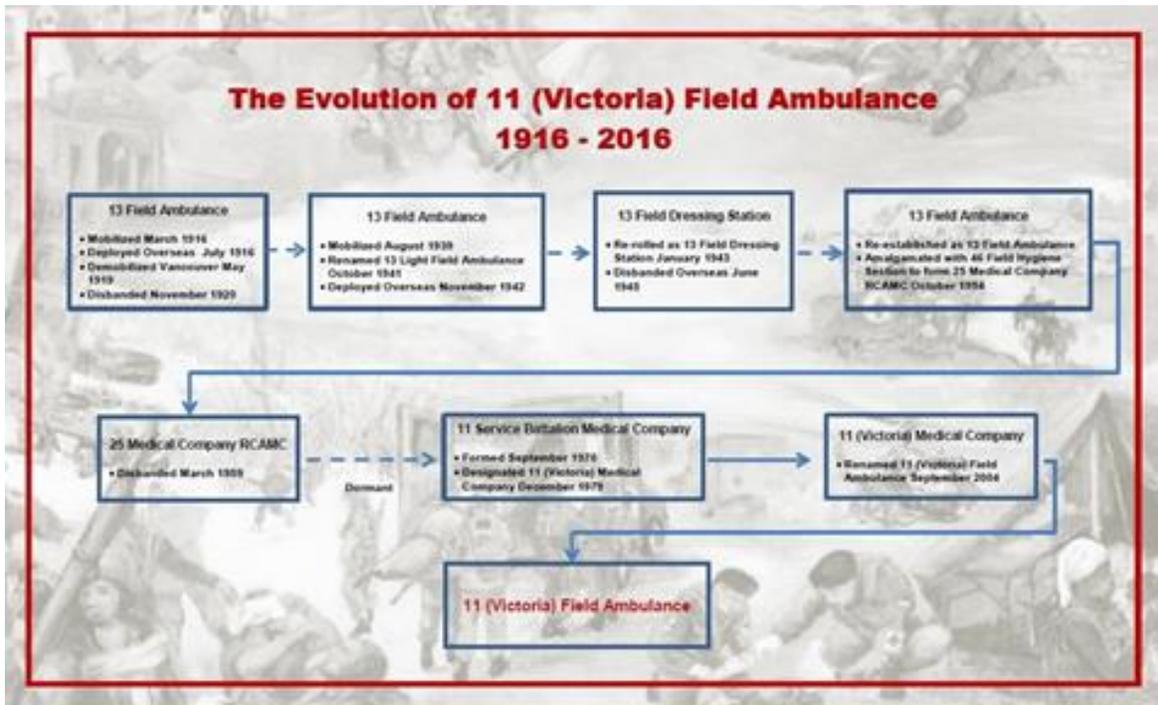


Evolution of 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance

“A Brief History”

13 Canadian Field Ambulance is recognized as the predecessor unit to today's 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance resident in the LGen E.C. Ashton Armoury



World War One

The unit was mobilized in Victoria on 22 March 1916 and departed Canada July 1 on the S.S. Matagama. The unit arrived in England July 9 where they received training in stretcher drill with and without ambulances and practical field ambulance work in conjunction with infantry units. The unit was fully equipped with tentage, medical equipment and ambulances and departed August 12 from Southampton for the front lines in Belgium.

The battle of the Somme was the first heavy action seen by the Canadian Corps. The battle was brutal with the Canadians suffering a total of 23,734 casualties.

The Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge has gone down as one of the great feats in military history. 13 Fd Amb was the Corps clearing centre for walking wounded during Vimy and saw 4,360 casualties during the full three days of the battle. The largest number held at any one time was 2,650. The clearing of casualties from the front lines to the advanced

dressing stations was very rapid although evacuation rearward was delayed due to a lack of ambulances.

The conditions facing the medical service in this operation were daunting yet despite a high number of casualties (16,404) the medical service proved to be up to the task with 12,403 coming between 26 October through 11 November. General Currie had predicted 16,000 casualties would be the result of the battle and he was very close in his estimate.

World War Two

On September 2 1939 13 Field Ambulance, quartered at the Bay Street Armoury, was mobilized with six officers and forty other ranks from the Militia. On October 27 1941, the unit was renamed "No. 13 Light Field Ambulance" and tasked to support the 5th Canadian Armoured Division overseas. The unit departed Canada in November 1942 for England where it received its full complement of vehicles and other equipment. In January 1943 the unit was designated 13 Canadian Field Dressing Station providing the nucleus, with attached field surgical teams and field transfusion teams, for an advanced surgical centre.

Between October 1943 and January 1945 the unit supported the Canadian 5th Armoured Division in the Italian campaign seeing action at Ortona, the Liri Valley and the Gothic Line.

In February 1945 the unit redeployed from Italy by road and ship to support 1st Canadian Corps in clearing western Holland of the enemy. VE Day was declared on May 8, 1945 and 13 Canadian Field Dressing Station remained in situ until June 30 when it became the first Canadian medical unit to be disbanded.

Post War

On 29 October 1954, 13 Field Ambulance and 46 Field Hygiene Section RCAMC were amalgamated to form 25 Medical Company RCAMC. 25 Medical Company was subsequently designated 11 (Victoria) Medical Company and finally 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance.

In March 2016 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the mobilization of 13 Field Ambulance with a weekend of celebrations, including exercising the unit's Freedom of the Municipality of Saanich.

Source: [History of 11 \(Victoria\) Field Ambulance and It's Predecessors](#)