

14th Canadian Infantry Brigade

On November 29th 1916 command of the 14th Infantry Brigade was initially given to Lieutenant- Colonel J.E. Leckie but on January 22nd 1917 command passed to Brigadier-General A.E. Swift who remained in command until March 11th 1918 when the 14th Brigade was disbanded. The composition of the 14th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division was Headquarters, the 125th, 150th, 156th and 161st Battalions.

125th Battalion

150th (Carabiniers Mont-Royal) Battalion

156th (Leeds and Grenville) Battalion

161st (Huron) Battalion

125th Battalion, 14th Brigade, 1917 - 1918

The 125th Battalion was recruited in Brant County with headquarters at Brantford under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915. The battalion was raised by the 38th Dufferin Rifles of Canada this regiment having previously contributed 194 volunteers to the 4th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The battalion embarked for England August 9th 1916 with 32 officers and 974 other ranks under command of Lieutenant-Colonel M.E.B. Cutcliffe (38th Dufferin Rifles). In February 1917 the 125th Battalion was assigned to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division. In February 1918 the 5th Division was disbanded and each of the 11 remaining battalions, (the 199th having previously been absorbed into the 23rd Reserve Battalion), were ordered to send a drafts of 100 men each to the infantry battalions serving in the field with the Canadian Corps, the remainder being absorbed into the Reserve Battalions. The 125th Battalion was absorbed into the 8th Reserve Battalion this the reserve battalion for the 2nd Central Ontario Regiment and reinforcing the 54th, 58th, 102nd and 116th Battalions serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front. The 125th Overseas Battalion was disbanded under General Order 135 of December 16th 1918. The regimental numbers block for the 125th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 772001 - 775000.

The correspondence regarding the design of the battalion badges for the 125th Battalion, located in the Canadian Archives, gives an interesting highlight of the design process. The description of the final pattern dated February 18th 1916, this being the third submitted, reads in part "On a maple leaf, an imperial crown surmounting an oval ribbon, bearing the motto, "For King and Country" and enclosing the numerals "125"; below the numerals, the crest of the County of Brant, the bear (being the token of the Six Nations Indians), standing on two logs one of pine representing the Six Nations Indians, and one of oak representing the British, the logs being bound together with thongs representing the treaties binding the Six Nations and the British Empire. On a scroll to the left of the crest the word "Canada", and to the right, the word, "Overseas". Approval of the design was received by the battalion on March 1st 1916 and samples of three sets of badges, Officers, NCOs and Other Ranks were sent to the D.A.A & Q.M.G. MD. No.2 to be forwarded to Ottawa on May 3rd 1916.



625-11-102 Cap
crown.

Die cast with semi hollow back pointed leaf 13 jewels in the Tudor

Badges by G.F. Hemsley.

Cap badges with five jewels in the central arch of the Tudor crown.



625-11-104 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



625-12-104 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

NCOs

625-11-106 Cap Brown finish. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

625-12-106 Collar Brown finish. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals



625-14-108 Numeral Gilt lacquer on gilding metal 125. By Caron Bros not maker marked



625-14-110 Numeral Brown finish 125. Maker marked 'Birks 1916'



625-15-112 Numeral Theatre made with numerals added to lower 'bar'

Officers

625-11-114 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Maker marked 'D.F. Hemsley Ltd.

625-11-116 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

625-12-116 Collar Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd.

Cap badges with blunt maple leaf, framed motto ribbons with 13 jewels in the Tudor crown.

Other ranks



625-11-118 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



625-12-118 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers

625-11-120 Cap Blackened/pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

625-12-120 Collar Blackened/pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



625-14-120 Title Natural gilding metal finish 125/CANADA. Not maker marked

Cap badge of dubious origin.



625-11-124 Cap Brass white metal plated. Figure '1' stamped on the reverse of numeral '1'

Counterfeit cap badges

The cap badge pictured below is a known counterfeit this one of a similar badges offered for sale on the

United Kingdom eBay site. Note the lack of sharpness and blurred detail, 'off metals' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example. A solid silver example will likely also of been produced.



625-11-126 Cap

Off metal. Blurred detail. Lug fasteners

The 125th Battalion embarked for England August 9th where in February 1917 was assigned to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division. The 5th Division was disbanded in February 1918 and the battalions broken up and used as reinforcements.

150th (Carabiniers Mont-Royal) Battalion, 14th Brigade-1917 - 1918

The 150th (Carabiniers Mont-Royal) Battalion was recruited and mobilized under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915 at Montreal by the 65th Regiment Carabiniers Mont-Royal this regiment having previously provided 337 volunteers to the 14th Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The regiment later raised the 69th Battalion. The 150th Battalion embarked for England September 27th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Barre (65th Carabiniers Mont-Royal), with a strength of 24 officers and 515 other ranks where in February 1917 was assigned as one of the battalions for to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division then in formation in England. In February 1918 the 5th Division was declared moribund and disbanded each of the 11 remaining battalions (the 199th having previously been absorbed into the 23rd Reserve Battalion), were ordered to send a drafts of 100 men each to the units in the field and the remainder were absorbed into the Reserve Battalions. The 150th Battalion was absorbed into the 10th Reserve Battalion, the reinforcing battalion for the 22nd Battalion serving on the Western Front being disbanded November 29th 1918 under General Order 135 of December 16th 1918. The regimental numbers block for the 150th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 847001 - 850000.



650-11-102 Cap

Pickled finish. N/S Lug fasteners. By Hemsley not maker marked



650-12-102 Collar

Pickled finish. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



650-12-104 Collar

Brass. Poorly defined reverse

NCOs

650-13-106 Collar

Pickled finish. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals and title

650-14-108 Numeral

Gilding metal. By Caron Bros not maker marked



650-14-110 Title

Caron numeral '150' braised on Canada title

Officers

650-11-112 Cap

Voided. Silver overlay on pickled finish.



650-12-112 Collar

Voided. Silver overlay on pickled finish



650-12-114 Collar

Silver wash on pickled finish. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



650-11-116 Cap

Oxidized. OSD. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



650-12-116 Collar

Oxidized. OSD. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd.

Other ranks

Curved 'Canada' ribbon. Collar badges with motto ribbons formed



650-11-118 Cap

Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



650-12-120 Collar

Pickled finish. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

650-14-120 Title

Natural brass. Voided CANADA

Officers

650-11-122 Cap

Copper. Not confirmed at press time



650-12-122 Collar

Copper. Flat back. N/S lug fasteners. Not maker marked
Factory conversion of lugs from E/W to N/S

650-11-124 Cap

Wm. overlays on bronze finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



650-12-124 Collar
marked

Wm. overlays on bronze finish. Voided. N/S Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

65th Carabiniers Mont-Royal Reinforcing Draft

A fourth Company was raised for the 150th Battalion by the 65th Carabiniers Mont-Royal with regimental numbers block 2,002001 -2,002500. Some personnel arrived in England Oct 17th 1917 being assigned to the 18th Reserve Brigade before proceeding to France,

RECRUITING POSTERS



156th (Leeds & Granville) Battalion, 14th Brigade 1917 - 1918

The 156th (Leeds and Grenville) Battalion was recruited in the Counties of Leeds and Grenville with mobilization headquarters at Brockville under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915 by the 41st Brockville Rifles this regiment previously having provided 83 volunteers to the 2nd Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The 156th Battalion embarked for England October 18th 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel T.C.D. Bedell (56th Grenville Rifles), with a strength of 28 officers and 778 other ranks. In February 1917 it was assigned to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division then in formation in England. In February 1918 the 5th Division was declared moribund and disbanded each of the 11 remaining battalions, the 199th having previously been absorbed into the 23rd Reserve Battalion), were ordered to send a drafts of 100 men each to the units in the field and the remainder were absorbed into the Reserve Battalions. The 156th Battalion was absorbed into the 6th Reserve Battalion the reinforcing Battalion for the Eastern Ontario Regiment supplying reinforcements to the 2nd, 21st and 38th Infantry Battalions and the PPCLI serving with the Canadian Corps on the Western Front being disbanded under General Order 135 of December 16th 1918. The regimental numbers block for the 156th Canadian Infantry Battalion was 639001 - 642000.

Badges by G.F. Hemsley (Die 1)



656-11-102 Cap Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



656-12-102 Collar Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



656-12-103 Collar Brown finish. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals



656-14-104 Numeral Gilding metal 156. By Caron Bros. Not maker marked

656-14-106 Numeral Brown finish 156. Maker marked 'Birks 1916' (Not reported)

Officers



656-11-108 Cap Red/brown OSD finish. Flat lug fasteners. Not maker marked

656-12-108 Collar Red/brown OSD finish. Flat lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Possibly late war private souvenir purchase



656-11-110 Cap Pickled finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



656-12-110 Collar Pickled finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Sweethearts (?)



656-12-112 Collar Silver. Pin fastener



656-12-113 Collar
badges.)

Gilt. Pin fastener. (Please see below for counterfeits of these collar

Officers (Die 2) Curved CANADA.



656-11-116 Cap

Pickled finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



656-12-116 Collar

Pickled finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



656-14-116 Title

Pickled finish. Flat back. Not marked

656-11-118 Cap
marked

White metal overlay on pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker



656-12-118 Collar

White metal overlay on pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd.

Non voided. The collar badges do not face.

Other ranks



- | | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| 656-11-120 | Cap | Natural gilding metal finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. |
| 656-12-120 | Collar | Natural gilding metal finish. Voided. Lug fasteners. |

Officers



- | | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| 656-11-122 | Cap | Blackened/pickled. Solid. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked |
| 656-12-122 | Collar | Blackened/pickled. Voided. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked |

Eaton's Stores Sweetheart badges

- | | | |
|------------|----------|--|
| 656-11-124 | Cap size | Pickled finish. Lugs or pin fasteners. Not maker marked |
| 656-11-126 | Cap size | . Pickled finish. White metal centre. Pin fastener. Not maker marked |

41st Brockville Rifles Reinforcing Draft

The additional reinforcing drafts for the 156th Battalion was allotted the regimental block numbers 2,255301 - 2,260300.

The 41st Brockville Rifles reinforcing draft was authorized under General Order 63 of June 15th 1917. Being disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920. Other ranks pickled regimental cap/collar badges with red felt backing cloth by P.W.Ellis & Co. Ltd. Not maker marked. Officers patterns in red/brown OSD finish.

56th Regiment (Lisgar Rifles) reinforcing Draft

The 56th Regiment Lisgar Rifles reinforcing draft was authorized under General Order 63 of June 15th 1917. Being disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920.

The 156th Battalion embarked for England October 18th 1916 where in February 1917 it was assigned to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division then in formation in England. In

February 1918 the 5th Division was declared moribund and disbanded and its battalions used as reinforcements.

Counterfeit collar badges

The collar badges pictured below are counterfeits these offered for sale on the United Kingdom eBay site. Note the lack of sharpness and blurred detail, 'off metals' and extra metal around the design this not found on the original die struck example.



656-12-128 Collar Pressure cast brass.

656-12-130 Collar Pressure cast silver.

161st (Huron County) Battalion, 14th Brigade, 1917 - 1918

The 161st (Huron) Battalion was recruited in Huron County on December 2nd 1915 but with mobilization headquarters at London, Ontario under General Order 151 of December 22nd 1915. The battalion was raised by the 33rd Huron Regiment this regiment previously having provided 68 volunteers to the 1st Battalion on its formation at Camp Valcartier in August 1914. The battalion embarked for England November 1st 1916 under command of Lieutenant-Colonel H.B. Combe (33rd Huron Regiment), with a strength of 28 officers and 749 OR's where it February 1917 was assigned to the 14th Infantry Brigade, 5th Canadian Division. In February 1918 the 5th Division was disbanded each of the 11 remaining battalions, (the 199th having previously been absorbed into the 23rd Reserve Battalion), were ordered to send a drafts of 100 men each to the units in the field and the remainder were absorbed into the Reserve Battalions. The 161st Battalion was absorbed into the 4th Reserve Battalion. The 161st Canadian Infantry Battalion was disbanded under General Order 149 of September 15th 1920. The regimental numbers block for the 161st Canadian Infantry Battalion was 654001 - 657000.



Seven button tunics and battalion cap badges but no collar badges being worn.

Badges by R.G. Hemsley



661-11-102 Cap Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

661-12-102 Collar Pickled finish. lug fasteners. Not maker marked

NCOs



661-12-104 Collar Pickled finish. Pin fastener. Not maker marked

Shoulder strap numerals and title

661-14-106 Numeral Gilding metal. By Caron Bros. Not maker marked

661-14-108 Numeral Brown finish. Maker marked 'Birks 1916'

661-14-110 Numeral Gilding metal. Maker marked, P.W. Ellis (serifs on the '1s')



661-14-111 Numeral Brass. Numerals with serifs attached to lower bar

661-14-112 Title Natural gilding metal finish 161 braised over voided 'CANADA'.

Officers



661-11-114 Cap Red brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

661-12-114 Collar

Brown finish. Flat back. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



661-12-116 Collar

Blackened finish. Flat back. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



661-11-118 Cap

Silver wash on numerals. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked



661-12-118 Collar

Silver wash on numerals. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

OVERSEAS

Badges by J.W. Tiptaft & Son Ltd.

Framed motto ribbons'. Cap badges are not currently confirmed



661-12-120 Collar

Pickled finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked

Officers



661-12-122 Collar

Brown finish. Lug fasteners. Not maker marked