

War Service Badges

On Tuesday, August 16, 1916, Canada's outgoing Governor General, His Excellency, The Duke of Connaught, enacted Order in Council P.C. 1944. This established three classes of persons entitled to War Badges.

1. Men honourably discharged from the Expeditionary Force
2. Men who offered themselves for active service but were rejected
3. Men who desired to or had offered to enlist who were refused because their services were more valuable in their present employment.

Six months later, on Tuesday, February 27, 1917, Canada's Deputy Governor General, C. Fitzpatrick, approved Order in Council P.C. 275 which superseded P.C. 1944. This established the design of the badges, redefined the classes entitled to them and established a fourth class.

Three months later, on Tuesday, May 15, 1917, Order in Council P.C. 1296 redefined the classes entitled to War Badges.

Army Class A

- (i) Members of the CEF who served at the front and had retired or relinquished their commissions, been honourably discharged, or returned to or retained in Canada on duty.
- (ii) Members of the Imperial Forces, subject to the same conditions as members of the CEF, provided they were Canadian residents on the 4th day of August, 1914, and had returned to reside in Canada.

Army Class B

Members of the CEF who served in the United Kingdom or at the front, and who, due to old age, wounds or sickness, had retired or relinquished their commissions or been honourably discharged.

Army Class C

(i) Members of the CEF not eligible for Class A or B who served with pay for an aggregate period not less than three months, and had been retired or honourably discharged, including those who suffered a disability due to military service and had been discharged solely due to the disability before they served three months.

(ii) Members of the Active Militia of Canada who, had they remained on duty until the completion of the arrangements authorized by P.C. 1569 (*National Archives of Canada, RG 2, Vol. 1200, File 22 June 1918, P.C. 1569.*), would have become members of the CEF, provided they served with pay for an aggregate period not less than three months and had been retired or honourably discharged, including those who suffered a disability due to military service, and been discharged solely due to the disability before they served three months.

(iii) Members of the Imperial Forces not eligible for Class A or B, who resided in Canada on the 4th of August 1914, and who returned to reside in Canada, subject to the same conditions as in (ii).

Navy Class A

When the Order in Council P.C. 777 redesignated the CEF War Badges and created a special Class A War Service Badge for issue only to those men who served at the Front (ie. on the Western Front) the majority members of Canada's Naval Services were excluded. Recognizing the inequity of this, Order in Council P.C.

1038 of May 1919, established a Canadian Naval War Badge Class A (Class AA) for services at sea, on any battle front, or ashore in the British Isles (*P.C. 1038, The Canada Gazette, No. Vol. #, Apr-Jun 1919 (31 May, 1919), p. 3688*).

RCAF Reserve

Awarded to those who served with the Air Force during the Second World War and were transferred to the Reserve General Class "E" on the completion of their active service.

General Service

Awarded to members of the Navy, Army or Air Forces of Canada who have declared their willingness, or who have engaged to serve in any of the said forces on active service during the Second World War.

Fire Fighters Canada and Overseas

Awarded to those members of the Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters who, having volunteered to serve in the said Corps, have served overseas or at least six months in Canada and who have been honourably discharged from the said Corps.

Korea Service Badge

Korean War veterans who served with the Canadian forces or associated support groups between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1954 are eligible for the badge. The immediate family of a deceased veteran may also apply for the badge.