1915 in Nova Scotia with mobilization headquarters at Halifax under General Order 103a of August 15th 1915. The battalion was raised by the 94th Victoria Regiment (Argyll Highlanders) this regiment having previously contributed volunteers to the 17th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914 and later raising the 185th Battalion. The 85th Battalion sailed for England October 13th 1916 with 34 officers and 1001 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel E.C. Phinney (63rd Halifax Rifles) and embarked for Boulogne, France on February 10th 1917 attached to the 4th Canadian Division serving as utility battalion providing companies in support of action, supply and labour. Some interesting footnotes from the War Diary of the 85th Battalion include "2nd April 1917 "Instructions received today that the 85th Bn. to wear green divisional sign on the sleeves. This is a rectangle 1 3/4 x 3 3/4 and is worn 1 inch below the point of the shoulder (Authority 4th Canadian Division Q 15/1, 2/14/17)". Another entry of March 10th 1917 'Band told to obtain authorization within 10 days or to be absorbed into regular duties.' It would appear that this was not obtained as later in March the band (one officer and 41 bandsmen) are listed as serving as working parties attached to other units. During the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 10th 1917, two companies were sent forward late in the day to complete the attack on the 'pimple' followed by the rest of the battalion taking this key defensive position from the enemy. Effective April 30th 1917 a shuffle of the infantry battalions within the 12th Infantry Brigade the 73rd Battalion was disbanded and its place as the third battalion in the establishment of the 12th Brigade being taken over by the 78th Battalion and the now vacant fourth position allotted to the 85th Battalion. The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion was disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 222001 - 225000. A Reinforcing Draft for the 85th Battalion was raised at Halifax in October 1917 being allotted the regimental numbers block 2,655601 - 2,657100.

A Reinforcing Draft for the 85th Battalion was raised at Halifax in October 1917 being allotted the regimental numbers block 2,655601 - 2,657100.

The 85th Battalion also had a large brass band of one officer and 41 musicians and a pipe band of 10 pipers and five drummers. Only officers and pipers were highland garb, other ranks were regular infantry uniform with a Balmoral this with brown turkey hackle with red feather in the centre, behind the badge. The other battalions of the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade were similar bonnets with different coloured central

feathers.

Other ranks Balmoral



Photograph courtesy of Clive Law

Interim Badge

585-11-102 Cap Small white metal numerals '8' and '5' on G.S. maple leaf

Badges by George Hemsley (Type 1)

The shield bearing the coat-of-arms of Nova Scotia is large and not voided

Other ranks



585-11-104 Balmoral

Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

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585-12-104 Collar

Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Shoulder strap numerals



585-14-106 Numeral

Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not Maker marked

719-14-106 Numeral

Brown finish. Maker marked 'Birks 1916' (Not reported)

Officers



585-11-108 Glengarry

Brass with white metal overlay. Not maker marked.



585-12-108 Collar

Two piece badge scroll pattern. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Officers Forage cap/collar (?)

It is now believed that the maple leaf collar size badges were also worn on the forage cap.



585-12-110 Collar

Pickled finish maple leaf pattern. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Badges by George Hemsley (Type 2)

The shield bearing the coat-of-arms of Nova Scotia is voided



585-11-112 Balmoral

Copper finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

585-12-112 Collar

Matching collars not currently identified. Possibly worn with G.S. patterns.

Officers

Two piece badges white metal overlay on pickled finish this pattern with scroll pattern collars badges.



585-11-114 Balmoral

White metal overlay on brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

585-12-114 Collar

White metal overlay on brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Pipers



585-11-116 Balmoral

Silver wash with gilt overlays. Pin fastener.

OVERSEAS

In the CEF files held in the Canadian Archives are the replies to a request from Canadian Corps 'Q' (Quartermaster) of August 19th 1917, which reads "With reference to you're A.O.D.S. 4/1 dated the 19th instant.- Attached hereto, please find Statement in duplicate, regarding the badges worn by the units of this Division, as requested in the above quoted letter." This request was made to all four of the infantry divisions serving in the Canadian Corps in France and lists the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. This information was requested as the Canadian Government had agreed in future to pay for battalion badges for the units of the CEF, the maker selected to supply these badges being J.W. Tiptaft and Son. Ltd. Prior to this, battalion pattern badges if worn, were purchased with regimental funds. From this historically important file we can identify who was the maker of each battalions badges in 1917. The fighting battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front used approximately 2000 sets of badges a year. 'Wastage' as casualties were called, ran at 10% per month for the duration of WWI and it was necessary to purchase new battalion badges for reinforcements arriving from England.

Formation Patches.

First pattern introduced April 2nd 1917. Green rectangle 1 ³/₄ x 3 ³/₄ and is worn 1 inch below the point of the shoulder. No battalion designations are noted at this time. The second pattern was apparently adopted sometime later in 1917.





For further information please see the 4th Division introduction above

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 "[a] J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd. Birmingham Eng. [b] Cap Badges 4 pounds 16 shillings, Collar badges 4 pounds 12 shillings, Titles (pairs) 4 pounds 16 shillings [c] 2500"

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son.

On the collar badges the motto ribbons are framed.

Other ranks



585-11-120 Balmoral

Blackened/pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.



585-12-120 Collar

Blackened/pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

A late WWI other ranks tunic for the 85th Battalion in the Victor Taboika collection has battalion pattern collar badges and Tiptaft 'C' over '85' pattern badge worn on the shoulder straps. British made double bar shoulder strap numeral badges are known for a number of 4th Division Battalions including the 75th, 78th, 85th and 87th Battalions these likely being introduced in early 1917.



585-14-122 Numeral

Gilding metal 85 Not maker marked



585-12-124 Collar

Small 'C' over '85'. Maker marked Tiptaft, B'ham (August 1918)

Officers



585-11-126 Balmoral

White metal Overlay on brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Pipers



585-11-128 Balmoral Silver plate with gilt overlay. Voided with black cloth backing

585-12-128 Collar Silver plate. (Not reported)

Reinforcements for the 85th Battalion the 17th Reserve Battalion

From the time of its entry into France in February 1917 reinforcements for the 85th Battalion were provided by the 17th Reserve Battalion.

The 17th Battalion was raised at Camp Valcartier effective August 6th 1914 from surplus troops over and above those assigned to the first 16 infantry battalions. Each of these being around 1031 + 20% for base details etc. The Battalion sailed with the first contingent in October 1914 with a total of 668 all ranks. After the arrival of the 1st Contingent in England the brigade structure was changed the 4th Brigade being deleted from the present order of Battle and the surplus infantry battalions formed into a Training Depot. The 9th Battalion becoming the Reserve Battalion for the 1st Infantry Brigade, the 11th for the 2nd Infantry Brigade, the 12th Battalion for the 14th Infantry Battalion and the 17th for the 13th, 15th and 16th Highland Battalions. The 17th Infantry Battalion Training and Reserve absorbed the 113th Bn. (October 8th 1916), 179th Bn. (October 21st 1916). The Nova Scotia Regiment provided reinforcements to the 17th (Reserve) Battalion in England.

With the introduction of the territorial regimental system on January 2nd 1917 the battalion became the 17th Reserve Battalion being relocated to Bramshott Camp. The 17th Reserve Battalion absorbed the **193rd Bn.** (January 20th 1917), **219th Bn.** (January 23rd 1917), **246th Bn.** (June 9th 1917), **185th Bn.** from the 5th Division (February 15th 1918) In October 1917 the battalion absorbed the 25th Reserve Battalion (formed January 4th 1917).

EATON'S STORES 'SWEETHEART' BADGE

Sweetheart or souvenir badges were very popular amongst wives and mothers with husbands and sons serving with the CEF. These were produced both in Canada and England in various materials including gold, silver and often with elaborate multi-colour enamels. T.E. Eaton's stores sold a series of cap badge size badges mostly fitted with pin fasteners but occasionally with lugs, as souvenir pieces. These are believed to have been produced by Caron Bros. Montreal.

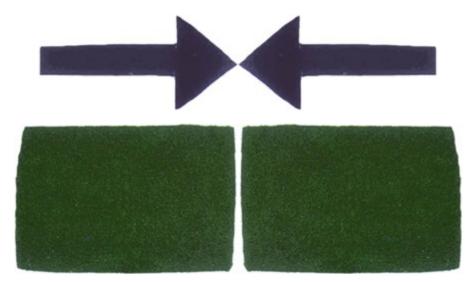


585-11-130 'Sweetheart' badge. Pickled finish. Lugs or pin fasteners. Not maker marked

585-11-132 'Sweetheart' badge. Pickled finish. White metal centre. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

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

The 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Bramshott in England June 1916 from personnel from the 51st, 72nd, 73rd and 81st Infantry Battalions the under command of Captain H.E. Hodge (40th Northumberland Regt.) being redesignated as the 12th Canadian Machine Gun Company in August 1916. On September 8th 1917 the 12th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 12th Infantry Brigade and redesignated the 12th Machine Gun Company, 4th Battalion Machine Gun Corps.



For further details of the machine guns please see the Artillery section.

12th Brigade, Light Trench Mortar Battery

The 12th Brigade Light Trench Mortar Battery was formed in July 1916 at Bramshott in England under command of Captain A. Leighton (72nd Highlanders, 72nd Bn. CEF) with personnel from the 72nd, 73rd, 78th and 87th Battalions the battery arrived in France August 17th 1916. No War Diaries or Operations Orders are noted for this unit.



For further details of the trench mortars please see the Artillery section.