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# **President's Message**

Juan José Besteiro, #1859 President, CSMMI

As we transition from the chill of winter to the warmth of summer, I find myself reflecting on the past winter shows.

Throughout the winter, our monthly shows have been nothing short of a resounding success, drawing

in both seasoned veterans and eager newcomers alike. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who braved the cold to join us, making these gatherings a memorable occasion.

It brings me immense joy to note the influx of new members joining our ranks, many of whom discovered our society for the first time at one of our winter shows. Your presence has enriched our community, bringing fresh perspectives and a renewed sense of energy. As we gear up for the

summer season, I am filled with anticipation at the prospect of welcoming even more collectors into our fold, united by our shared passion for militaria and military history. I take great pleasure in witnessing how our established members warmly embrace newcomers and impart knowledge of our avocation upon them.

With our highly anticipated annual show swiftly approaching on June 21st and 22nd, I urge all members to secure their accommodations without delay. The demand for rooms is high, and I encourage you to take advantage of the exclusive CSMMI rate by following the instructions available on our csmmi.com website. Whether you hail from nearby or afar, I eagerly anticipate the sight of familiar faces and the opportunity to forge new connections with enthusiasts. I eagerly anticipate seeing the amazing displays competing for the annual show's top prize.

Additionally, I invite all members to join our vibrant CSMMI Facebook group, a dynamic forum where collectors converge to share their passion for military medals and insignia. This online community serves as a virtual gathering place, offering an invaluable opportunity to connect with fellow enthusiasts, exchange insights, and showcase your prized collections, and buy or sell militaria. Whether you're seeking advice, eager to showcase your latest acquisitions, or simply looking to connect with like-minded individuals, our Facebook group provides a welcoming space where camaraderie flourishes and knowledge is freely exchanged. And don't forget the CSMMI MilArt blog, with in-depth articles on varies aspects of Canadian military artifacts, vehicles, and history.

Continued on page 2857

Before concluding, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our advertisers, whose generous support allows us to bring you a high-quality Journal. Your contributions play a vital role in ensuring the continued excellence of our publication, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing partnership. With each issue, our Journal reaches a diverse readership eager to explore the latest trends, historical insights, and collector's tips. As such, advertising within our Journal provides a unique platform to enhance visibility, build brand recognition, and connect with a targeted demographic passionate about military memorabilia.

# **SOCIETY AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia (CSMMI) was founded on March 21, 1965 for the purpose of advancing the study of military orders, decorations, medals, insignia, accoutrements, documents and all related militaria. The Society seeks to encourage popular interest and to gather and publish information in all matters related thereto, along educational and historical lines. It also seeks to foster the preservation of such honours, awards, insignia and items of military interest for future generations.

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# CANADIAN FORCES COMMAND BADGES

By Rankin MacGillivray #1897

#### **BACKGROUND**

For more than fifty years, the right breast pockets of Canadian Forces personnel have been adorned with a variety of brightly coloured enamel command badges. These badges were first introduced in 1968 when, amid protests from service personnel and senior officers, the Minister of National Defence, Paul Hellyer merged the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Canadian Army to form the Canadian Armed Forces.

This unification of services was the first of its kind among nations with modernized militaries. All personnel were migrated to a common green uniform and traditional navy and air force ranks were traded for an army rank structure. It was a sacrifice of traditions and morale in exchange for purported cost savings and improved command and control. In a sea of identical green uniforms, command badges were meant to readily identify which branch of the armed forces and under whose command the wearer was serving.

Comprehensive information on Canadian Forces command badges is difficult to find. There is no definitive document on the subject. It is the goal of this paper to remedy this problem and furnish collectors with a reference that covers command badge use from 1968 to 2023.

#### THE COMMANDS

Initially, six commands were established in 1968, which were Mobile Command, Air Defence Command, Air Transport Command, Training Command, Materiel Command, and Maritime Command. Each was identified by a corresponding enameled command badge.







Air Defence



Air Transport

Continued on page 2859







Training

Materiel

Maritime

In 1970, two additional commands, (Communications Command and Northern Region Command) were established, and Canadian Forces Europe was upgraded to command status. The Canadian Forces Supplementary Radio System, which was established in 1966, did not receive a command badge until after 1969.









Communications

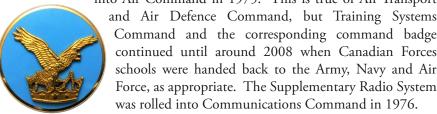
Northern Region

Canadian Forces Europe

Supplementary Radio System

Training, Air Transport, and Air Defence Commands, all of which were preexisting at the time of unification in 1968, are said to have been amalgamated

into Air Command in 1975. This is true of Air Transport



Air Command In an effort to improve morale and restore some of the lost traditions, the Canadian Forces introduced the Distinctive Environmental Uniform in the late 1980's. Military personnel would now wear either the distinctive Army, Navy, or Air Force uniform, each different in style and colour. This did not equate to the re-establishment of the three services. The unified command structure of the Canadian Forces remained, and as such, the use of

command badges continued.

Canadian Forces Europe in 1993, and Communications
Command was stood down in 1994 with many of its
resources being rolled into the new Defence Information
Services Organization (DISO). In around 1997, DISO
was downsized and reorganized as the Information
Management Group, and in early 2023 renamed to the
CIO (Chief Information Officer) Group. The same
command badge was carried through these changes and
remains in use today.

The end of the Cold War signaled the disbandment of

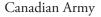
Defence Information Services Org.

The year 2005 marked the beginning of a significant restructuring of the Canadian Forces (later known as the transformation) and resulted in the introduction of five new commands in 2006 (Special Operations Force; Canada Command; Operational Support Command; Canadian Expeditionary Force Command; and Military Personnel Command) along with the renaming of Mobile Command into Land Forces Command. Northern Region Command was absorbed into Canada Command as part of the transformation.



In 2011, Land Forces Command was once again renamed and became the Canadian Army Command. At the same time, Maritime Command was disbanded, followed shortly thereafter by Air Command in 2013. That year also saw the establishment of Intelligence Command, and the amalgamation of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, Canada Command and Operational Support Command into what is now Joint Operations Command. It is interesting to note that the Joint Operations Command badge takes its shape from the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command badge, and its colours from the Operational Support Command badge.







Intelligence



Joint Operations

The approval of a new design for the badge of the Royal Canadian Navy came in 2016, after the service was reinstated in 2011. However, no pocket badge exists for the Royal Canadian Navy as yet, unlike the Royal Canadian Air Force which

instituted a pocket badge in 2017 following reinstatement as a separate service and approval of a new design in 2013. It will be interesting to see if one is issued for the Navy in the near future.

The most recent command changes saw the establishment of the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) group and the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (VCDS) group, both of which introduced pocket badges in 2018.





CDS Photo: George Quigley



**VCDS** 

Currently, there are ten command badges in wear in the Canadian Forces. Over the years, Canadians have also been authorized to wear the NORAD (North American Air Defence) Command badge, as well as various NATO and UN command pocket badges while assigned to NORAD or NATO units.

To date, 24 exclusively Canadian Forces Command Badges have been produced and issued. They come in an interesting assortment of shapes and designs. The majority are variants of a shield shape. A smaller proportion are based on a circle or an oval, and there are a couple that are shaped like lozenges.

Often, there was considerable lag between the establishment of a command and the design, approval, and distribution of the corresponding command badge. This lag could be multiple years. For short-lived commands this meant that the badge might only be in use for as little as four years (as in the case of Canada Command, the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command and Operational Support Command). These badges are far more scarce and difficult to acquire compared to badges like Air Command or Maritime Command which were in use for more than thirty years.

Of the initial six command badges issued in 1968, only the Materiel Command badge remains in use today as Materiel Group.

The Canadian Forces Supply System lists these badges as "Insignia, organizational". Their use remains important, as, often the command badge may be the only unifying insignia worn by a group of personnel that may come from diverse backgrounds and branches of the Canadian Forces, wearing a variety of different uniforms.

#### VARIATIONS AND PROTOTYPES

As is the case with many Canadian Forces badges, a significant number of variants exist among the issued Command Badges. A few examples:



Feather details



No feathers, copper enamel

Continued on page 2863



No feathers, darker enamel



No feathers, different details



Different details



Different anchor line



Darker Green



Lighter Green



Raised



Impressed







Darker blue

Furthermore, some prototypes, such as these prototype Air Command badges, managed to escape military custody:



Raised (issued)



Engraved (prototype)



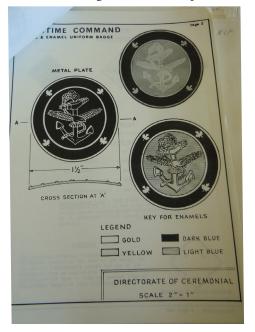
Printed (prototype)

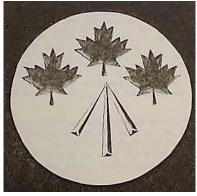
As with many badges, many designs were considered prior to adopting one. A number of design ideas for the Air Command badge, are found in files at the Directorate of History and Heritage. These were not selected:



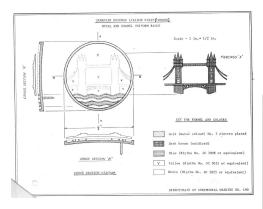
Continued on page 2865

And these proposals for round shaped Maritime Command and Materiel Command badges were not adopted:





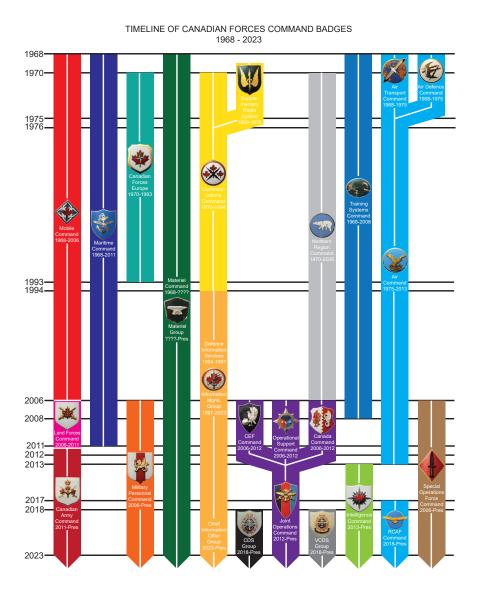
There are also records of a proposed command badge for the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff (London) that was never approved.





#### TIMELINE

The attached illustration is a timeline showing when each of the commands or groups were in effect and the corresponding badges that were worn during those times.



Continued on page 2867

#### REFERENCES AND SOURCES

- "Unification of the Canadian Armed Forces", John Boileua, Nov 11, 2021
- "From Minister Hellyer to General Hillier: Understanding the Fundamental Differences Between the Unification of the Canadian Forces and its Present Transformation", Brigadier-General Daniel Gosselin and Doctor Craig Stone, Dec 21, 2005
- "The Genesis of Air Command", Lieutenant-General Bill Carr, Dec 20, 2005
- Various files, DND Directorate of History and Heritage
- Brigadier-General David Yarker
- Warrant Officer Ernie Morlidge, Ret'd
- George Quigley
- All photos from author's collection unless otherwise indicated

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The CSMMI invites vendors to our monthly shows. In 2024 the CSMMI will run 8 shows.

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### SITREP #5

By Bill Alexander #721

#### ORIGINS OF THE CANADIAN MAPLE LEAF FLAG

- 1. Canadian troops were sent to Egypt in 1956 as United Nations Peacekeepers during the Suez Crisis which saw an invasion of Egypt's Suez Canal by Israel, France, and the United Kingdom. The proposed Canadian contingent was to be from the Queen's Own Rifles, strongly suggesting an imperial connection. And, the eventual Canadian contingent which landed in the Suez, flew the Canadian Red Ensign, which incorporated the Union Jack. To Egyptian observers, it appeared that Canada was flying the flag of an invading nation. These misunderstandings helped to reinforce the call for a distinctive and unique Canadian national flag.
- 2. The final design of the Canadian flag was proposed by the military historian, soldier, and at the time, Dean of Arts at Royal Military College, George Stanley. The flag of the Royal Military College, which inspired George Stanley's flag design, was itself inspired by the red and white stripes of the Canada General Service Medal (1866-1870).

Reference: https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-history.html#a2a



#### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

3. In 2022, in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Canadian Bravery Decorations by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor General authorized the creation of a new insignia to accompany

Continued on page 2869

the Certificate of Commendation created in 1993, which became known as the Governor General's Commendation for Bravery (GGCB). The announcement was made by Rideau Hall on 28 March 2023.

The Governor General's Commendation for Bravery is accompanied by a gold-embossed scroll, inscribed with the recipient's name and an appropriate citation, and signed by the Governor General.

The new insignia is now effective to be presented to future recipients of the GGCB and was also made available to all past recipients of the original Certificate of Commendation.

Some CAF members received the Certificate of Commendation in the past and are eligible to receive and wear the new insignia provide they have not received another wearable award for the same act. Past CAF recipients may contact the Directorate of Honours and Recognition for more details.



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# OPERATIONAL RECORD BOOKS OF SQUADRONS AND AIR COMBAT REPORTS, WORLD WAR ONE

Ken Cox #1738

If you're lucky enough to find a Victory Medal or British War Medal engraved to an individual who served with the Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) in World War One, some unique research may be required. Unlike army medals that include the



Victory Medal, LIEUT. R.H.V.R. SCHERK. RAF

number of the battalion, these medals have the service number, rank, name and just R.A.F. (Royal Air Force) engraved around the rim.

In past *Journals* I have discussed documentation of Canadians serving with the R.F.C., noting that Library and Archives Canada (LAC) only holds ledgers of the names of Canadian officers who transferred to the flying corps but no other documents. Library and Archives Canada does provide some important records other than the ledgers that should be accessed: Attestation Papers, Officers' Declarations, Casualty Form/Service Record and even the Certificate of Service to identify if an individual who transferred to the R.F.C. was a Canadian and to which squadron he was assigned. At the end of your search you can always seek out Veteran's Death Cards to find out if the medal recipient held a government pension and, if so, where they were buried.

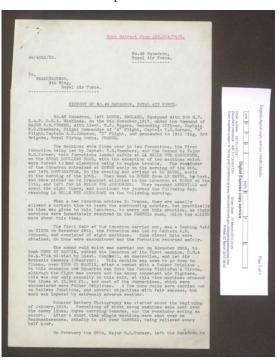
Next, a researcher will have to access the National Archives of Great Britain website (nationalarchives.gov.uk), to add to the narrative. These records include Aero-Club records, Casualty Cards and Gallantry Award Citations and perhaps even the London Gazette notation (thegazette.co.uk). All gallantry citations were recorded in the gazette. Most of these records I have mentioned in previous *Journals* and some are available on pay-per-view sites like Ancestry or FindMyPast.

There are two other documents that the collector/family historian might want to access in the hopes of discovering more about the individual whose name

Continued on page 2871

was engraved on those medals. These are **Operational Record Books of Squadrons** (Squadron War Diaries) and **Air Combat Reports**. In the National Archives at Kew, these documents can be found by entering Air1 or Air2 in the search field and then the above-mentioned titles along with the years requested. The Operational Record Books of Squadrons cover the years from 1911-1963, so it's important to specifically request 1914-1918. Once the number of the squadron is found, just to the right of the search field is an icon that allows the researcher to purchase a copy of the document. The fee is about \$25.00 Canadian and once the document has been retrieved, it will be emailed to the purchaser. For Combat Reports, follow the same procedure.

Squadron War **Diaries** are completely different from Infantry War Diaries. Anyone who has accessed Infantry War Diaries will quickly realize that they were prepared somewhat daily, probably by a junior officer and seldom mention individuals. These diaries can also be difficult to read and generally just provide a daily report on battalion activities. Squadron War Diaries are completely different. They were prepared at the end of hostilities and then submitted to headquarters on typed foolscap sheets. The diaries start with the formation of the squadron,



No. 49 Squadron War Diary, pg 1

list a summary of events and missions, the type of aircraft and number, lists of flight crews and a list of gallantry awards recipients. What is really interesting is that there is often a personal touch to these diaries. Specific missions are recorded in some detail, including the names of the flying officers involved. For instance, the Squadron War Diary for 49 Squadron on November 29th 1917, provides the following:

"The second raid which was carried out on November 29th, to Bomb Thun St. Martin, robbed the squadron of its first machine,

D.H.4 No. A.7704 piloted by Lieut. Campbell, an Australian, and 1st Air Mechanic Samways (observer). This machine was seen to go down in flames, over Thun St. Martin, after a combat with a Fokker Triplane. On this occasion our squadron ran into the famous Richtofen's Circus, although the fight was severe and the enemy competent air fighters, this was our only casualty on this raid..."

The diary then goes on to later report another interesting event:

"On the 22nd of April, when returning from a Raid, on THOUROUT, the pilot of machine D.H.9 C.6138, No. 7655 Sergt. (Pilot) Oliver, S.J. and his observer Sergt. Kelsall, had a very unnerving experience, from which both emerged with slight injury, by using supreme skill and resource in the manipulation of his controls. A piece of 'Archie" bust his propeller and before he could switch off his engine had almost raced itself from it bearing, and caught fire. He at once shut off the petrol supply and side slipped about 1,000 feet. The fire went out, and he then glided the machine very steadily. He had just crossed over our lines at about ten thousand feet, when the engine fell completely out of the machine. The machine fell into a left-hand spiral, and by keeping full right rudder and holding his control lever right forward and over to the right, he managed to keep the machine in a slow spiral, from which he was not able to pull out. He landed about two miles from the spot where the engine fell, escaping with

a broken nose and his observer with a broken leg. The machine was completely destroyed."

A researcher may even find the name of their medal recipient mentioned in the diary. In the case of R.H.V Scherk (Reginald Hershey VanRensselaer Scherk), whose medal was displayed at the beginning of this article, the diary records the following:

"A most successful raid was carried out on the morning of August 23rd, led by Captain C. Bowman (Pilot) and Lieut. R.H.V. Scherk (Observer) on the Main Station at Valenciennes. Several direct hits were obtained on the junctions, siding, and buildings, in spite of the fact that a large



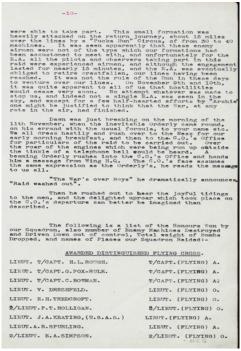
Lt. R. Scherk wearing the collar dogs of the 12th Battalion before his transfer to the RFC.

Continued on page 2873

number of Enemy Scouts made strenuous efforts to break up the formation..."

This particular diary concludes with a rather interesting notation:

"Dawn was just breaking on the morning of the 11th November, when the inevitable orderly came round, on his errand with his usual formula, to your name etc. We all dress hastily and rush over to the Mess for our early morning breakfast, then to the C.O.'s Office for particulars of the raid to be carried out. Over the roar of the engines which were being run up outside the tinkle of the telephone bell would be heard. beaming Orderly rushes into the C.O.'s Office and hands him a message from Wing H.Q. The C.O.'s face assumes the same expression as the Orderly's, he reads the message to us all. "The War's over Boys"



The report ends with a list of gallantry awards awarded to the squadron's pilots.

This is often three or four pages in length and includes the locations the squadron, in the case of 49 squadron, bombed.

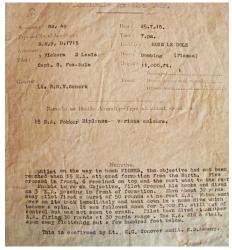
he dramatically announces "Raid washed out". Then he rushed out to bear the joyful tidings to the men...."

**Squadron Combat Reports** can also be found in the same Air 1 or Air 2 category in the National Archives. These record specific missions flown by each pilot and observer of a reconnaissance squadron or by an individual pilot of a fighter squadron. The reports, titled 'Combats in the Air' were recorded after each mission so a researcher can certainly understand that there are a large number of these documents. They all follow the same headings: Squadron No., Type and Number of Aeroplane, Date, Time, Locality, Duty, Height, Armament, Pilot, Observer, and Result (destroyed, driven down out of control, driven down). This information is followed by 'Remarks on Hostile Aircraft:

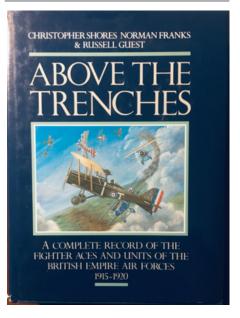
-Type, armament, speed, etc. and finally 'Narrative'. The 'narrative' provides a detailed description of the event, recording the results of the action and the number of enemy planes encountered. For a researcher or family historian combat reports are particularly interesting because your ancestor or the medal recipient was directly involved in the events recorded.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention two other resources that while not a primary archival reference can still be useful to a collector/researcher. A number of historians have produced a wealth of textual references that any family historian would be strongly advised to consult. One of these has to be the important reference text written by Shores, Franks and Guest titled: Above the Trenches, A Complete Record of the Fighter aces and Units of the British Empire Air Forces, 1915-1920, with updated supplements. This reference tool focuses specifically on squadron 'aces', so a researcher will not find any mention of gallantry medal recipients who served with reconnaissance/bomber squadrons. For example, there is no mention of the ten pilots in 49 squadron who earned Distinguished Flying Crosses.

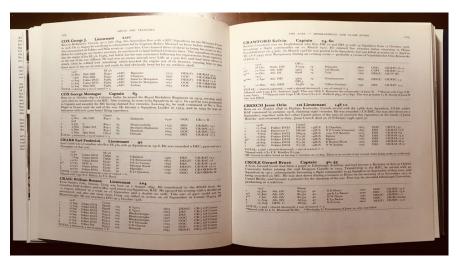
The other would be the Royal Air Force website (rafmuseum.org.uk).



Combat Report: 49 squadron dated 25.7.18. These provide an interesting insight into a specific mission flown by the medal recipient. In this case R. Scherk and his pilot G. Fox-Rule.



This site contains a wealth of information on fighter aircraft and an archive which might prove useful to any collector of airforce memorabilia and especially researchers who had an ancestor in either war serving with Britain's Royal Airforce.



Above The Trenches, by Shores, Franks and Guest provides a worthwhile reference tool for serious collectors.

As new information becomes available they have published supplemental texts as well.

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# **QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT WAR**

# Queen's University Affiliated CEF Units and their Insignia

Ian Candy #1821

#### INTRODUCTION

"Queen's College at Kingston" was founded on 16 October 1841 by the Church of Scotland on the authority of an Imperial Royal Charter issued by Queen Victoria. Although its student population is in excess of 30,000

two main historical rivals, McGill University in Montreal and the University of Toronto, and its contributions are, at times, overlooked. However,

today, Queen's has always been smaller than its

Queen's smaller size in no way diminishes its contribution to Canada's military efforts in times of need.

The military history of Queen's is varied, with periods of intense patriotic feeling amongst the student body followed by periods of military disinterest. The formation and demise of campus military units over

the years, such as the Queen's College Volunteer Rifle

Company (1862-1866 and 1880-1885), indicates this trend. Unsurprisingly, this correlates to perceived threats to Canada's sovereignty resulting from such incidents as the Fenian Raids of the 1860's and 1870's, the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the Boer War of 1899-1902.

Over the course of the First World War, Queen's would raise and support a number of units for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), including three artillery batteries, an infantry battalion, a field ambulance and a stationary hospital. Queen's engineers would also join several drafts to the field companies of Canadian Engineers. This article discusses the history and distinctive insignia of these units.

#### CANADIAN ENGINEERS

In the years leading up to the First World War, Queen's established the 5th Field Company, Canadian Engineers of the Non-Permanent Active

Continued on page 2877

Militia. Following application to the Department of Militia and Defense, the Company was authorized on 1 April 1910 (G.O.38). The 5th Field Company would become instrumental in constructing Camp Valcartier in August 1914 including laying out and construction of roads, tents sites and the installation of a water supply system.

The 5th Field Company, comprising 5 officers and 144 other ranks, arrived at Valcartier on 19 August 1914 to provide engineering services, less than two weeks after the Department of Militia's order to mobilize. During their tenure at Valcartier, the 5th Field Company divided itself into overseas and home sections. The overseas section consisted of 50 volunteers who signed up for the 2nd Field Company, Canadian Engineers, CEF. These engineers focused on drill and military engineering training projects and became part of the First Canadian Contingent, sailing for England in early October 1914. The home section focused on camp engineering and remained at Valcartier until October 1914 when they returned to Kingston to begin recruiting for the second contingent. In January 1915, 110 Queen's volunteers joined the 6th Field Company, Canadian Engineers, CEF, which sailed with the Second Canadian Contingent.

There was no distinctive Queen's-specific insignia for the Canadian Engineers and the members wore the standard Canadian Engineers cap, collar and shoulder badges.

#### 46TH BATTERY, CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

The 46th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, was organized in November 1915 under the command of Major L.W. Gill, a professor in the Queen's University Department of Electrical Engineering. The unit consisted of 60 members, primarily Queen's students but also included students from

the University of British Columbia. The unit arrived in France on 15 July 1916 and joined the 11th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Divisional Artillery. The 46th Battery saw active service during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme. In March 1917 the unit was dissolved and personnel were absorbed by batteries of the 9th Brigade.

The unit had a distinctive cap badge based on the "Q" of Queen's (Figure 1). No distinctive collar badges or shoulder titles are known.

Figure 1: 46th Battery Cap Badge

#### 50TH BATTERY, CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

The 50th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, was organized in February 1916 under the command of Captain D.G. Anglin.

The unit was recruited from Queen's University students, graduates and friends. The 50th Battery arrived in England on 25 September 1916 and provided drafts to other CFA batteries. On 22 January 1917 it was absorbed by the 52nd and 53rd batteries.

The 50th Battery wore the standard numbered CFA cap badge with the numeral "50"

Figure 2: 50th Battery Cap Badge

badge with the numeral "50" (Figure 2). The illustration shows an officers' badge with a silver overlay central device. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) documentation indicates 9 of these officers' badges were ordered. Other ranks wore a similar badge with a pickled brass overlay of the central numeral device. Style B (illustrated) and Style C (ribbon under the "Et Gloria" banner) are found. A distinctive collar badge ("50" inside a garter

reading "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE, topped with a crown and lion) was made for the

50th Battery officers but the author has yet to fill this niche in his collection after 20 years of searching. A brass shoulder title was made (Figure 3). Versions without the "Q" are also found.



Figure 3: 500th Battery Shoulder Title

#### 72ND BATTERY, CANADIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

The 72nd Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, was organized in May 1916 under the command of Captain R.R. Carr-Harris. The Battery was recruited from Queen's students and graduates as well as members of the 50th Battery who did not accompany it overseas. The 72nd Battery was a depot battery intended to provide drafts to



Figure 4: 72nd Battery Cap Badge

Continued on page 2879

other units. It was absorbed by No.3 Artillery Depot of Military District No.3 in October 1918.

Badges are found in all three styles: Style A – no maple leaves, Style B (Figure 4), and Style C – as per Style B with the addition of ribbons below the "Et Gloria" banner.

#### 253RD BATTALION, CANADIAN INFANTRY

The 253rd Battalion, Canadian Infantry was organized in October 1916 under the command of Lt-Col P.G.C. Campbell. In the "Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War: Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919", author Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson states that "The 253rd Battalion, however, had little connection with Queen's except for its name, drawing its personnel from the general public." Most of the available Queen's students and graduates had already volunteered for war service by the time the 253rd Battalion was formed, nevertheless, the University offered strong support for the recruiting effort. When the Queen's Journal announced the formation of the new unit a great deal of interest and pride was engendered by the fact that they were to be "kilties" in keeping with the Scottish roots of the University. Recruitment was encouraged by the recently established Queen's Contingent, Canadian Officers Training Corps. And in the spring of 1917, when the 253rd was only at half-strength, the Queen's Journal made one last, successful, appeal for volunteers. The unit sailed for England on 29 April 1917 with a strength of 17 officers and 461 other ranks. Upon arrival they were absorbed by the 5th Canadian Reserve Battalion.

Figure 5 illustrates a set of officers' collar, cap and shoulder title badges. Figure 6 shows what is believed to be a manufacturer's sample officers' cap badge (silver overlay on the Queen's U coat of arms and numeral atop a bronze overlay "Q", this in turn atop a pickled finish base) and a unique officers' shoulder title constructed by the addition of a silver overlay of "253/CANADA" atop a brass shoulder title. Figure 7 presents the badges worn by other ranks. Most of the 253rd Bn badges were produced by a local Kingston jeweler named Kinnear and D'Esterre. Kinnear and D'Esterre were active, with a jewelry shop on Princess Street in Kingston, until the early 2000s.

The 253rd had a pipe band, as might be expected given the Scottish roots of Queen's University. A silver-plated cap badge (Figure 8) is attributed to pipe band wear.

Like most, if not all, CEF units, sweetheart badges were available for private purchase. An example in brass with enamel overlay is shown in Figure 9.





Figure 5: 253rd Battalion Officer's Badges





Figure 6: Manufacturer's Sample Officers' Cap Badge; Unique Officers' Shoulder Title









Figure 7: 253rd Battalion Other Ranks Badges and Buttons

Continued on page 2881



Figure 8: Pipe Band Cap Badge



Figure 9: Sweetheart

# QUEEN'S CONTINGENT CANADIAN OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (COTC)

On 15 March 1915 Militia Order No.130 officially authorized the formation of a Queen's University Contingent, COTC and enrollment quickly reached 250 students. Most of the Queen's COTC members responded to McGill University's call for volunteers for a series of University Drafts.

The Queen's COTC did not obtain distinctive insignia until the 1920s.

#### **UNIVERSITY DRAFTS**

Between August 1915 and July 1916, six University Overseas Companies were raised to reinforce the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. These companies were primarily mobilized at McGill University in Montreal, but

were recruited from a number of Canadian universities, including Queen's. Queen's provided volunteers

for No.4 University Company, which sailed to England on 27 November 1915 with 5 officers and 250 other ranks. McGill and University of Toronto students wore their associated COTC badges (Figure 10) while volunteers from other universities wore the University Overseas Company cap badge (Figure 7).



Figure 10: University Overseas Company Cap Badge

#### **NO.15 CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE**

No.15 Canadian Field Ambulance was organized

in Kingston in May 1916 under the command of Major R.M. Filson. All officers were graduates of Queen's University. The unit, with 10 officers and 182 other ranks, was earmarked for the 5th Canadian Division. On 2 April 1918, shortly after the 5th Division was scrapped, the 15th Canadian Field Ambulance was dissolved and its personnel absorbed into the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Two distinctive cap badges were made as shown in Figure 11, one with the required "OVERSEAS" and one without. Collar badges of the overseas design were also made. (Note: This unit is incorrectly labelled "2nd Canadian Field Ambulance" in the Charlton "First World War Canadian Corps Badges" reference.)



Figure 11: No. 15 Canadian Field Ambulance Cap Badges

# NO.5 CANADIAN STATIONARY HOSPITAL (LATER, NO.7 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL)

No.5 Canadian Stationary Hospital was organized in Kingston in March 1915 under command of Lt-Col F. Etherington. The unit arrived in England on 15 May 1915 with 19 officers, 47 nursing sisters and 86 other ranks. Upon arrival the unit was tasked to set up a 400-bed tent hospital at St. Martins Plain (near Folkestone) which soon expanded to 600 beds. In August 1915, the unit sailed to Cairo where they set up a 400-bed hospital to support the Gallipoli campaign. The unit remained in Cairo until April 1916, ultimately equipped with 1,040 beds. On 26 January 1916, the unit was redesignated No.7 Canadian General Hospital.

Continued on page 2883

With the end of the Gallipoli campaign in January 1916, the No.7 Canadian General Hospital was transferred to France, arriving on 26 April 1916. The hospital operated from Le Tréport between April and October 1916 and Etaples from October 1916 to May 1919. The hospital, which had 2,290 beds by March 1917, closed on 31 May 1919.

No distinctive badges were made for the No.5 Canadian Stationary Hospital or the No.7 Canadian General Hospital. Members were the standard CAMC insignia.

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

By the war's end in November 1918, Queen's had over 1,500 people on active service - 271 were decorated and 114 Mentioned in Despatches. Sadly, 189 Queen's students gave their lives while serving Canada.

After the war the tradition of military service formally continued at Queen's University in the form of the Fifth Field Company, Canadian Engineers and the Queen's Contingent, COTC. The Fifth Field Company became a separate militia unit in 1927 and was thereafter no longer affiliated with the University. The Queen's Contingent, COTC, existed on campus until the dissolution of the national COTC program in 1968.

#### **SOURCES:**

Queen's Men, Canada's Men, The Military History of Queen's University, Kingston by Kathryn M. Bindon. Published by the Trustees of the Queen's University Contingent, COTC (1978).

Guide to Sources Relating to Units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (various), Library and Archives Canada.

Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War: Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919, Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson. Roger Duhamel, Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa (1962).

The History of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers. Col. A.J. Kerry and Maj. W.A. McDill. The Military Engineers Association of Canada, Ottawa (1962).

A Nation in the Making – The Organization and Administration of the Canadian Military During the First World War. David W. Love. Service Publications, Ottawa (2012).





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# THE CANADIAN GRENADIER GUARDS GVR CYPHER

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he Canadian Grenadier Guards drew upon their British parent regiment, the Grenadier Guards, for insignia and adopted the flaming ball grenade as a cap badge. Several variations were worn, including a plain ball grenade and a ball grenade with the sovereign's cypher. During the First World War, the Canadian Grenadier Guards recruited the 87th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, who were granted permission to wear the same cap badge as the militia regiment.



First World War era pattern

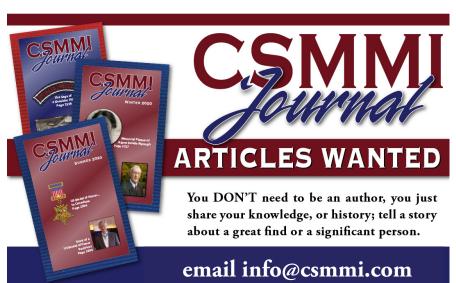


Variations in cypher and placement of Canada and the crown. Post First World War pattern

The Canadian Grenadier Guards (CGG) badge poses some issues for the collector. The principal design is the flaming ball grenade with the sovereign's cypher imposed, but determining the correct badge for the time period is problematic. The early issue of the CGG badge had 14 flame tips, three fewer than the imperial Guard's badge. These badges were worn both by the militia regiment and the initial members of the 87th Battalion CEF. Overseas, the

87th discovered the imperial GG wore a 17-tip grenade, and to emulate their imperial affiliate, they adopted a 17-tip badge. The design remained the same is other aspects, though minor variations in the strikings are known.

Another Canadian Grenadier Guards' GVR cypher 17-tip badge was struck post First World War, replacing the earlier design. This pattern included significant differences in the cypher, placement of the crown and CANADA. Unlike the early issue, which had the letters of the cypher entwined at the top, the cypher on this pattern had separations in the cypher. In addition, the CANADA and crown stamping were moved lower on the ball.



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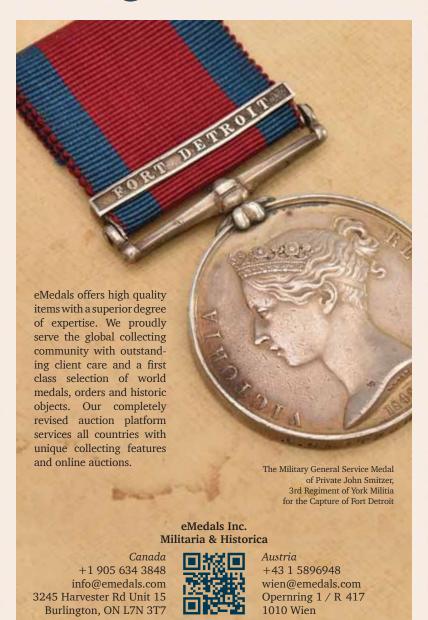
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