

A Brief History of the Canadian Expeditionary Force

The First Canadian Contingent 1914~1915

When the year 1914 dawned in Canada, there were few Canadians who dreamed that the year was destined to usher in what would become the greatest war in history to that point, a war which was to claim the lives of over 65,000 young Canadians. The assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo went almost unnoticed in Canada. There had always been problems in the Balkans, what concern was it of Canada. And even if war did break out in Europe, it would be short and sharp, and would probably be over before any Canadian troops could reach the theater of operations.

The outbreak of war between Great Britain and Germany on August 4, 1914, therefore, found Canada completely unprepared. Canada had only 3110 permanent troops, a few outdated machine-guns and artillery pieces, and a militia system so inadequate that it had roused the scorn of German military writers, who had pronounced it a negligible factor so far as a European war was concerned. However with the coming of war the Canadian government promptly sent a cable to England offering the services of Canadian troops. The offer was accepted a few days later; and preparations were immediately begun for the mobilization of a division of approximately 20,000 men. That Canada was automatically at war when Britain was at war was unquestioned. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke for the majority of Canadians when he proclaimed: "it is our duty to let Great Britain know and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart and that all Canadians are behind the Mother Country."

The story of the first Canadian division, from its almost impromptu organization at Valcartier Camp, near Quebec, to its heroic stand at the Second Battle of Ypres, when it was all but wiped out of existence, and when, as Sir John French said, it "saved the day" for the allies, is one of the most dramatic and amazing episodes of the great War. A hastily formed and partially trained body of citizen soldiers, the First Canadian Contingent won for themselves, almost at the moment of their arrival in France, a reputation second to none on the Western front.

On the evening of August 6th the Minister of Militia Sam Hughes sent a letter gram to the 226 Militia commanding officers across Canada announcing the formation of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to be mobilized at camp Valcartier P.Q. Valcartier had already been selected as a military training ground before the war broke out; but little had been done to put it in shape to serve as a mobilization centre for an expeditionary force of over 20,000 men. On the day after war was declared, however, the engineers were already at work at the camp; and in less than three weeks there had sprung up what was perhaps one of the finest military encampments in the world. A mile of rifle ranges was constructed; a waterworks system, a telephone system, and an electric light system. were installed; storehouses, offices, a moving picture palace, rose overnight; and ordnance stores began to pour in .

By the middle of August the troops had begun to arrive. By the end of August over 30,000 volunteers, from all parts of the Dominion, were in camp. Each militia unit had been assigned a definite quota; but in nearly every case the local contingents arrived far over strength. Hundreds of men jumped on the troop trains and came on their own responsibility. Several regiments, such

as the Queen's Own of Toronto and the Royal Highlanders of Montreal, sent each a whole battalion. The Fort Garry Horse of Winnipeg chartered two trains themselves, and came down to Valcartier without authority; and no one had the heart to send them back. The arrivals were a motley crew. Some wore mufti, some wore khaki, and some wore the black or scarlet serges of their militia units. The task of equipping them, and even of accommodating them, put a tremendous strain on the administrative departments, a strain which at times neared the breaking-point.

At first all was confusion. Detachments were juggled about from battalion to battalion, and juggled back again. Commanding officers were changed almost daily, often due to the erratic nature of Sam Hughes personality. Brigades were formed, and broken up again. But gradually order emerged out of chaos. The final reorganization was completed; the troops were medically examined, inoculated, and equipped with service uniforms; training was begun, and the rifle ranges echoed with the sound of musketry practice. By the middle of September, the camp had settled down into a reasonably well-ordered routine.

It had been originally intended to send overseas only one division with the necessary reinforcements; but at the last minute the government announced that the whole force of 83,000 men would be sent at once. By the third week of September the transport ships had been assembled and the process of loading began by September 27th. Unfortunately the loading of the transports was less than successful, far too little planing had been done, chaos and confusion were the order of the day as ships were loaded and then unloaded, guns were loaded with their wheels still on taking up space, equipment belonging to one unit would often end up on the wrong ship, and in the end much equipment was left behind.

The First Contingent embarked at Quebec in 31 transports. The flotilla was concentrated at Gaspé Bay, where it was met by a convoy of British warships; and on October 3, the entire Armada, containing the largest military force which had ever crossed the Atlantic at one time, set sail for England. In three long parallel lines of about a dozen ships each, with flags flying and signals twinkling, it made an imposing sight for the handful of people who saw it off. On October 6th the convoy was joined at sea by a ship carrying the Newfoundland Regiment. Before and during the crossing there had been much talk about the threat of German submarines but this threat never materialized.

Two weeks later the contingent arrived in England. Here it was disembarked at Plymouth. The landing of the Canadians was unheralded; but their welcome by the people of Plymouth was a royal one. As the troops marched through the town, the townspeople mingled in and through the ranks.

The area allotted by the British War Office to the Canadians was Salisbury Plain. This was a group of camps, in the south of England, which offered in summer weather an almost perfect training ground. For a few days the Canadians were charmed with their new surroundings. Then the weather broke. In what was to prove to be a grim foreshadowing of the conditions the men would endure in France, there followed one of the worst winters on record in England. The rain poured down day after day; the roads became impassable; the Plain itself soon became a morass. Everything grew saturated with water, from tents to clothes, even tobacco and matches. Training

was impossible; and sickness grew among the troops until the hospitals were filled to overflowing.

Human nature can stand only so much, and no more. In Canada the First Contingent had been extraordinarily well-behaved; and later in France it showed that it could face without flinching all the terrors of modern warfare. But the mud and boredom of Salisbury Plain was too much for many of the men. Hundreds broke camp, and fled in search of a few days' fun and dry comfort. Some men went away, not to return until they heard that the First Division was leaving for France. Absence without leave became a serious problem. Punishment was unavailing to stop it. Men went away, lived like lords at London's hotels and brothels, came back, and accepted their punishment quietly as the price they were willing to pay for a few days' respite from mud and misery.

The first Canadians to go to France, apart from a hospital unit, were the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Named after the daughter of the Canadian Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught. This regiment, which was composed mainly of British reservists and old soldiers, many of whom were Boer war veterans, had been raised separately from the Canadian Contingent, through the generosity of Montreal millionaire Captain Andrew Hamilton Gault, who was destined to play a heroic part as one of its officers. Its colours had been worked by Princess Patricia herself. Early in December, 1914, the Princess Pats, as a crack regiment, were ordered to proceed to France, and there they joined the 27th British Division. They would not rejoin the Canadians until a year later.

The First Canadian Division did not leave for France until the beginning of the following February. Under Lieut. -Gen. Alderson, an Imperial officer who had been appointed to command the Canadians, it sailed from Avonmouth, and after a stormy passage through the Bay of Biscay, landed at St. Nazaire in the south of France. Its first experiences in France were not remarkable. It went through the usual stage of apprenticeship in what was relatively a quiet part of the line. The Canadian artillery took part in March in the ill-starred battle of Neuve Chapelle, and the infantry were on the outskirts of the fighting. If the day had gone better, the whole division would doubtless have been engaged, but fate did not so order it. For three months Canadians had a fairly undisturbed opportunity to initiate themselves into the mysteries of trench warfare.

In the middle of April, the Canadian Division took over from the French, a sector to the north of Ypres, in Belgian Flanders. By this time trench warfare had reduced the situation on the Western front to comparative deadlock. Neither side was able to advance, and the war threatened to become one of exhaustion. This did not suit the Germans, who had pinned their hopes on a quick decision. In an endeavor to break the deadlock, they brought into use a new weapon which they had developed, poison gas. In the late afternoon of April 22, the German artillery concentrated its fire in a violent bombardment of the front line to the left of the Canadian troops. An hour later they opened the valves on 5700 cylinders of chlorine gas, long yellow clouds of asphyxiating gas were released to drift across no man's land and into the French lines. The French colonial troops, Turcos and Zouaves who were on the immediate left of the Canadians were swept back by the poisonous fumes in agony of mind and body. Many of the French troops choked to death in their trenches. Into this gap poured three German divisions.

The situation of the Canadian troops was one of the most critical which could arise in warfare. Their left flank was completely exposed, and they were outnumbered at least five to one. If they retired, it was probable that the whole of the British forces in the Ypres salient would be surrounded and captured, and it was possible that the Germans might reach the Channel ports. Under the circumstances, the only thing to do was to stand fast. General Alderson withdrew his left flank, so as to meet an attack from the northwest, and he shortened the rest of his line; but after the first shock of the German attack was over, the Canadians' line did not budge. The strength of their defense, and the success of two heroic but costly counter-attacks, at Kitcheners Wood and Mauser Ridge, gave the Germans the impression that they were a much larger force than they were. On April 24th the Germans attacked yet again in attempt to obliterate the Salient once and for all. Again the Germans employed the same strategy as before, another violent bombardment followed by a gas attack and waves of infantry. The fighting that followed was terrible, shredded by shrapnel and machine gun fire, struggling with their jammed rifles and choking from the gas they never the less held on until reinforcements arrived. By April 25, after three days of ceaseless fighting, the sorely tried Canadians were relieved.

When the Canadian Division came out of the trenches that April day it had almost ceased to exist. Many battalions marched out only one-fifth or one-sixth of their original strength. One or two battalions could barely muster 100 men. The Canadians had been victorious in death. They had saved the day at one of the critical points of the war. And what makes their achievement the more remarkable is the fact that, compared with the regular troops of the European armies, they were, for the most part, untrained and amateur soldiers. Neither at Valcartier nor on Salisbury Plain had conditions been such as to make thorough training possible. Nothing but their high spirit and courage carried them through the ordeal of the second battle of Ypres.

Until the middle of May, the remnants of the division remained in rest billets. Meanwhile, however, reinforcements were coming forward from the reserves left behind in England; and in a brief space of time the division was back at full strength. Reorganized and revived, it took part in two of the battles of the early summer of 1915, Festubert and Givenchy. These engagements were on a small scale, and produced results measured only in a few yards of stinking mud; but they were bitterly fought, and the casualties sustained in them high. These high casualties still further depleted the nucleus of "original Firsts" remaining in France. By the end of the summer, the number of men in France who wore the colored shoulder straps of the First Contingent had become pitifully few. The division had become largely a new force, ready to be merged in the larger formation of the Canadian Corps on the arrival in France of the Second Division.

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The First Canadian Contingent 1916

Shortly after the First Canadian Contingent left for England the Canadian government authorized the recruiting of a second contingent. During the Winter of 1914-1915 the units composing this new force were mobilized and trained at various centers throughout Canada; and in the spring of 1915 they sailed for England, not in one Armada like the First Contingent, but in separate transports. The summer of 1915 was spent in training at Shorncliffe, on the Kentish coast, which had now become a great Canadian military center; and in September, 1915, the Second Division

left Shorncliffe for the front, under the command of Major-Gen. R. E. W. Turner, a Canadian soldier, who had won the Victoria Cross in the [South African War](#).

The Second Division joined the First in the southern portion of the Ypres salient, which was for so long a Canadian sector. As soon as this junction was completed, the Canadian Corps came into existence. An army corps is any number of divisions, placed under a corps commander. The two Canadian divisions were now placed under the command of General Alderson, who relinquished the command of the First Division to Major General Currie

From their very first day the men of the Canadian Corps proved themselves to be fine soldiers, and they were quick to adapt to the new skills and requirements of trench warfare. One of the new skills was the science of bombing or what we today call throwing grenades. Bombing was an ancient mode of warfare, and it had played a part in the Russo-Japanese War; but the British had not foreseen the part that it would come to play in the Great War, and they were ill-equipped with bombs. Under these circumstances, the men in the field invented such home-made grenades as the jam-tin bomb and the hair-brush.

Another development of trench warfare was patrol-fighting in No Man's Land and trench raiding. Here too the Canadians proved themselves no mean adversaries. It is difficult to say just when trench raiding by night began on the Western front. But in the development of the art of raiding enemy trenches the Canadians have a good claim to be regarded as pioneers. Early in November, 1915, the Canadian staff came to the conclusion that strong parties of determined troops, working on carefully rehearsed lines, could enter the enemy trenches, inflict damage and casualties out of all proportion to their own losses, take prisoners, and get away. A raid was planned against the German positions at La Petite Douve; and on a dark night a raiding party from the 7th Battalion crossed the Douve River, entered the German trenches, killed at least fifty of the enemy, wrought untold damage on dug-outs and machine-gun emplacements, and brought back twelve prisoners, with the total loss to themselves of one killed and one wounded. Not all raids, of course, were so successful as this.

During the winter of 1915-1916 several Canadian raids were repulsed with heavy losses. But gradually experience brought greater surety of success. On January 8th, 1916, a most successful raid was carried out by parties from the 28th and 29th Battalions, who blackened their faces in order to avoid detection from the German flares. It was a Canadian officer, too, who hit upon the idea of wearing white cotton nightgowns for use when the ground was covered in snow. And in the summer of 1916 the 19th Battalion went a step further, when they carried out in broad daylight a dash into the enemy lines which may fairly be described as the first daylight raid on the Western front.

Just after New Year's Day, 1916, the Canadian Corps was strengthened by the addition of the Third Division, the formation of which had been authorized the preceding December. In this division were included the Princess Pats, who had joined the Canadians shortly before, after a year of the severest fighting with the British army, and the Canadian Mounted Rifles, who were now transformed into infantry. The command of the division was placed in the hands of Major-Gen. Mercer.

The fighting of the year 1916 was among the bitterest of the whole war. The first heavy fighting in which the Canadians were engaged was in April around the craters at St. Eloi, at the southern end of the Ypres salient. This sector had been much fought over. Huge underground mines had been detonated; the ground had been churned up by shell-fire; and the rains had made it a veritable quagmire. On April 2nd the Third British Division had established themselves on a line well within the former German defenses. The next day they were relieved by the Second Canadian Division. The position which the Canadians took up was not consolidated; and the next day before any consolidation could be carried out, the German counterattack began with the most severe bombardment yet seen in that section of front. The Canadian advance posts were overwhelmed, and nearly all the gains of the British were surrendered. For over a week the Canadians strove repeatedly to recover the lost ground, but in the end they had to give up the attempt as impossible, and to dig in on the line from which the British had set out.

The battle of St. Eloi was the only occasion in the Great War when the Canadian Corps had to admit defeat. That the failure was due to bad staff work, the inability of regimental officers to read their maps properly and to the impossible conditions under which the fighting was carried on, is of little comfort to the men who lost their lives. The rank and file of the Canadian army fought at St. Eloi with a courage, a determination, a doggedness which could not have been surpassed; they did all that it was possible, amid mud and rain and darkness, and the withering fire of machine-guns, and the obliterating crash of the most intense shell-fire they had yet encountered.

Two months later, at the battle of Mount Sorrel, directly east of Ypres, the Third Canadian Division had an experience which threatened at first to be a repetition of the reverse at St. Eloi. On the morning of June 2, 1916, there broke on the trenches occupied by the Mounted Rifles and the Princess Pats a tornado of shellfire. It destroyed not only a line of trenches but a whole area, and almost every living thing within the area. Therefore, when the first German attacking wave came over in the early afternoon of June 2, they met with little opposition. A few knots of dazed survivors surrendered, or died fighting; and the Germans swept on to their final objective.

As so often happened, however, the Germans did not press their advantage to the full; and the arrival of reserves made it possible for the Canadians to hold up a further advance. But a counterattack undertaken the following day failed; and on June 6 the Canadians lost the village of Hooze to the north. It began to look as though the Canadians had once more been defeated. They had lost Major-Gen. Mercer, who had been killed by a burst of shrapnel, and Brig.-Gen. Williams, who had been severely wounded and taken prisoner; and whole battalions had been virtually wiped out of existence.

But Sir Julian Byng, who had succeeded General Alderson as the Corps Commander, had not given up. He was determined to regain the lost ground. To this end he assigned Major Gen. Currie's 1st Division to plan and carry out the counterattack. Currie used the same strategy of intensive artillery preparation as the Germans; and he assembled on the Canadian front 218 guns. On June 12 these guns blew the Germans out of their trenches, just as the Canadians had been blown out of them a few days before; and an attack by the First Division, completely re-established the lost positions. The "Byng Boys", as the Canadians now came to be known, had demonstrated the fact that, under all but hopeless conditions, they could turn defeat into victory.

The arrival in France of the Fourth Canadian Division In August, 1916, Brought the Canadian Corps up to what was to become its full strength. At this date the first battle of the Somme had been raging since July 1st. While the Canadians Corps had no part in the early stages of this battle the Newfoundland Regiment which was part of the British Army had been annihilated on July 1st at Beaumont Hamel. It was not however until the beginning of September that the Canadian Corps was moved down to the battle area; and not until the middle of September was the Corps engaged in any serious action.

From the middle of September, however, to the middle of November the Corps bore its full share of the Somme fighting. The first important action in which the Canadians were engaged was the capture of Sugar and Candy trench and the sugar refinery at Courcellette on September 15, this action is notable not only for the fierce fighting involved but by the fact that for the first time Tanks were used in cooperated with the Canadian infantry. The following day the Canadians swept on and captured the village of Courcellette itself, in one of the most successful operations of the Somme fighting. For many days the Germans strove stubbornly to retake Courcellette; but their efforts resulted only in further loss of ground and further punishment.

At a later stage of the Somme fighting known as the battle of Thiepval Ridge the Canadians suffered heavy losses in the taking of Regina Trench. This was a line of German defenses beyond Courcellette. which it took the Corps a full month to capture. As the Autumn had advanced, the weather had turned bad, and the heavy Somme mud had made the problem of the attacking troops heartbreakingly difficult. Nevertheless, in the end they succeeded in capturing Desire Trench, which was the German support line, However when the Somme fighting stopped in the later part of November there was little to celebrate. The Canadian Corps had sustained 29,029 casualties for a mere six kilometers of mud.

The end of 1916 found the Canadian Corps finally fashioned into the army which during 1917 and 1918 was to be the spear-head of many attacks. It had now attained the strength of four divisions; and in the fighting about Courcellette, Regina and Desire Trenches the men of these four divisions and there commanding officers had gained valuable experience, experience that would serve them well in there next battle Vimy Ridge. The growth and development of the Canadian Corps was now complete.

CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALIONS

When Great Britain accepted Canada's offer to send an infantry division on Aug 06 1914, it was expected that it would be comprised of some of the 60,000 members of the Canadian militia. Instead Colonel Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence 1911-1916 decided to organize volunteers into new consecutively-numbered battalions.

The First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which sailed on Oct 03 1914, was comprised of the 1st to 17th battalions plus the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. By the end of the war there would be two hundred and sixty numbered battalions in existence.

First Canadian Contingent

- Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry: P.P.C.L.I.
 - 1st Infantry Battalion: Ontario Regiment
 - 2nd Infantry Battalion: Eastern Ontario Regiment
 - 3rd Infantry Battalion: Toronto Regiment
 - 4th Infantry Battalion: Central Ontario
 - 5th Infantry Battalion: Western Canada Cavalry
 - 6th Infantry Battalion: Fort Garry Horse
 - 7th Infantry Battalion: 1st British Columbia Regiment
 - 8th Infantry Battalion: The Black Devils / 90th Winnipeg Rifles
 - 9th Infantry Battalion:
 - 10th Infantry Battalion: 10th Canadians
 - 11th Infantry Battalion:
 - 12th Infantry Battalion:
 - 13th Infantry Battalion: Royal Highlanders of Canada
 - 14th Infantry Battalion: Royal Montreal Regiment
 - 15th Infantry Battalion: 48th Highlanders of Canada
 - 16th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Scottish
 - 17th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders / Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
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Second Contingent

Shortly after the First Contingent left for England, the government of Canada authorized the recruiting of a second contingent. During the winter of 1914-1915 the units composing this new force were mobilized and trained. In the spring of 1915 the Second Contingent sailed for England, but instead of sailing in a great armada like the First Contingent they left in separate transports. The summer of 1915 was spent in training at Shorncliffe on the coast of Kent and in September they left for the front as the Second Canadian Division. The 23rd and 30th Battalions remained behind in England as reserves.

- 18th Infantry Battalion: Western Ontario
- 19th Infantry Battalion:
- 20th Infantry Battalion: 1st Central Ontario Regiment
- 21st Infantry Battalion:
- 22nd Infantry Battalion: Canadiens Francais
- 23rd Infantry Battalion: Montreal Battalion
- 24th Infantry Battalion: Victoria Rifles
- 25th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia
- 26th Infantry Battalion: New Brunswick Battalion
- 27th Infantry Battalion: City Of Winnipeg Regiment
- 28th Infantry Battalion: North West Battalion
- 29th Infantry Battalion: Vancouver Battalion / Tobin's Tigers
- 30th Infantry Battalion: British Columbia
- 31st Infantry Battalion: Alberta Overseas Battalion
- 32nd Infantry Battalion: Manitoba and Saskatchewan

As the war progressed and casualties began to mount it became necessary to replace losses in the field with fresh troops. New Battalions were now being trained and sent to England as fast as possible. Upon arrival in England most of the new Battalions were absorbed into reserve Battalions. From there troops were sent where they were needed ~ either as reinforcements for the 1st and 2nd Divisions or to the 3rd and 4th Divisions as they were being formed in England.

- 33rd Infantry Battalion:
- 34th Infantry Battalion: Overseas Battalion
- 35th Infantry Battalion:
- 36th Infantry Battalion:
- 37th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Overseas Battalion
- 38th Infantry Battalion: Royal Ottawa Battalion
- 39th Infantry Battalion:
- 40th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia
- 41st Infantry Battalion: Canadian Francais
- 42nd Infantry Battalion: Royal Highlanders of Canada
- 43rd Infantry Battalion: Cameron Highlanders
- 44th Infantry Battalion:
- 45th Infantry Battalion: Manitoba Regiment
- 46th Infantry Battalion: South Saskatchewan
- 47th Infantry Battalion:
- 48th Infantry Battalion:
- 49th Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Overseas
- 50th Infantry Battalion: Calgary Regiment
- 51st Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Regiment
- 52nd Infantry Battalion: New Ontario Regiment
- 53rd Infantry Battalion:
- 54th Infantry Battalion: Kootenay Battalion
- 55th Infantry Battalion: New Brunswick / P.E.I. Battalion
- 56th Infantry Battalion: Calgary Battalion
- 57th Infantry Battalion: Canadiens Francais
- 58th Infantry Battalion:
- 59th Infantry Battalion:
- 60th Infantry Battalion: Victoria Rifles
- 61st Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Battalion
- 62nd Infantry Battalion: British Columbia Battalion
- 63rd Infantry Battalion:
- 64th Infantry Battalion:
- 65th Infantry Battalion: Saskatchewan Battalion
- 66th Infantry Battalion:
- 67th Infantry Battalion: Western Scots
- 68th Infantry Battalion: Regina Battalion
- 69th Infantry Battalion:
- 70th Infantry Battalion:
- 71st Infantry Battalion:
- 72nd Infantry Battalion: Seaforth Highlanders

- 73rd Infantry Battalion: Royal Highlanders of Canada
- 74th Infantry Battalion:
- 75th Infantry Battalion:
- 76th Infantry Battalion:
- 77th Infantry Battalion: Ottawa Battalion
- 78th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Grenadiers
- 79th Infantry Battalion:
- 80th Infantry Battalion:
- 81st Infantry Battalion:
- 82nd Infantry Battalion:
- 83rd Infantry Battalion: Queen's Own Rifles
- 84th Infantry Battalion:
- 85th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders
- 86th Infantry Battalion: Machine Gun Battalion
- 87th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Grenadier Guards
- 88th Infantry Battalion: Victoria Fusiliers
- 89th Infantry Battalion: Alberta Battalion
- 90th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Rifles
- 91st Infantry Battalion: Elgin Battalion
- 92nd Infantry Battalion: 48th Highlanders
- 93rd Infantry Battalion: Peterborough Battalion
- 94th Infantry Battalion: New Ontario Battalion
- 95th Infantry Battalion:
- 96th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Highlanders
- 97th Infantry Battalion: Toronto Americans
- 98th Infantry Battalion: Lincoln and Welland Battalion
- 99th Infantry Battalion: Essex Battalion
- 100th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Grenadiers
- 101st Infantry Battalion: Royal Winnipeg Rifles / Winnipeg Light Infantry
- 102nd Infantry Battalion: North British Columbians
- 103rd Infantry Battalion:
- 104th Infantry Battalion:
- 105th Infantry Battalion: P.E.I. Highlanders
- 106th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Rifles
- 107th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Battalion
- 108th Infantry Battalion: Selkirk and Manitoba Battalion
- 109th Infantry Battalion: Victoria and Haliburton Battalion
- 110th Infantry Battalion: Perth Battalion
- 111th Infantry Battalion: South Waterloo Battalion
- 112th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Overseas Battalion
- 113th Infantry Battalion: Lethbridge Highlanders
- 114th Infantry Battalion: Brock's Rangers
- 115th Infantry Battalion: New Brunswick Battalion
- 116th Infantry Battalion: Ontario County Infantry Battalion
- 117th Infantry Battalion: Eastern Township Battalion
- 118th Infantry Battalion: North Waterloo Overseas Battalion
- 119th Infantry Battalion: Algoma Overseas Battalion
- 120th Infantry Battalion: City of Hamilton Battalion

- 121st Infantry Battalion: Western Irish
- 122nd Infantry Battalion: Muskoka Overseas Battalion
- 123rd Infantry Battalion:
- 124th Infantry Battalion: Governor General's Body Guard
- 125th Infantry Battalion:
- 126th Infantry Battalion: Peel Battalion
- 127th Infantry Battalion: 12th York Rangers
- 128th Infantry Battalion: Moose Jaw Battalion
- 129th Infantry Battalion: Wentworth Battalion
- 130th Infantry Battalion: Lanark and Renfrew Battalion
- 131st Infantry Battalion: Westminster Battalion
- 132nd Infantry Battalion: North Shore Battalion
- 133rd Infantry Battalion: Norfolk's Own
- 134th Infantry Battalion: 48th Highlanders
- 135th Infantry Battalion: Middlesex Battalion
- 136th Infantry Battalion:
- 137th Infantry Battalion: Durham Battalion
- 138th Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Battalion
- 139th Infantry Battalion: Northumberland Battalion
- 140th Infantry Battalion:
- 141st Infantry Battalion: Border Battalion
- 142nd Infantry Battalion: London's Own
- 143rd Infantry Battalion: B.C. Bantams
- 144th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Rifles
- 145th Infantry Battalion:
- 146th Infantry Battalion:
- 147th Infantry Battalion: Grey Battalion
- 148th Infantry Battalion:
- 149th Infantry Battalion: Lambton Battalion
- 150th Infantry Battalion: Carabiniers Mont Royal
- 151st Infantry Battalion: Central Alberta Battalion
- 152nd Infantry Battalion: Weyburn east Battalion
- 153rd Infantry Battalion: Wellington Battalion
- 154th Infantry Battalion: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders
- 155th Infantry Battalion: Quinte Battalion
- 156th Infantry Battalion: Leeds and Grenville Battalion
- 157th Infantry Battalion: Simcoe Foresters
- 158th Infantry Battalion: Duke of Connaught's Own
- 159th Infantry Battalion: 1st Algonquin
- 160th Infantry Battalion: Bruce Battalion
- 161st Infantry Battalion: Huron Battalion
- 162nd Infantry Battalion: Parry Sound Battalion
- 163rd Infantry Battalion: Canadien Francais
- 164th Infantry Battalion: Halton and Dufferin Battalion
- 165th Infantry Battalion: French Acadian Battalion
- 166th Infantry Battalion: Queen's own Rifles of Canada
- 167th Infantry Battalion: Canadien Francais
- 168th Infantry Battalion: Oxfords

- 169th Infantry Battalion: 109th Regiment
- 170th Infantry Battalion: Mississauga Horse
- 171st Infantry Battalion: Quebec Rifles
- 172nd Infantry Battalion: Rocky Mountain Rangers
- 173rd Infantry Battalion: Canadian Highlanders
- 174th Infantry Battalion: Cameron Highlanders of Canada
- 175th Infantry Battalion: Medicine Hat Battalion
- 176th Infantry Battalion: Niagara Rangers
- 177th Infantry Battalion: Simcoe Foresters
- 178th Infantry Battalion: Canadien Francais
- 179th Infantry Battalion: Cameron Highlanders of Canada
- 180th Infantry Battalion: Sportsmen Battalion
- 181st Infantry Battalion: Brandon Battalion
- 182nd Infantry Battalion: Ontario County Battalion
- 183rd Infantry Battalion: Manitoba Beavers
- 184th Infantry Battalion:
- 185th Infantry Battalion: Cape Breton Highlanders
- 186th Infantry Battalion: Kent Battalion
- 187th Infantry Battalion: Central Alberta Battalion
- 188th Infantry Battalion: Saskatchewan Battalion
- 189th Infantry Battalion: Canadiens Français
- 190th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Rifles
- 191st Infantry Battalion: South Alberta Regiment
- 192nd Infantry Battalion: Crow's Nest Pass Battalion
- 193rd Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders
- 194th Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Higlanders
- 195th Infantry Battalion: City of Regina Battalion
- 196th Infantry Battalion: Western Universities C. E. F. Battalion
- 197th Infantry Battalion: Vikings of Canada
- 198th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Buffs
- 199th Infantry Battalion: Irish Canadian Rangers/Dutchess of Connaught's Own
- 200th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Battalion
- 201st Infantry Battalion: Toronto Light Infantry
- 202nd Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Sportsmen's Battalion
- 203rd Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Rifles
- 204th Infantry Battalion: Toronto Beavers
- 205th Infantry Battalion: Hamilton Tiger Battalion
- 206th Infantry Battalion: Canadiens Français
- 207th Infantry Battalion: Ottawa and Carleton Overseas Battalion
- 208th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Irish
- 209th Infantry Battalion:
- 210th Infantry Battalion: Frontiersmen of Western Canada
- 211th Infantry Battalion: Alberta Americans
- 212th Infantry Battalion: Winnipeg Americans
- 213th Infantry Battalion: Toronto Americans
- 214th Infantry Battalion: Saskatchewan Battalion
- 215th Infantry Battalion:
- 216th Infantry Battalion: Toronto Bantams

- 217th Infantry Battalion: Qu'Appelle Battalion
- 218th Infantry Battalion: Edmonton Irish
- 219th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders
- 220th Infantry Battalion: York Rangers
- 221st Infantry Battalion:
- 222nd Infantry Battalion:
- 223rd Infantry Battalion: Canadian Scandanavians
- 224th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Forestry Battalion
- 225th Infantry Battalion: Kootenay Battalion
- 226th Infantry Battalion: Men of the North
- 227th Infantry Battalion: Men of the North
- 228th Infantry Battalion: Northern Fusiliers
- 229th Infantry Battalion: South Saskatchewan Battalion
- 230th Infantry Battalion: Voltigeurs Canadien Français
- 231st Infantry Battalion: Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
- 232nd Infantry Battalion: Saskatchewan Battalion
- 233rd Infantry Battalion: Canadiens Français
- 234th Infantry Battalion: Peel Battalion
- 235th Infantry Battalion:
- 236th Infantry Battalion: New Brunswick Kilties
- 237th Infantry Battalion: New Brunswick Americans
- 238th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Forestry Battalion
- 239th Infantry Battalion: Railway Construction Corps
- 240th Infantry Battalion: Lanark and Renfrew Battalion
- 241st Infantry Battalion: Canadian Scottish Borderers
- 242nd Infantry Battalion: Canadian Forestry Battalion
- 243rd Infantry Battalion:
- 244th Infantry Battalion: Kitchener's Own
- 245th Infantry Battalion: Montreal Grenadiers/Canadian Grenadier Guards
- 246th Infantry Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders
- 247th Infantry Battalion: Victoria and Haliburton Battalion/Die Hards
- 248th Infantry Battalion:
- 249th Infantry Battalion:
- 250th Infantry Battalion: White Eagles
- 251st Infantry Battalion: Good Fellows Battalion
- 252nd Infantry Battalion:
- 253rd Infantry Battalion: Queen's University Highlanders
- 254th Infantry Battalion: Quinte's Own
- 255th Infantry Battalion: Queen's Own Rifles
- 256th Infantry Battalion:
- 257th Infantry Battalion: Canadian Railway Construction Battalion
- 258th Infantry Battalion:
- 259th Infantry Battalion: Siberian Expeditionary Force
- 260th Infantry Battalion: Siberian Expeditionary Force

DIVISIONS

During the great war Canada would field a total of four divisions. Each division would be comprised of three infantry brigades with four battalions to each brigade.

1st Canadian Division

The 1st Division was formed from the first Canadian contingent which sailed from Canada on October 3rd, 1914.

- **1st Brigade**
 - 1st Battalion: Western Ontario Battalion
 - 2nd Battalion: Eastern Ontario Battalion
 - 3rd Battalion: Toronto Regiment
 - 4th Battalion:

- **2nd Brigade**
 - 5th Battalion: Western Canadian Cavalry
 - 7th Battalion: 1st British Columbia Regiment
 - 8th Battalion: The Black Devils/ 90th Winnipeg Rifles
 - 10th Battalion: 10th Canadians

- **3rd Brigade**
 - 13th Battalion: Royal Highlanders of Canada
 - 14th Battalion: Royal Montreal Regiment
 - 15th Battalion: 48th Highlanders of Canada
 - 16th Battalion: Canadian Scottish

2nd Canadian Division

The 2nd Canadian Division was formed on the 25th of May 1915 and joined the 1st Canadian Division in France in September 1915. Together they formed the Canadian Corps.

- **4th Brigade**
 - 18th Battalion: Western Ontario Regiment
 - 19th Battalion:
 - 20th Battalion: 1st Central Ontario Regiment
 - 21st Battalion:

- **5th Brigade**
 - 22nd Battalion: Canadiens Francais
 - 24th Battalion: Victoria Rifles
 - 25th Battalion: Nova Scotia
 - 26th Battalion: New Brunswick Battalion

- **6th Brigade**
 - 27th Battalion: City of Winnipeg Regiment
 - 28th Battalion: North West Regiment

- 29th Battalion: Tobin's Tigers/Vancouver Regiment
 - 31st Battalion: Alberta Regiment
-

3rd Canadian Division

The 3rd Canadian Division joined the Canadian Corps in June 1916.

- **7th Brigade**
 - Royal Canadian Regiment
 - Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry
 - 42nd Battalion: Royal Highlanders of Canada
 - 49th Battalion: Edmonton
 - **8th Brigade**
 - 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles
 - 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles
 - 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles
 - 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles
 - **9th Brigade**
 - 43rd Battalion: Cameron Highlanders
 - 52nd Battalion: New Ontario Regiment
 - 58th Battalion
 - 116th Battalion: Ontario County Infantry
-

4th Canadian Division

The 4th Canadian Division joined the Canadian Corps in October 1916.

- **10th Brigade**
 - 44th Battalion
 - 46th Battalion: South Saskatchewan
 - 47th Battalion
 - 50th Battalion: Calgary Regiment
- **11th Brigade**
 - 54th Battalion: Kootenay
 - 75th Battalion
 - 87th Battalion: Canadian Grenadier Guards
 - 102nd Battalion: North British Columbians
- **12th Brigade**
 - 38th Battalion: Royal Ottawa

- 72nd Battalion: Seaforth Highlanders
- 78th Battalion: Winnipeg Grenadiers
- 85th Battalion: Nova Scotia Highlanders

5th Canadian Divison

This Division was authorized in June 1917 to be formed from Canadian units already in England. However it was broken up and its components used to re-inforce the Canadian Corps in the field.

WW I STATISTICS

The Price Of Victory

Enlisted	595 000
Served overseas	418 000
Killed in Action	35 666
Died of wounds	12 420
Died of disease	5 405
Wounded	155 799
Prisoners of War	3 575
Presumed dead	4 671
Missing	425
Deaths in Canada	2 221
Total Dead	60 383
Population of Canada	

It should be noted that these stats are approximations only. For example I have found estimates of Canadian dead ranging from 56,500 to 63,200 with 59,544 being the most common.

TIMELINE FOR CANADA

1914

- July 29 ~ Britain warns Canada of deteriorating situation in Europe.
- Aug 02 ~ Canada offers Britain troops for overseas service.
- Aug 05 ~ Britain declares war. Canada is automatically at war.
- Aug 06 ~ Britain accepts Canada's offer of troops.
- Aug 19 ~ The first volunteers begin to arrive at Valcartier camp.
- Sept 04 ~ Aproximately 32,000 men have assembled at Valcartier.
- Oct 03 ~ 1st contingent Canadian Expeditionary Force sails for England.
- Oct 14 ~ 1st contingent C.E.F. arrives in England.
- Dec 21 ~ Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrives in France. The first Canadian unit committed to battle in the Great War.

1915

- Feb 07 ~ 1st Canadian Division begins moving to France.
- Mar 03 ~ 1st Canadian Division is made responsible for 6000m of front near Fleurbaix.
- April 01 ~ 1st Canadian Division is moved north to the Ypres Salient.
- Apr 22 ~ Battle of Ypres. First use of poison gas against French.
- Apr 24 ~ Battle of St.Julien. First use of poison gas against Canadian troops.
- May 05 ~ [Lt-Col John McCrae](#) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force composed the well-known poem *In Flanders Fields*.
- May 18 ~ Battle of Festubert.
- May 25 ~ Second Canadian Division formed in Canada.
- June 15 ~ Battle of Givenchy.
- Sept 19 ~ Newfoundland Regiment lands at Suvla Bay in Gallipoli.
- Nov 16 ~ Canadian's launched their first trench raid at Riviere Douve.
- Dec 20 ~ Newfoundland Regiment evacuated from Suvla Bay
- Dec 25 ~ 3rd Canadian Division formed.

1916

- Apr 06 ~ The Battle of St.Eloi Craters.
- Jun 02 ~ Battle of Mount Sorrel. Major General Mercer killed.
- Sept 15 ~ Battle of Courcellette. First use of the tank and the rolling barrage.
- Sept 26 ~ Battle of Thiepval Ridge.
- Nov ~ Sir Samuel Hughes Minister of Militia and Defense is sacked by Prime Minister Borden.

1917

- Apr 09 ~ The Battle of Vimy Ridge.
- June 11 ~ Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden introduced a Military Service Bill.
- Aug 15 ~ Battle for Hill 70. First use of mustard gas against Canadians.

- Oct 26 ~ The Battle of Passchendaele
- Aug 29 ~ Conscription became law in Canada.
- Nov ~ Prime Minister Borden's Unionists win a majority in the federal election.
- Nov 20 ~ The Battle of Cambrai.
- Dec 06 ~ [The Halifax Explosion](#). French munitions vessel Mont Blanc explodes in Halifax Harbour killing almost 1600 people.

1918

- Jan ~ Conscription now in force.
- March 21 ~ German Offensive begins.
- March 30 ~ Canadian Cavalry attack at Moreuil Wood.
- Aug 08 ~ The Battle of Amiens. The beginning of what is known as Canada's Hundred Days.
- Aug 26 ~ The Battle of the Scarpe.
- Sept 02 ~ The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line.
- Sept 27 ~ The Battle of the Canal Du Nord and Cambrai.
- Nov 02 ~ The Canadian Corps capture the town of Valenciennes in its last major battle of the war.
- Nov 10 ~ The Canadian Corps Reached the outskirts of Mons.
- Nov 11 ~ At 10:58am Private George Price of the 28th Battalion is killed by a sniper. Two minutes later at 11:00am the armistice came into effect. The war was over.

BATTLES

The following is a list of the major operations in which the Canadian Expeditionary Force participated.

<i>Ypres</i>	April - May 1915
<i>Festubert & Givenchy</i>	May - June 1915
<i>St Eloi Craters</i>	March - April 1916
<i>Mount Sorrel</i>	2 - 13 June 1916
<i>Somme</i>	July - November 1916
<i>Vimy Ridge</i>	9 - 12 April 1917
<i>The Scarpe</i>	April - May 1917
<i>Hill 70</i>	15 - 25 August 1917
<i>Passchendaele</i>	26 October - 10 November 1917
<i>Amiens</i>	8 - 11 August 1918
<i>Arras</i>	26 August - 3 September 1918
<i>Canal du Nord & Cambrai</i>	27 September - 11 October 1918
<i>Capture of Valenciennes</i>	1-2 November 1918

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ww1can/>

WW1: Men of the CEF

CEF NOMINAL ROLLS

[Nominal Rolls on Archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

- 100th Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 101st Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 108th Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 10th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade, Nominal Roll - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 10th Canadian Mounted Rifles, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reinforcing Drafts, Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 137th Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 144th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 154th Infantry Battalion, Embarkation Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 159th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 15th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 19th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 1st Draft, 2nd Depot Battalion, E.O.R. Nominal Roll 1918 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 209th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 20th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 211th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 218th Battalion Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 21st Infantry Battalion, Nominal Rolls 1915 and 1918 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 223rd Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 228th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 244th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 245th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 27th Railway Construction Draft Nominal Roll 1918 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 28th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 29th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 2nd Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 30th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 33rd Battalion Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 34th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 35th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 36th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 38th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 39th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 3rd Divisional Ammunition Column - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 3rd Divisional Supply Column, Canadian Army Service Corps - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 4th, 5th and 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade HQ Staff - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 50th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 55th Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 60th Infantry Battalion and Reinforcing Draft, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles Regiment, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force

- 73rd Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 7th Canadian Field Artillery Brigade, Nominal Roll, Reinforcing Draft 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th Batteries - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 87th Infantry Battalion, Nominal Roll 1916 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles also 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reinforcing Drafts, Nominal Roll 1914 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 8th Infantry Battalion Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles, 1st and 2nd Reinforcing Drafts Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- 9th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Borden's Motor Machine Gun Battery Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Canadian Army Medical Corps reinforcements Nominal Roll - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Divisional Cavalry, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Draft #53, Skilled Railway Employees - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Draft #8, Railway Construction Depot, MD 2 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Draft #95, Canadian Railway Troops Depot - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Eaton's Machine Gun Battery Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Lord Strathcona's Horse Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- No. 1 and 2 Section Skilled Railway Employees and Reinforcing Draft Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- No.1 Auto-Machine Gun Brigade Nominal Roll - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Nursing Sisters Nominal Roll 1914 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Nursing Sisters Reinforcing Drafts Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Railway Construction Corps, 1st Reinforcing Draft - Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Railway Construction Draft 9 Nominal Roll 1918 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Railway Supply Detachment Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Railway Supply Detachment, Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Royal Canadian Dragoons Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Skilled Railway Employees Draft, MD6 Nominal Roll - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Yukon Infantry Company Nominal Roll 1917 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Yukon Machine Gun Detachment Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Yukon Machine Gun Section - 2nd CMR Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force
- Yukon Machine Gun Section Nominal Roll 1915 - Canadian Expeditionary Force

<http://archive.org/search.php?query=army%20list%20AND%20mediatype%3Atexts%20AND%20subject%3A%22Nominal%20Rolls%22>

WORLD WAR I, 1914-1919

The Regiment's service in World War I is divided into three distinct categories. First, the Welland Canal Protective Force; second, contributions to the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force; and third, the formation of three Overseas Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

The Welland Canal Protective Force (*sometimes called the Welland Canal Field Force*) was formed to provide guards for the canal, hydro electric installations and the international bridges at Niagara Falls. Most of the men who formed the Force were from the 19th and 44th *Regiments*.

Welland Canal Field Force

When war was declared, instead of mobilizing the militia by units, the Canadian Expeditionary Force was formed. Volunteers, both from the militia and off the streets, were formed into newly created units, and in less than two months some 32,000 men sailed for the United Kingdom. Most of the volunteers from the 19th and 44th were allocated to the 4th Battalion, CEF, although many were assigned to other units.

As the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions of the CEF were raised, a number of CEF units were raised in Niagara, three of them infantry battalions which had special connections to the Regiment. The Lincoln and Welland Regiment perpetuates the 81st, 98th and 176th Battalions due to the large number of men sent to the three units. These battalions were broken up in England and never reached France. The men, however, were dispersed throughout the Canadian Corps.

It is difficult to trace the military careers of the men who served in the three CEF battalions, but it is known that their gallantry won at least:

- 1 Victoria Cross
- 1 Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath
- 1 Companion of the Order of the Bath
- 1 Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George
- 1 Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire
- 2 Officers of the Order of the British Empire
- 6 Distinguished Service Orders
- 14 Military Crosses
- 1 Distinguished Flying Cross
- 5 Distinguished Conduct Medals
- 1 Meritorious Service Medal
- 60 Military Medals
- 2 French Croix de Guerre
- 2 Belgian Croix de Guerre

To check the terms of reference for the Canadian medals see [Canadian medals](#)

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment proudly carries 10 Battle Honours awarded to the Lincoln Regiment and The Lincoln and Welland Regiment (post-war militia units) as recognition of the role played in these battles by men from the 4th Battalion, CEF, and the three battalions it perpetuates:

YPRES, 1915, '17
Festubert, 1915
SOMME, 1916
ARRAS, 1917, 18
Hill 70
AMIENS
Hindenburg Line
PURSUIT TO MONS

**Niagara's Military Symposium: Past To Present
- by Kevin Patterson**

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment's 3rd annual Military History Symposium on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at the Lake Street Armoury in St. Catharines. Sponsored by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment; the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University; as well as the history departments at the University of Waterloo and Brock University, the day offered an impressive list of historians and authors sharing their insights on almost 200 years of Canadian Military History.

The event began the previous evening (Friday, November 6) with a keynote address by Terry Copp, professor emeritus at Wilfrid Laurier University and a leading scholar on the Second World War.