21st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Division 1914-1918

The 21st Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited in Eastern Ontario with mobilization headquarters at Kingston effective October 21st 1914 under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The 21st Battalion was formed by the 14th Princess of Wales Own Rifles, 15th Argyll Light Infantry, the 15th Prince Edward Regiment, the 42nd Lanark and Renfrew Regiment, the 49th Hastings Rifles and the 59th Storemont and Glengarry Regiment these regiments previously having contributed volunteers to the 2nd Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 21st Infantry Battalion sailed for England May 4th 1915 with 42 officers and 1057 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel W. St. P. Hughes (14th Princess of Wales Own Rifles), assigned to the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. The 21st Battalion served in the 4th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 21st Canadian Infantry Battalion was 59001 - 61000.

Badges attributed to Lees. Other ranks

521-11-102 Cap Red/brown finish. Die struck. Not maker marked)

521-12-102 Collar Brown finish. Die struck. Not maker marked

NCOs(?)

521-11-104 Cap Pickled finish. Die struck. Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals

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

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

521-14-106 Numeral Brown finish. Maker marked ‘P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915’

521-14-108 Numeral Brown finish. Flat cut sheet copper lugs Maker marked Birks 1916

521-14-110 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not confirmed

OVERSEAS

Some, but not all of the battalions of the 2nd Division took advantage of the opportunity to obtain battalion pattern cap badges at unit expense upon arrival in England. No prototype badges have so far been identified for the 21st Battalion.

Other ranks

Elkington type collar badges

521-12-112 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 2)

521-12-114 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Badges by unidentified maker

Officers

521-11-116 Cap Dark brown OSD finish

521-12-116 Collar Dark brown OSD finish. Flat hexagonal lug fasteners

21st BATTALION, 4th BRIGADE 2nd DIVISION 1917-1918
Formation patches introduced in September 1916

Other ranks

Officers

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.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd., Northampton Street, Birmingham. 8 Pounds 2 shillings (sets) Annual requirements 2500 sets.’

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son. Other ranks

Broad numerals large letters on ‘CANADA’ ribbon. Numeral ‘1’ on collars higher than figure ‘2’.

521-11-118 Cap Brown finish. Slide fastener. Not maker marked

521-12-118 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers(?)

521-11-120 Cap Dull gilt. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

521-12-120 Collar Dull gilt. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

521-11-122 Cap Brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

521-12-122 Collar Brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

The 21st Battalion Pipes and Drums

21st Battalion Pipers (July 1, 1915)

PWOR Archives

The 21st Battalion pipes and drums comprised of 14 pipers and five drummers.

521-11-124 Glengarry Chrome plate. Worn over curved ‘Canada’ title on square of Black Watch plaid.

521-12-124 Collar Chrome plate. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

521-17-124 Plaid Broach pin Chrome plated battalion badge on circular plate.

21st Battalion ‘Eastern Ontario’ Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Division 1918
Badges by Tiptaft (2nd issue)

521-11-126 Cap Brown finished gilding metal. Lug fasteners maker marked 'Tiptaft'

521-12-126 Collar Brass. Small 'C' over '21'. Maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham'

Badges by Scully attributed to the reinforcing draft

A reinforcing draft was raised in Military District No.3 for the 21st Battalion in 1917 this being allotted the regimental numbers block 2,360301 - 2,365300.

NCOs(?)

521-11-128 Cap Wm overlay on gilt leaf. Maker marked W. Scully Montreal

Officers

521-11-130 Cap Wm overlay on brown leaf. Maker marked W. Scully Montreal

521-12-132 Collar Wm overlay on brown leaf. By Scully. Tiptaft pattern lugs. Not maker marked.

Reinforcements for the 21st Overseas Battalion September 1915 -January 1917 (39th Battalion, training and reserve)

The 21st Battalion sailed for France on September 14th 1915 reinforcements being provided by the 39th Battalion until January 1917. The 39th Battalion served as the reserve and training battalion for both the 2nd and 21st Overseas Battalions serving on the Western Front.

Reinforcements for the 21st Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918 (5th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 39th Battalion was reorganized and amalgamated to form the 5th Reserve Battalion. In April 1918 the 5th Reserve Battalion was designated the reinforcing battalion for the Eastern Ontario Regiment this with headquarters at Kingston with two Depot Battalions. The 1st Depot Battalion located at Kingston the 2nd Depot Battalion at Ottawa, these supplying reinforcements to the 5th Reserve Battalion located at Witley Camp in Hampshire England this in turn reinforcing the 2nd, 21st and 38th Infantry Battalions and the PPCLI serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front.

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

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

521-11-140 Cap Gilt. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

22nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Division 1914-1920 'Canadiens Francais'

The 22nd Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited in Quebec as a French speaking battalion with mobilization headquarters at St.Jean (St John) October 21st 1914 under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The battalion had difficulty finding enough volunteers to raise an entirely Francophone battalion and this was only achieved by withdrawing French speaking volunteers from other battalions. The 22nd Infantry Battalion sailed for England May 20th 1915 with 36 officers and 1097 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel F.M. Gaudet (RCA). The 22nd Battalion served in the 5th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 22nd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 61001 - 63000. An additional reinforcing draft raised circa 1916/1917, for the 22nd Battalion was allotted the regimental numbers block 2,423301 - 2,428300.

Cap Badges by Caron Bros.

The 22nd Battalion purchased cap badges from Caron Bros until 1917 when the Canadian Government first paid for CEF Battalion badges, These issues being supplied by J.W. Tiptaft & Son of Birmingham, England. Maker marked Caron Freres cap badges are found without dates or dated 1914, 1915, or 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 ‘Mr. Caron, Bleury St. Montreal’ the quoted price is $23 per gross with annual requirements of 2000 sets.

All ranks

A large head on the beaver and a short Tudor crown.

522-11-102 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners . Not maker marked .

522-11-104 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners . Marked Caron Freres 1914

522-11-106 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners . Marked Caron Freres 1915

522-11-108 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners . Marked Caron Freres 1916

522-11-110 Cap Pickled finish Maker marked Caron Freres 1918

522-12-110 Collar Pickled finish. Flat back by Caron Bros not marked.

Shoulder strap numerals

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

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

522-14-112 Numeral Brown finish. Maker marked ‘P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915’

522-14-114 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not marked.

522-14-116 Numeral Copper. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

Officers

522-11-118 Cap Red brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

522-12-118 Collar Red brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Cap badge in gilt finish is reported but not confirmed. No matched collars are reported.

OVERSEAS

522-12-122 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 2)

522-12-124 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Formation patches introduced in 1917

Officers

Badges by Tiptaft 1917

A small head on the beaver and a tall Tudor crown.

Other ranks

522-11-126 Cap Red/brown finish on gilding metal. Marked Tiptaft

522-12-126 Collar Brass. Large ‘C’ over ‘22’

522-12-127 Collar Brass. Small ‘C’ over ‘22’

Officers

522-11-128 Cap Sterling silver

522-12-128 Collar Silver. Small size. Flat back. Not maker marked

22nd BATTALION, 5th BRIGADE 2nd DIVISION 1918 (QUEBEC REGIMENT)
2nd pattern Cap badges by Tiptaft with battalion designation ‘22’

522-11-130 Cap Red/brown finish on gilding metal

522-12-130 Collar Brass. Small ‘C’ over ‘22’. Maker marked Tiptaft B’ham

Reinforcements for the 22nd Overseas Battalion September 1915 -February 1917 (41st, 57th, 69th Battalions)

From the time of its entry into France until January 1917 reinforcements for the 22nd Battalion 1917, this the only French speaking battalion of the 48 serving with the Canadian Corps in France, were provided first by drafts from the 41st and 57th Infantry Battalions. Later by the 41st, 57th, 69th Battalions and French speaking personnel from the 150th Battalion The 41st Battalion provided a draft of five officers and 250 other ranks June 17th 1915, the 57th Battalion a similar number July 21st 1915. The 41st Battalion was authorized to be recruited at Ottawa and Quebec with mobilization headquarters at Quebec City March 11th 1915 under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915. The 41st Battalion sailed for England with 36 officers and 1082 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel L.H. Archambeault October 18th 1915. The 57th Battalion sailed for England with 18 officers and 419 other ranks under command of Major H. Renaude June 2nd 1916. The 69th Battalion was authorized to be recruited in Quebec with mobilization headquarters at Montreal under General Order 103a of August 15th 1915, being raised by the 65th Regiment Carabiniers Mont-Royal, this previously having provided 337 volunteers to the 14th Battalion on its formation at Camp

Valcartier in August 1914 and later raising the 150th Battalion. The Battalion sailed for England April 17th 1916 with 34 officers and 1023 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Dansereau. In January 1917 the remaining personnel of these three battalions were formed into the 10th Reserve Battalion on its formation in England in January 1917.

10th Reserve Battalion (1st) Quebec Regiment
February 1917 - November 1918

The 10th Reserve Battalion was formed in February 1917 at Bramshott Camp in England by the amalgamation of the 41st, 57th, 69th, 178th and 189th Infantry Battalions under command of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Des Rosiers. The 10th Reserve Battalion served as the reinforcing battalion for the 22nd Battalion CEF. This the only French speaking battalion of the 48 serving with the Canadian Corps in France. The 10th Reserve Battalion also provided reinforcements to the 150th Battalion in England assigned as one of the battalions for to the proposed 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division. In February 1918 on the 5th Division being declared moribund the 150th Battalion was absorbed by the 10th Reserve Battalion. In May 1918 the 10th Reserve Battalion was assigned one of the reinforcing battalions of the Quebec Regiment (2nd Quebec Regiment, Quebec City) this authorized under General Order 77 of May 15th 1918.

Other ranks

80-4-10-11-10 Cap White metal overlay on brown finish.

Officers

80-4-10-11-12 Cap* Gilt with silver overlay. Not maker marked

80-4-10-12-12 Collar* Silver. Not maker marked

*Badges courtesy of Renald Poulin

Post WWI Badges

In the 1920 reorganization of the Canadian Militia the 22nd Overseas Battalion was disbanded and immediately reconstituted as a Permanent Regiment of the Canadian Militia. The regiment adopted the design of the 22nd Battalion for its cap badge, these unlike the WWI patterns being bi-metal, other ranks brass with a white metal overlay on brass and officers in gilt and silver. A larger pattern was also adopted for wear on the 'Full Dress' Bearskin cap. The badges were authorized under General Order 185 of 1922, the first issue other ranks pattern badges with a slide fastener.

23rd Infantry Battalion 1914 - 1916

The 23rd Infantry Battalion began recruiting in Montreal and Quebec City October 21st 1914 with headquarters at Montreal as a French speaking reinforcing and training battalion for the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade being authorized under General Order 35 of 1915. However the Francophone speakers were withdrawn from the battalion and reassigned to the 22nd Battalion to bring this up to strength prior to this sailing for England May 20th 1915. The Francophone speakers being replaced with volunteers from Western Canada, 200 from Victoria BC, 200 from the 103rd Calgary Rifles in Alberta and a further 100 from Winnipeg. The 23rd, 30th and 32nd were assigned as reinforcing and training battalions for the 2nd Canadian Division sailed for England ahead of the main body of the 2nd Division proceeding to England in February 1915. The 23rd Battalion sailed February 23rd 1915 with 35 Officers and 942 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel F.W. Fisher (3rd Victoria Rifles). By May of 1915 of the 2.884 all ranks of the 23rd, 30th and 32nd Battalions 2337 had been sent to France as reinforcements to replace the 1st Division's losses in the Second Battle of Ypres.

The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 23rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 63001 - 65000.

The 23rd Battalion sailed for England with General Service Maple Leaf pattern badges, these being worn until 1916. 1915 Elkington type 2 and post September 1915 Elkington type 3 collar badges being the only regimental distinctive currently identified. Between its arrival in England in February and September 30th 1915 the establishment of the 23rd Battalion fluctuated from a low of 35 officers and 360 OR's in June 1915 to a high of 92 Officers and 2,045 OR's as the battalion absorbed reinforcing drafts from infantry battalions forming in Canada.

Overseas

523-12-102 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 2)

523-12-104 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Reinforcing drafts for the 23rd Overseas Battalion 1915

Three reinforcing drafts of replacements for the 23rd, 30th and 32nd Battalions and PPCLI were dispatched to England in 1915 all being raised from McGill University. The first No.2 University Company with six officers and 264 other ranks sailed June 29th 1915, No.3 University Company sailed September 4th with

four officers and 323 other ranks , and No.4 University Company on November 27th 1915 with five officers and 250 other ranks. Over the course of 1915 the establishment of the 23rd Battalion fluctuated from a low of 35 officers and 360 other ranks in June 1915 to a high of 92 Officers and 2,045 other ranks by September 30th 1915.

Shoulder strap numerals

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

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

523-12-106 Numeral Maker not currently identified possibly by Scully

523-12-108 Numeral Gilt lacquer on gm. Hemsley pattern lugs by Caron Bros

523-12-110 Numeral Copper on gm. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'

523-12-112 Numeral Copper. Marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

Officers badges attributed to Tiptaft

This pattern is of the same design as a number of similar badges believed adopted in early 1916.

523-11-114 Cap Brown finish, semi flat back with pin fastener.

523-12-114 Collar Die cast semi-hollow reverse. Pin fastener. By Tiptaft not maker marked

23rd Reserve Battalion 1916- 1917

In April 1916 the 23rd Infantry Battalion was designated as the 23rd Reserve Battalion to serve as a reinforcing battalion for the Anglophone battalions from Quebec serving on the Western Front. During this period of operations the 23rd Reserve Battalion absorbed drafts from the 105th and the 117th, 142nd Battalions. Reserve Battalions unlike the training and reserve infantry battalions were permanent establishments.

523-11-116 Cap Brass

523-14-116 Title Brass. Numerals added over 'CANADA' title

Officers

523-11-118 Cap White metal plated brass overlay . Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

523-12-118 Collar Brown finish

23rd (Montreal) Reserve Battalion 1917- 1918

In the January 1917 reorganization of the CEF and Canadian Militia the 23rd Reserve Battalion was designated as the 23rd (Montreal) Reserve Battalion as the reinforcing battalion for the 14th and 24th Infantry Battalions and the 4th Canadian Labor Battalion serving on the Western Front and for the 199th Battalion in England assigned to the 15th Brigade, of the proposed 5th Canadian Division. During this period of its operations the 23rd Reserve Battalion absorbed the 244th and 245th Infantry Battalions and the Jewish Infantry Company. In May 1917 the 23rd Reserve Battalion absorbed the 22nd Reserve Battalion this having been the reinforcing battalion for the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles and the 87th Battalion Serving on the Western Front. In early 1918 the 4th Canadian Labor Battalion was absorbed into the Canadian Engineers and the 23rd (Montreal) Reserve Battalion absorbed the 199th Battalion from the 5th Division on this being declared moribund. The Quebec Regiment was authorized under General Order 77 of May 15th 1918 with the 10th, 20th 22nd, and 23rd Reserve Battalions providing reinforcements to the Quebec battalions serving on the Western Front. As components of the Quebec Regiment all four reserve battalions were all disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

523-11-122 Cap Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

523-12-122 Collar Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

523-12-124 Collar Brass. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft B’ham’

Bandsman

523-11-126 Cap Silver plate. Lug fasteners.

523-12-126 Collar Silver plate

Officers badges attributed to Tiptaft

523-11-128 Cap Brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

523-12-128 Collar Brown OSD. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

523-11-130 Cap Brown OSD with silver numerals. Flat back with 'fold over' tang fasteners

523-12-130 Collar Brown OSD with silver numerals. Flat back with 'fold over' tang fasteners

A number of regimental depots purchased badges with regimental funds around the time of their formation in 1917 and then applied for permission to have these officially approved. Letters rejecting these, one dated January 23rd 1918 stating 'The Minister does not concur in the issue of special badges'. Another dated July 15th 1918 states 'Special badges for Depot Battalions is disapproved. 'Canadian Expeditionary Force Routine Order 492 of April 25th 1918 'Authorized badges only to be worn by Drafts proceeding overseas: Drafts proceeding overseas will wear only the authorized C.E.F. badges of the arm of the service to which they belong, as detailed in the appendix to Orders of this date. It will be distinctly understood that the wearing of special badges is not permitted except as laid down in General Instruction No.150, issued with Militia Order 369-371.' The appendix lists the only universal maple leaf pattern cap and collar badges, Engineers and CFA cap badges with small grenade collars; and CASC collar badges. Initial shoulder titles are listed for the Corps troops and the various Depot Battalion shoulder titles for the infantry. Finally details of the Permanent Force will wear their own regimental badges.

80-4-23-11-102 Cap Brown and enamels. By Tiptaft. Not maker marked

24th (Victoria Rifles) Battalion 1914 - 1918

The 24th Canadian Infantry Battalion began recruiting October 22nd 1914 with headquarters at Montreal being raised by the 3rd Victoria Rifles of Canada being under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The 24th Battalion. The regiment had previously contributed 351 volunteers to the 14th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914 and later raised the 60th and 244th Battalions. The 24th Battalion sailed for England May 11th 1915 with 42 officers and 1082 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Gunn (3rd Victoria Rifles). The battalion served in the 5th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920. The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 24th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 65001 - 67000.

The 24th Battalion, like a number of other CEF battalions raised from the larger urban militia regiments considered itself an overseas battalion of the 3rd Victoria Rifles. As a rifle regiment the other ranks of the 3rd Victoria Rifles did not wear collar badges but did wear ‘V.R.C’ script pattern shoulder badges officers wearing these in silver on the collar.

Other ranks

Pre WWI militia issue worn by troops previously serving in the V.R.C. on sailing May 11th 1915. Original blackened finish removed leaving the copper base.

524-11-102 Cap Blackened copper. Voided ‘V.R.C’ with ‘J.R. Gaunt Montreal’ makers tab.

Other ranks of the V.R.C. did not wear collar badges. The blackened V.R.C. badges were shoulder titles officers did wear the silver patterns as collar badges.

Officers

Officers are reported to have worn regimental pattern badges while in un-dress and battalion pattern badges on the Service Dress.

524-11-104 Cap Silver overlay on silver badge. Flat back not maker marked

524-12-104 Collar Silver plate. Maker marked J.R.Gaunt London

Battalion pattern badges by R.J. Inglis Limited

524-11-106 Cap Brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners. Maker marked 'R.J. Inglis Limited'

524-12-106 Collar Brown finish. Not maker marked. N/S Lug fasteners

Shoulder strap numerals

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

It is currently undetermined if or when the numeral and initial sets were introduced into France for wear by the 1st Division but orders of May 25th 1916 list that battalion numerals and 'INF' titles were available for issue in both England and France. It is also likely that the numerals and initial sets that were supplied to England were the drab brown patterns produced by P.W. Ellis in 1915 and by Birks in 1916. The gilding metal and gilt lacquer on gilding metal badges produced by Caron Bros.

524-14-108 Numeral Coppered 24. Maker marked 'P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915'

524-14-110 Numeral Copper. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

524-14-112 Numeral Gilding metal 24. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not Maker marked

Badges attributed to Ellis

Cap badges with small lettered ‘CANADA’

524-11-114 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

513-12-114 Collar Pickled finish. Flat cut sheet lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Badges by Hemsley

Cap badges with large lettered ‘CANADA’

Other ranks

524-11-116 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

513-12-116 Collar Pickled finish. E/W Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers

524-11-118 Cap Brown OSD. E/W/ lugs. Not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Other ranks Elkington type collars

513-12-120 Collar Brass, Elkington pattern (Type 2)

513-12-122 Collar Brass, Elkington pattern (Type 3)

524-12-124 Collar Field made ‘C’ over ‘24’ collar

524-12-125 Collar Brass. Large size with serifs.

24th Battalion formation patches introduced September 1916

Other ranks

Officers

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.W. Tiptaft & Sons 55 Northampton St. Birmingham the quoted price is ‘V.R.C. cap’ 2 Pounds 14 shillings per gross, ‘Canada’ shoulder titles 1 Pound 16 shillings per gross with annual requirements of 2000 sets.

Badges by Tiptaft

524-11-126 Cap Brown finish. Slide marked J.W. Tiptaft Co. Ltd Birmingham

524-12-126 Collar Brown finish. E/W lugs. Not maker marked

524-12-128 Collar Brown OSD finish. Pin fasteners. Not maker marked. NCOs?

524-12-130 Collar Silvered centre on brown finish. E/W Lug fasteners not maker marked

Sweetheart (?)

524-12-132 Collar Gilt.

Badges by Tiptaft 1917

524-11-132 Cap Blackened finish.

524-12-134 Collar Black finish on brass. Small ‘C’ over ‘24’. Not maker marked.

524-12-136 Collar Brass. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft’ (J.V. Taboika CEF uniform collection)

524-14-136 Title Brass. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft’ (J.V. Taboika CEF uniform collection)

Officers

Maple leaf on the cap badges with a stem

524-11-138 Cap Brown OSD finish. Not maker marked.

513-12-138 Collar Brown OSD. Die cast. E/W/ lugs. Not maker marked

513-14-138 Title Blackened. Lug fasteners

Regimental Depot collars (?)

'Made up' 'C' over '24' collar badge are thought to have been worn by repatriated (wounded) veterans serving at the Bleury Street Armouries similar patterns exist for the 42nd and 73rd Battalion and some other Montreal battalions.

524-12-140 Collar 'Made up' Caron C over 24. braised onto the numeral

Reinforcements for the 24th Overseas Battalion September 1915 - April 1916 (23rd Battalion, Training and Reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 until April 1916 reinforcements for the 24th Battalion were provided by the 23rd Infantry Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 24th Overseas Battalion April 1916 - January 1917 (23rd Reserve Battalion)

In April 1916 the 23rd Infantry Battalion was designated as the 23rd Reserve Battalion to serve as a reinforcing battalion for both the 14th and 24th Infantry Battalions and after its entry into France in August 1916 also the 60th Infantry Battalion and the 4th Canadian Labor Battalion.

Reinforcing Draft 1917

A 1917 additional reinforcing draft was raised for the 24th Battalion from the 3rd Victoria Rifles in 1917 being allotted the regimental numbers block 2,309301 - 2,310300. The other ranks of the reinforcing draft were issued with pickled finish battalion pattern badges by Hemsley.

524-11-142 Cap Pickled finish.

25th (Nova Scotia Rifles) Battalion 1914-1918

The 25th Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited in Nova Scotia with mobilization headquarters at Halifax October 22nd 1914 under General Order 35 of 1915. The 25th Battalion was raised by the 63rd Halifax Rifles, 75th Colchester and Hants Rifles and the 81st 'Hants' Regiment these regiments previously having contributed volunteers to the 14th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 63rd Halifax Rifles later contributing to the 105th Battalion. The 25th Battalion sailed for England May 20th 1915 with 42 officers and 1081 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel G.A. LeClain (CO 18th Infantry Brigade, 69th, 75th and 82nd Regiments). The 25th Battalion served in the 5th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the for the original contingent of the 25th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 67001 - 69000.

The 25th Battalion sailed for England wearing 1915 dated General Service pattern badges.

OVERSEAS

Badges by J.R. Gaunt & Son

Three different patterns of cap badges were produced for the 25th Battalion by J.R. Gaunt and Son Ltd. The cap badges have a wide gap between the top of the arms of Scotland and the upper edge of the shield in the coat-of-arms of Nova Scotia.

525-11-102 Cap White metal overlay on pickled leaf. By Gaunt not maker marked

After arrival in England General Alderson gave verbal authority for all 17 infantry battalions to adopt C

over numeral collar badges for other ranks. The manufacturer of the first of these was Elkington & Co. two further issues of 'Elkington' type collars were made but it is currently undetermined of these were also produced by Elkington & Co.. These 'Elkington' patterns were referred to as NCOs badges in the Charlton Catalogue but in fact are just the earlier patterns, many survivors of the 1st and 2nd Divisions rising to become NCOs over the duration of WWI. No type 1 Elkington pattern collars were made for battalions of the 2nd Division.

Elkington Type 1. Have copper wire lug fasteners which are attached at the top of the letter 'C' and bottom of the numeral. This pattern was worn by the original troops of the 1st Division. Type 1 collars were not worn by units of the 2nd Division.

Type 2. An additional order for another 500 sets of collar badges was placed in March 1915 presumably for the use by the reinforcements of the 1st Division after its losses in the second Battle of Ypres in April 1915. Collar badges were also ordered for the battalions of the 2nd Division as they arrived from Canada. The second pattern can be identified by the placement of the narrow brass wire lug fasteners which are attached on the 'bar' separating the letter 'C' from the number and bottom of the numeral. This pattern was worn by the early reinforcements for the 1st Division and the original troops of the 2nd Division.
Type 3. A third order for C over numeral collar badges was placed likely in the late summer of 1915 for both 1st and 2nd Divisions. This pattern has small flat cut sheet metal lugs fasteners noted in brass, copper and white metal and like the type 2 with the lugs attached on the central and bottom 'bars' These collars were worn by reinforcements for the 1st and 2nd Divisions.

513-12-104 Collar Brass, Elkington pattern. (Type 2)

Economy pattern issue by Gaunt

Other Ranks

525-11-106 Cap Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. 'J.R. Gaunt London' tab.

525-12-106 Collar Gilding metal. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Officers

525-11-108 Cap Silver overlay on gilt Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

525-12-108 Collar Gilt lacquer on gilding metal lug fasteners. ‘J.R. Gaunt London’ tab.

525-11-110 Cap Brown OSD. Fold over tang fasteners. With ‘J.R. Gaunt London’ tab.

Shoulder strap numerals

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

As of May 25th 1916 battalion numerals and ‘INF’ titles were listed as available for issue in Canada, England and France. Numerals were produced in Canada by P.W. Ellis & Co, by Birks, and by Caron Bros. Montreal. It is believed that the Caron Bros. issues, these finished in gilt lacquered gilding metal were used exclusively in Canada, the lower numbers possibly by reinforcing drafts. The Coppered finish numerals by Ellis and Birks appear to have been shipped to England, but it is not known if these were adopted for use by the Battalions in France. Shoulder strap numerals were also worn by some Canadian Mounted Rifles, Canadian Field Artillery, Field Ambulance units and possibly Canadian Army Service Corps Companies.

513-14-112 Numeral Copper. Maker marked Birks 1916.

513-14-114 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal

513-14-116 Numeral Brown finish. By Ellis Bros. (Dated 1915?)

Overseas

25th Battalion formation patches introduced September 1916

Officers

Badges by J.R. Gaunt

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 & Sons, Ltd., Warstone Parade Works, Birmingham. 26 pounds (Cap), 12 pounds (Collar), 25 pounds (Shoulder), annual requirements 3000 sets.’

Other ranks

525-11-118 Cap Wm. Overlay on bronze maple leaf. Not maker marked

525-12-118 Collar White metal. Lug fasteners. ‘J.R. Gaunt London maker tab

Officers

525-12-120 Cap Gilt overlay on red brown finish.

525-12-120 Collar Gilt. Voided miniature of overlay pattern. Flat back. Pin and lugs noted

525-14-120 Title Gilt. .Small size. Not maker marked

25th BATTALION, 5th BRIGADE, 2nd DIVISION 1917 - 1918
‘NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT’

Badges by Tiptaft.

Cap badges with a narrow gap between the top of the shield of Scotland and the upper edge of the shield in the coat-of-arms of Nova Scotia.

Other ranks

525-11-122 Cap Gilding metal. With slide fastener maker marked ‘Tiptaft‘

525-12-122 Collar Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. . Not maker marked

525-11-124 Cap Brass. Lug fasteners. Marked Tiptaft B'ham

525-12-124 Collar Brass small 'C' Maker marked 'Tiptaft B'ham'

525-12-125 Collar Brass small 'C' Not maker marked

525-14-124 Title Brass. .Large size. Not maker marked

Officers

525-11-126 Cap Brown OSD.

525-11-128 Cap Silver overlay on gilt Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Pipes & Drums

The 25th Battalion had a pipe band consisting of 12 pipers and ten drummers. The Glengarry badge consisted of a regimental collar badge in chrome plate worn over an Imperial 'Seaforth' pattern Glengarry badge.

525-12-130 Badge Chrome plate. Lug fasteners.

Badges by Tiptaft with small numeral '25'

Officers

525-11-132 Cap Brown OSD

525-12-108 Collar Brown OSD. Not reported

525-14-132 Title Brown OSD

525-11-134 Cap White metal

525-12-134 Collar White metal non voided. Brass lugs not maker marked.

Officers

Badges by the Goldsmith and Silversmiths Co.

Late war purchase by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co. Collar badges with flat back maker marked 'The G & S Co./ 112 Regent St./ London' on the reverse.

525-11-136 Cap Gilt overlay on red/brown Maple leaf. Marked G & S co 112 Regent St London

525-12-136 Collar Red Brown. Flat back. Maker marked

Reinforcements for the 25th Overseas Battalion September 1915 -January 1917 (40th Battalion, training and reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 25th Battalion were provided by the 40th Infantry Battalion ,training and reserve. The 40th Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be raised in Military Area 6, Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick with mobilization headquarters at Aldershot, Halifax May 5th 1915 under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915.

The 40th Battalion provided two reinforcing drafts to the CEF the first of five officers and 250 other ranks sailed for England June 15th 1915. A second draft of five officers and 250 other ranks on October 9th 1915 The 40th Battalion sailed for England October 18th 1915 with 40 officers and 1090 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Vincent. The 40th Canadian Infantry Battalion served as a training and reinforcing battalion for Battalions raised in Military Area No.6 until January 1917 when it amalgamated with the remaining personnel of several other maritime battalions as the 25th Reserve Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 25th Overseas Battalion January 1917 - May 1917 (25th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 40th Battalion amalgamated with the remaining personnel of several other maritime battalions as the 25th Reserve Battalion. During the period of its operations the 40th Battalion absorbed the Nova Scotia component of the 64th Battalion, this raised in all three maritime provinces and later the 105th Battalion. The 25th Reserve Battalion and 17th Reserve Battalion supplied reinforcements to Nova Scotia Battalions serving on the Western Front.

Reinforcements for the 25th Overseas Battalion May 1917 - 1918 (17th Reserve Battalion)

In May 1917 the 25th Reserve Battalion was absorbed by the 17th Reserve Battalion. This becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Nova Scotia Regiment, this authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918 and supplying reinforcements to the 25th and 85th Battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 17th and 25th Reserve Battalions as components of the Nova Scotia Regiment were disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920. The 40th Battalion being fully depleted of all ranks was disbanded effective July 17th 1917 under General Order 82 of 1918.

63rd Halifax Rifles Reinforcing Draft

The 63rd Halifax Rifles reinforcing draft was authorized under General Order 63 of June 15th 1917. Being disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920.

POST WWI BADGES

Colchester and Hants Regiment

The 25th Battalion was perpetuated by the Colchester and Hants Regiment. Immediately after WWI the officers of the regiment purchased regimental pattern cap badges incorporating the CEF Battalion number ‘25’ from George Hemsley & Co., Montreal and C over 25 collar badges. These were not approved by Ottawa and new cap badges without the CEF 25th Battalion designation and new pattern collar badges were authorized under General Order 104 of 1922. The brass small ‘C’ over ‘25’ are maker marked ’Hemsley’ on the reverse and with the distinctive Tiptaft style small fine wire lug fasteners.

26th (New Brunswick) Battalion 1914-1917

The 26th Canadian Infantry Battalion began recruiting in the Province of New Brunswick November 2nd 1914 at that time part of in Military Area No.6 which encompassed the three Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. (New Brunswick did not becoming Military District No.7 until 1917.) The 26th Battalion with headquarters at Saint John was authorized under General Order 35 of March 15th 1915. The 26th Battalion was raised from the 62nd St. John Fusiliers the regiment previously having contributed 140 volunteers to the 12th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914 the regiment later raised the 115th Battalion. The 26th Battalion sailed for England June 13th 1915 with 42 officers and 1108 OR's under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.L. McAvity (62nd St. John Fusiliers). The 26th Infantry Battalion served in the 5th Infantry Brigade 2nd Canadian Division for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block for the 26th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 69001 - 71000.

Badges by R.J. Inglis.

The numerals ‘2’ and ‘6’ touch. The numeral ‘6’ is large.

Other ranks

526-11-102 Cap Pickled finish. ‘Fold over’ tangs. Marked R.J. Inglis Limited

526-12-102 Collar Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Lug fasteners.

NCOs

526-12-104 Collar Pickled finish. Pin fastener. Marked R.J. Inglis Limited

Shoulder strap numerals

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

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

526-14-106 Numeral Copper. Maker marked ‘P.W. Ellis & Co. Ltd. 1915’

526-14-108 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Montreal. Not Maker marked

526-14-110 Numeral Copper. Maker marked Birks 1916. Flat cut sheet copper lugs

Officers

526-11-112 Cap Chocolate brown OSD finish. Not maker marked.

PIPES AND DRUMS

The 25th Battalion had a pipe band consisting of 12 pipers and nine drummers. The Glengarry badge was in cast white metal badge. (Cox 489)

526-11-114 Glengarry Cap Cast white metal with copper motto ribbon (Illustration B/W)

526-12-114 Collar Gilt. Pin fastener.

OVERSEAS

After arrival in England General Alderson gave verbal authority for all 17 infantry battalions to adopt C over numeral collar badges for other ranks. The manufacturer of the first of these was Elkington & Co. two further issues of 'Elkington' type collars were made but it is currently undetermined of these were also produced by Elkington & Co.. These 'Elkington' patterns were referred to as NCOs badges in the Charlton Catalogue but in fact are just the earlier patterns, many survivors of the 1st and 2nd Divisions rising to become NCOs over the duration of WWI. The 2nd Division battalions were not issued with Elkington type 1 collar badges.

Elkington Type 1. Have copper wire lug fasteners which are attached at the top of the letter 'C' and bottom of the numeral. This pattern was worn by the original troops of the 1st Division. Type 1 collars were not worn by units of the 2nd Division.

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

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

Elkington style collars badges

513-12-116 Collar Brass, Elkington pattern. (Type 2)

525-12-118 Collar Brass. Elkington & Co. (Type 3)

Badges By Sydney Baron

The numerals '2' and '6' touch. Collar badges with thick numerals.

The August 1917 Canadian Corps 'Q' file listing the unit, maker, present possessor of dies, price paid per gross, and the annual requirements of badges. The tools and dies and supplier of the badges are listed as being held by Sydney Baron, Folkstone, Kent England. The quoted price is sets 8 Pounds 8 shillings (per gross), annual requirements 3456. (presumably the number ordered in the previous year.

Other Ranks

526-11-120 Cap Brown finish. Slide fastener. Not maker marked.

526-12-120 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

526-11-122 Cap Black finish. Slide fastener. Not maker marked.

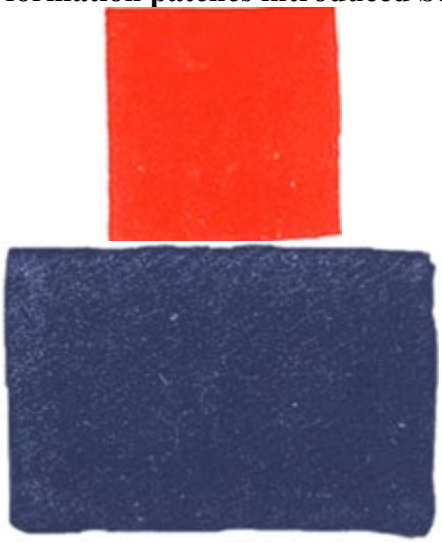
526-12-122 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Officers (?) Superior strike

526-11-124 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

526-12-124 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

26th Battalion formation patches introduced September 1916



Officers

Badges by Tiptaft (1st issue)

The numeral ‘2’ and ‘6’ do not touch. Framed mottos.

Other ranks

526-11-126 Cap Brown finish. Slide fastener marked ‘J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd. Birmingham’

526-12-126 Collar Brown finish. Lug fastener. Maker marked Tiptaft B‘ham.

526-12-128 Collar Brass. Small ‘C’ . Maker marked ‘Tiptaft B‘ham‘

Officers

526-11-130 Cap Dark brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

526-12-130 Collar Chocolate brown OSD finish. Not maker marked

526-11-132 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners . Not maker marked

Pipers (?)

526-11-134 Cap Silver plate.

526-12-134 Collar Silver plate. Reported not confirmed

Reinforcements for the 26th Overseas Battalion September 1915 -January 1917 (55th, 105th and 115th Battalions)

From the time of its entry into France in September 1915 until January 1917 reinforcements for the 26th Battalion were provided by the 55th Battalion which sailed for England October 30th 1915. The 55th Battalion previously having provided a reinforcing draft of 5 officers and 250 other ranks which sailed June 19th 1915. Later reinforcements were provided by the 105th and 115th Battalion these sailing for England in July 1916.

Reinforcements for the 26th Overseas Battalion January 1917 -1918 (13th Reserve Battalion)

From January 1917 reinforcements for the 26th Battalion were provided by the 13th Reserve Battalion. This was formed by the amalgamation of the 115th, 132nd and 140th Battalions under command of Lieutenant-Colonel G.W. Fowler to supply reinforcements to the 26th Battalion serving on the Western Front, and the 104th Battalion this in England assigned as a component of the 15th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division. During the period of its operations the 13th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 165th Battalion. Also in February 1918 the 104th Infantry Battalion from the 5th Division when this was declared moribund and the battalions released for reinforcements. At this time the 13th Reserve Battalion was assigned the reinforcing battalion for the New Brunswick Regiment, authorized under General Order 57 of May 15th 1918, reinforcing the 26th and 44th Battalions, this originally from Manitoba but reassigned for reinforcing purposes, both serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The New Brunswick Regiment was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.