



Kestrel Publications

Domestic RCAF squadron codes, 1939-1945

Squadron #	Codes	Period / Squadron Role / Notes
1	NA	1939-42, Fighter
2	KO	1939-42, Army Co-operation
3	OP	1939-42, Bomber / Reconnaissance Operational Training Unit
4	BD, FY, BO	1939-42, 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
5	QN, DE	1939-42, 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
6	XE, AF	1939-42, 1942-45 Coastal Patrol
7	LT, FG	1939-42, May 1942-45, Torpedo Bomber, Coastal Patrol
8	YO, PO, GA	1940-42, May 1942-45, Bomber
9	KA, HJ	1939-42, May 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
10	PB, JK	1939-42, May 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
11	OY, KL	1939-41, May 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
12	QE	1940-42, Communications
13	AN, MK	1940-42, May - Nov 1942 Seaplane & Bomber Reconnaissance School
14	BF, YA	1940-42, May 1942-45, Fighter
31	NK	May 1942-45,
110	AY	1939-42, CAC
111	TM, LZ	1939-42, May 1942-45, Fighter
113	BT, LM	1939-42, May 1942-45, Army Cooperation, Bomber Reconnaissance
114	MA	May 1942-45, Bomber
115	BK, UV	1939-42, 1942-45, Fighter
116	ZD, NO	1939-42, May 1942-45, CAC, Bomber Reconnaissance
117	EX, PQ	1939-42, May 1942-1945, Coastal Patrol
118	RE, VW	1939-42, 1942-45, Fighter
119	DM, GR	1939-42, May 1942-45, Bomber
120	MX, RS	1939-42, May 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
121	JY, EN	1939-42, May 1942-45, Bomber
122	AG	May 1942-45, Coastal Artillery Cooperation, Communications
123	VD	May 1942-45, Fighter
125	BA	May 1942-45, Fighter

126	BV	May 1942-45, Fighter
127	TF	May 1942-45, Fighter
128	RA	May 1942-45, Fighter
129	HA	May 1942-45, Fighter
130	AE	May 1942-45, Fighter
132	ZR	May 1942-45, Fighter
133	FN	May 1942-45, Fighter
135	XP	May 1942-45, Fighter
145	EA	May 1942-45, Coastal Patrol
147	SZ	May 1942-45, Bomber
149	ZM	May 1942-45, Torpedo Bomber
160	AN	May 1942-45, Bomber Reconnaissance
161	TN	May 1942-45, Bomber Reconnaissance
162	GK, DZ	1940-42, May 1942-45, Bomber Reconnaissance
163	P	May 1942-45, Fighter
1 OTU	UY	May 1942-45, fighter pilot training
2 OTU	ET	May 1942-45, transport pilot training
3 OTU	AZ	May 1942-45, bomber reconnaissance pilot training
4 OTU	ED	May 1942-45, transport pilot training
31 OTU / 7 OTU	LR	May 1942-45, transport and fighter-bomber pilot training
32 OTU / 6 OTU	RD, OP	May 1942-45, torpedo bomber then transport pilot training
34 OTU	FY	May 1942-45, bomber reconnaissance pilot training
36 OTU / 8 OTU	EF	May 1942-45, general reconnaissance then fighter-bomber pilot training
1 CAC Det	LU, XY	1940-42, May 1942-45
2 CAC Det	TQ, YZ	1940-42, May 1942-45
3 CAC Det	GV	1940-42
4 CAC Det	MR	May 1942-45
5 CAC Det	LV	May 1942-45
6 CAC Det	QG	May 1942-45
School of AC	RA	1941-42

Overseas RCAF squadron codes 1940–1945 (400-series squadrons):

Squadron #	Codes	Squadron Role / Notes
400	SP	Reconnaissance
401	YO	Fighter
402	AE	Fighter
403	KH	Fighter
404	EE, EO	Coastal Patrol, codes changed mid-war
405	LQ	Bomber
406	HU	Fighter
407	CI, RR	Coastal Patrol
408	EQ	Bomber
409	KP	Fighter
410	RA	Fighter
411	DB	Fighter
412	VZ	Fighter
413	QL	Coastal Patrol
414	RU	Reconnaissance
415	GX, NH, 6U	Coastal Patrol - 1941-43, 44, Bomber - 1944-45
416	DN	Fighter
417	AN	Fighter
418	TH	Fighter Bomber
419	VR	Bomber
420	PT	Bomber
421	AU	Fighter
422	DG	Coastal Patrol
423	AB, YI	Coastal Patrol 1943, 1944-45
424	QB	Bomber
425	KW	Bomber
426	OW, OWL	Bomber
427	ZL	Bomber
428	NA	Bomber
429	AL	Bomber
430	G9	Reconnaissance
431	SE	Bomber

432	QO	Bomber
433	BM	Bomber
434	WL	Bomber
435	ODM	Transport
436	U6, ODN	Transport
437	Z2, ODO	Transport
438	F3	Fighter Bomber
439	5V	Fighter Bomber
440	I8	Fighter Bomber
441	9G	Fighter
442	Y2	Fighter
443	2I	Fighter
664	AW	Air Observation Post (AOP)
666	BX	Air Observation Post (AOP)
1659	FD, RV	RAF-based Heavy (Bomber) Conversion Unit (HCU) training
1664	DH, ZU	RAF-based Heavy (Bomber) Conversion Unit (HCU) training
1666	ND, QY	RAF-based Heavy (Bomber) Conversion Unit (HCU) training
1679	SW	RAF-based Heavy (Bomber) Conversion Unit (HCU) training

Additional Notes:

In some cases, squadron codes were changed for operational security reasons and / or for administrative purposes as units were disbanded or re-formed.

Abbreviations:

AC = Army Cooperation
CAC = Coastal Artillery Cooperation
Det = Detachment
OTU = Operational Training Unit
RAF = Royal Air Force
RCAF = Royal Canadian Air Force

References:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Royal_Canadian_Air_Force
- Kostenuk, S. and Griffin, J.A., *RCAF Squadrons and Aircraft 1924-1968*. A.M.Hakkert Ltd., Toronto, ON,1977