THE 1st INFANTRY BRIGADE

1st Brigade Headquarters

The establishment of the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division was confirmed in January 1915 at Salisbury Plain in England comprising of Brigade Headquarters of 39 all ranks, and the 1st, 2nd 3rd and 4th Canadian Infantry Battalions. The regimental numbers block for Headquarters 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade was between 6001 - 6100 .

450-1-23-106 Brigade bar A green bar worn above the red 1st Division patch

1st Provisional Battalion (As of August 1914)

The 1st Battalion CEF was a composite Battalion formed in August 1914 at Camp Valcartier Quebec under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. The 1st Battalion comprised of volunteers mainly from the militia regiments of Military District No.1 (Western Ontario). The 1st Hussars (66) and 24th Grey's Horse (39) these cavalry but volunteering to fight as infantry, and the following infantry regiments the 7th Regiment (Fusiliers) (146), 21st Essex Fusiliers (229), 22nd Oxford Rifles (69), 23rd Northern Pioneers (152), 24th Kent Regiment (98), 25th Elgin Regt. (97), 25th Middlesex Light Inf. (26), 27th Lambton Regt. (136), 28th Perth Regt. (146), 29th Waterloo Regt. (118), 30th Wellington Rifles (61), 32nd Bruce Regt (72), 33rd Huron Regt .(68), and the 77th Wentworth Regt. (78). The Battalion sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel F.W. Hill D.S.O. (44th Lincoln & Welland Regiment), with a strength of 47 officers and 1106 other ranks. A study of the War Diaries of the 1st Battalion shows the battalion had a brass band. No distinctive insignia, is as yet identified.

The 'corrected' regimental numbers block of the original contingent of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion was 6101 - 7500

'1st Ontario' Battalion, 1st Brigade 1914-1917

Initially the establishment of the 1st Division was set at four infantry brigades each of four infantry battalions. However after arrival in England to conform to the British establishment this was altered to three brigades each of four battalions. Three of the now surplus battalions became reinforcing battalions, the 9th. 11th and 12th; (the 17th already having been declared a reinforcing Battalion). On January 22nd the 6th (Infantry) Battalion (Fort Gary Horse) was reorganized as a Cavalry Depot being relocated to Jellalabad Barracks from Lark Hill Camp. Six Officers and 210 other Ranks joining the 10th Battalion, this now replacing the 6th Battalion in the 2nd Brigade.

After the arrival of the 1st Contingent in England in October 1914 General Alderson gave verbal authority that battalion cap badges could be worn if purchased with regimental funds. Designs for all four battalions of the proposed 2nd Infantry Brigade, the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, were submitted by Brigadier General A.W. Currie to the Assistant Adjutant General on October 25th 1914 shortly after the arrival of the 1st Contingent in the United Kingdom.

In Addition to cap badges General Alderson gave verbal authority for all 17 infantry battalions of the 1st contingent to adopt C over numeral collar badges for other ranks. The manufacturer of the first of these was Elkington & Co. two further issues of 'Elkington' pattern collars were made. It is not currently confirmed if the second and third issues were 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 becoming NCOs over the duration of WWI.

Elkington pattern 'C' over numeral collar badges

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

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

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

Other ranks type 1 collars by Elkington & Co.

501-12-102 Collar Brass. By Elkington & Co. Not maker marked

No type 2 or type 3 patterns are currently reported for the 1st Battalion. It is believed that battalion pattern collars were worn by the 1st Battalion until the 1918 order requiring the battalions in France to wear C over numeral collar badges..

Cloth shoulder titles

Cloth shoulder titles were produced for a number of the battalions of the 1st Contingent after arrival in England. Photographs extant show these worn on the Canadian seven button tunic. It is almost certain that these were adopted without approval and worn only in England prior to the CEF being re-equipped with the British five button tunic before sailing for France in February 1915. All are extremely rare.

501-22-102 Cloth Title Blue lettering woven through khaki worsted

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 "Hicks & Sons, 21 Leadenhall Street, LONDON. E.C. Cap badges per 1000 42 Pounds 2 shillings and 4 pence, Collar Badges-Shoulder Badges 'CANADA' per 50 pairs 3 Pounds 16 shillings. 2000 complete sets of badges were used last year."

Badges by Hicks & Son

All ranks

501-11-104 Cap White metal overlay on brown maple leaf. Not maker marked

513-12-104 Collar White metal overlay on brown maple leaf. Not maker marked

Officers

501-11-106 Cap Wm overlay on red/brown leaf. Oval 'Hicks & Son London' makers tab

501-12-106 Collar Wm overlay on brown leaf. Oval 'Hicks & Son London' makers tab

The 1st Battalion sailed for France 8th February 1915 with an establishment of 30 officers and 996 other ranks a total of 1026 all ranks. The 1st Battalion served on the Western Front for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

Badges by Hicks & Sons (Die 2)

Officers(?)

501-11-108 Cap Wm overlay on maple leaf. Rectangular ‘Hicks & Son London’ makers tab

501-12-108 Collar Wm overlay on maple leaf. Rectangular ‘Hicks & Son London’ makers tab

Type 3 collar badges

Fine veined pointed maple leaf the ‘CANADA’ with small lettering There is no line behind the figure ‘1’

501-12-110 Collar Narrow overlay on brown leaf.

Shoulder strap numerals and titles

Militia Order No.11 of January 4th 1915 reads in part: “CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (2nd DIVISION)- CLOTHING AND EQUIPPING OF. With reference to Militia Order 524,1914, the following are added to the detail of articles authorized for issue to men of the 2nd Division , Canadian Expeditionary Force :-

Neccessaries

(listed for both Mounted and Dismounted troops)

Identity Discs, Metal	1
Badges, bronze	
Cap	1
Collars, prs.	1
Shoulder:	
Initials, sets	1
Numerals, sets	1

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 what date 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. Although a shoulder numeral '1' exists, both by Caron Bros and Tiptaft these were probably worn by other numerically designated units possibly CMR or Railway Battalions and unlikely by the 1st Battalion as shoulder titles were adopted. Various patterns were produced but it currently undetermined the chronological order in which these were issued.

501-14-112 Numeral Gilding metal. Example by Tiptaft. Not maker marked

501-14-114 Title Cast brass with '1st' on bar without dots. Lugs on outer rim

501-14-115 Title Cast brass with '1st' on bar without dots. Lugs on inner rim

501-14-116 Title Small size, natural cut sheet brass. Without 'dots' (Officers?)

501-14-118 Title Die struck. Single dot.

501-14-120 Title Die struck. 2 dots below

501-14-122 Title Cut sheet brass. 2 dots below

501-14-124 Title Numeral added to Canada title

Theatre made C over 1 numeral collars

501-12-126 Collar Brass. Period of issue currently undetermined

501-12-128 Collar Gilding metal. Period of issue currently undetermined

Officers

501-14-130 Title Numeral added to Canada title

Similar officers shoulder titles to the example illustrated below exist for a number of different These patterns are currently known for the 1st, 24th, 50th, 52nd, 54th, 75th and 175th Battalions, this indicates they were produced after the formation of the 4th Division in August 1916, probably being introduced circa 1917/1918.

501-14-132 Title Natural brass. Small ‘1‘ braised to ‘Canada‘. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft‘

501-14-134 Title Gold wire bullion embroidered on black melton.

Cloth Formation patches introduced September 1916

The introduction of identifying coloured formation patches was discussed in August 1916. The tentative colours selected for the three divisions in the field being red for the 1st Division, blue for the 2nd Division and white for the 3rd Division. These patches were introduced in September 1916. Initially being worn sewn on the back 1-inch below the collar. Within days of being introduced the colour of the 3rd Division was changed from white to black. The units of the 2nd Division were given permission to move these to the sleeves within days presumably the 1st and 3rd divisions at the same time.
In addition to the rectangular colored divisional signs, the three infantry brigades within each division were also assigned identifying colours, these being green for the first brigade, red for the second, and blue for the third. Each of the four battalions within an infantry brigade were identified by an identifying geometric shape. This being a circle for the first battalion (a symbol with a single side), the second battalion a half or demi-circle (a two sided figure), the third battalion by a triangle (a three sided figure), and the fourth battalion a square (four sides), a simple and elegant way of identifying soldiers of any unit.

By 1918 the wearing of formation patches had become formalized and encompassed almost all units in France. Brigade Headquarters personnel were identified by green red or blue 3 x ½ inch ‘bars’ worn over he divisional sign. The 5th Division formation patches were Garnet, a deep wine red colour, worn without brigade distinctions although these shown in the post WWI official documents. The authorized Officers patterns for the 5th Division are pictured with an angular gold ‘bullion’ wire letter ‘C’ inset with five bars. No cloth examples are reported but are noted painted on the Brodie helmet.

1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Division formation patches
All ranks introduced September 1916

Battalion Bomber Specialist badge (Grenade thrower)

501-23-136 Sleeve badge Red grenade.

Battalion Trench Mortar Specialist badge

501-23-138 Sleeve badge Blue grenade.

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Sons (1917)

Cap badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son introduced in 1917. This issue has a heavily veined maple leaf with large type for ‘CANADA’ the ‘ONT’ ribbon has a mild downward curve.

Other ranks

501-11-140 Cap Wm overlay on Coppered maple leaf

501-12-140 Collar Brass small ‘C’ over ‘1’. Maker marked Tiptaft B’ham

Officers

501-12-142 Collar Red/brown brown. Embossed design by Tiptaft, not maker marked.

THE 1917 REORGANIZATION OF THE CEF

Early in 1917 Canada's military forces were completely reorganized with the CEF becoming a temporary unit of the Active Militia. After a bitter debate in Parliament conscription was introduced and effective March 20th 1917 a new territorial regimental system was instituted for recruiting and reinforcing the Canadian Corps in France. The new system consisted of twelve Provincial regiments in Canada, the Western Ontario Regt., the 1st Central Ontario Regt., the 2nd Central Ontario Regt., the Eastern Ontario Regt., the 1st Quebec Regt., the 2nd Quebec Regt., The Nova Scotia Regt., the New Brunswick Regt., the Manitoba Regt., the Saskatchewan Regt., the Alberta Regt. and the British Columbia Regt. These 'home' regiments in turn supported Reserve Battalions in England which provided reinforcements to the units serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front.

The design of the 1st Battalion badges was changed to read from 'ONT /1/ CANADA' to read 'WESTERN /1/ ONTARIO'. (At this time the 18th Western Ontario Battalion was re-designated as the 18th Overseas Battalion also being issued with new pattern badges reflecting the change in unit designation.)

1st (Western Ontario) Battalion

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft and Son Ltd.

The matching battalion maple leaf collar badges have 'ONT' and not the 'Western Ontario' mottos.

Other ranks.

501-11-144 Cap Wm overlay on bronze maple leaf. Marked Tiptaft

513-12-144 Collar White metal overlay on bronze maple leaf. Not maker marked

Battalion pattern collar badges were permitted apparently sometime in 1916. (An order confirming this is

not currently identified.) In August 1918 ‘C’ over numeral collars were again authorized for all battalions serving with the Canadian Corps. Due to the final 100 days it is likely that this change was only partially adhered to it is known that battalions added them to the epaulets. Most photographs of individuals taken after the armistice show them wearing new or No.1 tunics not the worn field uniforms, these often worn without collars badges. The large ‘C’ over ‘1’ collars is often found with the central ‘bar’ shortened, being ground off at a 45° angle.

501-12-146 Collar Brass large ‘C’ over ‘1’. Maker marked Tiptaft B’ham

501-12-148 Collar Brass ground down bar. Large ‘C’ over ‘1’. Maker marked Tiptaft B’ham

It is believed that new officers badges were modified by changing the overlay to the Western Ontario pattern these alterations attributed to Tiptaft.

501-11-150 Cap White metal overlay on pickled finish.

501-12-150 Collar White metal overlay on pickled finish. (Possibly officers patterns)

501-11-152 Cap Silver overlay on gilt leaf.

501-12-152 Collar Red/brown ‘Overlay’ pattern by Tiptaft not maker marked

‘C’ Over numeral collars by J.R. Gaunt produced for issue on demobilization.

501-12-154 Collar Gilding metal. Marked ‘J.R. Gaunt London’

Interim badges

Much confusion and speculation has always surrounded the ‘interim badges’. It would appear that after the departure of the 1st Contingent many CEF battalions designed and produced their own patterns of badges without authorization from Headquarters. This was a reasonable assumption on their part as they were not paid for from the public purse. This usurping of Government authority however was quickly remedied and by mid 1915 the words ‘Overseas Battalion’ became an essential part of all designs sent to Ottawa for approval. When approval for a submitted design was initially denied a number of units modified the General Service government issues with the addition of battalion numbers. These are known for the 99th, 142nd, 157th (there are both other ranks and officers patterns for this battalion): the 168th and 177th Battalion and some others. All of these interim’ badges are found on corresponding dated General Service maple leaf pattern badges. There are a number of other ‘interim’ badges of more dubious origins and these include badges for the 3rd, 4th, 9th, 41st, 85th, 135th, 135th, 149th and 235th Battalions. These may have been ‘made up’ in the pre WWII era by collectors ‘filing holes’ in their displays.

Recruiting Sergeant Badges

Modified General Service badges for the 1st and 2nd Battalions were included in major collections formed shortly after the conclusion of WWI for both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. These are found on badges dated long after the departure of these battalions for England. Hence these can not be interim patterns. Returned soldiers of units that had served with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front and repatriated to Canada

and employed at the Depot Battalions were allowed to wear their Overseas Battalion badges. It is likely that those no longer in possession of their original regimental badges (all 1st Division badges having been produced in England) may well have worn these 'made up' patterns as a mark of distinction.) In the notes listing the different varieties of badges in his collection, Bill Bird describes a 'made up' 2nd Battalion badge as being obtained from a 'Recruiting Sergeant', this would be consistent with duties performed by Depot personnel in Canada. (The Bird collection was sold in 1946.) Due to the ease of 'manufacturing' these 'made up' badges should not command a premium price unless with provenance. No examples of 'made up' collar badges are illustrated in the Bird collection.

501-11-160 Cap Wm numeral on Geo. H. Lees 1915 GS cap badge. Reinforcements?

501-12-160 Collar Wm numeral on Ellis Bros Maple leaf.

501-11-162 Cap Brass numeral on Tiptaft GS cap badge.

Reinforcements for the 1st Overseas Battalion February 1915 to March 1916 (Provided by the 9th Battalion ,Training and Reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in February 1915 until April 1916 reinforcements for the 1st Battalion provided by the 9th Battalion (Training and Reserve) and by drafts from the 33rd Overseas Battalion. The 9th Battalion serving as the reinforcing battalion for the 1st Infantry Brigade. The 11th Battalion provided reinforcements for the 2nd Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Infantry Brigade being assigned two reinforcing battalions the 12th Battalion reinforcing the 14th Infantry Battalion and PPCLI, and the 17th Battalion reinforcing the 13th, 15th and 16th Highland Battalions. By September 12th 1915 the 1st Battalion had suffered 898 casualties, not including troops gassed. On the formation of the 3rd Division in England in late 1915 the number of training and reinforcing battalions was increased from seven to 18. At this time the original Reserve and Training Battalions for the 1st and 2nd Divisions were realigned to conform to the regional areas from which the CEF battalions were raised.

Reinforcements for the 1st Overseas Battalion August 1916 until January 1917 (Provided by the 35th Battalion, training and reserve)

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

Reinforcements for the 1st Overseas Battalion August 1915 to August 1916 (Provided by Drafts from the 33rd Infantry Battalion)

The 33rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was authorized to be recruited at London, Ontario in February 1915. The Battalion sailed for England in three different flights the first of five officers and 250 other ranks June 17th 1915 this draft reinforcing the 1st Battalion. A second draft of four officers and 247 other ranks sailing August 17th 1915 reinforcing both the 1st and 18th Battalion this serving in the 2nd Division. The 33rd Battalion sailed for England March 17th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilson with 40 officers and 946 other ranks also reinforcing the 1st and 18th Battalions. In August 1916 the remaining personnel of the 33rd Battalion were absorbed into the 35th Battalion (Training and Reserve) which became the reinforcing battalion of the 1st Battalion until the reorganization of the CEF in January 1917.

Reinforcements for the 1st Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918 (Provided by the 4th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the 35th Battalion (Reserve) amalgamated with the 99th Battalion to form the 4th Reserve Battalion, this located at Witley Camp in Hampshire England. The 4th was one of two Reserve Battalions formed in January 1917 to supply reinforcements to the units from Military District No.1 serving on the Western Front. The 4th Reserve Battalion served as the reinforcing battalion for the 1st and 18th Battalions and the 25th Reserve Battalion supplied reinforcements to the 2nd Pioneer Battalion. In February 1918 the Pioneer Battalions were absorbed into the Canadian Engineers and the 4th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 25th Reserve Battalion becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Western Ontario Regiment, this authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918. At this time a number of Battalions raised from districts with a smaller population base were reassigned to more populous Military Districts which could provide a continuing stream of reinforcements the 47th Battalion, from New Westminster British Columbia being designated as the 47th (Western Ontario) Battalion being reassigned to the Western Ontario Regiment. The 4th Reserve Battalion provided reinforcements to the 1st, 18th and 47th Infantry Battalions for the duration of WWI.

Coloured epaulets

Coloured shoulder straps were introduced into the Canadian Militia in 1913. In the non-permanent militia these were initially tied on with laces while those of the permanent force were sewn in. Before the end of 1914 the tunic was modified after which the khaki epaulets were sewn into the tunic. The original members of the First Contingent were permitted to retain their coloured shoulder straps for the duration of the war. The colours were yellow for the cavalry, blue for the infantry, green for rifles, red for artillery, blue with a yellow loop for engineers white with a blue loop for the Canadian Army Service Corps, cherry for the Canadian Army medical Corps (this later changed to maroon), maroon for the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps (This later changed to the yellow of the cavalry, red for Guides, grey for the Signaling Corps, and red with a blue loop for the non-permanent force Canadian Ordnance Corps. Tunics from this period are very rare it is known for certain that the other ranks infantry epaulets were solid blue with khaki edging but it is likely that the other branch of service were just edged with coloured braid. It is also known for certain that this was the practice in the cavalry. Some pre WWI rifles officers khaki tunics are noted with sold

green epaulets edged with red braid but is currently undetermined if these were worn in the CEF.

An example of the rarity of these tunics may be seen as on the return to London, Ontario of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion on April 22nd 1919 only five of the original 146 volunteers from the 7th Fusiliers who sailed with the first contingent were present to receive the acclaim of the citizens of London. The formation patch on the tunic pictured below is unusual having a very large battalion designator.

Post WWI Western Ontario Regiment badges 1921 - 1924

In the 1920 post WWI reorganization of the Canadian Militia the 7th Regiment (Fusiliers) was designated the Western Ontario Regiment under General Order 39 of April 1st 1920. In 1924 under General Order 103 of August 1st 1924 the title was changed to reflect the regiment's fusilier antecedents becoming the Canadian Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). As of January 20th 1919 there were still 300 cap badges and 2,040 pairs of 'C' over '1' collar badges at the Canadian Ordnance Depot in Ashford, Kent England but it is not known if these were returned to Canada or sold as scrap. It is believed that the other ranks post WWI other ranks cap badges were produced by George Hemsley of Montreal. The maker of the officers pattern has, so far not been identified unidentified but was likely also Hemsley. No specific post WWI collars have been identified probably WWI 'C' over numeral '1' or General Service Maple Leaf patterns being worn.

Other ranks

Believed to have been locally produced .The maple leaf is unique not matching any other pattern

501-11-170 Cap Cast with numeral ‘1’ added .

Badges attributed to Hemsley

Other ranks

501-11-172 Cap All brass construction without overlay, slide fastener.

Officers

501-11-174 Cap Wm overlay on bronze leaf, pin fastener mot maker marked.

2nd Provisional Battalion (As of August 1914)

The 2nd Provisional Battalion was a composite battalion formed at Camp Valcartier Quebec in August 1914 under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. The 2nd Provisional Battalion comprised of volunteers from the militia regiments of Military Districts No.2 and No.3 (Eastern Ontario). The 2nd Battalion was formed from the personnel of two Cavalry Regiments the 3rd P.O.W. Canadian Dragoons (25), 9th Mississauga Horse (161), these volunteering to fight as infantry and personnel from the GGFG*, (131), 14th Regiment (PWOR) (76), 15th Regiment (ALI) (76), 15th (Prince Edward) Regt (41), 34th (Ontario) Regt. (133), 40th (Northumberland) Regt. (81), 41st Regiment (Brockville Rifles) (83), 42nd (Lanark & Renfrew) Regt. (128), 43rd Regiment (DCOR) (114), 45th (Victoria) Regt. (68), 45th (Durham)

Regt. (50), 47th (Frontenac) Regt. (49), 49th (Hastings) Regt. (51), 51st Regiment (Soo Rifles) (126), 55th (Grenville)* Regt. (39), 57th Regiment (Peterborough Rangers) (67) and the 59th (Storemont & Dundas) Regt. (15). The 2nd Infantry Battalion sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel D. Watson (8th Royal Rifles), with a strength of 45 officers and 1098 other ranks. In England the 2nd Battalion was assigned to the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division sailing for France in early February 1915 with an establishment of 30 officers and 996 other ranks a total of 1026. Later earning the nickname 'The Iron Second'. The 2nd Overseas Battalion served on the Western Front for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

The regimental numbers block assigned to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 7502 - 9000.

2nd Battalion (The Iron Second)

OVERSEAS

After the arrival of the 1st Contingent in England in October 1914 General Alderson gave verbal authority that the battalions of the 1st Division could adopt battalion cap badges at unit expense. The 2nd Battalion did not obtain battalion pattern cap badges until the fall of 1915 continuing to wear the General Service 'Ellis Bros. 1914' maker marked and dated 'Maple leaf' cap badge and Elkington collar badges. Officers wearing generic officer pattern 'Canada' maple leaf cap and collar badges the pattern so far not identified. The first order for 2nd Battalion pattern badges was placed with J.R. Gaunt & Son in the fall of 1915.

Cloth Shoulder titles

Cloth titles were produced for a number of the battalions of the 1st Contingent. Photographs extant show these worn on the Canadian seven button tunic so it is likely they were worn only prior to sailing for France in February 1915. All are extremely rare. No examples are currently been identified for the 2nd Battalion.

Officers

502-11-100 Cap Matching cap badge not currently reported

502-12-100 Collar Wm overlay on gilt maple leaf. Flat back Not maker marked

Other ranks

1st issue badges attributed to Reiche (Struck by Tiptaft?)

It is possible that the Reiche badges with its distinctive maple leaf were struck by Tiptaft or some other maker, Reiche being a jeweler in Folkstone on England's south coast without the heavy presses needed to strike large quantities of badges.

502-11-102 Cap White metal overlay on bronze maple leaf.

Elkington pattern ‘C’ over numeral collar badges

502-12-102 Collar Brass. Elkington & Co. (Type 1)

Modern British counterfeit cap badges of this issue

502-11-104 Cap Counterfeit. Genuine badges have a white metal overlay on bronze maple leaf

502-11-106 Cap Counterfeit. Genuine badges have a white metal overlay on bronze maple leaf

2nd issue badges by Tiptaft

Heavily veins on maple leaf, large letters in Ontario, Eastern with slight downward curve.

Other ranks

502-11-108 Cap Wm overlay on Coppered maple leaf. Not maker marked

502-12-108 Collar Gilding metal Elkington pattern (Type 2)

502-11-110 Cap Wm overlay on Coppered maple leaf. .Maker marked Tiptaft

502-12-110 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Officers

502-12-112 Collar Brown OSD finish. By Tiptaft not maker marked

Shoulder strap titles & numerals

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

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

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. Although a shoulder numeral ‘2’ exists, both by Caron Bros and Tiptaft these were probably worn by other numerically designated units possibly CMR or Railway Battalions and unlikely by the 2nd Battalion as shoulder titles were adopted. Various patterns were produced but it currently undetermined the chronological order in which these were issued.

502-14-114 Numeral Gilding metal 2. Various makers

502-14-120 Title Brass. ‘Dot’ below ‘ND”. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

502-14-122 Title Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

502-14-124 Title Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked.

Officers

502-14-126 Title Officers gilt title by Tiptaft

Theatre made C over 2 numeral collars

502-12-128 Collar Brass. Period of issue currently undetermined

2nd Battalion formation patches introduced September 1916

2nd BATTALION, 1st BRIGADE 1st DIVISION 1917-1919
EASTERN ONTARIO REGIMENT

In January 1917 badges of the 2nd Overseas Battalion were altered from 'Eastern' /2 / 'Ontario' to the '2nd East. Ontario Regt.' to reflect the change in organization.

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 "Messrs Henry Jenkins & Sons Ltd. Unity Works, Victoria Street, Birmingham. Cap badges 36 shillings per gross, Collar Badges 21 shillings per gross. Shoulder titles 16 shillings per gross. 5000 sets."

Badges by Henry Jenkins & Son. Birmingham

Other Ranks

502-11-130 Cap White metal E/W lug fasteners. Not maker marked

502-12-130 Collar White metal E/W lug fasteners. Not maker marked

502-14-130 Title White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Badges attributed to Tiptaft

502-11-132 Cap White metal. E/W lug fasteners. Not maker marked

502-12-132 Collar Brass. Lug fasteners. Maker marked Tiptaft B'ham

Officers badges by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co.

Officers

Officers Service Dress. Two different variations of this badge were produced one maker marked the Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Co. 112 Regent St. London. .

502-11-134 Cap Brown OSD finish. Fully struck up reverse. Not maker marked.

502-12-134 Collar Brown OSD finish. Fully struck up reverse. Not maker marked.

502-11-136 Cap Brown OSD finish. Flat back. 'The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

502-12-136 Collar Brown OSD finish. Flat back. 'The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

Hall marked sterling silver with blue enamel by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co. 112 Regent St. London. Three different year dates are noted the first with year mark of May 1916/17

502-11-138 Cap Flat back. Hallmarked and 'The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

502-12-138 Collar Flat back. Hallmarked and 'The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

Collars produced for issue on demobilization by J.R. Gaunt London

502-12-140 Collar Gilding metal maker marked J.R. Gaunt London (Late 1918)

2nd DEPOT BATTALION, EASTERN ONTARIO REGIMENT

The 2nd Depot Battalion, Eastern Ontario Regiment was located with headquarters at Ottawa Ontario and was authorized as a training depot under General Order 57 April 15th 1918. The officers of the 2nd Depot Battalion Eastern Ontario Regiment purchased battalion pattern badges with regimental funds. These being ordered from the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, 112 Regent Street in London, England, examples being submitted for authorization in January 1919.

502-11-142 Cap Flat back. Hallmarks for 1919. Marked ‘The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

502-12-142 Collar Flat back. Hallmarks for 1919. Marked ‘The G & S Co. 112 Regent St. London

Reinforcements for the 2nd Overseas Battalion February 1915 to July 1915 (9th Battalion ,training and reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in February 1915 until July 1915 reinforcements for the 2nd Infantry Battalion’s were provided by the 9th Battalion. These duties being taken over by the 39th Battalion after its arrival in England in July 1915. The 39th Battalion, training and reserve providing reinforcements to the 2nd and 21st Overseas Battalions serving on the Western Front until January 1917. By September 12th the 2nd Battalion had suffered 737 casualties, not including troops gassed.

Reinforcements for the 2nd Overseas Battalion July 1915 - January 1917 (39th Battalion, training and reserve)

Canada Overseas Reinforcing Draft (Circa 1917)

A reinforcing draft was recruited in Military District No.3 for the 2nd Battalion by the 59th Regiment (Storemont and Glengarry) being allotted the regimental numbers block 2,235301 - 2,240300.

An article in the Kingston 'Daily British Whig" of February 12th 1917 reads as follows. "Special Badges provided for the 2nd Battalion draft are unique. The cap badge is nearly similar to that of the original 2nd Battalion - a maple leaf in slate colour with the figure '2' gold polished, for the rank and silver plated for the officers fixed in straight relief in the centre. The collar badges two small maple leafs of slate hue, while the shoulder badges are of distinctly attractive design and appearance. They are of army red cloth base on which is lettered the unit's number and name in green silk twill completing a very attractive badge!". A photograph of a volunteer shows him wearing these badges.

502-11-146 Cap Coppered gilding with applied numeral '2' in polished brass '2'

502-11-146 Collar Copper. Voided stem. Fully struck up reverse. Scully type 2 lugs

502-22-146 Cloth Title Green lettering woven on red

Officers

502-11-148 Cap Coppered gilding with applied silver numeral '2'

502-11-148 Collar Detail not currently identified.

Reinforcements for the 2nd Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918
The 6th Reserve Battalion (Eastern Ontario Regiment) in England

The 6th Reserve Battalion established 2nd January 1917 at Witley Camp under command of Lieutenant-Colonel M.A. Colquhoun by the conversion of the 39th Infantry Battalion which had since its arrival in the UK in July 1915 served as a reserve and training battalion. The 6th Reserve Battalion supplied reinforcements to the 2nd and 21st Battalions serving in France and 156th Battalion assigned to the 5th Division then in formation in England. During the period of its operations the 39th Battalion absorbed the 37th Bn. (July 9th 1916), 59th Bn., (July 6th 1916), 70th Bn., (July 7th 1916), 93rd Bn. (October 6th 1916), and on its arrival from Canada October 6th 1916, a draft from the 136th Battalion. The remainder of the 136th being assigned to the 4th Reserve Battalion on its formation in January 1917. After their formation in January 1917 the 4th and 6th Reserve Battalions absorbed the 168th Bn. The 240th Bn. similarly being split between the 6th and 7th Reserve Battalions. The 6th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 254th Bn. June 10th 1917. In February 1918 the 6th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 156th Infantry Battalion this having been held in England as a component of the 5th Division then in England, this being broken up for reinforcements. In February 1918 the 6th Reserve Battalion absorbed the 7th Reserve Battalion becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Eastern Ontario Regiment, this 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 6th Reserve had a band of 39 musicians.

3rd Provisional Battalion (As of August 1914)

The 3rd Provisional Battalion CEF was a composite battalion formed at Camp Valcartier Quebec in August 1914 under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. The 3rd Battalion comprised of volunteers from three Toronto Militia Regiments, the Governor General's Body Guard (42) the 2nd Regiment Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (975), and the 10th Regiment (Royal Grenadiers) (401). The Battalion sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Rennie (2nd Queen's Own Rifles), with a strength of 43 officers and 1101 other ranks. In England the 3rd Battalion, nicknamed the 'Dirty Third', was assigned to the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division sailing for France in early February 1915 with an establishment of 30 officers and 996 other ranks a total of 1026. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion served on the Western Front for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920. The 'corrected' regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion was 9001 - 10500.

3rd Battalion (The Dirty Third) 1st Brigade

OVERSEAS

After the arrival of the 1st Contingent in England in October 1914 General Alderson gave verbal authority that the battalions of the 1st Division could adopt battalion cap badges at unit expense. It would appear that various makers were invited to submit designs and examples to supply cap badges to the units of the 1st Contingent. These included Gaunt, Dingley, Hicks and Reid. (This makers name previously listed as 'Reiche', the badges also marked Reigh, was located in the town of Folkstone on England's South coast and likely changed their name in the wave of anti German sentiment of WWI.) Tiptaft, which by 1918 would become the main supplier of badges to the CEF does not seem to have been included in these original submissions. Both J.R. Gaunt and Reid produced samples for the 3rd Battalion both are extremely rare with less that ten of any examples known at the present time.

The regimental pattern 3rd Battalion cap badges were issued on January 29th 1916. The first contingent of the 3rd Battalion possibly wearing British made General Service Maple leaf pattern badges by Dingley.

503-11-102 Cap GS. Maple leaf pattern. Maker marked ‘W.J. Dingley B’ham’

Manufacturer’s sample or proto-type 3rd Battalion cap badge by Reich

503-11-104 Cap Proto-type wm overlay on bronze maple leaf. Not makers marked

3rd Battalion sample attributed to J.R. Gaunt

503-11-106 Cap Die struck bronze maple leaf

Cloth titles were produced for a number of the battalions of the 1st Contingent. Photographs extant show these worn on the Canadian seven button tunic so it is likely they were worn only prior to sailing for France in February 1915. All are extremely rare. No examples are currently identified for the 3rd Battalion.

Elkington pattern ‘C’ over numeral collar badges

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

Type 2. An additional order for another 500 sets of collar badges was placed in March 1915 presumably for

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

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

The regimental pattern 3rd Battalion cap badges were issued on January 29th 1916. The first contingent of the 3rd Battalion possibly wearing British made General Service Maple leaf pattern badges by Dingley.

503-12-108 Collar Brass. Elkington & Co. (Type 1) Not maker marked

503-12-110 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 2)

503-12-112 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3)

Officers(?)

503-11-114 Cap Wm maker marked 'Dingley B'ham' (Note different naming to above gm badge.)

503-12-116 Collar White metal. Elkington & Co. (Type 1) Not maker marked

Theatre made 'C' Over '3' cut sheet brass collar badges.
Period of manufacture is at present undetermined.

Cut sheet brass 'C' over numeral collar badges and titles are known for a number of 1st Division Battalions including the 3rd, but the period of manufacture and issue of these badges is at present undetermined likely in 1916.

503-12-118 Collar UK 'made up' brass 'C' over '3'.

503-12-120 Collar UK ‘made up’ brass ‘C’ over ‘3’.

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

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

503-14-122 Numeral Gilding metal. Caron Bros not maker marked

503-14-124 Numeral Brown finish. By Birks. Not maker marked

503-14-126 Numeral Gilding metal. Round to ‘3’

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 “Maker J.R. Gaunt & Sons Ltd. Birmingham. Possessor of dies J.R. Gaunt & Sons Ltd. Birmingham. Cap badges per gross 3 pounds 12 shillings, Collar Badges C/3 2 pounds 2 shillings per gross (pairs). Men‘s cap badges 2000 and 2000 C/3”

Interim badges by Gaunt

Non-voided pattern or prototype

503-11-130 Cap Brown OSD. Flat back marked J.R.Gaunt London

Other ranks

503-11-132 Cap Gaunt pattern maple leaf with Caron pattern numeral ‘3’

NCOs?Bandsman(?)

503-11-134 Cap Gaunt pattern maple leaf with Gaunt officers collar overlay

Badges by J.R. Gaunt

First issued on January 29th 1916. The figures in the Roman numeral ‘III’ are not separated.

Other ranks. Type 1 joined numeral ‘III’.

503-11-136 Cap Brass or Coppered . Lug fasteners. With ‘J.R. Gaunt London’ makers tab

503-12-136 Collar Brass. Large ‘C’ over ‘3’. No ‘bar’. Not maker marked

503-14-136 Title Natural brass ‘3’ over ‘Canada’

Officers

503-11-138 Cap Brown OSD. Flat back. Lugs and tangs noted. Marked J.R.Gaunt London

503-12-138 Collar Brown OSD. Flat back. Lugs and tangs noted. Marked J.R.Gaunt London

503-11-140 Cap Gilt. Lug fasteners. ‘J.R. Gaunt & Son Ltd. London’ makers tab

503-12-140 Collar Gilt. Lug fasteners. ‘J.R. Gaunt & Son Ltd. London’ makers tab

(Badges of similar design in gilt and silver by J.R. Gaunt with conjoined Roman numeral ‘III’, bearing a makers tab with ‘Made in England’ are 1930s issues to the Toronto Regiment.)

3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Div. formation patches introduced September 1916

3rd BATTALION, (THE TORONTO REGIMENT)
1st BRIGADE, 1st DIVISION 1917-1919 CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIMENT

Badges by Tiptaft (The Roman numeral 'III' comprises of three separate letters.)

Other ranks

503-11-142 Cap Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

503-12-142 Collar Brass. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Second issued Non-voided Tudor crown

503-11-144 Cap Natural brass. Lug fasteners, not maker marked

503-12-144 Collar Natural Brass. Lug fasteners (1918)

Small 'C' over '3' pattern collars were introduced in August 1918 to replace the battalion pattern collar badges.

503-12-146 Collar Natural Brass. Small ‘C’ over ’3’. Not maker marked. By Tiptaft

503-12-147 Collar Natural Brass. Small ‘C’ over ’3’. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft B’ham

‘C’ Over numeral collars by J.R. Gaunt produced for issue on demobilization.

503-13-148 Collar Gilding metal. Large ‘C’ over ‘3’. Maker marked ‘J.R. Gaunt London’

Interim badges

Much confusion and speculation has always surrounded the ‘interim badges’. It would appear that after the departure of the 1st Contingent many CEF battalions designed and produced their own patterns of badges without authorization from Headquarters. This was a reasonable assumption on their part as they were not paid for from the public purse. This usurping of Government authority however was quickly remedied and by mid 1915 the words ‘Overseas Battalion’ became an essential part of all designs sent to Ottawa for approval. When approval for a submitted design was initially denied a number of units modified the General Service government issues with the addition of battalion numbers. These are known for the 99th, 142nd, 157th (there are both other ranks and officers patterns for this battalion): the 168th and 177th Battalion and some others. All of these interim’ badges are found on corresponding dated General Service maple leaf pattern badges. There are a number of other ‘interim’ badges of more dubious origins and these include badges for the 3rd, 4th, 9th, 41st, 85th, 135th, 135th, 149th and 235th Battalions. These may have been ‘made up’ in the pre WWII era by collectors ‘filing holes’ in their displays.

Recruiting Sergeant Badges

Modified General Service badges for the 1st and 2nd Battalions were included in major collections formed shortly after the conclusion of WWI for both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. These are found on badges dated long after the departure of these battalions for England. Hence these can not be interim patterns. Returned soldiers of units that had served with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front and repatriated to Canada and employed at the Depot Battalions were allowed to wear their Overseas Battalion badges. It is likely that those no longer in possession of their original regimental badges (all 1st Division badges having been produced in England) may well have worn these ‘made up’ patterns as a mark of distinction.) In the notes listing the different varieties of badges in his collection, Bill Bird describes a ‘made up’ 2nd Battalion badge as being obtained from a ‘Recruiting Sergeant’, this would be consistent with duties performed by Depot personnel in Canada. (The Bird collection was sold in 1946.) Due to the ease of ‘manufacturing’ these ‘made up’ badges should not command a premium price unless with provenance. No examples of ‘made up’ collar badges are illustrated in the Bird collection.

Canadian ‘Made up’ cap badges

Other ranks

503-11-150 Cap General Service Maple leaf with added numeral

Officers

503-11-152 Cap Silver numeral '3' on brass badge. Flat copper lugs. Maker currently unidentified

Reinforcements for the 3rd Overseas Battalion February 1915 to January 1916 (Provided by the 9th Battalion, training and reserve)

From the time of its entry into France in February 1915 until January 1916 reinforcements for the 3rd Battalion were provided by the 9th Battalion. By September 12th the 3rd Battalion had suffered 836 casualties, not including troops gassed.

Reinforcements for the 3rd Overseas Battalion January 1916 to January 1917 (Provided by the 35th Battalion, 2nd Training Brigade)

The 35th Canadian Infantry Battalion CEF was approved to be recruited and mobilized at Toronto at an unspecified date in April 1915 being authorized under General Order 86 of July 1st 1915. The 35th Battalion was recruited principally by the York Rangers this previously having contributed 273 volunteers to the 4th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 12th York Rangers also raised or provided volunteers to the 20th, 81st, 83rd, 127th and 220th Battalions. Two reinforcing drafts were dispatched from the 35th Battalion prior to the battalion sailing for England in October 1915. The first of five officers and 250 other ranks June 5th 1915, a second of five officers and 250 other ranks August 17th 1915. The 35th Battalion followed October 15th 1915 with 41 officers and 1115 other ranks command of Lieutenant-Colonel F.C. McCordick. Effective September 15th 1915 the 35th Battalion became a component of the 2nd Training Brigade and served in this capacity until January 3rd 1917 when it the Training Brigades were disbanded and replaced by Reserve Battalions. During its period of operations with the 2nd Training Brigade the 35th Battalion absorbed the 81st, 99th and 111th Infantry Battalions.

Reinforcements for the 3rd Overseas Battalion January 1917 -1918 (12th Reserve Battalion)

In January 1917 the CEF was reorganized and 26 Reserve Battalions were formed in England by amalgamating a number of infantry battalions that had been serving as training brigades in England. Three Reserve battalions were designated as reinforcing battalions for the Central Ontario Regiment. These being the 3rd, 5th and 12th Reserve Battalions. Reinforcements for the 3rd Overseas Battalion henceforth were supplied by the 12th Reserve Battalion which also supplied reinforcements to the 75th Battalion and the 1st Canadian Labor Battalion (formerly the 124th Battalion) serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front.

POST WWI

In the 1920 post WWI reorganization of the Canadian Militia the 3rd Battalion CEF was disbanded and reconstituted as a regiment of the Canadian Militia under the designation the Toronto Regiment, with three battalions. The 1st (Active) Battalion (3rd Bn. CEF), the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion (124th Bn. CEF) and the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion (169th CEF). This was amended under General Order 93 of June 1915, 1920 with the 169th Battalion being replaced with the 170th Battalion an additional reserve battalion being added. The reserve battalions now being numbered the 2nd Battalion. (124th Bn. CEF), 3rd Battalion (170th Bn. CEF), and the 4th Battalion. (204th Bn. CEF) respectively. The officers continuing to wear their CEF

regimental pattern badges these with a gilt finish. A new issue of other ranks badges was worn until 1924 being produced by Rosenthal of Toronto when under General Order 1 of 1924 new patterns were adopted for other ranks. Officers continued to wear badges of similar design to the WWI issues until the regiment amalgamated with the Royal Grenadiers to form the Royal Regiment of Toronto Grenadiers December 15th 1936.

The Toronto Regiment 1920 - 1924
Badge by Rosenthal Toronto

503-11-160 Cap Dark brown. Flat back marked H. Rosenthal Toronto

Counterfeit of above cap badge

The following counterfeit badge was offered for sale on the United Kingdom eBay site in 2018. Note the blurred detail, 'off metal' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example. Similar brass examples will also exist.

503-11-162 Cap Pressure cast silver.

Officers badges by Gaunt

This issue is identical to the WWI issues with the exception of additional 'Made in England' stamped on the reverse.

503-11-164 Cap Brown OSD. Tangs. Double marked J.R.Gaunt London & J.R. Gaunt & Son London Made in England

503-12-164 Collar Dark brown finished gilding metal

4th Provisional Battalion (as of the 3rd September 1914)

The 4th Battalion was a composite battalion formed in August 1914 at Camp Valcartier Quebec. This under authority of Privy Council Order 2067 of August 5th 1914. The 4th Battalion comprised of volunteers from militia regiments of Military District No.2. (Central Ontario) The 4th Battalion was formed from the cavalry personnel of 25th Brant Dragoons (60), and the following infantry regiments: 12th Regt. (York Rangers) (273), 13th Royal Regt. (181), 19th (Lincoln) Regiment (74), 20th Regiment (Halton Rifles) (171), 35th Regiment (Simcoe Foresters) (124), 35th (Peel) Regt. (230), 37th Regiment (Haldimand Rifles) (76), 38th Regiment (Dufferin Rifles of Canada) (194), 39th Regiment (Norfolk Rifles) (30) and the 44th (Lincoln & Welland) Regiment (202). The Battalion sailed with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel R.H. Labatt (13th Royal Regiment), with a strength of 42 officers and 1084 other ranks. In England the 4th Battalion, nicknamed the 'Mad Fourth', was assigned to the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Canadian Division sailing for France in early February 1915 with an establishment of 30 officers and 996 other ranks a total of 1026. The 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion served on the Western Front for the duration of the war being disbanded under General Order 149 September 15th 1920.

4th Battalion (The Mad Fourth) 1st Brigade

The corrected regimental numbers block for the original contingent of the 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 10504 - 12000.

OVERSEAS

Sample or proto-type 4th Battalion cap badge by Reiche

504-11-102 Cap White metal overlay on gilt maple leaf. Maker marked Reiche

Sample or proto-type cap badge by Gaunt.

504-11-104 Cap Gilt overlay on copper maple leaf

Apparently the sample cap badges presented by J.R. Gaunt were acceptable to the 4th Battalion and an all ranks adopted the white metal overlay on a bronze maple leaf pattern. The J.R. Gaunt & Sons Ltd. Badges can be identified by the numeral '4' being centered directly over the letter 'A' in Ontario, this with small lettering. The upward curve of the 'Central' ribbon is more pronounced than on the later Tiptaft issues.

1st Issue All Ranks cap badge by J.R. Gaunt

504-11-106 Cap White metal overlay on brown maple leaf. Not maker marked

'C' over numeral collar badges 1914 -1916

After arrival in England General Alderson gave verbal authority for all 17 infantry battalions of the 1st contingent to adopt C over numeral collar badges for other ranks. The manufacturer of the first of these was Elkington & Co. two further issues of 'Elkington' pattern collars were made. It is not currently confirmed if the second and third issues were 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 becoming NCOs over the duration of WWI.

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.

504-12-106 Collar Brass. By Elkington & Co. not maker marked.

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.

504-12-108 Collar Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 2). Not maker marked.

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 these lugs noted in brass, copper or 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.

504-12-110 Collar (Type 3) Brass. Elkington pattern (Type 3). Not maker marked.

Theatre made 'C' Over '4' cut sheet brass collar badges. Period of manufacture is at present undetermined.

504-12-112 Collar Cut sheet brass 'C' over '4'.

504-14-114 Title Natural brass '4' over 'Canada'. By Gaunt not maker marked

Shoulder strap titles & numerals

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

As of May 25th 1916 battalion numerals and 'INF' titles were listed as available for issue in both England and France. It does not appear that these were adopted for use in France, or if so only on a limited basis. It would appear that the majority of battalions serving in France adopted regimental pattern titles in place of the three part: numeral, designation, and 'Canada' nationality title. Only a single pattern has so far been identified for the 4th Battalion but others were almost certainly produced. the chronology of when these were worn has not been determined.

504-14-116 Numeral Gilding metal

504-14-118 Numeral Gilding metal

Badges by Tiptaft (Circa 1916)

The Tiptaft cap badges can be identified by the large lettering on the ‘Ontario’ ribbon the numeral ‘4’ being centered between the letters ‘A and R’ in Ontario. The collar badges have distinctive flat oval lug fasteners fixed at the top and bottom this pattern noted for both either Hicks & Sons or Henry Jenkins & Co.

Other Ranks

504-11-120 Cap All Ranks wm overlay on bronze maple leaf

Collar badges by Hicks & Son or Henry Jenkins with broad, flat oval lug fasteners,

504-12-122 Collar Gilding metal. ‘C’ over ‘4’. Thick oval lugs. Not maker marked

Officers(?)

504-11-124 Cap Wm. overlay on bronze maple leaf. Maker marked Tiptaft B’ham

504-2-12-126 Collar Brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

CLOTH FORMATION PATCHES INTRODUCED 1916

The introduction of identifying coloured formation patches was first discussed in August 1916. The tentative colours selected for the three divisions in the field being red for the 1st Division, blue for the 2nd

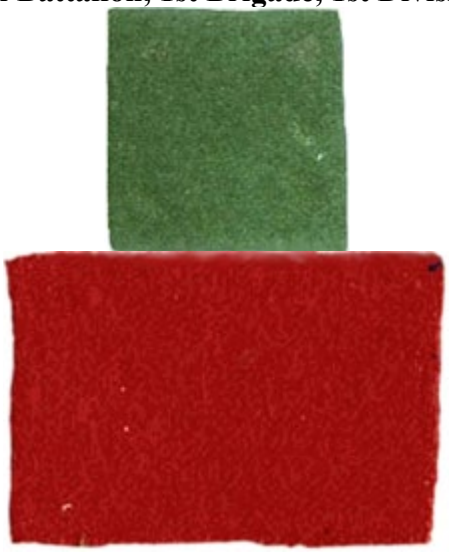
Division and white for the 3rd Division. (this later changed to grey). These patches were introduced in September 1916. Initially being worn sewn on the back 1-inch below the collar. Within days of being introduced the colour of the 3rd Division was changed from white to black. The units of the 2nd Division were given permission to move these to the sleeves within days. The formation patches for the officers of the 2nd Division had a Roman numeral 'II' within the letter 'C' in gold wire 'Bullion'. Presumably the other divisions also moved the patches from the back to the sleeves in the fall of 1916.

The initial colour selected for the formation patches of the 4th Division which arrived in France in August 1916 was yellow but 4th Division formation patches were nor adopted until April 2nd 1917 these being green in colour and 1 ¾ by 3 ¾ inches in size. In May 1917 the Divisional signs were formalized at 3 x 2-inches. In May 1917, after the battle of Vimy Ridge, the colour of the 3rd Divisions patches was changed from black to French-grey. Initially the patches were provided by ordnance stores but in a letter dated March 7th 1917 the Quarter-Master General stated that a monetary allowance of 20 Francs for each 250 men on the establishment of a unit would be provided to each Battalion in France for the purchase of Brigade/Division patches from local sources. Apparently these issues were in flannel cloth purchased in large part from French laundry women.

In addition to the rectangular colored divisional signs, the three infantry brigades within each division were also assigned identifying colours, these being green for the first brigade, red for the second, and blue for the third. Each of the four battalions within an infantry brigade were identified by an identifying geometric shape. This being a circle for the first battalion (a symbol with a single side), the second battalion a half or demi-circle (a two sided figure), the third battalion by a triangle (three sides), and the fourth battalion a square (four sides), a simple and elegant way of identifying soldiers of any unit.

By 1918 the wearing of formation patches had become formalized and encompassed almost all units in France. Brigade Headquarters personnel were identified by green red or blue 3 x ½ inch 'bars' worn over he divisional sign. The 5th Division formation patches were Garnet, a deep wine red colour, worn without brigade distinctions although these shown in the post WWI official documents. The authorized Officers patterns are pictured with an angular gold 'bullion' wire letter 'C' inset with five bars. No cloth examples are reported but are noted painted on the Brodie helmet. Only the Divisional Artillery and Machine Gun Brigade served in France the infantry battalions being used as reinforcements.

4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Division



4th Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment) 1917-1919

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 "Maker W.J.Dingley, 77 Warston Lane, Birmingham. Present possessor of dies W.J.Dingley, 77 Warston

Lane, Birmingham. Sets 3 pounds 17 shillings per gross. 2000 sets."

SECOND PATTERN BADGES

The second pattern badges are struck in a variety of different metals. some with overlays. It is currently undetermined which are other ranks, NCOs or officers patterns.

1st issue badges by W.J. Dingley, Birmingham

Other ranks(?)

Cap badges with 'broad' maple leaf. 'Short' stem on maple leaf

504-11-128 Cap White metal

504-12-128 Collar White metal 'C' over '4' (Elkington type 3)

504-12-130 Collar White metal 'C' over '4' (Elkington type 3)

Officers cap badge by unidentified maker (Dingley)

Narrow badges with 'sharply pointed maple leaf. Curved stem on maple leaf.

504-11-132 Cap Chocolate brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-132 Collar Chocolate brown OSD finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Badges by the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co.

Wide badges with straight stem on maple leaf

Other ranks

504-11-134 Cap White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-134 Collar White metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

NCOs(?)

504-11-136 Cap Blackened white metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-136 Collar Blackened white metal. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

Officers

504-11-138 Cap Brown OSD finish. Flat back. Maker marked ‘G & S Co. 112 Regent Street London’

504-12-138 Collar Brown OSD finish. Flat back. Maker marked ‘G & S Co. 112 Regent Street London’

504-12-140 Collar Brown OSD finish. Flat back. Not maker marked

504-11-142 Cap G & S Hall marked sterling silver

504-12-142 Collar G & S Hall marked sterling silver

Badges by Tiptaft

504-11-144 Cap Gilding metal. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-144 Collar Brown finish. Die struck. E/W lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-145 Collar Brown finish. Die struck. N/S lug fasteners. Not maker marked

504-12-146 Collar Brass large ‘C’ over ‘4. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft B’ham’

NCOs(?)

504-11-148 Cap Wm numeral 4’ overlay on brown finished gilding metal

504-12-148 Collar Wm numeral 4’ overlay on brown finished gilding metal

Officers(?)

504-11-150 Cap Brown OSD finish. Flat back, maker marked ‘Tiptaft B’ham’.

504-12-150 Collar Brown OSD finish. Flat back. E/W lugs. Maker marked ‘Tiptaft B’ham’

504-12-151 Collar Brown OSD finish. Flat back. E/W lugs. Not maker marked

This issue produced for issue on demobilization.

Other ranks

504-12-152 Collar Gilding metal. Marked ‘J.R. Gaunt London’

INTERIM BADGES

Much confusion and speculation has always surrounded the ‘interim badges’. It would appear that after the departure of the 1st Contingent many CEF battalions designed and produced their own patterns of badges without authorization from Headquarters. This was a reasonable assumption on their part as they were not paid for from the public purse. This usurping of Government authority however was quickly remedied and by mid 1915 the words ‘Overseas Battalion’ became an essential part of all designs sent to Ottawa for approval. When approval for a submitted design was initially denied a number of units modified the General Service government issues with the addition of battalion numbers. These are known for the 99th, 142nd, 157th (there are both other ranks and officers patterns for this battalion): the 168th and 177th Battalion and some others. All of these interim’ badges are found on corresponding dated General Service maple leaf pattern badges. There are a number of other ‘interim’ badges of more dubious origins.

RECRUITING SERGEANT BADGES

Modified General Service badges for the 1st and 2nd Battalions were included in major collections formed shortly after the conclusion of WWI for both the 1st and 2nd Battalions. These are found on badges dated long after the departure of these battalions for England. Hence these can not be interim patterns. Returned soldiers of units that had served with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front and repatriated to Canada and employed at the Depot Battalions were allowed to wear their Overseas Battalion badges. It is likely that those no longer in possession of their original regimental badges (all 1st Division badges having been produced in England) may well have worn these ‘made up’ patterns as a mark of distinction.) In the notes listing the different varieties of badges in his collection, Bill Bird describes a ‘made up’ 2nd Battalion badge as being obtained from a ‘Recruiting Sergeant’, this would be consistent with duties performed by Depot personnel in Canada. (The Bird collection was sold in 1946.) Due to the ease of ‘manufacturing’ these ‘made up’ badges should not command a premium price unless with provenance. No examples of ‘made up’ collar badges are illustrated in the Bird collection.

504-11-154 Cap Birks numeral on 1918 dated Roden Bros GS maple leaf cap badge.

Reinforcements for the 4th Overseas Battalion February 1915 to July 1915

(9th Battalion, training and reserve)

Between its entry into France in February 1915 until July 1915 reinforcements for the 4th Battalion were provided by the 9th Battalion. These duties were taken over by the 35th Battalion upon its arrival in England in July 1915. By September 12th 1915 the 4th Battalion had suffered 722 casualties, not including troops gassed. In January 1917 the 35th Battalion amalgamated with a number of other Ontario Battalions in England to form the 3rd Reserve Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 4th Overseas Battalion July 1915 until January 1917 (35th Battalion, training and reserve)

Reinforcements for the 4th Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918 (3rd Reserve Battalion)

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