

THE 3rd CANADIAN DIVISION

The establishment of the 3rd Canadian Division unlike those of the 1st and 2nd Divisions was formed in England in December 1915. The third Division assembled in France in February 1916 under command of Major-General L.J. Lipsett (A British officer who had previously been dispatched to Canada to organize the defence of Canada's West Coast serving on the General Staff for Western Canada before taking the 8th Battalion CEF overseas sailing for England with the First Contingent October 3rd 1914.) The 3rd Canadian Division comprised of the 7th, 8th and 9th Infantry Brigades each with a light trench mortar battery, the 3rd Divisional Artillery (the 8th, 9th and 10th Artillery Brigades) and supporting Lines of Communication (Corps) Troops. The 3rd Division assembled in France in February 1916. (A previous 7th Infantry Brigade had been renumbered the 6th Infantry Brigade and reassigned to the 2nd Division)

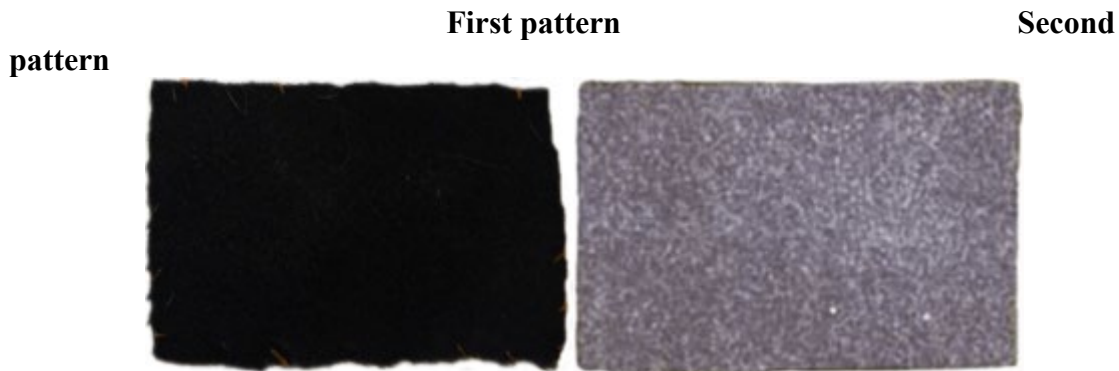
The 7th Infantry Brigade comprised of the Royal Canadian Regiment, the PPCLI. The 42nd Battalion and the 49th Battalion and also the 7th Trench Mortar Battery.

The 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade comprised of four battalions of Canadian Mounted Rifles, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th these being formed exclusively from the 13 Canadian Mounted Regiments already in England these having volunteered to fight dismounted as infantry troops. (Infantry Battalions were designated as battalions whereas mounted troops were designated as regiments.) And also the 8th Trench Mortar Battery.

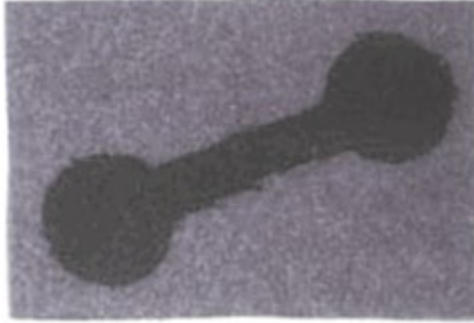
The 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade comprising of the 43rd Battalion, the 52nd Battalion, the 58th Battalion and the 60th Battalion (this replaced by the 116th Battalion just before the battle of Vimy Ridge.), and the 9th Trench Mortar Battery.

3rd Division formation and brigade distinguishing patches introduced 1916

The introduction of identifying coloured formation patches was discussed in August 1916 these initially being worn sewn on the back 1-inch below the collar. The tentative colours selected for the three divisions in the field being red for the 1st Division, blue for the 2nd Division (the units of the 2nd Division were given permission to move these to the sleeves within days presumably the other divisions following suit.) White was initial colour selected for the 3rd Division but changed to black presumably as white would have provided too good a target for enemy snipers. The initial issues of the 2nd Division was navy blue making them nearly indistinguishable from black so the 3rd Division patches were changed to grey. Colour variations are noted but by 1917 smoke grey was standardized.



Major-General L.J. Lipsett, C.B.C.M.G. the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Division introduced a special distinction for soldiers deemed "pre-eminently proficient in their work" this consisted of a black dumbbell sewn over the French-grey patch. The awarding of this distinction was extremely limited with the name of the recipient being attached to Divisional Orders.



3rd DIVISION INFANTRY BRIGADE FORMATION SIGNS

7th Brigade Headquarters



450-1-23-106 Brigade bar

green bar worn above the grey Divisional patch

8th Brigade Headquarters



450-1-23-108 Brigade bar

red bar worn above the grey Divisional patch

9th Brigade Headquarters



450-1-23-110 Brigade bar

blue bar worn above the grey Divisional patch

3rd Canadian Division Unit of Supply (CASC) circa 1916/17



'Made up' example. Genuine patch has red felt shamrock sewn onto grey 3rd Division formation patch. (A genuine example of this formation patch was held in the Major John Waring collection.)

3rd Divisional Cyclist Company 1916

The Cyclist Company of the 3rd Divisional Mounted Troops was raised in February 1916 from the Canadian Reserve Cyclist Company in England which was being replenished by volunteers from the Canadian Overseas Cyclist Depot in Canada. The infantry battalions of the 3rd Division sailed for France in the fall of 1915 followed in the spring of 1916 by the 3rd Divisional Cavalry and Cyclist Where almost immediately, in May 1916 (authorized under General Order 63 1917), the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisional Cyclist Companies were amalgamated to form the Canadian Corps Cyclist Battalion. The 3rd Divisional Cyclist Company was disbanded under General Order 208 of November 15th 1920.

CANADIAN MACHINE GUNS IN WWI

Three different Machine Gun elements served in the CEF. The Motor Machine Guns, Light Machine Gun and Heavy Machine Gun each being under separate commands with different roles and different weaponry.

Machine Gun Sections

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

Each Infantry Battalion had a Light Machine Gun Section armed with Hotchkiss and later Lewis Guns and brigade heavy machine gun sections armed with the Vickers machine guns. These evolving into Brigade Machine Gun Companies and eventually Divisional Machine Gun Battalions these in 1917 being grouped under overall command of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. Unauthorized M.G. brigade badges were adopted in 1916 these being replaced with authorized patterns after the inception of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

The Canadian Machine Gun Depot was formed at Seaford Camp in May 1916 from the 86th Machine Gun Battalion CEF. The 86th Battalion was raised with headquarters at Hamilton Ontario effective December 22nd 1915 and sailed for England May 22nd 1916 where on its arrival was reorganized to form the Canadian Machine Gun Depot. Being fully depleted of all ranks the 86th Infantry Battalion was officially disbanded effective September 1st 1917 under General Order 82 of 1918. The Canadian Machine Gun Depot acted as a training depot for the Lewis and Hotchkiss light machine guns operated by the Light Machine Gun Section of each infantry battalion. Also the Vickers heavy machine guns operated by the Canadian Machine Gun Companies later the CMGC and the Motor Machine Gun Brigades. In addition the Canadian Machine Gun Depot served as the reserve unit for the 1st and 2nd Motor Machine Gun Brigades and the Canadian Machine Gun School, a sub unit of the Canadian Machine Gun Depot, and the Reserve unit of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps reinforcing the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Machine Gun Battalions as well as the Machine Gun Squadron of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade.

THE CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS 1917 - 1918

The Canadian Machine Gun Corps was organized in France April 16th 1917 bringing all Canadian machine gun units under its command; this authorized under Routine Order 558 of February 22nd 1917. A machine gun depot having been organized at Seaford in England on January 4th 1917. In September 1917 the machine gun companies were detached from the Infantry Brigades and redesignated as Divisional Machine Gun Companies each under command of a Lieutenant-Colonel at this time the personnel of each machine gun battalion was increased to eight Officers and 1100 OR's. In January 1918 an additional machine gun company was added to the complement of each of the machine gun battalions these usually being formed with an echelon withdrawn from the existing machine gun companies with additional personnel from disbanded infantry battalions or from the Machine Gun Pool.

In 1918 the Divisional Heavy Machine Guns were organized into four battalions each of four companies with four batteries each of eight machine guns. Each Battalion was under command of a Lieutenant-Colonel the batteries being self contained in regards to transportation and command. The Machine Gun Battalions were not authorized by General Order but organized under the Order In Council P.C. 2067 of August 6th 1914. All were disbanded under General Order 209 of November 15th 1920.

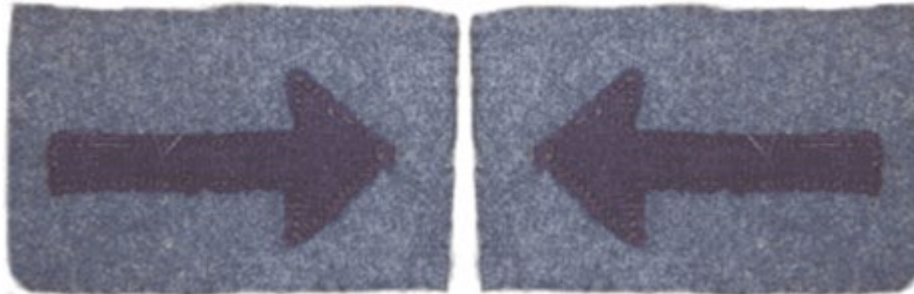
Initially the heavy Machine gun was an integral part of the Infantry Battalion but the role was changed as with the increase in numbers and the development of tactics. By 1918 each of the Machine Gun Battalions were under the nominal command of a Divisional Headquarters. During active operations the Battalion Commander served at Divisional HQ, the Company Commanders at Brigade Headquarters with Companies attached to Infantry Brigades or Battalions as necessary.

15th Canadian Machine Gun Company 3rd Division January 1917 - September 8th 1917

The 15th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was formed in January 1917 at Floringham under command of Captain W.N. Moorhouse (9th Mississauga Horse) by taking sections from the 7th and 8th Machine Gun Companies of the brigades of the 3rd Division with additional gunners from the M.G. Pool. Command passed to Major J.C. Hartley on July 1st 1917. On March 27th 1918 the unit was reorganized as a component of the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.



3rd Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps Formation patches worn between March 1918 and November 1918



Canadian Divisional Mortar Groups (Medium and Heavy) Trench Mortar Batteries

The medium and heavy batteries were combined as Divisional Mortar Groups March 1st 1916. From the beginning of March 1916. 'C' designations being used for light trench mortar batteries, 'X' and 'Y' for medium (4.7 to 6-inch) and 'Z' (9.5 inch) heavy. Initially a 'W' designation appears in the organizational chart of the 2nd Canadian Divisional Trench Mortar Group. The medium and heavy trench mortar batteries retained the 'X', 'Y' and 'Z' designations for the duration of WWI.

3rd Division Heavy Trench Mortar Group

V/4.C Medium Trench Mortar Battery. (Six 6" Newton guns.)

X/4.C Medium Trench Mortar Battery . (Six 6" Newton guns.)

Y/4 C Heavy Trench Mortar Battery. (Four 9.45" Guns)

V/3.C Heavy Trench Mortar Battery. Was formed in France April 1916 from personnel of the CFA under command of Captain H.O. Bennett with two medium and one heavy battery. By the time of the armistice in 1918 each of the heavy trench mortar group comprised of two medium batteries of six 6-inch mortars and a heavy battery of four 9.45 inch mortars.



Officers of V/3.C Trench Mortar Battery. Note the grenade being sewn directly onto the divisional patch)

Formation patches

3rd Division patches were initially introduced in September 1916. The first pattern was white but this was changed to black 10 days later. The patches were initially worn on the back 1-inch below the collar but likely moved to the sleeves shortly after as in the example illustrated below.

1st Pattern introduced October 1916 - May 1917





2nd Pattern adopted circa May 1917

Other ranks



Officers



3rd Canadian Division Ammunition Sub-Park (CASC) July 1916 - April 1918

The 3rd Overseas Divisional Ammunition Sub Park was authorized under General Order 69 of July 15th 1916 under command of Major N.J. Lindsay who remained in command from March 9th 1916 until command passed to Captain W.H. Munroe March 8th 1917 who remained in command until April 14th 1918 when the Canadian Corps Ammunition Park and the four Divisional Ammunition Sub-Parks were amalgamated under Headquarters Canadian Corps (Mechanical Transport) Column

Formation patch



On April 14th 1918 the Canadian Corps Ammunition Park and the four Divisional Ammunition Sub-Parks were amalgamated under Headquarters Canadian Corps (Mechanical Transport) Column under command of Major F.T. McKean. (Also listed as C.O. is Major J.G. Parmlee but this appears to be when Major McKean was away on leave.) The designation of the 3rd Divisional Ammunition Sub-Park becoming the 3rd Divisional Mechanical Transport Company.

3rd DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY

Formation of the 3rd Divisional Artillery began in Canada in 1916 initially under command of Lieutenant-Colonel W.O.H. Dodds with four Brigades the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th (Howitzer) Brigade each of four guns. The 3rd Divisional Artillery sailed for England between February and March 1916 command passing to Lieutenant-Colonel W. Eaton on March 9th 1916 who was to remain in command until June 20th 1916 when just before sailing for France in July 1916 command of the 3rd Divisional Artillery passed to Brigadier General J.H. Mitchell. (On March 9th 1916 Lieutenant-Colonel W. Eaton became commanding officer of the 8th Brigade CFA dieing of wounds received April 8th 1917 in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.) Prior to sailing for France in July 1916 the composition of the artillery Brigades was changed from three field and a howitzer brigade to four mixed brigades each of three field and one howitzer battery. The 11th (Howitzer) Brigade being redesignated as the 11th Field Brigade the howitzer batteries being redistributed saw a shuffle within the artillery brigades of the 3rd Divisional Artillery. Brigadier General J.H. Mitchell remained in command until December 9th 1917 when command passed to Brigadier General W.B.M. Stewart commanding the 3rd Divisional Artillery until demobilization.

The initial composition of the 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery 1916

3rd Divisional Artillery Headquarters & Divisional Ammunition Column

3rd Divisional Headquarters. Regimental numbers block 87351 - 87400

The 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column was authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916 at Ottawa being mobilized at Kingston under command of Lieutenant-Colonel W.G. Hurdman. No. 1 Section being raised at Ottawa in M.D. 3 regimental numbers block 310851 - 311350. No.2 Section was authorized to be raised in Toronto M.D. 2 regimental numbers block 311351 - 311850. No. 3 Section was authorized to be raised at Winnipeg M.D. 10 regimental numbers block 311851 - 312350. A 4th section was issued regimental numbers block 312351 - 312850 but this block was not used. The 3rd DAC arrived in England in May 1916 where on reorganization it absorbed the 8th, 9th, 19th and 11th Brigade ammunition columns.

8th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

30th Field Battery
 31st Field Battery
 40th (Sportsmen's) Overseas Field Battery
 41st Overseas Field Battery
 8th Brigade Ammunition Column
9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade
 32nd Overseas Battery
 33rd Overseas Battery
 45th Overseas Battery
 46th Overseas Battery
 9th Brigade Ammunition Column
10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade
 37th Overseas Battery
 38th Overseas Battery
 39th Overseas Battery
 44th Overseas Battery (Reassigned to the 11th Brigade)
 10th Brigade Ammunition Column
11th Canadian (Howitzer) Brigade
 29th (Howitzer) Battery
 35th (Howitzer) Battery
 36th (Howitzer) Battery
 43rd (Howitzer) Battery
 11th Brigade Ammunition Column

Realignment in England of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1916 - July 1916

Between March 1916 and July 1916 the composition of the Divisional Artillery was altered. In this reorganization the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into divisional ammunition columns. The composition of the artillery brigades was altered to four mixed brigades each of three field and one howitzer battery. This necessitated a realignment within each artillery brigade in Canada's three divisional artillery's, the 1st and 2nd then serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front the 3rd just prior to sailing for France in July 1916.

8th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade
 30th Field Battery
 31st Field Battery
 40th (Sportsmen's) Overseas Field Battery
 35th (Howitzer) Battery
9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade
 32nd Overseas Battery
 33rd Overseas Battery
 45th Overseas Battery
 36th (Howitzer) Battery
10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade
 37th Overseas Battery
 38th Overseas Battery
 39th Overseas Battery
 43rd (Howitzer) Battery
11th Canadian Field Brigade
 35th Overseas Battery
 36th Overseas Battery
 46th Overseas Battery
 29th (Howitzer) Battery

Reorganization of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1917

Due to the tremendous losses of experienced officers within the armies of the Imperial forces in the 1916 Somme offensive a number of major reorganizations of the artillery was made in 1917. In March 1917 within the Divisional Artillery the number of guns per battery was increased from four to six. A number of batteries were disbanded and split into two gun sections these being absorbed into the remaining batteries to form six gun batteries.

11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade was disbanded March 24th 1917

Disposition of the units of the 11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters (Disbanded)

41st Field Battery (Disbanded one section reassigned to the 30th Battery the second to the 40th Battery.)

44th Field Battery (Disbanded one section to the 24th Field Battery, second to the 43rd (Howitzer) Battery)

46th Field Battery (Disbanded one section to the 33rd Field Battery, second to the 45th Battery.)

29th (Howitzer) Battery (Disbanded one section to the 31st Battery, second to the 32nd Battery.)

Reorganization of the Divisional Artillery July 1917

In July 1917 in the 1st and 2nd Divisional Artillery the number of artillery brigades was reduced from four to three and in the 3rd and 4th Divisions' from four to two a number of batteries being shuffled within the brigades. The increase in the number of guns per brigade allowing for more fluid use of Divisional Artillery along with Corps Artillery; complete details are found in the entries of the War Diaries. At this time the 8th Field Brigade was detached from the 3rd Division and reorganized as the 8th Army Field Brigade serving as an independent artillery brigade under headquarters 5th Divisional Artillery (13th and 14th Brigades). The 8th Army Brigade gaining its own ammunition column.

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

31st Field Battery

33rd Field Battery

45th Field Battery

36th (Howitzer) Battery

10th Canadian Field Artillery

38th Field Battery

39th Field Battery

40th Field Battery

35th (Howitzer) Battery

8th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Division 1915 - 1917 **Headquarters 8th Brigade**

HQ 8th Brigade CFA CEF (Toronto) Regimental numbers block 314751 and 314850. Authorized August 6th 1914 organized November 27th 1915 from surplus personnel of the 40th Field Battery and designated January 4th 1916 under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916 coming under command of Major A.B. Gillies February 5th 1916 the unit arrived in England February 14th 1916. On March 9th 1916 command passed to Lieutenant-Colonel V. Eaton before the 8th Brigade sailed for France arriving July 14th 1916. Lieutenant-Colonel Eaton was wounded during the Battle of Vimy Ridge April 8th 1917 and died April 11th 1917. Major F.T. Coghlan took command of the 8th Brigade between May 5th 1917 and July 3rd 1917 when command passed to Lieutenant-Colonel J.S. Stewart until July 8th 1917 when the 8th Brigade was disbanded on reorganization as an Army Field Brigade. (In December 1917 Lieutenant-Colonel J.S. Stewart became the Commander of the 3rd Divisional Artillery)

30th Field Battery (Toronto) 91101 - 91400. The battery was Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 mobilizing at Niagara Camp June 2nd 1915 under G.O. 103a of August 15th 1915 under command of Major A.B. Gillies with ten officers and 192 other ranks. The 30th Battery arrived in England February 14th 1916 and France July 14th 1916 assigned to the 8th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery serving until May 5th 1917. In March 28th 1917 the 30th Battery absorbed a two gun section from

the disbanded 41st Battery (11th Brigade, 4th Divisional Artillery). Effective July 8th 1917 on the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery the 8th Brigade was reorganized and reassigned as Canadian Corps Artillery serving in this position until the Armistice. (The 30th Battery being the only battery retained from the original 8th Brigade absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 41st Battery.) The 30th Battery served for the duration of WWI being demobilized at Montreal April 9th 1919 under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

31st Field Battery (Hamilton) Regimental Numbers block 91401 - 91700. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 103a of August 15th under command of Major F.A. Peacock with eight officers and 181 other ranks. The battery arrived in England February 14th 1916 assigned to the 8th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery sailing for France July 14th 1916. On the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery in March 1917 the 31st Field Battery absorbed a two gun section from the 29th Battery and in May 1917 reassigned to the 9th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery serving for the duration of WWI. The 31st Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

40th (Sportsmen's) Overseas Field Battery Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915 under command of Major G.H. Southam. The battery was recruited in Toronto, Hamilton, Brantford and Orillia mobilizing at Niagara Camp 305001 - 305500 September 1915 and. 302101 - 302350 October 1915. The battery was redesignated as the 40th (Sportsmen's) Battery CFA January 4th 1916 prior to arriving in England on February 14th 1916 sailing for France July 13th 1916 as a component of the 8th Brigade, 3rd Divisional artillery serving until May 5th 1917. In March 1917 the 40th Battery CFA was reassigned to the 10th Brigade, 3rd Divisional in March 1917 absorbing a two gun section of the 41st Battery from the disbanded 11th Brigade. The battery was demobilized March 30th at Hamilton under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

41st Overseas Field Battery 302351 - 302600 (October 1915) and 312851 - 313850 (December 1915). Was recruited at Toronto and Hamilton and mobilized at Exhibition Camp Toronto November 27th 1915 being authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 under G.O. 151 of December 22nd 1915 under command of Major J.M. Syer. The battery was redesignated as the 41st Battery CFA January 4th 1916 before arriving in England February 14th 1916 then sailing for France July 15th 1916 assigned to the 11th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery serving until the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery when on March 24th 1917 the 11th Brigade and the 41st Battery disbanded with one section reassigned to the 30th Battery the second to the 40th Battery CFA. The 41st Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

8th Brigade Ammunition Column was formed from the 42nd Overseas Field Battery on January 4th 1916 under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916. Regimental numbers block 306601 - 307600. The 8th Brigade Ammunition Column unit arrived in England February 14th but was disbanded in June 1916 when on reorganization the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into the divisional ammunition columns just prior to the 8th Artillery Brigade sailing for France in July 1916. The 42nd Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

Realignment in England of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1916 - July 1916

Between March 1916 and July 1916 the composition of the Divisional Artillery Brigades was altered from three 18 pounder field artillery brigades and a 60 pounder howitzer brigade and an ammunition column to four mixed brigades of three field and one howitzer battery. At this time the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into the divisional ammunition columns. This necessitated a realignment within each artillery brigade in each of Canada's three divisional artilleries, the 1st and 2nd then serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front the 3rd in England just prior to sailing for France in July 1916.

Composition of the 8th Field Artillery Brigade July 1916

8th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters
30th Field Battery (Remained with the 8th Brigade after conversion to the 8th Army Brigade in July 1917)
31st Field Battery (Reassigned to the 9th Brigade CFA in the 1917 reorganization)
40th Field Battery (Reassigned to the 10th Brigade CFA in the 1917 reorganization)

35th (Howitzer) Battery (Reassigned to the 10th Brigade CFA in the 1917 reorganization)

Reorganized as the 8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery July 1917

8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery 1917 - 1918

In July 1917 the 8th Brigade was detached from the 3rd Divisional Artillery its batteries shuffled and designated the 8th Army Field Brigade CFA assigned as Army troops at this time again acquiring a Brigade Ammunition Column. The 8th Army Brigade C.F.A. served as Corps troops along with the 5th Divisional Artillery with its 13th and 14th Brigades. (Please see 5th Divisional Artillery for details.) A 'new' 24th Field Battery was formed from surplus batteries (currently unidentified) and a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Field Battery.)

8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters

24th Battery CEF (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Field Battery)

30th Field Battery (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 41st Field Battery)

32nd Field Battery (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 29th Battery)

43rd (Howitzer) Battery (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Battery)

8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery Ammunition Column

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade 1915 - 1918

Headquarters 9th Brigade

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters, and its four batteries were mobilized at Kingston being authorized 6/8/1914 and organized under G.O. 36 14. March 15th 1916, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel H.G. Carscallen who remained in command from March 11th 1916 until demobilization. Regimental numbers block 300001 and 300250. The 9th Canadian Artillery Brigade was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

32nd Overseas Battery C.F.A. (Regimental Numbers block 300001 - 300250 attested at Ottawa and 300501 - 30600 at Toronto) Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 being organized at Barriefield under G.O. 103a of August 15th 1915 under command of Major S.A. McKenzie with seven officers and 191 other ranks. The 32nd Battery arrived in England in February 1916 assigned to the with 9th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery arriving in France July 14th 1916. In March 1917 the 32nd Battery was reassigned becoming the 8th Army Field Brigade serving under the Canadian Corps absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Battery. The 32nd Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

33rd Overseas Battery CFA (Regimental numbers block 300201 - 300500 attested at Ottawa, 304001 - 304250 attested at Belleville) The battery Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 and mobilized at Toronto August 5th 1915 under G.O. 103a of August 15th 1915 under command of Major W.W. Sears with ten officers and 194 other ranks. The battery was redesignated the 33rd Battery CEF before sailing for England January 20th 1916 as a component of the 9th Brigade 3rd Divisional Artillery. The battery sailed for France July 14th 1916. In the 1917 reorganization of the Canadian Artillery the 33rd Battery absorbed a two gun section of the disbanded 46th Battery March 24th 1917. The 9th Brigade continued to serve in the 3rd Divisional Artillery for the duration of WWI The battery was demobilized at Toronto March 29th 1919 under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

45th Overseas Depot Battery. Mobilized at Kingston from C. Battery RCHA. Regimental Numbers block 309601 - 310600 authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068. Organized under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916 under command of Major Alan .G. Gill. The battery was redesignated the 45th Battery CFA January 20th 1916 before its arrival in England February 14th 1916. The 45th Battery sailed for France July 14th 1916 assigned to the 9th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery. In the March 1917 on the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery the battery absorbed a two gun section from the 46th Battery. The 45th Battery remained with 9th Brigade for the duration of WWI. The 45th Overseas Depot Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

46th Overseas Depot Battery 314851 - 315850 was Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914 and recruited at Queen's University, Kingston January 11th 1916 under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916 under command of Major Lester Willis Gill. The battery was redesignated the 46th Battery CFA January 20th 1916 before arriving in England February 14th 1916 where it was re-assigned to the 11th Brigade before sailing for France July 15th 1916 serving as a component of the 11th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery until March 24th 1917 when the 46th battery was disbanded and its batteries redistributed with one section to the 33rd and one section to the 45th Battery. The 46th Overseas Depot Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

9th Brigade Ammunition Column raised from the 34th Overseas Battery (Toronto and Kingston) Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 under G.O. 103a of August 15th 1915 under command of Major R.F. Massie with eight officers and 232 other ranks. (Three different Regimental block numbers were assigned to this battery but attestation papers for these are all identified as for the 14th Field Battery.) Two blocks being attested at Toronto 300501 -300750 (August 1915) and 304251 - 304500 (September 1915) and at Kingston 310601 - 310850 (November 1915). The battery was disbanded in Canada in January 1916 the personnel being split some to form the 53rd Field Battery CFA the remainder sailing for the UK Feb 5th 1916 arriving February 14th 1916 where they became the 9th Brigade Ammunition Column. (This absorbed, just months later, into the 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column on disbandment of the Brigade Ammunition Columns June 1916). The 34th Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

Realignment in England of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1916 - July 1916

Between March 1916 and July 1916 the composition of the Divisional Artillery Brigades was altered from three 18 pounder field artillery brigades and a 60 pounder howitzer brigade and an ammunition column to four mixed brigades of three field and one howitzer battery. At this time the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into the divisional ammunition columns. This necessitated a realignment within each artillery brigade in each of Canada's three divisional artilleries, the 1st and 2nd then serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front the 3rd in England just prior to sailing for France in July 1916.

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade July 1916 - 1917

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters
32nd Field Battery
33rd Field Battery
45th Field Battery
46th (Howitzer) Battery

Reorganization of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1917 - July 1917

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade July 1917 - 1918

Due to the tremendous losses of experienced officers within the armies of the Imperial forces in the 1916 Somme offensive a major reorganization of the artillery was made in the CEF between March and July of 1917. In the 1st and 2nd Divisional Artillery the number of artillery brigades was reduced from four to three and in the 3rd and 4th Divisions' from four to two. The number of guns in each battery being increased from four to six. Each of the reorganized brigades now with three six gun 18 pounder field and a six gun howitzer battery. A number of batteries being disbanded or shuffled within the brigades. The increase in the number of guns per brigade allowing for more fluid use of Divisional Artillery along with Corps Artillery; the details are described in the entries of the War Diaries. In this reorganization the 3rd Divisional Artillery retained just the 9th and 10th Field Batteries. The 8th Field Battery was detached and designated as Corps troops as the 8th Army Field Brigade and the 11th Field Brigade disbanded.

9th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters
31st Field Battery. (From the 8th Brigade absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 41st Battery.)
(This replaced the 32nd Battery that was reassigned to the 8th Army Brigade CFA).

33rd Field Battery (Absorbing a two gun section of the disbanded 46th Battery March 24th 1917)
45th Field Battery (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 46th Battery March 24th 1917)
36th (Howitzer) Battery. (Absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 29th (H) Battery)

10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.

The 10th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery was raised in Western Canada with headquarters at Winnipeg being authorized 6/8/1914 and organized under G.O. 36 14. March 15th 1916, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel G.H. Ralston March 25th 1916 who remained in command for the duration of the war. Regimental numbers block 329851 - 329950

10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters.

37th Overseas Battery

38th Overseas Battery

39th Overseas Battery

44th Overseas Battery. (Assigned to the 11th Brigade after arrival in England in March 1916)

10th Brigade Ammunition Column

37th Overseas Field Battery (Winnipeg) Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915. Regimental Numbers block 301351 -301600 under command of Major Lieutenant-Colonel L.J.O. Ducharme with three officers and 138 other ranks. The 37th Battery arrived in England 13th March 1916 assigned to the 10th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery. The 37th Battery sailed for France July 14th 1916. In the spring 1917 reorganization of the Divisional Artillery the 37th Battery was disbanded March 24th 1917 with one section being reassigned to 38th Battery the other to 39th Battery. The 37th Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 81 of June 1918.

38th Overseas Field Battery CFA (Regina) 301601 - 301850. The 38th Battery was recruited in Manitoba and Saskatchewan August 7th 1915, Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915 under command of Captain K.A. Wetmore with two officers and 75 other ranks. On January 1st 1916 the battery was redesignated the 38th Field Battery CFA before sailing for England arriving March 13th 1916. The battery sailed for France July 14th 1916 serving as a component of the 10th Brigade, 3rd Division Artillery. In the spring 1917 reorganization of the Divisional Artillery the battery absorbed a two gun section of the 37th Battery CFA March 24th 1917 serving for the duration of WWI. The 38th Overseas Field Battery was demobilized at Winnipeg March 30th 1919 under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

39th Overseas Field Battery (Lethbridge) 301851 - 302100. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915 under command of Major A.B. Stafford the battery was designated the 39th Battery CFA prior to sailing for England March 2nd 1916 arriving 13th March. The battery sailed for France July 14th 1916. Assigned to 10th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery serving for the duration of WWI. On March 24th 1917 in the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery the 39th Battery absorbed a two gun section of the 37th Battery. The 39th Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

44th Overseas Depot Battery (Prince Albert mobilized at Winnipeg) 308601 - 309600. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068. Organized under G.O. 69 July 15th 1916 under command of Major C.E. Gregory. The battery was redesignated the 44th Battery CFA January 20th 1916 before arriving in England March 13th 1916. In the reorganization of the divisional artillery that took place between March and July 1916 the 44th Battery was reassigned to the 11th Brigade March 1916 being replaced in the 10th Brigade with the 43rd (Howitzer) Battery). The 44th Battery arrived in France July 14th 1916 serving in the 11th Brigade, 3rd Division until March 20th 1917 when the 11th Brigade was disbanded. The 44th Battery was disbanded and its batteries assigned to the 8th Army Field Brigade one section to a newly formed 24th Field Battery the second to the 43rd (Howitzer) Battery this transferred from the 11th Artillery Brigade. The 44th Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

10th Brigade Ammunition Column Winnipeg in MD.11 regimental numbers block 313851 - 314150.

Authorized 6/8/1914. Organized under G.O. 36 March 15th 1915. Absorbed into the 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column on disbandment of the Brigade Ammunition Columns July 1916 Disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

Realignment in England of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1916 - July 1916

Between March 1916 and July 1916 the composition of the Divisional Artillery Brigades was altered from three 18 pounder field artillery brigades and a 60 pounder howitzer brigade and an ammunition column to four mixed brigades of three field and one howitzer battery. At this time the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into the divisional ammunition columns. This necessitated a realignment within each artillery brigade in each of Canada's three divisional artilleries, the 1st and 2nd then serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front the 3rd in England just prior to sailing for France in July 1916.

37th Field Battery.
38th Field Battery.
39th Field Battery.
43rd (Howitzer) Battery

Reorganization of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1917 - July 1917

Due to the tremendous losses of experienced officers within the armies of the Imperial forces in the 1916 Somme offensive a major reorganization of the artillery was made. In the CEF between March and July of 1917 in the 1st and 2nd Divisional Artillery the number of artillery brigades was reduced from four to three and in the 3rd and 4th Divisions' from four to two. In this reorganization the 8th Field Battery was detached from the 3rd Divisional Artillery and designated as the 8th Army Field Brigade and the 11th Field Brigade disbanded retaining the 9th and 10th Brigades. A further shuffle of batteries taking place within the two remaining brigades these now comprising of three six gun 18 pounder field and a six gun howitzer battery.

The 37th Field Battery was disbanded and its batteries distributed to the 38th and 39th Batteries being replaced with the 40th Field battery from the reorganized 8th Army Field Brigade.
38th Field Battery. (Absorbed a two gun section from the disbanded 37th Field Battery)
39th Field Battery. (Absorbed a two gun section from the disbanded 37th Field Battery)
40th Field Battery. (Absorbed a two gun section from the disbanded 41st Battery)
35th (Howitzer) Battery. (Reassigned from the 8th Brigade absorbed one section from the 29th (H Battery).)

(The 43rd (Howitzer) was reassigned to the 8th Army Field Brigade absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Field Battery; being replaced in the 10th Brigade by the 35th (Howitzer) Battery.)

11th Canadian (Howitzer) Brigade March 5th 1916

The 11th Canadian (Howitzer) Brigade mobilized at Guelph being authorized 6/8/1914 and organized under G.O. 36 14. March 15th 1916, with four field batteries (designated as howitzer batteries) the 29th Battery (Guelph) 35th Battery (Sherbrooke), 36th Battery (Sydney) and 43rd Battery (Guelph). Sailing for England March 5th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A.G.K. McNaughton. Regimental numbers block 329951 - 330050. The 10th Canadian Artillery Brigade was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

11th Canadian (Howitzer) Artillery Brigade Headquarters.

29th Field Battery

35th Overseas Battery

36th Overseas Battery

44th Overseas Battery

11th Brigade Ammunition Column (M.D. 6 Regimental numbers block 314151 - 314750)

Another regimental numbers block 248401 - 249000 from MD.6 is listed as a Draft giving howitzer brigade ammunition column but the numbers were not used.

29th Overseas Field Battery 1915 (Sarnia, London and Guelph) 90801 - 91100 Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 August 6th 1914. On formation the battery was initially assigned to a proposed 11th (Howitzer) Brigade this later designated a field brigade. The 29th Battery was formed under command of Major F.D. Coghlan with nine officers and 193 other ranks. A Draft of one officer and 51 OR's sailed for England December 18th 1915. A second regimental numbers block was issued (330051 - 330100) but a review of this block shows only three of the numbers were used the battery likely being filled out with previously attested reinforcements before sailing for England March 5th 1916. After arrival in England the 11th (Howitzer) Brigade was converted to the 11th Field Brigade. During this reorganization the composition of the Divisional Artillery Brigades was altered from three field and a howitzer brigade to four mixed brigades each of three field and a howitzer battery. The 29th Battery sailed for France July 15th 1916 as the Howitzer Battery of the 11th Brigade 3rd Canadian Division. In March 1917 a further reorganization took place when the number of artillery brigades was reduced but the number of guns per battery increased from four to six. In this reorganization the 11th Field Brigade was disbanded and its batteries redistributed to bring other batteries up to the new six gun compliment. On March 24th 1917 the 29th (Howitzer) battery was disbanded with one section reassigned to the 32nd Battery (this reassigned to the 8th Army Field Brigade). The second section was reassigned to the 36th Field Battery this reassigned to the 10th Artillery Brigade. The 29th Battery was disbanded under G.O. 82 of June 1918.

35th Overseas Battery (Sherbrooke) 300751 - 301000. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 103a of August 15th 1915 under command of Major R.H. Fletcher with four officers and 158 other ranks. The battery arrived in the England March 13th 1916 where it was designated the **35th (Howitzer) Battery March 13th 1916** before sailing for France July 14th 1916 serving as the howitzer battery for the 8th Brigade until May of 1917 when the battery was assigned to the 10th Brigade 3rd Divisional Artillery absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 29th (Howitzer) Battery. The 35th (Howitzer) Battery served in the 10th Brigade for the duration of WWI. The 35th Overseas Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

36th Overseas Field Battery (Sydney) 301101 - 301350. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 of August 6th 1914 being organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915 under command of Major W. Crowe with five officers and 151 other ranks. The battery sailed for England March 13th 1916 being designated the **36th (Howitzer) Battery** before sailing for France July 14th 1916 assigned as the howitzer battery for the 9th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery. On the reorganization of the Divisional Artillery in March 1917 the 36th Howitzer Battery absorbing a two gun section from the 29th (Howitzer) battery. The 36th (Howitzer) Battery served in the 9th Brigade, 3rd Divisional Artillery for the duration of WWI. The 36th Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

43rd Overseas Field Battery (Guelph) 307601 - 308600. Authorized under Order in Council P.C. 2067/2068 or 2831 6/8/1914. Organized under G.O. Organized under G.O. 151 December 22nd 1915. Sailed for England as the **43rd (Howitzer) Battery** where it was assigned to the 10th Brigade serving until the March 1917 reorganization of the Divisional Artillery when the battery was reassigned to the 8th Army Brigade absorbing a two gun section from the disbanded 44th Battery. The 43rd (Howitzer) Battery served in the 8th Army Field Brigade for the duration of WWI. The 43rd Overseas Field Battery was disbanded under G.O. 191 November 1st 1920.

Realignment in England of the 3rd Divisional Artillery March 1916 - July 1916

Between March 1916 and July 1916 the composition of the Divisional Artillery Brigades was altered from three 18 pounder field artillery brigades and a 60 pounder howitzer brigade and an ammunition column to four mixed brigades of three field and one howitzer battery. At this time the brigade ammunition columns were absorbed into the divisional ammunition columns. This necessitated a realignment within each artillery brigade in each of Canada's three divisional artilleries, the 1st and 2nd then serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front the 3rd in England just prior to sailing for France in July 1916.

Converted to 11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade June 16th 1916

After arrival in England June 16th 1916 and before embarking for France July 14th 1916 the 11th (Howitzer) Brigade was converted to a Field Artillery Brigade. During this reorganization the

establishment of the divisional artillery each brigade was altered from three field and one howitzer battery to four mixed brigades of three field and one howitzer battery. This change saw a shuffle of batteries within the field artillery brigade structure and the amalgamation of brigade ammunition columns into Divisional ammunition columns.

11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters
41st Field Battery
44th Field Battery
46th Field Battery
29th (Howitzer) Battery

Reorganization of the Divisional Artillery March 1917 - July 1917

Due to the tremendous losses of experienced officers within the armies of the Commonwealth forces in the 1916 Somme offensive a reorganization of the artillery took place. In March 1917 the Canadian Field Artillery was reorganized. The number of artillery brigades in the 1st and 2nd Divisional Artillery was reduced from four to three. In the 3rd and 4th Divisions' from four to two. The number of guns in each battery being increased from four to six. Each of the reorganized brigades now with three six gun 18 pounder field and either a four or six gun howitzer battery. A number of batteries being disbanded or shuffled within the brigades. The increase in the number of guns per brigade allowing for more fluid use of Divisional Artillery along with Corps Artillery; details are described in entries of the War Diaries.

11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade was disbanded March 24th 1917

Disposition of the units of the 11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

11th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters (Disbanded)
41st Field Battery (Disbanded one section reassigned to the 30th Battery the second to the 40th Battery.)
44th Field Battery (Disbanded one section to the 24th Field Battery, second to the 43rd (Howitzer) Battery)
46th Field Battery (Disbanded one section to the 33rd Field Battery, second to the 45th Battery.)
29th (Howitzer) Battery (Disbanded one section to the 31st Battery, second to the 32nd Battery.)

Reinforcements for the 3rd Division

Being formed later in the War the reinforcing system for the 3rd Division differs from those established for the 1st and 2nd Divisions.

Reinforcements for the 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Division

Royal Canadian Regiment reinforcements

RCR Reinforcing Draft

A reinforcing draft was raised in September 1915 regimental numbers block 478501 to 480000 this arriving in England in November 1915 with personnel sailing for France in April 1916

RCR Depot

Before the regiment sailed for France in November 1915 a Regimental Depot of 500 personnel was established at Bramshott Camp in England to act as the Depot for both the RCR and PPCLI. In the fall of 1916 the depot absorbed the 97th (American Legion) Battalion this raised and mobilized in Toronto under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915 this one of a five CEF battalions recruited in different provinces from expatriate US citizens living in Canada at the time of WWI. The original idea was to form these into a brigade called the American Legion but by the time they were formed the system of reinforcing existing units in the field was already established and the battalions forming the American Legion were only able to raise a minimal number of recruits. Most of the personnel of the 212th and 237th Battalions were absorbed into the 97th Battalion (American Legion) prior to this sailing for England September 19th

1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A.B. Clark with a strength of 31 officers and 798 other ranks where it was absorbed into the RCR Depot.

Reinforcements 1917

On the establishment of the Reserve Battalions in January 1917 the personnel of the RCR Depot were absorbed into 26th Reserve Battalion this becoming the reinforcing battalion for the RCR and the 25th Battalion both serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 26th Reserve Battalion was formed by the amalgamation of the 40th and 112th Infantry Battalions and the RCR Depot, (the 40th Infantry Battalion having absorbed the 106th Battalion in October 1916). In May 1917 the 26th Reserve Battalion was absorbed into 17th Reserve Battalion, this becoming the sole reinforcing battalion for the Nova Scotia Regiment (authorized under General Order 77 of April 15th 1918) supplying reinforcements to the 25th and 85th Battalions and Royal Canadian Regiment. The Nova Scotia Regiment was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

Reinforcements for the PPCLI

Originally no provision was made for reinforcing the PPCLI, however early in 1915 a draft of 14 officers and 499 other ranks were provided from the 23rd, 30th and 32nd Battalions, these having sailing for England January 20th 1915 to form a reinforcing depot prior to the bulk of the 2nd Division proceeding overseas. The losses incurred by the 1st Division in the 2nd Battle of Ypres and the PPCLI saw the majority of these sent to France as reinforcements. In 1915 a further three reinforcing drafts for the PPCLI were recruited from universities across Canada all being allocated through the students union of McGill University. During 1916, after the PPCLI joined the CEF, reinforcements continued to be supplied by university companies. No. 5 (McGill) University Company Regimental numbers block 487,451 - 487,650 and No.6 (McGill) University Company, Regimental numbers block 489,751 - 490,250. After January 1917 reinforcements were supplied by the 7th Reserve Battalion.

Reinforcements for the 42nd Overseas Battalion February to December 1916

A reinforcing draft of 250 all ranks was provided to the 42nd from the 73rd Battalion and another large draft from the 92nd Battalion joining the 42nd Battalion after the losses incurred in the June 1916 Battle of Mount Sorrel.

Reinforcements for the 42nd Overseas Battalion January 1917 - 1918

In England effective January 2nd 1917 the 148th Overseas Battalion was redesignated as the 20th Reserve Battalion. The 148th Canadian Infantry Battalion was recruited in the area surrounding Montreal with mobilization headquarters at Montreal under General Order 151 of December 1st 1915. The 148th Battalion was raised primarily from students, faculty and ex students of McGill University. The battalion embarked for England September 27th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A.A. McGee with a strength of 32 officers and 953 other ranks. In January 1917 the battalion was designated the 20th Reserve Battalion. The 20th Reserve Battalion provided reinforcements for the 13th and the 42nd (Black Watch) Battalions. Being fully depleted of all ranks the 148th Canadian Infantry Battalion was disbanded effective July 17th 1917 under General Order 82 of June 1st 1918. As a component of the Quebec Regiment the 20th Reserve Battalion was disbanded under General Order 213 of November 15th 1920.

5th Royal Highlanders of Canada, the Black Watch Depot

Reinforcing Draft, 5th Regiment (Royal Highlanders of Canada)

Although nominally assigned as a component of the 1st Quebec Regiment the 5th Regiment (Royal Highlanders of Canada) maintained a Regimental Depot at Montreal which continued to supply reinforcements for the Black Watch Battalions raised by the Regiment serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. Just prior to the introduction of conscription in 1917 the Regimental Depots of the Canadian Militia were asked to provide Overseas Drafts of all available volunteers for service overseas with the CEF. The regimental numbers block for the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada Draft was 2,075301 -2,085300.

Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion

The enormous land mass and relatively small scattered population in Canada's west made mounted infantry infinitely more practical than regiments of foot. Mounted rifles were trained to fight dismounted, horses only being used as transportation unlike the cavalry which was trained to fight from horseback. In the early part of the 20th century a number of independent squadrons of light horse were formed all across Canada. When the numbers of these had risen to become viable units they were formed into regiments of either cavalry or mounted rifles. Many Cavalry and Mounted Rifles personnel arrived at Camp Valcartier in August 1914 to learn that only infantrymen would be allowed to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Many of these eager to join the fray volunteered to serve as infantry the 5th and 6th Battalions being formed almost exclusively from Western cavalry regiments. The entry of Turkey and the Ottoman Empire into the war on the side of the Central Powers saw the British Government requesting that Canada supply a force of mounted troops for service in Egypt, to which the Canadian Government readily agreed. On November 5th 1914 telegrams were sent to military Districts 2, 10, 11 and 13 ordering each to mobilize a regiment of mounted rifles for overseas service this to be in addition to troops being raised for the Second Contingent. As mounted troops the Canadian Mounted Rifles were called regiments and not battalions. These regiments were numbered 4th, 1st, 2nd and 3rd each with an authorized strength of 544 all ranks. After authorization was received to increase the number of troops training in Canada a warning was sent out that an additional nine regiments of Mounted Rifle, 5th through 13th were to be raised. The changing situation in the middle east saw the original plan to send Canadian troops to Egypt scrapped and the Canadian Mounted Rifles proceeded to England the first six regiments in two brigades these arriving in July of 1915. The first three CMR regiments (1st CMR Brigade) sailed for England June 12th 1915 followed July 18th 1915 by the 2nd CMR Brigade with 4th through 6th CMRR. Of the three squadrons forming the 7th CMR, 'A' and 'B' Squadrons from London Ontario sailed June 9th 1915 and June 29th 1915 respectively. These accompanied with drafts from the 8th through 13th CMR regiments. (Please see below for further details) 'C' Squadron, from Toronto having previously sailed for England February 23rd 1915 as the advanced party but effective March 30th 1915 was withdrawn from the 7th CMR and designated as the 2nd Divisional Cavalry Squadron. After their arrival in England the Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiments volunteered to serve as regular infantry.

Canadian Mounted Rifles Reinforcements

3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles 1914 - 1915

The 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles was authorized to begin recruiting at Calgary, Edmonton and Medicine Hat with mobilization headquarters at Medicine Hat November 5th 1914. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. The 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles sailed for England June 12th 1915 with 28 officers and 598 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel L.J. Whittaker (19th Alberta Dragoons). On October 1st 1915 the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles Headquarters became operational in France The 3rd CMR having sailed for France September 22nd 1915 assigned as Corps Troops serving with the 2nd Division until December 31st 1915 when the regiment was disbanded. 'A', 'B' and the M.G. Squadrons being absorbed into the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles and 'C', Squadron into the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles. The 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment was carried on the rolls being disbanded effective June 1918 under General Order 82 of 1918.

6th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment 1914 - 1916

The 6th Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment was authorized to begin recruiting in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with mobilization headquarters at Amherst, Nova Scotia effective December 1st 1914. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. The 6th CMR was raised from the VIII Princess Louise (NB) Dragoon Guards, 14th King's Canadian Hussars, 28th New Brunswick Dragoons and the 36th PEI Light horse. The 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment sailed for England July 18th 1915 with 32 officers and 598 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel R.H. Ryan (14th King's Canadian Hussars). The 6th CMR sailed for France September 22nd 1915 assigned as Corps troops serving with the 2nd Division when the 2nd CMR Brigade Headquarters became operational this having sailed for France October 24th 1915. The 6th Canadian

Mounted Rifles Regiment was disbanded effective midnight December 31st 1916 with H.Q. 'A' and 'C' Squadrons being absorbed by the 5th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles. 'B' and the Machine Gun Squadrons being absorbed by the 4th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles. The 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles was disbanded under General Order 82 of June 1918.

8th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment 1914

The 8th Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment was authorized to begin recruiting at Ottawa, Peterborough and Toronto with mobilization headquarters at Ottawa effective December 1st 1914. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. Prior to sailing for England October 9th 1915 the regiment provided three drafts to the CEF. The first of one officer and 50 Other ranks sailed on June 10th 1915. The second of three officers and 150 other ranks July 17th 1915, a third of two officers and fifty other ranks August 23rd 1915. The 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles embarked for England October 9th 1915 with 31 Officers and 601 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. Munro (5th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards). Effective March 2nd 1916 the regiment was absorbed by the Depot Regiment Overseas Canadian Mounted Rifles and used as reinforcements for the C.M.R. battalions serving in the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division on the Western Front. The 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles was disbanded under General Order 82 of June 1918.

9th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment 1914 - 1916

The 9th Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment was authorized to begin recruiting at Lloydminster, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Swift Current and Battle Creek with mobilization headquarters at Lloydminster effective December 1st 1914. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. The badges being approved June 12th 1915. Prior to sailing for England November 23rd 1915 the 9th CMR had provided two reinforcing drafts to the CEF. The first of one officer and 50 other ranks embarking June 29th 1915, a second of two officers and 46 other ranks on August 23rd 1915. The 9th CMR sailed for England November 23rd 1915 with 27 officers and 599 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel G.C. Hodson (22nd Saskatchewan Light Horse). Effective February 8th 1916 the regiment was absorbed by the Depot Regiment Overseas Canadian Mounted Rifles and used as reinforcements for the C.M.R. battalions serving in the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division on the Western Front. The 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles were disbanded under General Order 207 of 1920.

12th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment 1914 - 1916

The 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles were authorized to begin recruiting December 22nd 1914 at Calgary and Red Deer with mobilization headquarters at Calgary. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. Prior to sailing for England October 9th 1915 the 12th CMR provided two drafts to the CEF. The first of these with one officer and 50 other ranks embarked June 10th 1915, the second with two officers and 50 other ranks August 23rd 1915. The 12th Mounted Rifles sailed for England with 27 Officers and 541 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel G. MacDonald (15th Light horse). The regiment was absorbed into the Depot Regiment Overseas Canadian Mounted Rifles and used as reinforcements for the C.M.R. battalions serving in the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division on the Western Front. The 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles were disbanded under General Order 207 of November 15th 1920.

13th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment 1914 - 1916

The 13th Canadian Mounted Rifle Regiment was authorized to begin recruiting December 22nd 1914 at Pincher Creek, Macleod and Cardston with mobilization headquarters at Pincher Creek. The regiment being authorized under General Order 36 of March 15th 1915. Prior to sailing for England on June 29th 1916 the 13th CMR provided two reinforcing drafts to the CEF. The first of these with one officer and 50 other ranks embarked June 10th 1915, the second with two officers and 50 other ranks on June 29th 1915. The 13th Canadian Mounted sailed for England Rifles with 34 officers and 933 other ranks, by far the largest of all of the CMR Regiments. The regiment was absorbed into the Depot Regiment Overseas Canadian Mounted Rifles and used as reinforcements for the C.M.R. battalions serving in the 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division on the Western Front. The 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles were disbanded under

General Order 82 of June 1918.

For full details and badges please see 8th Brigade, 3rd Division