

THE 4th CANADIAN DIVISION

The 4th Canadian Division was formed in April 1916 from units in, or shortly to arrive, in England. The establishment of the 4th Canadian Division followed that of the three divisions then serving on the Western Front with three infantry brigades. These numbered the 10th, 11th and 12th, each of four infantry battalions, plus Lines of Communication (Corps) troops. Entries in the 4th Division war diary for September 25th through September 29th 1916 notes that the Division were issued with British SMLEs in place of the Ross Rifle, also interesting information regarding the introduction of formation signs used on the steel helmet. "25th September. The 11th Brigade practiced contact patrol work with areoplanes, the position of the front line on reaching the object being shown by ground flares. Results satisfactory." Each of the three infantry brigades of the 4th Division conducted this training. An entry for the 29th September 1916 reads "The 10th Brigade repeated the work with good results. They also tried the visibility of chalk patches on the helmet with a view to showing our own artillery any changes in the line after the areoplanes had reported the location. These patches could be seen well and it is thought that the adoption of this further distinction will minimize the chances of casualties from our own artillery." The 4th Division assembled in France between July and August 1916 going into action later that month.

4th Division Formation Patches (April 2nd 1917)

The initial colour selected for the formation patches for the 4th Division was yellow. This order was cancelled 10 days later and the decision regarding the colour was held in abeyance until green was selected. The first patches were issued April 2nd 1917 the dimensions being listed as 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inches worn on both arms 1-inch below the shoulder seam. Later both NCOs and officers wore distinctive 4th Divisional patches these embroidered with a 'bullion' maple leaf, in silver for senior NCO's and gold for officers. Shortly after their introduction the angle of the maple leaf were set from the vertical to a 45 degree with the angle tilting forward.

4th Division formation patches

Type 1

480-1-23-102 Divisional Patch 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Type 2 Other ranks



480-1-23-100 Divisional Patch 3" x 2"

Both NCOs and officers wore distinctive 4th Divisional patches these embroidered with a 'bullion' maple leaf, silver for NCO's and gold for officers. The maple leaves were set at a 45 degree angle tilting forward.

Senior NCOs (1st pattern)



Senior NCOs (2nd pattern)



480-1-23-106 Divisional Patch 3" x 2" Tilted silver bullion maple leaf

Officers (1st pattern)



480-1-23-108 Divisional Patch 3" x 2" Vertical gold bullion maple leaf

Officers (2nd pattern)



480-1-23-110 Divisional Patch 3" x 2" Tilted gold bullion maple leaf

4th Canadian Division Unit of Supply (CASC) circa 1916/17



480-1-23-112 Formation Patch 'Made up' example. Genuine patch has red felt shamrock sewn onto green 4th Division formation patch. (A genuine example of this formation patch was held in the Major John Waring collection.)

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.

The Machine Gun Sections

On the outbreak of WWI the Canadian armed forces had a total of 35 Maxim (these obsolescent), three Vicar's, 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 compliment 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 compliment 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 Vicker's 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 compliment 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.

Machine Gun Battalions of the 4th Division Machine Gun Corps

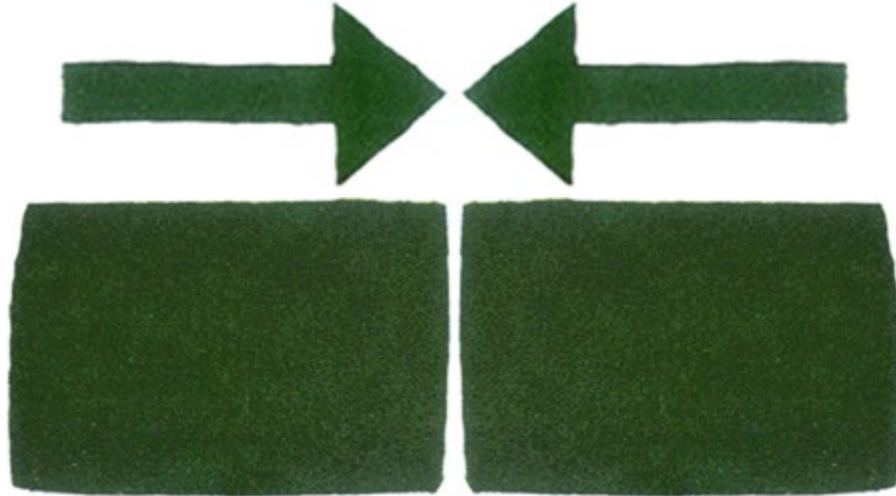
10th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 10th Infantry Brigade June 1916 - July 1916

The 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Bramshott in England in June 1916 from personnel from the 44th, 46th, 47th and 50th Infantry Battalions the under command of Lieutenant C.T. Browning, C.O. until July 12th 1916. The 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was redesignated as the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Company in July 1916 coming under command of Major J. Mess, C.O. until February 4th 1917 when command passed to Major J.C. Britton. On September 8th 1917 the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 10th Infantry Brigade and redesignated re-designated the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Company, 4th Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

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

The 'Q' file listing for the 10th Machine Gun Company lists maker and price as Nil. 250 sets.

10th Canadian Machine Gun Company, 10th Brigade, 4th Division Formation patches worn between 1917 and April 1918



**10th Company, 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps
Formation patches worn between March 1918 and November 1918**



**11th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 11th Infantry Brigade
June 1916 - July 1916 (UK pattern worn with maple leaf collars)**

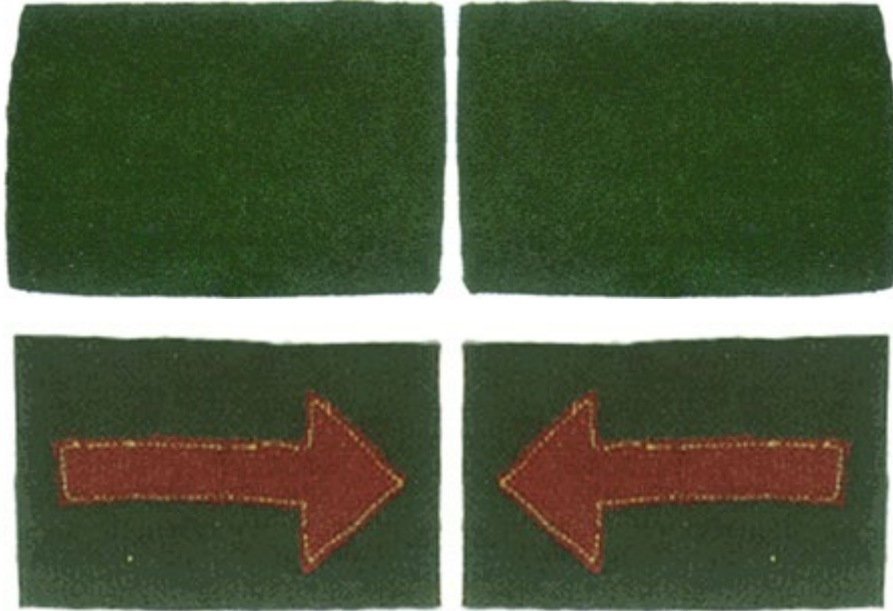
The 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade Machine Gun Company was formed at Bramshott in England in June 1916 from personnel from the 53rd, 54th, 74th and 75th Infantry Battalions under command of Major B.M. Clerk (35th Peel Regt.). In August 1916 being redesignated as the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company. On September 8th 1917 the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 11th Infantry Brigade and assigned and re-designated as the 11th Machine Gun Company

The 'Q' file listing for the 11th Machine Gun Company lists maker as Townshead Ltd. Holloway Head, Birmingham, Eng. 50/-, 6 gross.

4th Divisional Artillery. On March 27th 1918 being redesignated as the 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company, 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

The 11th Canadian Machine Gun Company, (11th Infantry Brigade) July 1916



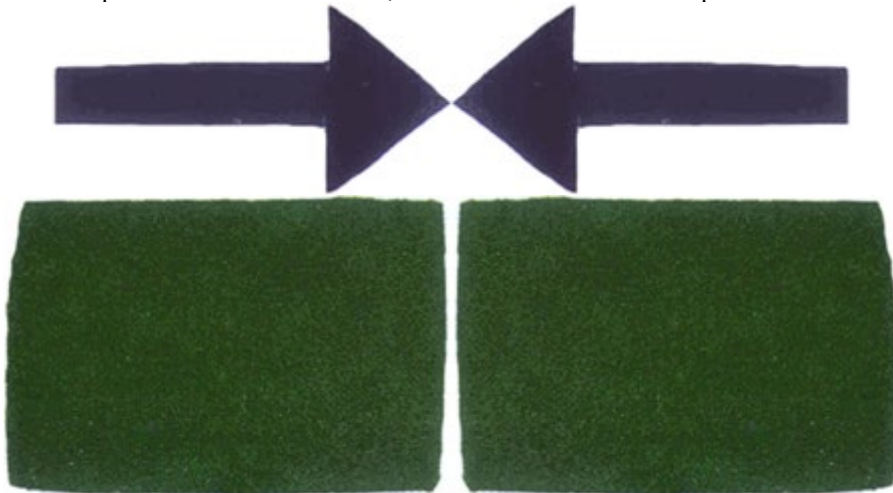


**12th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company 12th Infantry Brigade
June 1916 - July 1916 (UK pattern worn with maple leaf collars)**

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

The 'Q' file listing for the 12th Machine Gun Company does not list a supplier just a value 3 pounds 250 sets.

In September 1917 the 12th Canadian Infantry Machine Gun Company was detached from the 12th Infantry Brigade being re-designated the 12th Machine Gun Company, 4th Division. On March 27th 1918 reorganized as a component of the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.



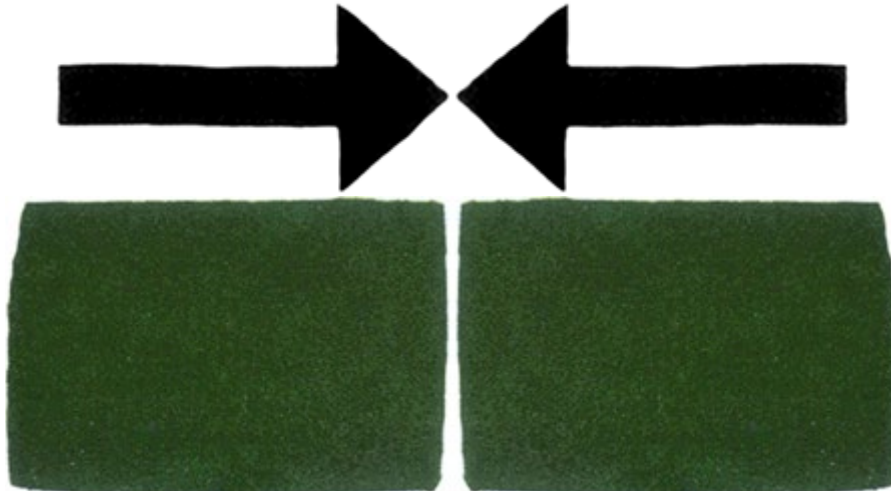
On September 8th 1917 the 12th Canadian Machine Gun Company was detached from the 12th Infantry Brigade and re-assigned and redesignated the 4th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Division.



480-1-23-150 Divisional patch Red arrow worn sewn on the green divisional patch

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

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



On March 27th 1918 the 10th, 11th and 12th machine gun companies amalgamated with the 16th Machine Gun Company as the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps under command of Captain G.H. Davidson.



480-1-23-152 Divisional patch Red arrow worn sewn on the green divisional patch

Infantry Brigade Light Trench Mortar Batteries Introduced December 1915

A letter from GHQ of December 15th 1915 authorized the formation of two light trench mortar batteries, equipped with 2 inch Stokes Mortars, for each Infantry Brigade in Canada's three Divisions. (The 4th Division was formed in England in April 1916 from units already there or soon to arrive from Canada.) The Light Trench Mortars batteries were organized within the brigade structure from trained infantry personnel and not the gunners of the medium and heavy trench mortar batteries of the Divisional Artillery. It appears that January 1st 1916 a number of light trench mortar brigades were almost immediately created for each of the three infantry divisions as War Diaries exist from January 1st to February 29th 1916 listing entries for these short lived mortar batteries. Each of these under command of a lieutenant and conforming with the number of an infantry battalion in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd Infantry Divisions, the 14th Battalion in the 1st Division (14th Canadian Light Mortar Battery under command of Lieutenant H.C. Higginbotham (30th Wellington Rifles, 34th Bn.CEF). 2nd in the 2nd Division (the 25th Trench Mortar Battery formed in December 1915 initially under command of Lieutenant W.S. Tuck (HQ staff CFF, later R.M. Fair.) There are War Diaries from December 18th 1915 to March 31st 1916 showing the designation being changed to the 5th Light Trench Mortar Battery September 29th 1916. (Captain Fair was killed in action September 6th 1916) The 35th Battalion in the 2nd Division (35th Canadian Light Mortar Battery) no commanding officer listed; and the 46th Battalion in the 3rd Division (46th Canadian Light Mortar Battery). Under command of Lieutenant W.E. McIntyre (8th RRC, 23rd Bn.CEF.) These light mortar battery designations were apparently rendered defunct February 29th when number/letter/number designations were authorized. Another GHQ letter (9th September 1916) authorized that the two brigade batteries be combined, taking the brigade number for the new battery designation. The establishment apparently consisting of the officers commanding, a captain with four section officers (lieutenants) each with 60 other ranks. These being raised from infantry within each brigade therefore no regimental numbers blocks were used.

10th Brigade, Light Trench Mortar Battery

The 10th Light Trench Mortar Battery was formed at Bramshott in England under command of Captain J.E. Proctor (105th Saskatchewan Fusiliers,) July 1st 1916. From personnel from the 53rd, 54th, 74th, 75th 90th and 102nd Battalions and from the 2nd Canadian Divisional Cyclists. The unit arrived in France August 16th 1916. War Diary entries cease in June 1917.



11th Brigade, Light Trench Mortar Battery

The 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery was formed at Bramshott in England under command of Captain F.J. O'Leary (105th Saskatchewan Fusiliers,) July 1st 1916. From personnel from the 53rd, 54th, 74th, 75th 90th and 102nd Battalions and from the 2nd Canadian Divisional Cyclists. The unit arrived in France August 16th 1916. War Diary entries cease in June 1917.

480-1-23-156 Brigade designator worn over red divisional patch



12th Brigade, Light Trench Mortar Battery

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



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

Reorganization of the Trench Mortars March 1st 1916

The medium and heavy batteries were combined under the designation the 1st Canadian Divisional Mortar Group March 1st 1916, the first War Diary entry being March 3rd 1916. Apparently like the light trench mortar batteries the medium batteries were numbered before March 1916 although no War Diaries are known for these with the exception of the 53rd. Number/letter/number battery designations were used 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. The light trench mortar batteries adopted brigade numbered battery trench mortar designations in June 1916 these becoming Light Trench Mortar batteries in September 1916.

4th Canadian Divisional Mortar Group





4th 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.



480-1-23-114 Formation Patch Red shell on green rectangle

4th Canadian Divisional Artillery

The original brigades slated for the 4th Divisional Artillery over the winter of 1915/16 were the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th Field Artillery Brigades these being authorized under general Order 69 of 1916. The 1916 change in the establishment in the Divisional Artillery overseas from three to four brigades saw a 'new' 12th Brigade being created overseas for inclusion in the 1st Divisional Artillery. On this change the 12th Brigade slated for the 4th Divisional Artillery was redesignated as the 16th Brigade. The 4th Divisional Artillery arrived in the UK in September 1916 but this after the 4th Division had sailed for France in August 1916 without Divisional Artillery. The artillery support initially being provided by the Reserve Divisional Artillery, (the renamed Indian Army Lahore Artillery which had supported the Canadian Corps since its introduction to France in 1915.) After its arrival in England the original 4th Divisional Artillery was designated the 5th Divisional Artillery. After the 'new' 12th Brigade, formed for the 1st Division, was disbanded the 16th Brigade was again renumbered the 12th Brigade.

Overseas with the exception of the 8th Army Brigade serving as an independent Artillery Brigade under Army Headquarters all (Field) Artillery Brigade Ammunition Columns were absorbed into the divisional Ammunition Columns in the March 1916 reorganization of the artillery. The composition of the Field Artillery Brigades being changed from three field artillery batteries with an attached howitzer battery to four mixed gun artillery brigades. Since the arrival of the 1st Divisional Artillery in France this been supported by the British 118th Howitzer Battery R.A however at this time the British unit returned to Imperial command and a fourth Canadian Field Artillery Brigade (the 12th this previously assigned to the 4th Divisional Artillery was added. Some of its batteries being shuffled within the other three brigades to form four mixed battery brigades.)

The proposed composition of the 4th Divisional Artillery March 1916

The 4th Divisional Artillery Headquarters MD. 4 Regimental numbers between 347551 - 348000
The 12th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade. (This renumbered the 16th Brigade)
The 13th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.

The 14th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
The 15th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
4th Divisional Ammunition Column.
No.1 Section . Raised in MD. 4. Regimental numbers block 347551 - 348000:
No.2 Section . Raised in MD. 6. Regimental numbers block 1,260601 - 1,260850:

13th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

13th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters Hamilton and Brantford. Regimental numbers block between 348351 - 348425.
50th Field Battery (Kingston). Regimental numbers block 318851 - 319850.
51st Field Battery (Ottawa). Regimental numbers block 319851 - 320850
52nd Field Battery (Guelph). Regimental numbers block 320851 - 321850
53rd Field Battery (Toronto). Regimental numbers block 321851 - 322850
13th Brigade Ammunition Column raised in Hamilton and Brantford. Regimental numbers block 1,262701 - 1,263200

14th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

14th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade HQ MD. 6. Regimental numbers between 1,262701 - 1,262750.
55th Field Battery (Listowell). Regimental numbers between 323851 - 324850.
56th Field Battery (Guelph). Regimental numbers between 324851 - 325850.
58th Field Battery (Fredericton). Regimental numbers between 326851 - 327850.
66th Field Battery (Montreal). Regimental numbers between 336801 - 337800
14th Brigade Ammunition Column raised in MD. 6. Regimental numbers between 1,261101 - 1,26261300

15th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

15th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade HQ. (Raised as the 59th Battery (Winnipeg) 327851 - 328850)
60th Field Battery Regina. Regimental numbers between 328851 - 329850.
61st Field Battery Lethbridge. Regimental numbers between 331801 - 332800.
62nd Field Battery Victoria. Regimental numbers between 332801 - 333800.
79th Field Battery Montreal. Regimental numbers between 1,251501 - 1,252000.
15th Brigade Ammunition Column raised in MD. 11. Regimental numbers between 1,260001 - 1,260200

16th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade winter 1915/1916. Sailed for England September 11th 1916

12th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters Regimental numbers between 347551 - 348000.
47th Field Battery (Toronto) Regimental numbers between 315851 - 316850.
48th Field Battery (Toronto). Regimental numbers between 316851 - 317850.
49th Field Battery (St.Catherines). Regimental numbers between 317851 - 318850.
54th Field Battery (Brantford). Regimental numbers between 322851 - 323850.
12th Brigade Ammunition Column raised in MD.2. Regimental numbers between 346951 - 347450

The 12th Brigade was formed as a component of the 4th Divisional Artillery in Canada but was renumbered the 16th Brigade this arrived in England September 1916 when it was renumbered the 12th Brigade before being disbanded and its batteries redistributed early in 1917.

The composition of the 4th Divisional Artillery August 1916 Reassigned as the 5th Canadian Divisional Artillery after arrival in England

The 4th Divisional Artillery Headquarters
The 12th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
The 13th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
The 14th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
The 15th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade.
4th Divisional Ammunition Column.

(Please see the 5th Divisional Artillery following for continuation.)

The composition of the 4th Canadian Divisional Artillery in France July 1917

The 4th Divisional Artillery Headquarters

The 3rd Canadian Field Artillery Brigade. (From the 1st Divisional Artillery)

The 4th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade. (From the 2nd Divisional Artillery)

4th Divisional Ammunition Column. This was formed by taking sections from the 1st 2nd and 3rd Divisional Ammunition Columns.

Headquarters 3rd Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

10th Field Battery (St Catharines/Hamilton)

11th Field Battery .(Toronto/London)

12th Field Battery .(Ottawa, Kingston, St. Jean, Fredericton)

9th Howitzer Battery (Cobourg/St.Catharines).

Headquarters 4th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade

13th Field Battery (Brantford and Hamilton)

19th Field Battery. (Winnipeg) Absorbed a section of the 14th Battery

27th Field Battery. Montreal)

21st Howitzer Battery (Montreal).