



**SUPPLY  
LINE**

# Attestation Papers

**ATTESTATION PAPER.** No. \_\_\_\_\_

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. Folio. \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**  
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? .....
- 1a. What are your Christian names? .....
- 1b. What is your present address? .....
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? .....
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? .....
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? .....
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? .....
5. What is the date of your birth? .....
6. What is your Trade or Calling? .....
7. Are you married? .....
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? .....
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? .....
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? (For non-permanent or limited service.) .....
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? .....
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the (Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force?) .....

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

..... (Signature of Recruit)

Date: ..... 191..... (Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as to duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all His Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

..... (Signature of Recruit)

Date: ..... 191..... (Signature of Witness)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as aforesaid, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 191.....

..... (Signature of Justice)

M. P. W. 28.  
REVISED 1914.  
H. Q. 1172-29-31.

## DEFINITION

The **attestation paper** was a personal information form that volunteers for the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) completed during the enlistment process throughout the First World War.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Common trades listed on attestation papers include clerks, farmers, tailors, fishermen, steam engineers, insurance agents, photographers and many more.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Upon the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, Canada immediately mobilized a contingent for overseas service, the CEF. During the four years of the war, there were more than

600,000 enlistments in the CEF. All of the men and women who joined completed an **attestation paper**.

## EVOLUTION/DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the **attestation papers** was to collect personal information before accepting someone into the CEF. Among other things, this helped to ensure that the person was suitable to serve in the CEF and that they understood the implications of volunteering.

While there were slight modifications to the forms over the course of the war all forms included the following categories of information:

- Personal information;
- Next-of-kin information;
- Work experience;
- Consent to be vaccinated;
- Military background;
- Physical description;
- Religion;
- Oaths and certifications

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### VALUABLE HISTORICAL SOURCES:

The service records of the soldiers and nursing sisters of the CEF are preserved at Library and Archives Canada, in Ottawa, Ontario. Although the contents of the service records vary from person to person, depending on their wartime experiences, virtually all include **attestation papers**. The information provided reveals the eclectic make-up of the CEF during the First World War, in terms of nationality, occupation, and even physical description. These documents offer a truly revealing picture of the people who wore Canadian uniforms during the First World War and are arguably the most important source for researchers studying Canadians who served during the First World War.

Digital images of most of the **attestation papers** are accessible through the Library and Archives Canada website.

### DID YOU KNOW?

For much of the war, married men were legally required to have written permission from their wives before they could enlist.

# VOCABULARY LIST

**Next-of-kin:**

The next-of-kin refers to a soldier's closest living family member(s). The next-of-kin would be the first to learn of a soldier's injury or death, and would also benefit from any financial allowances or compensation that soldiers' families were eligible to receive under the terms of military service.