

Canadian Fokker D.VII War Trophy Serial Number List

A large number of ex-German military aircraft were brought to Canada in 1919 as part of a war trophy collection acquired by the Dominion Archivist for Canada, LCol Arthur Doughty (later Sir Arthur) for the Canadian government. Included among these were at least 28 Fokker D.VII fighters (two further aircraft had been written off while in England). Unfortunately only one of the remaining aircraft is known to have survived, that being Fokker D.VII 6810/ 18 (Alb.) now at Knowlton, Quebec, in the Knowlton Museum of the Bronte County Historical Society. Six aircraft were also donated to Canadian universities¹ but none of these survived intact. Additional aircraft were offered to a variety of technical schools but few details are available for these aircraft. The complete known list of these (30) aircraft is presented here with serial numbers and notes on their fate. Apart from those aircraft donated to universities, where further details of their fate are not known, it seems almost certain they were among those ordered destroyed at Camp Borden, apparently in 1921.

- 5492/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 5, 1919. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as considerably damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 5924/18 (Alb.). No shipping details but arrived in Canada. Coded "RK" from *Jasta* 63. Delivered to Leaside Aerodrome & BBAL. Never assembled & possibly used for spares; fate unknown
- 6504/18 (Alb.). No shipping details. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 6769/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 6786/18 (Alb.). Written-off in an accident shortly after delivery from No. 2 ASD at Biggin Hill, England.
- 6810/18 (Alb.). No shipping record from overseas or Camp Borden. Placed in storage at Camp Borden: undercarriage not fitted and noted as slightly damaged by shipping. Preserved in Paul Holland Knowlton Museum of Brome County Historical Society, Knowlton, Quebec. Fabric repairs completed by No. 6 RD RCAF in 1963.
- 6822/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 5, 1919. Placed in storage: Mounted on undercarriage and noted as in fair condition; fate unknown
- 6832/18 (Alb.). Likely with No.1 (Fighter) Squadron, CAF, Shoreham. Shipped to Canada via SS *Perkrat* June 24, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45715. Shipped to the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, from Camp Borden, May 7, 1920. Last photographed in 1923. Final disposition unknown.
- 6833/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 6842/18 (Alb.). No shipping record from overseas. To University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, from Camp Borden, May 7, 1920. Airframe demolished and engine retained in Engineering Faculty. The engine was later sent to CA&SM in an exchange in May 1975 and is now installed in that museum's Fokker D.VII 10347/18.
- 6846/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 5, 1919. Placed in storage: Mounted on undercarriage and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown



- 6849/18 (Alb.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Montezuma* July 10, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45628. Noted as being on loan to BBAL; fate unknown.
- 7685/18 Fokker built. One of several aircraft on strength with No. 1 Squadron, CAF Shoreham. Held over from shipping for use by the Commanding Officer. No shipping record from overseas. No shipping details but arrived in Canada. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #1284. Used for an exhibition in Ottawa; fate unknown
- 7690/18 Fokker built. No shipping details; assembled at No. 2 ASD, France for CAF; fate unknown
- 7701/18 Fokker built. No shipping details; assembled at No. 2 ASD, France for CAF; fate unknown
- 7722/18 Fokker built. No shipping details; assembled at No. 2 ASD, France for CAF; fate unknown
- 7728/18. Fokker built. Shipped to Canada via SS *Montezuma* July 10, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #12099. Placed in storage: Mounted on undercarriage and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 8413/18 (O.A.W.). Damaged on arrival in England in March 1919. Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Placed in storage: Mounted on undercarriage and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 8474/18 (O.A.W.). Flown to Hounslow, England from No. 2 ASD France by Lt. Griffiths on 26 February 1919. Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Assembled and displayed at "War Trophy Building" Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, August 1919; fate unknown
- 8482/18 (O.A.W.). Flown to Hounslow, England from No. 2 ASD France by Capt. Carruthers on 23 February 1919. On strength with 1 Canadian Fighter Squadron in Shoreham, England. Involved in a fatal crash when being flown by Major A.D. Carer of No. 2 (Day Bomber) Squadron. On 22 May 1919, he took off on flight and crashed in a field shortly afterward. The airframe was demolished.
- 8487/18 (O.A.W.) No shipping details; assembled at No. 2 ASD, France for CAF; fate unknown
- 8488/18 (O.A.W.). Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 8492/18 (O.A.W.). Flown to Hounslow, England from No. 2 ASD France by Maj Foot on 28 February 1919. Shipped to Canada from Chingford, UK via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping; fate unknown
- 8493/18 (O.A.W.). Flown to Hounslow, England from No. 2 ASD France by Maj McLea on 23 February 1919. One of several aircraft on strength with No. 1 Squadron, CAF Shoreham. No shipping record from overseas. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45105. Placed in storage: undercarriage not fitted and noted as being slightly damaged by shipping. Shipped to University of Calgary from Camp Borden May 12, 1920. Displayed there July 6-8, 1920. Later disassembled and its parts were dispersed.
- 8502/18 (O.A.W.). Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #32746. Noted as being on loan to BBAL; fate unknown



- 8526/18 (O.A.W.). Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45648. Noted as being on loan to BBAL; fate unknown
- 8583/18 (O.A.W.). Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #42527. Noted as being on loan to BBAL. Shipped to McGill University, Montreal, from Camp Borden May 14, 1920. University has no record.; fate unknown
- 8609/18 (O.A.W.). Surrendered to American Expeditionary Force at the factory without any German markings applied. Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #37176. Noted as being on loan to BBAL; fate unknown but likely scrapped at Camp Borden.
- 10349/18. Fokker-built. Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45700. Assembled at Leaside Aerodrome. Capt. L.B. Hyde-Pearson flew this aircraft through a tree in the fall of 1918 but returned safely to Leaside Aerodrome, Toronto. The aircraft was likely scrapped thereafter at Camp Borden.
- 10350/18. Fokker-built. Shipped to Canada from Dieppe via SS *Venusia* May 23, 1919. Noted as being fitted with Mercedes engine #45659. Assembled and likely flown at Leaside Aerodrome, Toronto, August 1919. The aircraft was likely scrapped thereafter at Camp Borden.

NOTES

Abbreviations:

Alb. = Albatros (a German aircraft manufacturer)

ASD = Aircraft Supply Depot

BBAL - Bishop Barker Aeroplanes Limited

CAF = Canadian Air Force

Capt = Captain

CA&SM = Canada Aviation & Space Museum

Lt = Lieutenant

Maj = Major

No. = Number

O.A.W. = *Ostdeutsche Albatros Werke* (a German aircraft manufacturer)

SS = Steamship

UK = United Kingdom

Seven Fokker D.VIIs were delivered at Leaside Aerodrome in August 1919 and at least three were assembled and flown (including #10349/18). The remainder were probably used for spares. Unfortunately the OAW-built D.VIIs did not have their serials painted on them and while these aircraft can be seen in photographs, they cannot be specifically identified, as to which were assembled and flown.

It seems likely the above list may still be incomplete for the following reasons. The foundation of the list is the (incomplete) shipping record of the Canadian War Trophies Board with only the occasional other record being found. Even so, at least nine Fokker D.VIIs above are recorded as being in Canada without a shipping record. Two Fokkers, likely D.VIIs, of unrecorded serials, were listed as being shipped on the SS *War Peridat* on July 7, 1919. The wings of another Fokker were also noted as being shipped from Dieppe on May 23, 1919, on the SS *Venusia*. Similarly the list of Fokker's dispersed to Canadian universities and technical schools is also incomplete and / or contains some inaccuracies.



REFERENCES

Library & Archives Canada Files:

- Units - Canadian Air Force - One file re: Memo for Gen. Turner re: Canadian Air Force. [1916-1920]. File. RG 9 III-A-1. Volume/box number: 81. File number: 10-9-27.
- Units - Canadian Air Force - One file re: Memo for Gen. Turner re: Canadian Air Force. [1916-1920]. File. RG 9 III-A-1. Volume/box number: 81. File number: 10-9-27.
- Units - Canadian Air Force - One file re: Memo for Gen. Turner re: Canadian Air Force. [1916-1920]. File. RG 9 III-A-1. Volume/box number: 81. File number: 10-9-27.
- Units - Canadian Air Force - One file re: Memo for Gen. Turner re: Canadian Air Force. [1916-1920]. File. RG 9 III-A-1. Volume/box number: 80-81. File number: 10-9-27.
- Units - Canadian Air Force - One file re: Memo for Gen. Turner re: Canadian Air Force. [1916-1920]. File. RG 9 III-A-1. Volume/box number: 80-81. File number: 10-9-27.
- Air Force and aerial transport - Memorandum for the Prime Minister re: Canadian Air Force. 13 Dec. 1918. File. MG26-H, R6113-251-2-E. Volume/box number: 429.
- Minutes - Meetings of the Air Board, Canadian Air Force. 1919-1920. File. RG24-E-1-a. Volume/box number: 3510. File number: 866-1-27.
- Demobilization of Canadian Air Force to Canada. [1918-1919]. File. RG 9 III-B-1. Volume/box number: 3430. File number: D-6-49.
- Canadian Air Force. 1918/10/01-1920/01/02. File. RG150-1. Volume/box number: 289.
- 2nd (Day-Bomber) Squadron, Canadian Air Force. 1919/01/20-1919/11/24. File. RG150-1. Volume/box number: 289.
- 123rd Squadron, Royal Air Force. 1919/01/15-1919/11/19. File. RG150-1. Volume/box number: 289.
- No. 1 Fighter Squadron, 81st Squadron, Royal Air Force. 1918/12/31-1920/02/10. File. RG150-1. Volume/box number: 289.
- Royal Air Force - Shoreham-by-Sea. 1919/02/03-1920/08/09. File. RG150-1. Volume/box number: 289.
- Reports Progress 81st Squadron. [1918-1919]. File. RG 9 III-B-1. Volume/box number: 3432. File number: R-4-49.
- Reports Progress 123rd Squadron. [1918-1919]. File. RG 9 III-B-1. Volume/box number: 3432. File number: R-3-49.
- Squadron 123rd General Correspondence. [1918-1919]. File. RG 9 III-B-1. Volume/box number: 3432. File number: S-10-49.

Books

- Scotland, J.B. & Soye E.P., *Aviators and the Academy: Early Aeronautics in Canada*, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, 2015.

ENDNOTES

¹ Fokker D.VII aircraft were shipped to the Universities of McGill, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Mount Allison and Acadia. Mount Allison and Acadia's aircraft were apparently subsequently destroyed in fires.

