

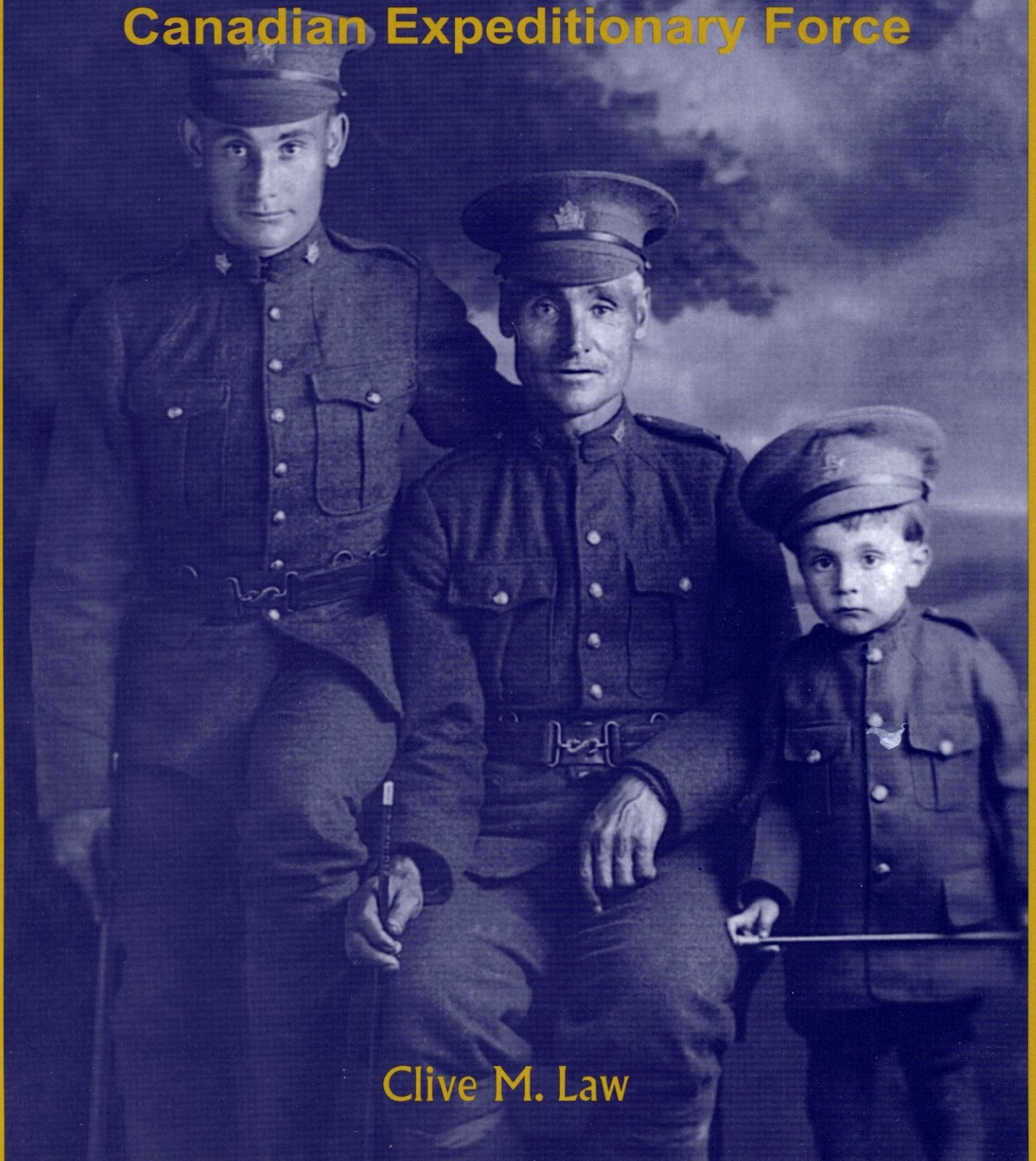
UpClose



MILITARY  
ARTIFACT

# Khaki

## Uniforms of the Canadian Expeditionary Force



Clive M. Law

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of the  
**Canadian Expeditionary Force**

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Service Publications  
PO Box 33071, Ottawa,  
Ontario, Canada K2C 3Y9  
[www.servicepub.com](http://www.servicepub.com)

## Introduction

The writing of this book was complicated by the lack of a central repository of information on Canadian uniforms of the era. Original clothing regulations were issued by the Canadian Department of Militia & Defence, as were all of the orders concerning clothing for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in Canada. However when the CEF reached England, they came under the command of the British Army, although by 1916 a recognizable Canadian identity allowed for separate Routine Orders. Some, but not all, changes in clothing regulations can be found in these orders.

Finally, when the CEF went to France, they came under the jurisdiction of the British Army and all which that condition entails - Army Instructions, War Office guidelines, Horse Guards directives, as well as local British Expeditionary Force Routine Orders. Nonetheless, Canadian Corps Orders affecting purely Canadian clothing can be found. This especially applies to such distinctive Canadian items as Battalion cap and collar badges and formation patches, termed 'Battle Patches'.

Original copies of the relative Orders used here were found in the National Archives of Canada, the National Library and the Directorate of History & Heritage of the Department of National Defence.

I make no claim that this book is the definitive work on the dress of the Canadian soldier. Much work needs to be done. The avid collector will no doubt be disappointed in this work as not being in-depth enough. Other researchers may bemoan the excessive coverage of one aspect, at the cost of less information on another.

Throughout this book I have attempted to use contemporary photographs to illustrate the uniforms and insignia in wear. The photos were provided by several collectors, institutions and interested individuals which include; E.H. (Ted) Wigney, Eugene Michaud, René Chartrand, Manitoba Provincial Archives, National Archives of Canada, and the Nepean Museum. Special thanks to Chuck Hamilton who willingly provided a wealth of photos from his private collection which form the core of the contemporary illustrations shown here.

Photographs of actual examples was made possible by collectors from across Canada and the United States, who readily loaned me parts of their collections. This included David Hiorth, John Swan and John Cameron. The unquestioned skill of my photographer, Colin Rowe, is evident in all of his photos. The line drawings of Service Dress tunics are by Ross M. A. Wilson and the cover illustration has been greatly enhanced by the computer skills and inherent talent of John Mihalov.

Finally, a special acknowledgement must be made of Steve Gannon, of Ottawa, for his review of the manuscript and of Joseph Sweeney, of New Jersey, who gave the text a final critical review, who readily couriered me artifacts from his collection and who saved me from making several embarrassing errors of fact.

Clive M. Law  
Nepean, Ontario  
November, 1997

*Non-commissioned Officers and Men*

It was originally envisaged by Sir Sam Hughes, the Canadian Minister of Militia, that the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) would be a homogenous group, with none of the Regimental distinctions of the peacetime Militia. As such he planned on a common cap badge, a uniform without unit identifiers and as many items of Canadian supply and manufacture as was possible. Nonetheless, Sir Sam was up against a strong tradition of regimental trappings, heritage and distinctions. This hoped-for army of interchangeable pieces quickly evolved into standard Infantry battalions, Highland battalions, Mounted Rifles and Cavalry, each demanding their traditional differences in dress.

The official introduction of the new Service Dress uniform for officers was made in Dress Regulations, published in the General Orders of 1903<sup>1</sup>. This was followed by a change in Clothing Regulations<sup>2</sup> which introduced the new Service Dress (SD) for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and Men.

The SD uniform was to be issued to both the City and Rural Corps. The original regulations called for uniforms with coloured shoulder straps and coloured welts along the seams of the pants. These colours were determined by the soldier's Arm of Service. When it was decided to hold the uniforms destined for the rural Corps in Ordnance depots, the idea of coloured piping was dispensed with.

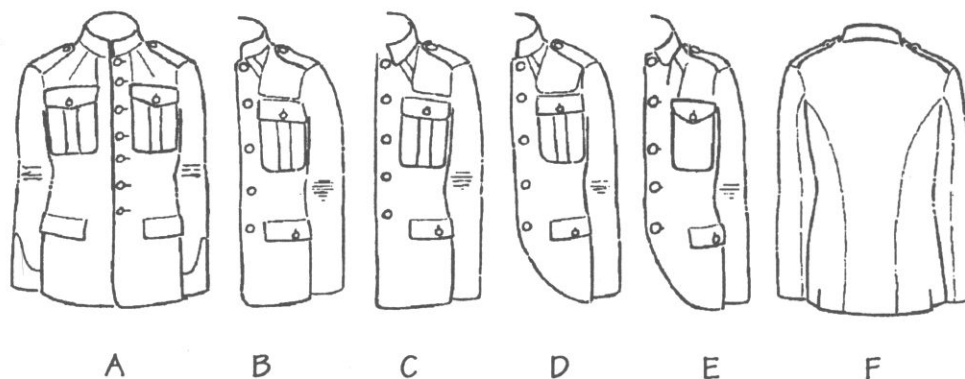
The initial issue of uniforms to the volunteers of the CEF was sporadic. In those Militia Districts that had some stock on hand, the issues could be made immediately. However, in most cases soldiers were attested and, with the exception of those who were already members of the Militia, the volunteers were left with no uniform or just parts of a uniform. In many cases the Militia regiments provided an armband indicating the status of the wearer as an attested soldier and the battalion to which he was enrolled.

Meanwhile, the Department of Militia & Defence was alternately threatening and cajoling private industry to make up the mass of materiel required by the burgeoning volunteer army. In the case of uniforms, however, the tailors first had to wait for the mills to produce the cloth.



*Figure 1* Canada goes to war. Kit inspection at Valcartier, Quebec. These soldiers wear the camp straw hat which indicates that they were in the Militia before the war.

*Hamilton Collection*



**Figure 2** Several styles of Service Dress were worn throughout the Great War. A) Standard 7-button, Canadian tunic with stand-up collar, pleated pockets and cuff detail. B) Canadianised version of a British tunic, here the roll collar has been adapted to the Canadian pattern. C) Standard British pattern tunic. Note roll-collar, 'rifle' pads and buttons on lower pockets. D) Highland 'cutaway' tunic. The collar has been adapted to the Canadian style. E) Economy Highland tunic. This tunic lacks the pocket pleats and the 'rifle' pads. F) Rear view of Service Dress tunic. The detailing remained virtually unchanged throughout the war. Illustrations, R. M. A. Wilson

### Tunics

Following British practice, Canada introduced a new field uniform in 1903. This uniform was termed the Service Dress (SD) and was loosely based on the British pattern. It included a stand-up collar closed by two hooks, seven buttons, two buttoned and pleated patch breast pockets, two side pockets and cuff details on the sleeves. Another variant encountered consists of a seven button tunic, plain cuffs and the application of British-style rifle pads. The tunic was cut in such a way as to be worn with either trousers or breeches.

The Service Dress tunic was purposely made large in the chest and waist so that heavy clothing could be worn underneath in cold weather. However, both soldiers and their commanding officers often had the tunics severely tailored to provide a smarter appearance. This unauthorized alteration resulted in tunics that could no longer accommodate the issued cardigan sweater and, once in England, caused many complaints and a resulting issue of British tunics until enough of the Canadian pattern could be produced.

The British version was manufactured with a roll collar and five buttons. The detailing of the Imperial version was better and included



**Figure 3** This classic example of a Canadian 7-button pattern jacket displays the stiff stand-up collar. The cuff detail is not to scale as the sleeves have been inexpertly turned back. Hiorth Collection / Rowe Photo

“rifle pads” on the shoulder - a detail which made the British pattern sportier in the eyes of the Canadian soldier. Ironically, while Canadians were complaining about the fit and style of the Canadian tunic large quantities of the British uniform were being made in Canada.

Ultimately both patterns were approved for wear by the CEF. In fact by May, 1917, the Militia Council had approved the issue of the British pattern for the CEF as a replacement, provided that all existing stocks of the 7-button pattern were depleted. This was based on the recommendation of the (Canadian) Quartermaster General<sup>3</sup>. Both the Canadian and British patterns underwent changes in detail due to



*Figure 4 Pre-war photo of the Canadian Army Service Corps at a sports day. Note the coloured shoulder straps.*

*MilArt Photo Archives*

material shortages. This resulted, mostly with the British pattern, in tunics with plain pockets, no rifle pads, different pocket flap details and more.

The SD tunic was also issued to Highland Regiments, although instructions were very specific that “The square front of Service Dress jackets worn by men of Kilted Regiments, will not be rounded off as the purse and belt is not worn during mobilization and the alterations are therefore unnecessary<sup>4</sup>”. Nonetheless, so many units continued to alter the tunic to the more traditional cut, commonly called a “cutaway”, that the orders were re-issued and included the statement that “This practice should cease!”<sup>5</sup>

#### *Coloured shoulder straps*

General Order #73 originally called for shoulder straps with distinctively coloured edging to identify the various Arms. These colours were;

<i>Cavalry</i>	<i>Edging, ¼ inch yellow cloth</i>
<i>Artillery</i>	<i>Edging, ¼ inch dark blue cloth; in the centre, a loop of scarlet braid from the shoulder seam, round the upper end of the button-hole, the sides of the loop ¼ inch apart.</i>
<i>Engineers</i>	<i>As for Artillery, but with colours reversed</i>
<i>Infantry</i>	<i>Edging, ¼ inch scarlet cloth</i>
<i>Army Service Corps</i>	<i>Edging, ¼ inch white cloth</i>
<i>Army Medical Corps</i>	<i>Edging, ¼ inch white cloth, loop as for Artillery, but of dull cherry braid. (This was amended within a couple of months to an edging of red cloth and a loop of white braid)<sup>6</sup></i>



**Figure 5** British pattern, 5-button tunic. This example displays the formation badge, as well as the brass shoulder badges, for the 2nd Brigade, Canadian Garrison Artillery.

*Swan Collection / Rowe Photo*



**Figure 6** This tunic shows the insignia of the 27th battalion. The lower sleeve displays a single chevron for 4-years good conduct and a gold wound stripe.

*Hiorth Collection / Rowe Photo*

As a special distinction for the soldiers forming part of the First Canadian Contingent, Sir Sam Hughes permitted that solid-coloured shoulder straps be worn overseas. Several years into the war, the question of these shoulder straps was brought up by the Quartermaster General, who was not in favour of this deviation. A decision was made at the highest level of the Canadian Corps that these shoulder straps could continue to be worn by surviving members of the 1st Canadian Contingent, to the point that a soldier who originally wore the shoulder straps of an infantryman, but who was now employed as a Motor Transport driver, could still wear the blue straps to which he was originally entitled. The colours allowed were;

<i>Infantry</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>With the exception of the 8th Cdn Bn which being a Rifle Regiment (sic) was issued with green shoulder straps.</i>
<i>Artillery</i>	<i>Red</i>	
<i>Signals</i>	<i>French Grey</i>	
<i>Cavalry and CAVC</i>	<i>Yellow</i>	
<i>Cdn Army Medical Corps</i>	<i>Maroon</i>	
<i>Cdn Army Service Corps</i>	<i>White with two blue pipings in centre</i>	
<i>Engineers</i>	<i>Small oval red tab, worn on sleeve just below shoulder, with letters "C.E." in blue.<sup>7</sup></i>	

Written authority was issued in Dress Regulations for Canadian units, where it was stated unequivocally that;

*None but Warrant Officers, NCOs and men who left Canada in September 1914 with the 1st Canadian Contingent, are authorised to wear the coloured shoulder straps adopted for each Arm of the Service.*

*Any deviation from this Order renders the soldier liable to the charge of being improperly dressed.<sup>8</sup>*

Coloured straps were also worn by troops other than those of the 1st Canadian Contingent. By 1917, the 3rd Canadian Division issued orders allowing coloured shoulder straps for platoon specialists. The colours chosen were;

<i>Rifle Grenadiers</i>	<i>Blue</i>
<i>Lewis Gunners</i>	<i>Yellow</i>
<i>Bombers</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>Bayonetmen</i>	<i>Red</i>

Although this order was in direct contradiction of the dress regulations, it was felt that there would be no conflict with soldiers of the First Canadian Contingent as nearly all of these were in the 1st Division. These coloured shoulder straps in the 3rd Division were most often displayed as 'slip-ons' manufactured of the appropriate coloured cloth.

In addition to coloured shoulder straps, Canadian Corps Headquarters also allowed for coloured cloth strips to be worn wrapped around the base of the shoulder straps by selected instructors. The coloured strips were limited to NCOs who were qualified 1st Class instructors at their respective schools. The one-inch wide strips were of the following colours;

<i>Drill</i>	<i>Cdn Training School</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Musketry</i>	<i>Cdn School of Musketry</i>	<i>Green</i>
	<i>Hythe School of Musketry</i>	<i>Green</i>
	<i>Aldershot School of Musketry</i>	<i>Green</i>
<i>Bombing</i>	<i>Cdn Trench Warfare School</i>	<i>Red</i>
<i>Anti-Gas</i>	<i>Cdn Trench Warfare School</i>	<i>Grey</i>
<i>Entrenching</i>	<i>Cdn Trench Warfare School</i>	<i>Blue<sup>9</sup></i>

The above coloured strips, which were all solid colour, are not to be confused with the multi-coloured ribbon worn by Cavalry units at the base of their shoulder straps in lieu of formation patches. These Cavalry ribbons normally consisted of the colours used on the camp flags of the unit.

### *Buttons*

The only authorized button for issue was the General Service (GS) button. On the 7-button Canadian tunic these buttons were 40 line while on the 5-button British tunic they were considerably larger, 60 line. Nonetheless, many units wore buttons of the associated Militia regiments or of their Corps, such as the Canadian Engineers. Later during the war several CEF battalions adopted buttons of their own design. These battalion buttons continued to be worn up to the introduction of Battledress in 1937.

In addition to brass buttons, many early tunics were issued from stores with leather buttons. This was due mainly to the lack of GS buttons at the start of mobilization. One of the drawbacks to leather, and composition, buttons was their tendency to melt-down during the fumigation process.



*Cap, collar and shoulder badges*

During the rapid build-up of the nascent CEF, some newly formed units wore the Battalion numbers on the forage cap. This continued for a short while even after the issue of the Maple Leaf badge, where the numbers were pinned-on below the badge.

Throughout the early years of the war the only approved cap badge for Infantry battalions was the brass Maple Leaf with 'CANADA' superimposed. (In the case of Corps, such as the Engineers, Artillery and Machine Gun Corps, special cap badges were authorised, all based on the British parent badge.) The use of the General Service Maple Leaf badge was not satisfactory for many of the battalions and many of them petitioned early in the war for permission to provide distinctive cap and collar badges out of regimental funds. Invariably the Department of Militia and Defence approved distinctive cap badges, provided that the word 'OVERSEAS' was incorporated into the design and the individual units made private arrangements to procure badges. These badges for the first two divisions tended to be ordered from British suppliers while those for the last three divisions tended to be ordered initially from Canadian suppliers prior to embarkation for overseas. Nonetheless, replacement badges were often ordered from England. By 1917, after much debate, the Government approved the expenditure of \$25,000 to provide distinctive unit cap badges at public expense. Other cap badges on general issue were;<sup>10</sup>

*Cavalry;*

*Royal Canadian Dragoons*  
*Lord Strathcona's Horse, (RC)*  
*Cavalry Corps*

*Badges as now (ed. note, 1917) worn*  
*Badges as now worn*  
*Badges as now worn*

*Artillery;*

*Royal Canadian Horse Artillery*  
*Cdn Field Artillery*

*Badge as now worn*  
*As for Royal Field Artillery but with*  
*Canadian Garrison Artillery*  
*"CANADA" instead of UBIQUE*

*Engineers;*

*Including Signal Companies*  
*Machine Gun Corps*

*Universal Cdn Engineers Badge*  
*Machine Gun Corps Badge as worn*  
*by English Machine Gun Corps*  
*Universal Badge as issued to these*  
*units in Canada*

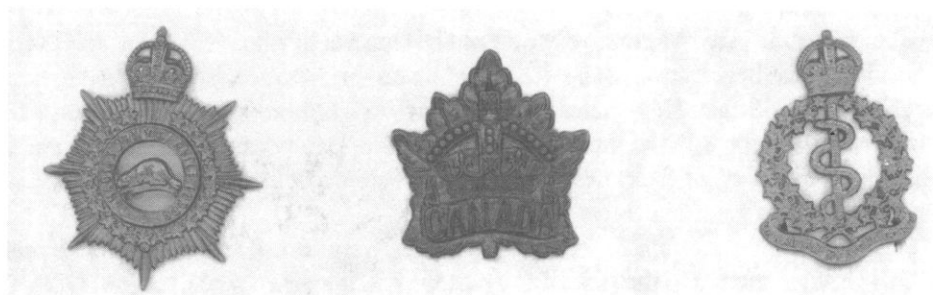
*Cdn Army Service Corps*

*"*  
*"*  
*"*

*Cdn Army Medical Corps*

*Cdn Army Veterinary Corps*

*Cdn Ordnance Corps*



**Figure 7** Unlike the cap badges for most Units, these badges were available through Ordnance stores as an item of continuing supply.

<i>Cdn Army Pay Corps</i>	“
<i>Cdn Postal Corps</i>	“
<i>Military Police</i>	<i>As worn by similar units of English Army<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Cyclist</i>	<i>As worn by similar units of English Army<sup>2</sup></i>

While many units were arranging for the private purchase of collar badges, often to match the unit cap badge, Headquarters repeated that the only issue collar badges were as follows;

<i>Cavalry</i>	<i>As now (ed. note, 1917) worn</i>
<i>Artillery</i>	<i>Artillery Grenade</i>
<i>Engineers</i>	<i>Engineer Grenade</i>
<i>Cdn Mounted Rifles</i>	<i>Numeral over CMR</i>
<i>Machine Gun Corps</i>	<i>As worn by English MG Corps</i>
<i>Infantry;</i>	
<i>Royal Cdn Regiment</i>	<i>Badge as now worn</i>
<i>PPCLI</i>	<i>Badge as now worn</i>
<i>Other units</i>	<i>Letter “C” over numeral</i>
<i>Cdn Army Service Corps</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Cdn Army Medical Corps</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Cdn Army Veterinary Corps</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Cdn Ordnance Corps</i>	<i>Universal badge as issued to this unit in Canada</i>
<i>Cdn Army Pay Corps</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Cdn Postal Corps</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Military Police</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>
<i>Cyclists</i>	<i>Maple Leaf</i>

Another item of issue to all enlisted men was the brass shoulder title. The CANADA badge was to be worn by all members of the CEF and regulations were promulgated concerning the style and wear of this badge. For the overwhelming majority this consisted of a simple



**Figure 8** Typical shoulder titles of the early CEF. From top; Royal Canadian Regiment, Canadian Field Artillery, Royal Highlanders of Canada, Royal Canadian Dragoons, 5th Bn, Western Cavalry, Canadian Army Medical Corps.

CANADA badge, however some units were entitled to special issues. Headquarters Canadian Corps was adamant about shoulder titles. Where they had allowed latitude over cap and collar badges, they routinely denied requests for distinctive shoulder titles, preferring that their soldiers wear the common 'CANADA' identifier. Those special shoulder badges on issue were;

*Infantry;*

<i>Royal Cdn Regiment</i>	<i>R.C.R.</i>
<i>5th Battalion</i>	<i>Western Cavalry</i>
<i>13th &amp; 42nd battalions</i>	<i>R.H.C.</i>
<i>14th Battalion</i>	<i>R.M.R.</i>
<i>16th Battalion</i>	<i>Canadian Scottish</i>
<i>24th Battalion</i>	<i>V.R.C.</i>

*Artillery;*

<i>Cdn Field Artillery</i>	<i>C.F.A.</i>
<i>Cdn Heavy (Corps) Artillery</i>	<i>C.C.A.</i>

*Engineers*

*Special Engineer patch (C.E. in blue letters on a red background) worn at the top of the sleeve in addition to the CANADA badge.*

Finally, by 1917, permission was granted for units to adopt their own shoulder titles, provided these were paid for out of unit funds. In nearly every instance the shoulder title was to include the word 'CANADA'.

*Cloth Shoulder Titles*

As a distinctive badge, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) were entitled to wear an embroidered shoulder title. This cloth badge consisted of white letters on a red background. This was the usual colour combination used by British Infantry units prior to the outbreak of the war. The cloth title was worn in addition to the universal brass CANADA shoulder title. Many units emulated this use of a distinctive cloth unit title, none with higher authority or approval<sup>13</sup>. The 160th Battalion from Bruce County, Ontario issued a cloth title and, after the fact, sought permission from the Minister. This was refused out of hand and the Battalion was forced to remove the badge. The 207th Battalion was yet another battalion known to have issued a cloth shoulder title but again, no approval was forthcoming from Headquarters. The Cyclists also issued a white on red shoulder title while in France, but, again, these were ordered removed as no authority existed for their wear. An unusual situation existed with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. The ORs of this unit wore a cloth, 3-line, shoulder title with the words "British Columbia/2/CMR" in yellow thread on a khaki oval. The officers of this battalion wore a triangular ribbon flash in the colours of the 30th British Columbia Horse, the unit which raised the 2CMR. No authority for these distinctions has been found.

The 49th Battalion, of Edmonton, was given approval to wear a cloth title, sewn to the shoulder strap. This title consisted of red letters on a khaki background. However the surviving authority for this is vague and, although photographic evidence exists of its wear, it is believed that the badge was not worn overseas.

Often approval was granted by Canadian authorities and ordered removed upon arrival in England.



*Figure 9* Shoulder titles were worn by many units and these titles could be official, semi-official or completely unofficial. In many cases units preferred to beg forgiveness after the fact rather than seek permission before. Top to bottom, left to right; Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Canadian Mounted Rifles, 207th Battalion, Canadian Engineers, 12th Battalion, 46th Battalion, 255th Battalion (Queen's Own Rifles), Canadian School Corps.

At times, approval for cloth titles was granted by a lower Headquarters. While still in Bramshott, England, the General Officer Commanding the 4th Canadian Division approved a green on red flash for the 46th Battalion. Notations in Battalion Orders state that the colours chosen represent the colours of the 60th Rifles and the 95th Saskatchewan Rifles which recruited for the 46th Battalion, CEF. Many other units adopted cloth shoulder titles, some on the approval of a lower headquarters and some on their own authority. A full list of shoulder titles worn by the CEF may never be completed.

#### *Badges of Rank and Appointment*

The introduction of the Service Dress uniform saw the introduction of wearing rank badges on both sleeves, previously this varied by Corps and, sometimes, by unit. The 1903 Clothing Regulations also saw the elimination of the "colours and crown", worn as a rank badge, on the sleeve by colour-



*Figure 10* A private from the 160th Battalion. Approval for this cloth shoulder title was refused, as it was for nearly every battalion.

*Allan Bartley Collection*



*Figure 11* This soldier wears a formation patch with the words 'Canadian Pioneer' embroidered upon it.

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 12* This shoulder title was approved at Divisional level and contravened CEF regulations which forbade cloth titles overseas.

*Rowe Photo*

sergeants and their replacement with a Crown. In May, 1915 a new level of Warrant Officer, Class 2, was introduced. This led to some changes in the rank badges, and titles, of the Senior Non-commissioned Officers. (For Warrant Officers see page 33).

Non-Commissioned Officers and Men (pre-May, 1915)

Sergeant-Major	4-bar Chevron and Crown
Bandmaster	4-bar Chevron and Crown
Sergeant-Major, CAMC	4-bar Chevron, Crown and Geneva Cross
Regimental QuarterMaster Sergeant	4-bar Chevron and Star
Sqdrn, Battery, or Coy QM Sgt or SgtMaj	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Colour Sergeant	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Armourer Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Hammer & Pincers
Artificer Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Wheel
Farrier Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Horseshoe
Pioneer Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Crossed Hatchets
Signalling Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Crossed flags
Stretcher bearer Sgt	3-bar Chevron w/Geneva Cross
Sgt. Drummer	3-bar Chevron w/Drum
Sgt. Trumpeter	3-bar Chevron w/Crossed Trumpets
Sgt. Bugler	3-bar Chevron w/Crossed Bugles
Sgt., CAMC	3-bar Chevron w/Geneva Cross
Band Sgt., Paymaster Sgt., Orderly Room Sgt., Machine Gun Sgt., Sgt. Cook.	3-bar Chevron
Signalling Corporal	2-bar Chevron w/Crossed flags
Artificer Corporal	2-bar Chevron w/Wheel
Hospital or Stretcher-bearer Cpl., and Corporal, CAMC	2-bar Chevron w/Geneva Cross
Corporal	2-bar Chevron
Bombardier	1-bar Chevron
2nd Corporal or Lance Corporal	1-bar Chevron
Pioneer	Crossed Hatchets
Bugler	Crossed Bugles
Trumpeter	Crossed Trumpets
Collar-maker and Saddler	Bit
Shoeing Smith	Horseshoe
Wheeler	Wheel
Fitter or Smith; Carriage Smith	Hammer & Pincers

Non-Commissioned Officers and Men (post-May, 1915)

Staff Quartermaster Sergeant	4-bar Chevron
Sergeant-Bugler	Bugle and 4-bar Chevron
Sergeant-Drummer	Drum and 4-bar Chevron
Sergeant-Piper	4-bar Chevron
Sergeant-Trumpeter	Trumpets and 4-bar Chevron
Quartermaster-Sergeant, Gymnastic Staff	Crossed Swords, Crown and 4-bar chevron
Armament Quartermaster Sergeant	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant Farrier	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant Wheeler	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant Saddler	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant Smith	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Armament Staff Sergeant	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant, Army Service Corps	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant, Army Ordnance Corps	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant, Army Medical Corps	3-bar Chevron and Crown

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Staff Sergeant, Army Pay Corps	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant, Armourer	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Sergeant of Mounted Band	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Staff Sergeant of Regimental Band, Artillery	3-bar Chevron and Crown
Company Sgt-Major Instr., Gymnastic Staff	3-bar Chevron, Crossed Swords and Crown
Band Sergeant	Special Metal Badge and 3-bar Chevron
Pioneer Sergeant	Crossed Hatchets and 3-bar Chevron
Sergeant Instructor, Gymnastic Staff	3-bar Chevron and Crossed Swords
Sergeants of all Services	3-bar Chevron
Corporals of all Services	2-bar Chevron
2nd Corporals	1-bar Chevron
Lance-Corporals	1-bar Chevron
Bombardiers	1-bar Chevron
Bandsmen or Musicians	Special Metal Badge
Bugle or trumpeter	Bugle or Crossed Trumpets
Drummer or Fifer	Drum
Pioneer	Crossed Hatchets

Occupation and Skill-at-Arms Badges (post-May, 1915)

Range and Laboratory Quartermaster-Sgts	Crown, Crossed Guns and Grenade on Chevron
Rough Riders	Spur
Saddlers (WO, NCOs and Men)	Bit (except Cavalry Regiments)
Farriers and Shoeing Smiths (WO, NCOs and Men)	Horseshoe
Wheelers and Carpenters (WO, NCOs and Men)	Wheel
Armourers, Fitters, Machinery Artificers, Machinery Gunners and Smiths	Hammer & Pincer
Despatch Riders	D.R. over Wheel
Cavalry Bandsmen wear no badge	
Assistant Instructors in Signalling, and Trained Signallers	Crossed Flags
NCOs and Men, employed as Signallers	Crossed Flags (left arm, below the elbow)
Machine Gun Instructors and Trained Machine Gunners	M.G. in Wreath
Marksmen (in Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, Army Service Corps and Army Ordnance Corps)	Crossed Rifles (left arm, below the elbow)
Army Gymnastic Staff	Crossed Swords and Crown
Regimental and Battalion Bombers, also Officer Instructors employed at Bombing School	Bomb (worsted embroidery, worn on the right, sleeve one inch below shoulder seam)

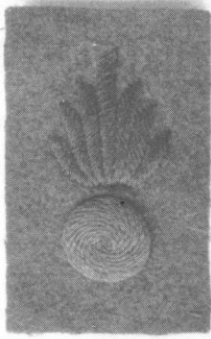
The bomb badge was altered in October, 1917 when it was decided that the bombers badge would be embroidered in scarlet only instead of in scarlet and drab as before.<sup>14</sup> The 'North Point' badge used for scouts, also known as the 'Fleur de Lys' badge due to its similarity, was manufactured in gilt metal and in two styles, either with or without a lower horizontal bar.

Chevrons used for rank badges for Sr. Non-commissioned Officers, Corporals and Lance-Corporals consisted of a worsted lace with a repeating white chevron centrally located. This same lace was used on the cuffs of officers' tunics to denote rank. The same lace was used for the good conduct chevron.

The rank badges were to be positioned on the Service Dress uniforms as follows; the point of the 1-bar chevron was to be 9 inches from the top of the sleeve; the point of the 2-bar chevrons was to be 9½ inches and 3-bar chevrons was to be 10½ inches from the top of the sleeve. In the case of the 4-bar chevron, this was to be worn with the point uppermost and was worn with the point 9 inches from the edge of the sleeve.

In the case of Warrant Officers badges, as well as Skill-at-Arms badges, these were to be worn 6½ inches from the edge of the sleeve.

Trade badges, when worn by Privates were to have the lower edge of the badge



**Figure 13** Bombers badge.

positioned 9 inches from the top of the sleeve, while those worn by NCOs (except Quartermaster Sergeants) would be affixed with the lower edge  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch above the "V" of the chevron, with the Artillery Gun or Gun and Crown, positioned about the same distance above the trade badge. The Engineers Grenade was to be worn immediately above the trade badge. When trade badges, crossed trumpets, bugles, etc. . . were worn with the 4-bar Chevron, they were worn above the chevron in all units but the Artillery and Engineers, where they were positioned on the chevron. At all times, Skill-at-Arms badges were worn above good conduct badges. Rank insignia were worn on both sleeves, as were Geneva Crosses.

Early in the war many of the occupation and Skill-at-Arms badges were issued in a gilding metal or brass finish. By 1915 the metal badges were officially declared obsolete in the CEF. In practice, however,



**Figure 14** Both soldiers wear the Bombers badge on their sleeve. They are shown here talking with the Bishop of Toronto. Note the tent in the background used as a Catholic Chapel

NAC PA2572



**Figure 15** Gun-layers badge, with a Canadian variant, Bugle, Bombers and Signallers badges.

Rowe Photo





*Figure 16* The approved method of wear for the good conduct chevron.

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 17* Wearing the overseas service chevron for 3 years service, after January 1, 1915.

*Hamilton Collection*

the metal badges remained in use through to the war's end.

#### *Distinction for Wounds*

Army Order (British) 249 of 1916 authorised the issue and wear of a special distinction for officers and Other Ranks who had been wounded. This special distinction was to be in the form of a two inch length of Russia Braid, worn on the left sleeve, above the cuff.

To qualify for the 'wound stripe', the recipient's name had to appear in the official casualty lists provided by the Adjutant General's office or on those produced by the General Officers Commanding forces engaged in active operations.<sup>15</sup>

A sufficient quantity of braid for two jackets was supplied at battalion level and was to be worn with the lower edge of the braid three inches from the bottom of the sleeve. Additional wounds qualified the wearer for additional strips of braid. These were to be worn on either side of the original, separated by ½ inch.

By February, 1918 permission was given to wear the wound stripes in civilian clothing for discharged soldiers. As protection against misuse, the



*Figure 18* The wound stripe was worn throughout the British Army. Here a soldier of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment displays his two wound stripes.

*Hamilton Collection*

government passed an Order-in-Council which provided for a \$100.00 fine, or three months imprisonment, for the unauthorised wear of this special distinction.<sup>16</sup>

#### *Service chevrons*

The Imperial authorities published Army Order No. 4, of 1918 in which it was announced that chevrons for "overseas service" would be awarded.

In the case of Canadian soldiers, these chevrons would be awarded "from the date of leaving their own country". Service in the United States did not qualify although time spent in Bermuda and at St. Lucia did. Ironically time spent in England by Canadians qualified as time overseas. The British soldier, however, could not count this time. Additional chevrons were awarded for each 12 month period away from Canada. The regulations stipulated that leave, up to one month, could be included in the qualifying time provided that the soldier returned to overseas duty at the expiry of such leave.

The chevrons were of two colours - red and blue. The first chevron, if earned on or before 31 December, 1914 would be red, if earned after 1 January, 1915, the chevron would be blue. All additional chevrons were to be blue also. Embroidered of worsted material the chevrons were described as "¼ inch in width, the arms 1 ¼ inch long". They were to be worn with the red chevron in the lowest position and placed on the sleeve so that the apex of the lowest chevron was 4 inches above the bottom edge of the right sleeve.<sup>17</sup>

Recognizing the difficulty in supplying the large numbers of qualifying soldiers, blanket permission was granted for the wear of chevrons produced locally, provided that they were manufactured to the specifications laid down by the War Office<sup>18</sup>.

#### *Occupation and Skill-at-Arms Badges*

In addition to qualified marksmen, the Crossed Rifles badge could also be worn by certain Musketry Instructors. Regulations stipulated that NCO Instructors of the Canadian School of Musketry, a Squadron Sergeant Major Instructor in Musketry of Cavalry, as well as a Colour Sergeant Instructor in Musketry of Infantry could wear the badge.

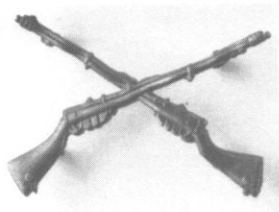
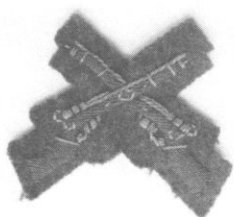
#### *Gun-layers*

Gunners of the Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Heavy Artillery and Canadian Garrison Artillery, who had qualified on course, were entitled to wear the letter 'L' in a laurel wreath. Issue was limited to 8 per Field or Heavy Battery or Company of Garrison Artillery. Examples exist of a badge with the word 'CANADA' embroidered above the 'L'.



*Figure 19 Distinctive badge of a sergeant-bugler.*

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 20* Top, worsted badge for musketry instructors replaced the early war gilt badge, below.

*Rowe Photo*

traces its roots to the international Boy Scout movement. Qualification varied and the badge could be worn by snipers as well as scouts.

The badge's design differed in minor ways. For Infantry units the badge incorporated

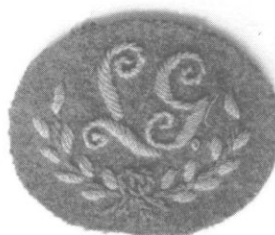
### *Machine Gunners Badges*

1st Class (Vickers) Machine Gunners serving with MG Squadrons and Companies were permitted to wear the 'MG' in a laurel wreath badge which had been authorized by Musketry Regulations before the war.

For machine gunners who qualified as 1st Class with the Lewis or Hotchkiss, they were permitted to wear 'LG' in a wreath or 'HG' in a wreath, respectively. All Machine Gun badges were to be worn on the left arm, below the elbow.

### *Scout Badge*

One of the more popular Skill-at-Arms badges appears to be the Scout badge. Based on the design of a map's 'North Point' the badge



*Figure 21* Badge issued to 1st Class Lewis Gunners. A similar badge, with 'HG' was available for Hotchkiss Gunners.

*Rowe Photo*



*Figure 22* A musician of the Winnipeg Rifles wearing the Lyre.

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 23* This artillery sergeant wears the Silver War Badge in the approved position.

*Hamilton Collection*

a horizontal bar. For mounted units the badge had no bar. The badge was issued in brass.

### *Silver War Badge*

A special distinction was made for soldiers who had been discharged on account of wounds or sickness. If they volunteered, and were accepted, for further service they were entitled to wear the badge on the right breast, 1½ inches above the edge of the pocket flap<sup>19</sup>.

### *Good Conduct Stripes*

Enlisted men were authorised, after four years of service, to wear a chevron on the lower left sleeve. This chevron was to be worn inverted. Additional stripes could be awarded for each additional four years service, to a maximum of 16 years. Wound stripes, if applicable, were to be worn below the chevrons.

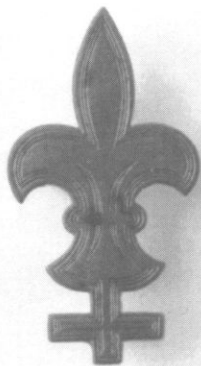
### *Armbands*

In lieu of uniforms, and in some cases the lack of distinctive unit badges, units made local arrangements to procure identifying armbands. These varied in specific wording but all basically announced the battalion's number, while some included the words 'OVERSEAS' or 'CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE'. Recruiters required a special identifier. As all Militia units, as well as the Permanent Force soldiers and the individual Militia Districts were fielding teams of recruiters throughout the war, a simple, yet immediately identifiable armband was required. To identify recruiters a khaki armband, featuring a red-silhouetted crown, was issued. This armband was to be worn on the left arm, above the elbow.



*Figure 24 The original caption to this photo claims that the red sleeve stripe identifies the wearer as a 'trench raider'. This may have been authorised at Brigade or Divisional level.*

NAC PA3645



*Figure 25 Scout badge with bar, as used by Infantry scouts.*

*Hiorth Collection / Rowe Photo*

Units were responsible for local sanitation, both in garrison as well as when in the front line. To aid in maintaining healthy standards, NCOs were nominated as Sanitary Police and were provided locally manufactured armbands, usually produced by the battalion tailor. These armbands were seldom more than crudely drawn letters SP on a white piece of cloth. Later in the war, Routine Orders allowed for the issue of 'MP' armbands for Sanitary Police, provided that such armbands were worn only when the wearer was actively employed on Sanitary duty.

A large number of armbands was authorised at all levels. Some other armbands approved for enlisted wear included;

*Line of Communication - "L.of C." in black*

lettering on red. This was worn on the right arm only.

*Signal Service* - Blue and white, with the blue field uppermost. Worn on both arms

*Military Police* - 'MP' in red letters on a black armband, worn on the right arm.

*Stretcher Bearers* - White armband with black 'SB' letters worn on both arms.

*Hospital Patient* - Blue armlet, worn on both sleeves. These replaced the blue hospital suit worn by patients on day leave.

#### *Formation patches*

A wide variety of formation patches was worn by the CEF. These patches for the Infantry divisions were based on coloured rectangles with geometric shapes added. The final colours chosen were red, blue, French grey, green and maroon for the 1st to 5th Canadian Divisions respectively. In addition to the Infantry, formation patches were also approved for the Canadian Cavalry Corps, and for the many Corps Troops and Line of Communication Troops. Many of these patches were only approved in the final months of the war with some receiving approval after the war.

#### *Headdress*

When the SD was initially introduced, there was no change in the issued headdress. Units were to continue wearing the helmet, field or forage caps which they wore with the pre-1903 scarlet uniform<sup>20</sup>. By 1905, a Service Dress forage cap was introduced for wear with the SD. It was with this stiff-crowned cap that the CEF went overseas. The most popular cap worn by the CEF was the "soft" trench cap. This was not, however, a Canadian item, but an item of British Supply. Nonetheless, the soft cap was issued to Canadian troops when shortages of the stiff forage cap existed in Canadian Stores and the assistance of the Royal Army Clothing Department was requested.

The standard Canadian issue cap consisted of a stiff, wired crown, which looked smart on parade but was not comfortable to wear. Many soldiers removed the internal wire stiffener, and although this was acceptable in the trenches, CEF clothing instructions were adamant that only stiff caps would be permitted in Canada and in London. In fact, arrangements were made to provide replacement wires at public expense. Caps that were considered not worth the expense of new wires were to be worn for fatigues. A summer weight cap was also available.

Forage caps worn by Other Ranks had a leather chin-strap with brass keepers (sliders), while the caps for officers utilised leather keepers. At times, officers would be issued OR caps from Ordnance stores 'on repayment' and they would then change the chin-strap. An unusual custom in the Canadian Militia, especially in the pre-war years, was for the chinstrap to be worn



*Figure 26* Military Police at Valcartier Camp. He is wearing a pre-war MP armband.

*Hamilton Collection*

hooked above the badge. By June, 1917 both the British pattern soft caps and the Canadian pattern Service Dress caps were being issued concurrently<sup>21</sup>.

One of the most popular head coverings was the British 'trench cap', which became universally known as the 'Gor' Blimey'. This cap incorporated ear flaps which, when not used, could be tied up over the top of the cap. The Gor' Blimey was introduced in 1915 and had virtually disappeared from use by 1917.

Another popular style of headdress worn in the trenches was the wool Balaclava, a style of headgear made famous in the Crimea. The Balaclava was so popular with the troops that it replaced the officially issued "cap, comforter". This latter was basically a wool tube which could be worn around the neck or rolled up and worn on top of the head like a watch cap. By July, 1917 it was decided that no future issues of the comforter were to be made except for those proceeding on Active Service. Those that were already in



*Figure 27 The British 'Gor Blimey' trench cap, worn here by a young driver. Of additional interest is the 5-button tunic which lacks the 'rifle' patches as well as the unpleated breast pockets.*

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 28 The Balmoral with cock's feathers. The feathers were traditional Scottish Headdress embellishments.*

*Hamilton Collection*

the possession of serving soldiers could, however, be retained.<sup>22</sup>

Yet another pattern of headdress which was popular with Highland units was the Glengarry. However the Glengarry had been declared obsolescent in 1915, and the wearing of Glengarries in France was forbidden. The blue Glengarry, nonetheless, remained an item of issue to Canadian soldiers in England. Over 7,000 khaki Glengarries were taking up space at the Canadian Ordnance Depot at Bramshott and the Senior Ordnance Officer advised Militia Headquarters in Canada not to send any more over. In accordance with Army Instructions, no issue of Glengarries was to be made to units going to France.

In some instances, battalions wore hackles or feathers as part of their headdress. Both the initial purchase, and the on-going replacement was a Unit responsibility. Once in the field, only the Black Watch red hackle was issued for wear.

**Figure 29** The dark blue Glengarry proved to be a popular style of headdress in Highland battalions. The pattern and colour of dicing was often sufficient to identify a regiment.

*Hiorth Collection / Rowe Photo*



**Figure 30** The khaki Glengarry was a standard item of issue for CEF battalions in Canada. However, the dark blue pattern was more popular with units in England. The Glengarry was replaced in France with the Tam O'Shanter, although many pipe bands retained the Glengarry.

*Wigney Collection / Rowe Photo*

**Figure 31** The wool Balaclava was often issued as a substitute to the 'cap, comforter' and proved to be a popular item with the CEF. Many were knitted and sent over by private individuals and patriotic organisations. This example was knitted by the Forbes Co., Hesper, Ontario, in 1916.

*Sweeney Collection / Rowe Photo*





**Figure 32** Canadian Pattern Service Dress cap. This example, of the 21st Bn, was typical and shows the stiff brim and the wire stretched top.

*Lucy Collection / Rowe Photo*

**Figure 33** British pattern of trench cap. This style proved popular with the Canadians and was issued concurrently to the Stiff cap. This pattern was made in both cotton and wool versions.

*Swan Collection / Rowe Photo*



**Figure 34** The British 'Gor' Blimey'. This style was more popular with the British troops than with the Canadians, nonetheless it was a welcome cap in winter.

*Sweeney Collection / Rowe Photo*



The Balmoral was first issued to Canadian troops in 1915 to replace the Glengarry. At first they were of plain blue felt although khaki covers were also available. Later in the war they were manufactured in khaki felt. By late 1915 the Tam O'Shanter made its appearance. The Tam, made of khaki serge wool, was much larger and floppier than the Balmoral. By the end of Summer, 1917 permission was obtained to issue 'Bonnets, Tam-O'Shanter' to drafts of Highland and Scottish units proceeding to France<sup>23</sup>.

### *Helmet*

By 1917 the British War Office, heedful of the large number of head wounds and aware of the German move to steel helmets, issued the Brodie pattern of steel helmet. Ideally suited to trench warfare, the Brodie provided good protection to the head, neck and shoulders from falling debris caused by shell-fire.

The Brodie helmet, originally designated as trench stores, quickly became available in sufficient numbers to permit the individual issue of a helmet for each soldier. These helmets were often decorated with the battalion badge or a facsimile of the unit's formation patch.<sup>24</sup>

### *Shorts*

Recognizing that summers in France could be extremely hot, Britain, issued short pants. The shorts were identical to those issued to British and Commonwealth soldiers serving in the Middle East and throughout the Mediterranean. At one point soldiers took it upon themselves to cut off the legs of the SD trousers. Needless to say, the Quartermaster General did not approve of this unauthorised alteration.

### *Pantaloons (breeches)*

The wearing of pantaloons was restricted to mounted services only. The material of the pantaloons varied. They were made of wool Bedford cord for the permanent corps and of drab serge for the active militia. The coloured stripes or welts were worn, as for trousers, until the use of distinctive stripes was dispensed with in February, 1904.

The Quartermaster General was forced to issue a reminder in early 1917 stating that "Breeches, drab, cloth, will only be demanded for and issued to soldiers who are on a strength as, and employed as, motor drivers, motor cyclists, or soldiers of a mounted unit<sup>25</sup>." Specifically, breeches were not to be issued to soldiers on a Staff or Sub-Staff. By 1917, drivers of all motorised vehicles were required to wear pantaloons. This included members of Highland units who had to forsake their kilts for breeches. The breeches, as was the case with the trousers, made provision for braces with the use of three pairs of buttons. As with most items of Canadian uniform, breeches issued to the CEF were from both British and Canadian stock.



**Figure 35** Two members of the Canadian Machine Gun Corps in shorts and puttees.

*Ron Edwards Collection*

*Trousers (slacks)*

The original uniform, as introduced in 1903 called for trousers of a drab material, identical to the tunic, but with the addition of stripes along the outside seams<sup>26</sup>. The colours chosen were;

<i>Cavalry &amp; Mounted Rifles</i>	<i>Yellow, 1 3/4 inches wide</i>
<i>Artillery</i>	<i>Red, 1 3/4 inches wide</i>
<i>Engineers</i>	<i>Red, 1 3/4 inches wide</i>
<i>Infantry &amp; Rifles</i>	<i>Red welt, 1/4 inch wide</i>
<i>Army Service Corps</i>	<i>White, 2 stripes each 3/4 inch wide and 1/8 inch between</i>
<i>Army Medical Corps</i>	<i>Dull cherry, 1/4 inch wide, two 1/8 inch black welts 1/4 inch between. (Amended to red stripe, 1 3/4 inches wide)<sup>27</sup></i>

The coloured stripes were dispensed with by February, 1904 when it was decided, as a cost-saving device, to forego the issue of Service Dress to the Rural Corps, and to keep the issue in Stores until the Rural Corps were called out on active service. The trousers remained virtually unchanged throughout the war. In addition to Serge material, trousers were also made in a light-weight cotton twill.

Canadian Militia custom was to tailor the pant legs very severely to enhance appearance and to make the fitting of puttees easier. British authorities were upset at this and Canadian regulations were issued on several occasions reminding officers that the excessive tailoring of soldiers' trousers was forbidden.



**Figures 36 & 37** Above, standard issue summer cotton-drill trousers. Below, standard issue British-made wool trousers. The British Army Clothing Department often made issues to the Canadian Corps

**Figures 38 & 39** Above, standard issue Canadian-made trousers. Below, typical manufacturers markings show that these trousers were made by A. Lampert, Toronto, 1918. All major items of clothing were maker-marked.

### Shirts

The CEF had two basic styles of shirt. Both were to be worn under the tunic. The most common style was a 4-button, collarless shirt of wool. This was the common British pattern. The second pattern makes provision for a full collar and was standard issue to the Canadian Militia prior to the outbreak of the European war. The Canadian pattern can at times be found with shoulder straps added.<sup>28</sup>

### Kilts

Many of the battalions raised for active service chose to designate themselves as Highland regiments and therefore took upon themselves all the distinctions in dress that the designation entailed; kilts, hose, gaiters, sporrans, plaids and more. This was equally true for battalions which were not recruited by Militia Highland units.

Clothing regulations allowed for the issue of kilts for units called up on active service. At the same time they were very specific that the issue of sporrans was suspended and that the issued tunics did not need to be 'cut-away'. There were also a number of units that formed pipe bands, including the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles who are credited with parading the world's first horse-mounted pipe band.

While in Canada, these battalions could order kilts from the private trade and apply for a clothing allowance in lieu of the standard issue. This meant, at times, that the commanding officers ordered tartans which were not common issue in British military units. An example is the 13th Bn, which wore the Royal Stewart tartan while in Canada, due to its parent unit, the 5th Royal Highlanders wearing it. When the battalion indented for more kilts from the War Office they were refused as the battalion was not entitled to wear the Royal Tartan.

Once in England, and under the control of the British Army Clothing Department, these battalions were forced to standardise on kilt patterns which were already in the British Army supply system. A list of dress distinctions for Highland CEF battalions will be found starting at page 42.



Figure 40 4-button collarless shirt.  
Hamilton Collection



Figure 41 4-button shirt with collar, worn by these pre-War militiamen.

Hamilton Collection

As a method of reducing the costs of equipping the CEF battalions in France and Belgium, Routine Orders in April, 1917 stated that drab kilts only would be issued to the reserve battalions in England. These would be exchanged for tartan kilts when drafts were placed under orders to proceed to France.<sup>29</sup> As an operational change, regimental transport drivers (of Highland battalions) were ordered to wear trousers in lieu of kilts.

Yet another item of dress was the kilt apron. This garment was designed to protect the tartan kilt and was worn while involved in fatigues or while in the trenches. The kilt apron incorporated a pocket which effectively took the



**Figure 42** Soldier of the 173rd Bn. Shown here in kilt, leather sporran, hose, gaitors and Glengarry. Many battalions used the highland costume successfully in recruiting.  
*Hamilton Collection*



**Figure 43** Kilt apron as worn by a member of the 72nd Bn, Seaforth Highlanders. Note the integral pocket in lieu of the leather sporran.  
*MilArt Photo Archives*



**Figure 44** Tams with feathers were a common Highland headdress.  
*Hamilton Collection*

place of the sporran.

If the Army's 1915 prohibition against Glengarries for troops bound for France wasn't bad enough, the (British) Director of Ordnance Services requested that, as of 2 February, 1917, all kilted battalions wear trousers instead of kilts<sup>30</sup>. By November, 1918 no more kilts were issued to Highland battalions, and trousers only were issued.

A final affectation, limited to Highland battalions, was for officers to wear a tartan tie, usually of a plaid that matched the kilt. This practice was frowned upon by Canadian Headquarters in London. A Routine Order was promulgated in January, 1917 prohibiting the practice<sup>31</sup>.

#### *Greatcoats, Capes, Goatskins*

Greatcoats were a standard item of issue to Canadian soldiers and the greatcoat followed the style of the SD tunic, i.e. seven buttons down the front. Again, British pattern greatcoats were often issued as replacements to troops



**Figure 45** The 5-button greatcoat was approved for Canadian-issue at the same time as the 5-button tunic. Both had been available from British stores since the beginning of the War.

*Sweeney Collection / Rowe Photo*



**Figure 46** Typical Canadian-made greatcoat. The 7-button pattern was standard issue for the CEF, although Canadians in France were usually issued the British pattern

*Sweeney Collection / Rowe Photo*

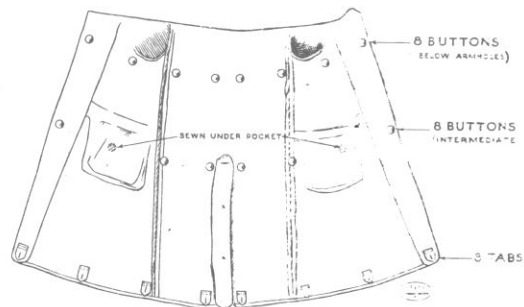


**Figure 47** Two soldiers fulfilling the function of Sanitary Police. Both wear the Canadian pattern greatcoat. Note the 'SP' armbands worn on the lower cuff.

*Hamilton Collection*

overseas. These British pattern greatcoats were, as with their SD tunic, of a five button design. By 1917 Canada had adopted the British pattern.

Unfortunately, greatcoats were an awkward item of clothing for trench warfare. The mud that was endemic to the trenches, clung to the skirt of the coat and added to the soldiers' discomfort. In an attempt to deal with this problem, a Routine Order was issued which outlined an alteration to the greatcoat; eight cloth tabs, along with eight buttons, would be issued on demand, these tabs and buttons were to be sewn to the inside of the



**Figure 48** These instructions were provided for unit tailors. By attaching the buttons to the tabs, the soldier could keep his coat-tails out of the mud.

greatcoat in such a way that the skirts of the coat could be buttoned-up out of the way<sup>32</sup>.

The use of goat- and sheep-skins was also popular, especially for soldiers on picket duty and for drivers. These were usually tailored in such a way that there were no sleeves and the arms were allowed complete freedom. The equipment belt was then worn over it.

#### *Leather Jerkin*

Another item of clothing which was introduced during the Great War and which remained an item of issue for the next 50 years was the leather jerkin.

The jerkin consisted of a sleeveless leather shell, finished in dark brown, lined with blanket material and closed by five leather covered wood buttons. Jerkins were also made of canvas.



**Figure 49** The goatskin jacket proved a popular item for sentry duty. Here two soldiers of the 49th Bn wear the goatskin and respirators.

*MilArt Photo Archives*



**Figure 50** Typical view of the leather jerkin as worn on the Western front, here by a stretcher-bearer.

*Hamilton Collection*



**Figure 51** The styling of the leather jerkin remained unchanged. The buttons on this example are Second World War replacements.

*Hamilton Collection*

The jerkins were for issue to drivers, signallers and other technical troops who required freedom of movement while staying warm. Although the jerkins were highly controlled, they proved to be popular with the troops for sentry duty and patrolling and many jerkins went 'missing'. The jerkin, was based on a medieval sleeveless jacket. With the exception of the buttons, the pattern remained unchanged in the British Army well into the 1950s.

#### *Cardigan*

Little is known about this item of clothing. Clothing regulations for the Canadian Militia called for the issue to each soldier. The cardigan displays a seven-button opening and two waist pockets. As its name implies, it is a sleeved sweater believed to have been produced in a light brown wool.

The cardigan was designed in such a way that it could be worn under the Service Dress jacket in cold weather. This sometimes proved impossible as the jacket was often unofficially tailored to a tight fit.

#### *Hospital Jacket*

A special blue uniform was ordered for hospital patients. The concept of this uniform dated from before the the turn of the century and was continued throught the War. Ambulatory patients, when exercising on the grounds or on a day pass from the hospital were required to wear the loose-fitting jacket and pants. Officers could continue to wear their Service Dress uniform but were required to wear a blue armband on both sleeves indicating their status as hospital patients. Reports indicate that most officers preferred not to wear the armband.



*Figure 52 Canadian Engineers awaiting movement orders in Brighton, England. Note the cardigan and collarless shirt.*

NA PA8199



*Figure 53 Blue hospital uniform. This uniform readily identified its wearer as a hospital patient.*

Hamilton Collection



*Figure 54* Leather leggings of the type worn by this Canadian Engineer were normally privately purchased.  
*Hamilton Collection*

### *Puttees & Leggings*

Although puttees had been in use in the Canadian Militia for some years, the 1903 Clothing Regulations introduced blue puttees for the first time. The use of these blue puttees was restricted to members of the Permanent Corps' Mounted Services during their first year, and when attending the Militia's Long Course. For the rest of the Militia, drab puttees were authorised and this remained virtually unchanged through to the introduction of the Pattern 1937 Battledress.

Puttees were to be worn at all times when on duty by Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men. They were to be worn rolled up to four inches below the knee and were to allow the trouser to turn down two inches. The wearing of puttees could be dispensed with for medical reasons and if the wearer was employed in an office and was engaged in indoor duties of a clerical or similar nature<sup>33</sup>.

Leather leggings were also approved for Motor Transport drivers and mounted officers. Several styles exist and appear to have been worn concurrently throughout the CEF.

### *Boots, shoes*

The question of providing satisfactory boots to the CEF was a point of contention within the Department of Militia and Defence. The Canadian pattern was an off-shoot of the style worn with satisfaction in South Africa. When, in April, 1914, there was discussion about strengthening the soles, a comparison was made between the Canadian and British patterns. At that time the Director General of Clothing and Equipment stated that "the British army boot appears much too heavy for wear in Canada". Soon after the First Canadian Contingent landed in Britain it became obvious that the Canadian boots would not stand up to either the rough metalled roads, or the constant soaking from England's wet winter.

A cable from the Officer Commanding Canadians, dated 19 November, 1914 was blunt; "The boots now being issued to the Contingent are not suitable for rough wear in wet weather, please cable instructions for purchase of boots here, if we can obtain them<sup>34</sup>."



*Figure 55* The water-proof 'Larrigan' style of boot was extremely popular in the trenches.



The situation was aggravated by the fact that each man was issued a single pair of boots, and had no opportunity to dry them out. This quickly resulted in the rotting of the boots' stitching. Even a shipment of an additional 48,000 pairs from Canada did not alleviate the problem. Finally, the Commander of the Canadian Contingent recommended the issue of Imperial pattern boots and, before moving to France, each unit commander had to show "that every man is in possession of a service pair of Imperial Army pattern boots"<sup>35</sup>.

British pattern boots proved to be popular with Canadian soldiers. In fact, at one point Headquarters published a warning about soldiers, on admission to hospital, turning in unserviceable boots of a civilian pattern, in exchange for new boots of (British) regulation pattern<sup>36</sup>. Canadian boots of 1914 and 1915 Pattern were approved solely for issue to Canadian Troops in England until stocks were exhausted<sup>37</sup>.

By 1916 troops were issued two pairs of (Canadian) boots while in England. However, when a draft was to proceed to France, British boots were

to be issued "two weeks before the completion of their training, thus enabling them to be fitted and the men comfortably equipped for their marches on arrival in France"<sup>38</sup>. The issue of the Imperial pattern was confirmed when the Quartermaster General instructed that drafts proceeding overseas would wear the Imperial Pattern Ankle Boot<sup>39</sup>.

A popular style of boot for trench wear was the 'Larrigan' style of boot. The Larrigan was a trade name for a rubber and leather overshoe which was popular in Canada with trappers and loggers. This style of boot was made by most footwear manufacturers in Canada. An initial gift of 2,000 pairs, donated by Women's Institutes in Canada, led to on-going orders from the Canadian Corps. These boots were the perfect answer to trench conditions in France.

In addition to ankle boots, an issue of one pair of canvas shoes was also made to soldiers in Canada and overseas<sup>40</sup>. The shoes were for wear for athletic purposes, for ambulatory soldiers in hospital, as casual footwear when in garrison and as footwear when boots were being dried out or undergoing repair.



*Figure 56 Canvas shoes, for use during periods of rest, and for hospital patients, were common to the British pattern.*

*NAC PA200512*



*Figure 57 This Horse Artillery Sergeant Major wears officer quality high lace-up boots with spurs.*

*Hamilton Collection*

*Warrant Officers*

Warrant Officers were responsible for obtaining their own uniforms. They were awarded a \$100.00 clothing allowance to help defray the costs. However, confusion arose over the pattern of uniform that they could purchase and wear. At first, some WOs obtained an officers pattern uniform, i.e. lapel jacket with collared shirt and tie, topped off with a Sam Browne belt. Regulations were quickly issued instructing WOs that on no occasion were they to wear an officers uniform. Warrant Officers could purchase a uniform of officer's quality but of issue pattern, i.e. stand-up collar. They were also required to have a uniform of issue quality for wear in the field.

It should be noted that in the pre-war period, when there existed only a single class of Warrant Officer, there existed the possibility for a Sergeant-Major to be classified a Staff-Sergeant while another Sergeant-Major would be a Warrant Officer.

Orders in 1915 introduced another, lower, level of Warrant and extended the initial appointment. Henceforth the appointments would be known as Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2. The badges consisted of;



*Figure 58 RSM of the 128th Bn shown here wearing a quality, privately purchased uniform. The cost was defrayed by a clothing allowance.*

*Hamilton Collection*

## Warrant Officer (pre-May, 1915)

<u>Title/Appointment</u>	<u>Badge</u>
Sergeant-Major	Crown
Bandmaster	Crown
Sergeant-Major, CAMC	Crown & Geneva Cross

## Warrant Officer - Class I (post-May, 1915)

<u>Title/Appointment</u>	<u>Badge</u>
Conductor, Army Ordnance Corps	Crown and Wreath
1st Class Staff-Sergeant-Major, Army Service Corps	Crown and Wreath
1st Class Staff-Sergeant-Major, Army Pay Corps	Crown and Wreath
Master-Gunner, 1st Class	Crown and Wreath
Schoolmaster, 1st Class	Crown and Wreath
Sub-Conductor, Army Ordnance Corps	Royal Arms
Master-Gunner, 2nd Class	Royal Arms and Gun
Garrison Sergeant-Major	Royal Arms
Schoolmaster	Royal Arms
Sergeant-Major	Royal Arms
Farrier-Corporal Major	Royal Arms and Horseshoe
Farrier-Sergeant-Major	Royal Arms and Horseshoe

Sergeant-Major, Army Medical Corps  
 Sergeant-Major, Gymnastic Staff  
 Sergeant-Major, School of Musketry  
 Sergeant-Major, Bandmaster

Royal Arms and Geneva Cross  
 Royal Arms and Crossed Swords  
 Royal Arms and crossed Rifles  
 Special badge, except Household  
 Cavalry and Foot Guards

Warrant Officers - Class II

Master-Gunner, 3rd Class	Crown and Gun
Schoolmaster	Crown
Garrison Quartermaster-Sergeant	Crown
Quartermaster Corporal-Major	Crown
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant	Crown
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, School of Musketry	Crown and Crossed Rifles
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, Army Medical Corps	Crown and Geneva Cross
Battery Sergeant-Major	Crown
Squadron Sergeant-Major	Crown
Squadron Corporal-Major	Crown
Troop Sergeant-Major	Crown
Company Sergeant-Major	Crown
Sergeant-Major, Gymnastic Staff	Crown (large) and Crossed Swords

The status of Warrant Officer rank was insecure in Canada. CEF Routine Orders issued in Ottawa stated;

*No warrant officers, Class "1", have been, or will be appointed in the CEF in Canada.*

*There is not, nor has there ever been, any such rank as warrant officer Class "2" in Canada. Therefore, NCOs who have held warrant rank Class "2", overseas, automatically lose the same on return to Canada.*

*Warrant officers Class "1", who have received their warrants in the field, are permitted to retain their rank in the CEF, in Canada, provided they do not accept an appointment lower than that for which the warrant was granted.*



Figure 59 The RSM and the Bandmaster of the 20th Bn.

Hamilton Collection

**Figure 60** Oliver Valise Equipment, Pattern 1899. This was the Canadian pattern, worn by the First Canadian Contingent, in both England and France, in 1914 and 1915.

Provincial Archives of Manitoba, N7402



**Figure 61** Web Equipment, Pattern 1908. This British pattern, manufactured by the Mills Equipment Company, introduced a cotton webbing material for the first time, as a major portion of the soldier's equipment. Compare the dress and equipment of the battle-hardened Canadian soldier with the one shown in Figure 63, below.

Hamilton Collection



**Figure 62** This soldier, from the Royal Canadian Regiment, is doing duty in Bermuda, 1915. He is wearing the special ammunition pouch as part of his Pattern '08 webbing. This pouch took into account the Ross rifle which was not charger loaded.

Courtesy The Royal Canadian Regiment Collection



**Figure 63** Canadian Infantry Equipment, Pattern 1915. The Canadian soldier went to France wearing the 7-button tunic, tight trousers, Canadian boots, stiff cap, leather Equipment, MacAdam shovel, Ross Rifle and Bayonet. This is in sharp contrast to the image presented by 1918, but was in keeping with Sam Hughes's image of an independent Canadian force.

*Hamilton Collection*

**Figure 64** Dismounted Equipment, Pattern 1916. When the Oliver Equipment proved incompatible with the needs of the CEF, a modified version, termed the 1916 Dismounted Equipment, was introduced. This pattern still did not satisfy the British.

*Hamilton Collection*



**Figure 65** Winter wear in Canada. The 7-button greatcoat, fur cap and Ross rifle with bayonet.

*MilArt Photo Archive*

By 1916, the Canadian authorities in London published a shortened version of Dress Regulations for the guidance of units in England. For lack of any instructions to the contrary, the CEF in France and Belgium followed many of these instructions<sup>41</sup>. This was not often the case with members of the CEF in Canada, who still came under the jurisdiction of the Department of Militia and Defence.

The instructions detailed the Dress according to Corps.

*Canadian Engineers (Mounted)*

Service cap, Service Dress jacket, pantaloons, puttees, spurs to be worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2, Coy QMS and Staff Sergeant. Bandoliers worn by Sergeants and Other Ranks.

*Canadian Engineers (Dismounted)*

Service cap, Service Dress jacket, trousers, puttees, worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, sword sling worn by Regtl QMS, and Sergeant-Bugler outside of the jacket. Leather or web belts worn by Sergeants and Other Ranks.

*Infantry*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees, by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and Men. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officers, Class 1. Sword sling worn by RQMS & Sergeant-Drummer. Leather or web belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2,

Sergeants and Other Ranks. The Scout Sergeant and 1st Class Scouts in each Battalion wear a brass fleur-de-lys badge with bar on Service Dress jacket. Badges are worn on the right arm, above the elbow,

and, in the case of NCOs, above the chevrons. Cap, collar and shoulder badges, as issued. Numerals and Initials to be worn on the shoulder strap above CANADA



*Figure 66 Canadian Army Medical Corps. The Geneva Cross is permanently attached to the tunic.*

*Hamilton Collection*

*Canadian Army Medical Corps*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, Sword sling worn by Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants, outside of the jacket

Leather or web belts worn by Sergeants and Other Ranks.

'CAMC' worn on shoulder above CANADA. All ranks wear a Geneva Cross on the Service Dress jacket and on the great-coat.

*Canadian Army Service Corps, Mounted Services*

Service cap, Service Dress jacket, pantaloons, puttees and spurs worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, Warrant Officer,

Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2 and Staff Sergeants under the frocks. Leather bandoliers worn by Sergeants and ORs.

*Canadian Army Service Corps,  
Dismounted (Mechanical Transport and  
Supply Unit)*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1. Sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2 and Staff Sergeants, outside of jackets. Leather or web belts are worn by Sgts and ORs. The letters 'MT' worn on the shoulder by Mechanical Transport Services, 'CASC' on shoulder straps above CANADA.

*Canadian Army  
Veterinary Corps*

Service cap, jacket, pantaloons, puttees, spurs. Sam Browne belt to be worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1. Sword sling to be worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2, Staff Sergeants and Sergeants; to be worn under the frocks. Leather bandoliers to be worn by Corporals, Lance-corporals and Other Ranks. 'CAVC' worn above CANADA.

*Canadian Ordnance Corps*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees, worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant

Officer, Class 2, NCOs and Men. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1. Sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2 and Staff Sergeant, over frock. Leather or web belts worn by Sergeants and Other Ranks. 'COC' worn on shoulder above CANADA.

*Canadian Army Pay Corps*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees, worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and Men. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1. Sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2 and Staff Sergeant, over the frock. Leather or web belts are worn by sergeants and Other Ranks.

*Canadian Army  
Dental Corps*

Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees, by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1.

Sword sling worn by Warrant Officer, Class 2 and Staff Sergeant, over the frock. 'CADC' worn above CANADA.

*Canadian Army Postal Corps*

Service cap, Service Dress jacket, trousers, puttees, worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant



*Figure 67 A gunner of the Canadian Field Artillery wearing the 50-round leather bandolier.*

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 68 Typical example of a mounted Infantryman. Uniform distinctions include breeches, spurs and leather bandolier. Note the use of the rain cover to the Service Dress cap. The issue of these covers was discontinued in 1918.*

*MilArt Photo Archives*

Officer, Class 1. Sword sling worn by Regimental QMS, and Sergeant-Bugler outside of the jacket. Leather or web belt worn by Sergeants and Other Ranks.

#### *Canadian Military Police*

*Foot Police* - Service cap, jacket, trousers, puttees, by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs.

*Mounted Police* - Service cap, Service Dress jacket, pantaloons, puttees, spurs to be worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1 and Warrant Officer, Class 2, NCOs and ORs. Sam Browne belt worn by Warrant Officer, Class 1, sword sling worn by QMS and

Staff Sergeants under frock by mounted police, over frock by foot police. Leather or web belt worn by Sergeants and Men. Armlet and whistle worn by all ranks when on duty. 'CMFP' worn by Foot Police and 'CMMP' by Mounted Police, over CANADA.

The above guidelines were adhered to by the soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force while they were in camp in England. However, contemporary photos show that, once in the trenches, the soldier adopted his uniform and kit to meet his needs. At times this meant disposing of unwieldy clothing, such as the great coat, and adopting the British Trench cap, when possible, for comfort.



*Figure 69 This Sergeant-Drummer Major wears the sword sling as prescribed in regulations.*

*Hamilton Collection*



## Officers

As was the custom with most armies, officers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were responsible for obtaining their own uniforms and equipment. The Department of Militia and Defence aided the young officer by supplying every tailor who registered with them information on official patterns and colours.

Most tailors could outfit the officer completely, including binoculars, pistol and, if requested, a camp bed and bath. Mobilisation instructions included a complete list of approved kit as well as guidelines on permitted weights and much more.

The officers uniform consisted of a laped jacket and breeches.



*Figure 71 This Lieutenant wears his brass rank badges on his shoulder straps. When overseas, the rank stars were to be embroidered and worn on the cuff. The number of 'rings' of lace also indicated the wearers rank.*

*Hamilton Collection*



*Figure 70 Col. Ralston, commanding the 85th Bn, wears the officers highland tunic. Rank badges were worn horizontally on this uniform. Note the 4 wound stripes.*

*Hamilton Collection*

Typically the shirt was fitted with removeable collars and the tie was kept under tight control through the use of a collar pin. In fact, the officers method of dress was little different from that of a contemporary gentleman - only he did it all in khaki.

In most battalions the officer was kitted with a Service Dress cap similar in appearance to the issue pattern, only a little 'fuller' in body. The leather chinstrap was wider and was furnished with leather sliders. Footwear usually consisted of high lace-up boots, or ankle boots with leather leggings.

Dress in Highland and Scottish battalions was considerably more complicated as bonnets, kilts, sporrans, hose, and gaitors all had to be of regimental pattern.

Dress regulations in Canada called for gilt rank badges to be worn on the shoulder strap, however, overseas dress regulations required that the rank be displayed on the cuff of the jacket, in worsted badges. This must have caused many batmen to spend at least one night on the sea-crossing with needle and thread.

Specific dress instructions were issued at a Regimental level, however, in 1916, the

Department of Militia and Defence issued the following instructions for the guidance of both officers and newly formed battalions.

*Mounted Officers*

<i>Boots;</i>	<i>Brown leather ankle laced; or regulation field or Strathcona boots.</i>
<i>Spurs;</i>	<i>Regulation spurs with straight neck.</i>
<i>Breeches;</i>	<i>Whipcord, strapped inside the knee with buckskin or leather; breeches to be of same colour as jacket.</i>
<i>Jacket;</i>	<i>Khaki serge with worsted embroidery on sleeves and rank badges on shoulder straps.</i>
<i>Gloves;</i>	<i>Brown leather. Gauntlets are not to be worn.</i>
<i>Caps;</i>	<i>Service caps of regulation colour of the stiff or semi-stiff pattern only. Soft trench caps are not to be worn on or off parade. This applies to all Officers.</i>
<i>Great Coats;</i>	<i>Great coats or British Warm may be worn, rank badges on shoulder straps (but whichever pattern is adopted must be universal within the Unit).</i>

*Dismounted Officers*

<i>Boots;</i>	<i>Brown leather, ankle laced.</i>
<i>Puttees;</i>	<i>Fox spiral pattern (Khaki colour).</i>
<i>Breeches;</i>	<i>Whipcord, same colour as jacket; or of the same material as jacket.</i>
<i>Jacket;</i>	<i>Khaki serge with worsted embroidery on sleeves and rank badges on shoulder straps.</i>
<i>Gloves;</i>	<i>Brown leather. Gauntlets are not to be worn.</i>
<i>Great Coats;</i>	<i>Great coats or British Warm may be worn. Rank badges on shoulder straps (but whichever pattern is adopted must be universal within the Unit).</i>

*General*

*By the term "Mounted Officer" is meant an officer for whom a horse is authorised in the establishment of the Unit to which he belongs.*

<i>Great Coats;</i>	<i>Officers will not wear great coats or rain coats on parade unless great coats are worn by the men.</i>
<i>Helmets;</i>	<i>Khaki helmets.</i>
<i>Belts;</i>	<i>Sam Browne belts will be worn by all officers without the frog. Belts must be worn on all parades and duties and when an officer appears in public, but will not be worn at Mess or when off duty in Barracks or camps except by the Orderly Officer or Officer on Duty.</i>
<i>Slacks;</i>	<i>Slacks may be worn by Officers when off duty in or out of Barracks and camp; low shoes and coloured socks are not to be worn; belts are to be worn with slacks whenever an Officer appears outside of camp or barracks.</i>
<i>Sticks;</i>	<i>Canes or swagger sticks are not to be carried on Parade by Regimental officers.</i>

- Rank Badges;* Badges of rank are worn on the shoulder strap of the service jacket, embroidery on sleeves; on Great coat or British Warm, badges of rank to be on the shoulder straps in bronze with leather or bronze button, gilt badges are not authorized. Regimental officers will wear bronze rank badges with bronze cap and collar badges only.
- Buttons;* Either bronze or leather buttons may be used but one or the other must be universal for the Unit.

### *Highland Dress*

The Canadian Expeditionary Force consisted in large parts of first generation immigrants, the overwhelming majority of whom came from the United Kingdom. Scotland provided many of these adventurous newcomers and when the CEF was formed it was only natural that they chose traditional Scottish or Highland dress. This was made easier by the fact that many settled with their compatriots and the CEF policy of recruiting from a single area helped ensure that almost complete battalions could consist of Scots.

The single most identifiable item of wear for a Highland battalion is the kilt, but the complete Service Dress list of clothing for a Highland soldier included a sporran, hose and distinct headress. Within each of these items of clothing were a variety of identifiers. The kilt would proclaim its affiliation by the tartan used, the sporran could be of leather or of a variety of hairs, indeed even the number and style of tassel could identify one battalion from another. Additionally the colour and style of hose, and the pattern of diceing used on the hose and on the Glengarry also complicated the task of identifying Units as much as it confused overworked Ordnance Stores clerks. In fact, the wide choice allowed by Canada was held in check by the British who would only supply kilts which had already been approved in the Imperial Army. This caused Canadian Units to make continued purchases from Canada when necessary. At one point the British refused to supply kilts of the Royal Stewart tartan to the 13th battalion, claiming that no Royal approval had been obtained.

The following table has been provided to aide in quickly identifying highland battalion distinctions.



*Figure 72* These officers, at camp in England, wear a style of wrap-around kilt apron. The officer on the right wears a tartan necktie.

*Hamilton Collection*

*Distinctions in Highland Dress*

The following table is taken from a variety of sources, the greatest of which consists of the individual files assembled by the historical files of the Canadian Records Office. This office was established immediately after the war to document Canada's contribution.

One of the projects undertaken by the Canadian Records Office was the distribution of a circular letter to all units requesting information on dress distinctions, such as 'battle patches' and distinctive cap badges, whether the unit was presented with colours and if so, where were they laid-up and questions about their bands, if applicable.

As is typical in any Army the responses to this sort of unofficial query ranged from the highly-detailed to the cryptic. In some cases it is obvious that the respondent was a newly joined, junior, officer who had little first-hand knowledge of the early days of the war. In consequence the data listed in the table should be viewed with some caution.

<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Tartan</i>	<i>Sporran/tails</i>	<i>Hose</i>	<i>Headdress</i>
13th Bn	Black Watch	dark brown leather/ five braided leather	khaki/ red & black diced	Khaki Balmoral Blue Glengarry with red and black dicing.
13th Bn Pipes	Royal Stewart	five black tails over white horse hair	red & black diced	Blue Glengarry
15th Bn	Davidson	dark brown leather/ two braided leather	khaki/ red & black diced	Khaki Balmoral Blue Glengarry with red and black dicing.
15th Bn Pipers	Stewart of Fingask	White metal cantle, two white tails on black horse hair	red & black diced	Blue Glengarry
15th Bn Drummers	Davidson	White metal cantle, two white tails on black horse hair	red & black diced	Blue Glengarry with red and black dicing.
16th Bn (Canada)	No. 1 Company - Gordon tartan No. 2 Company - MacKenzie tartan No. 3 Company - Cameron of Erracht tartan No. 4 Company - Black Watch tartan			
16th Bn (England and Overseas)	MacKenzie	two black tails on white horse hair	red & white diced	khaki balmoral blue Glengarry with red & white dicing
16th Bn Pipe band	Red Lennox	two black tails on white horse hair	Lennox tartan	blue Glengarry
17th Bn	MacKenzie	nil	khaki	blue Glengarry with red and black dicing.
17th Pipe band	MacKenzie	two white tails on black horse hair	khaki	pipers - blue Glengarry w/ black cock' feathers drummers - blue Glengarry with red & white dicing

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<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Tartan</i>	<i>Sporran/tails</i>	<i>Hose</i>	<i>Headdress</i>
19th Bn Pipe band	Black Watch	three black tails on grey goat's hair	green & black	blue Glengarry
21st Bn Pipe band	Black Watch	brown leather	khaki	khaki Glengarry w/ white piping
25th Bn Pipe band	MacKenzie	black leather	MacKenzie	pipers - blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feathers drummers - blue Glengarry with red & white dicing
26th Bn Pipe band	MacKenzie	two black tails on white goat's hair	khaki	blue Glengarry
29th Bn Pipe band	khaki	brown beaver's head	khaki	blue Glengarry
35th Bn Pipe band	Davidson	two white tails on black horse hair	red & black diced	blue Glengarry
42nd Bn	Black Watch	brown leather w/ five braided tails	red & black diced	unknown
42nd Bn Pipe band	Black Watch	five black tails on white goat's hair	red & black diced	blue Glengarry
43rd Bn	Cameron of Erracht	brown leather w/ five braided tails	khaki	khaki balmoral, blue Glengarry w/ red & black dicing
43rd Bn Pipe band	Cameron of Erracht	two black tails on black horse hair	khaki	pipers - blue Glengarry w/long black eagle's feather drummers - blue Glengarry w/ red & white dicing
46th Bn Pipe band	Royal Stewart	five black tails on white goat's hair	red & black dicing	blue Glengarry w/ black Cock's feathers
49th Bn Pipe band	no special uniform distinctions			
50th Bn Pipe band	Black Watch	unknown	khaki	Infantry forage cap
63rd Bn Pipe band	no special uniform distinctions			blue Glengarry w/ red & black dicing
67th Bn Pipe band	Douglas	two black tails on white horse hair	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ red, green & white dicing
67th Bn Brass band	Douglas trews	not applicable		blue Glengarry w/ red, green & white dicing
72nd Bn	MacKenzie	brown leather	khaki	khaki balmoral / blue Glengarry w/ red & black dicing

<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Tartan</i>	<i>Sporran/tails</i>	<i>Hose</i>	<i>Headdress</i>
72nd Bn Pipe band	MacKenzie	pipers - two black tails on grey goat's hair drummers - two white tails on black horse hair	khaki	pipers - blue Glengarry drummers - blue Glengarry w/ red & black dicing
73rd Bn	utility kilt (khaki w/ woven red, green & blue stripes)	brown leather w/ five braided tails. Battalion number tooled on flap	khaki	khaki balmoral / khaki Glengarry w/ red, green and blue stripes around band
77th Bn Pipe band	khaki	two black tails on white horse hair	khaki	khaki Glengarry w/ two white stripes around band
82nd Bn Pipe band	no special uniform distinctions			
85th Bn	khaki	unknown (probably nil)	khaki	khaki balmoral Brass band - blue Glengarry w/ red & white dicing
85th Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	four black tails on white horse hair	green & black diced	blue Glengarry with brown turkey feathers with red feather in centre
92nd Bn Brass band & Bugle band	Davidson	green leather with two green braided leather tails	khaki	khaki Balmoral
92nd Bn Pipe band	Davidson	green leather with two green braided leather tails	khaki	blue Glengarry
96th Bn Pipe and Brass bands	Royal Stewart (pipers) 42nd tartan (drummers)	five black tails on white goat's hair	Royal Stewart (pipers) red & black diceing (drummers)	black feather bonnet with white over red hackle ( <i>Ed. note - Presumably this is a Balmoral or Tam</i> )
102nd Bn Pipe band	Douglas	two black tails on white horse hair	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ red, green & white dicing
107th Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland (pipes) Campbell of Argyll trews (drummers)	unknown	khaki/red & white diceing	blue Glengarry w/ double red and white diceing and black cock's feathers (pipers) blue Glengarry and black cock's feathers (drummers)
113th Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	two black tails on white horse hair	khaki	blue Glengarry and black cock's feathers

<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Tartan</i>	<i>Sporran/tails</i>	<i>Hose</i>	<i>Headdress</i>
134th Bn Pipe band	Davidson	two white tails on black horse hair (pipers) two braided leather tails on brown leather (drummers)	khaki	blue Glengarry and black cock's feathers (pipers) blue Glengarry w/ red and black dicing and black cock's feathers (drummers)
154th Bn Pipe band	khaki	two black tails on white horse hair	khaki	khaki Glengarry with two white stripes
168th Bn Pipe band	Hunting Stewart	nil	khaki	blue Glengarry
173rd Bn, Brass band and Bugle band	Argyll & Sutherland with green rosettes	three braided leather tails on brown leather	khaki	khaki Balmoral
173rd Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland with green rosettes	three braided leather tails on brown leather	khaki	blue Glengarry and black cock's feathers (pipers) blue Glengarry w/ double red and white dicing and black cock's feathers (drummers)
174th Bn and Brass band	Cameron of Erracht	five braided leather tails on brown leather	khaki	Balmoral
174th Pipe band	Cameron of Erracht	two white tails on black horse hair	khaki	blue Glengarry with long black feather (pipers) blue & white diced Glengarry (drummers)
179th Bn and Pipe band	Cameron of Erracht	brown leather w/ five braided tails	khaki	khaki balmoral, blue Glengarry w/ red & black dicing
185th Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	White horsehair w/ four black tails in diamond pattern	green & black diced	blue Glengarry w/ two brown cock's feathers and one green feather in centre
193rd Bn	khaki	unknown (probably nil)	khaki	khaki balmoral Brass band - blue Glengarry w/ red & white dicing
193rd Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	four black tails on white horse hair	green & black diced	blue Glengarry with brown turkey feathers with red feather in centre
194th Bn Pipe band	Black Watch	brown leather w/ five braided leather tails	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feathers and Black Watch tartan behind badge (pipers), blue Glengarry w/ double red and white dicing (drummers)

<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Tartan</i>	<i>Sporran/tails</i>	<i>Hose</i>	<i>Headdress</i>
219th Bn	khaki	unknown (probably nil)	khaki	khaki balmoral Brass band - blue Glengarry w/ red & white dicing
219th Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	four black tails on white horse hair	green & black diced	blue Glengarry with brown turkey feathers with red feather in centre
224th Bn Pipe band	MacDougall	white goat's skin w/ two black tails	MacDougall tartan	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feathers
228th Bn Pipe band	Davidson w/ wo green and red rosettes	white horse hair w/ two black tails	red & black diceing	blue Glengarry
231st Bn Pipe band	MacKenzie	grey w/ two black tails (pipers), black w/ wo white tails	khaki	Balmoral
236th Bn and Brass Band	Red Dress McLean	dark brown leather w/ three leather tails	khaki	Balmoral w/ black turkey feather tipped in white (later black hackle tipped in white)
236th Bn Pipe band	Red Dress McLean	dark brown leather w/ three leather tails	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feather
241st Bn and Brass Band	khaki	dark brown leather w/ two leather tails	khaki	blue diced Glengarry (believed to be red & white)
241st Bn Pipe band	MacGregor	white w/ two black tails	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feather
246th Bn	MacKenzie	nil	khaki	Balmoral
246th Bn Pipe band	MacKenzie	black horsehair w/ two white tails	khaki	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feather (pipers), blue Glengarry w/ red & black diceing (drummers)
253rd Bn Pipe band	Argyll & Sutherland	unknown	khaki	Balmoral w/ grey & red turkey feathers
PPCLI	Hunting Stewart	white goat's hair w/ two black tails	Hunting Stewart	blue Glengarry w/ black cock's feather
1st Pioneer Bn	MacKenzie	white w/ two black tails	khaki	Balmoral



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41. *Ibid.*, #1680.
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44. Canadian troops in England came under a different authority (Lt. General REW Turner) while those who formed the Canadian Corps and were "in the field" came under Lt. Gen. A. Currie.



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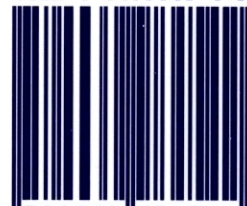
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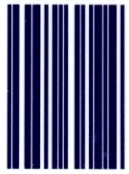


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