

One-Two-Three - The Story of the 123rd Battalion, Royal Grenadiers, C.E.F.

Appendix 6 - The Formations of the C.E.F. 1914-1919

The Battalion was the basic tactical unit of the Canadian Corps in the Great War. There were many changes in the authorized sizes and strengths of the various formations throughout the war and there are many volumes of published research that describe them in copious detail, which I will not attempt to repeat here.

The following graphic is intended to give a quick perspective on the seven formation levels of the C.E.F., the numbers of men in each level, and the way in which each formation relates to the adjacent ones. A cautionary note, however, this graphic is a simplification of a complex topic.



NOTES:

1. In this illustration refers to an Infantry Section. Scout, Transport, Machine-gun, etc. Sections were often much larger.
2. The Canadian Corps in Belgium and France in October, 1918 was made up of ~160,000 all ranks.

For anyone wishing to find more detail on the formations of the C.E.F., I can recommend the following:

- *A Nation In Making*; pgs. 33-46, Love, Service Publications, Ottawa, 2012
- *Marching to Armageddon*; pgs. 274-279, Morton & Granatstein, Lester & Orpen Dennys, Toronto, 1989 (down to Battalion level only)
- *Over The Top!*; pgs. 22-41, Meek, self-published, Ontario, 1971 (down to Battalion level only)
- *For King and Empire Website*; Christie, http://www.kingandempire.com/g4_P.html
- *Gas Attack - The Canadians at Ypres 1915*; pg. viii, Christie, CEF Books, Ontario, 1998 (down to Battalion level only)