

RFC and RAF Service Numbers 1912-1919

Or 'I've got your number!'

RFC and RAF (and RNAS) Service numbers from 1912 to 1919 (some numbers current to 1921).

This is simply a handy reference guide to the service numbers issued to the service from its formation in 1912.

The service numbers of RFC and RAF personnel indicate the date and manner of joining the service. The RFC numbering system began at 1 in 1912, the initial allocations being to men who had transferred in from the Royal Engineers and subsequent ones to civilian recruits. The RNAS commenced its own numbering system when it became a separate entity in July 1914 - again commencing with 1, but prefixed by the letter F. When the RAF was formed, RFC men kept their original service numbers. However, as the RNAS numbering system had also begun at 1, all RNAS men inherited by the RAF had 200000 added to their original numbers, and the prefix F was dropped. All RNAS personnel were renumbered in 1918, including the deceased. (RNAS squadrons had 200 added to their numbers).

NCOs who were commissioned received new service numbers. In most cases all the numbers in a block were allocated; figures given in brackets indicate the highest numbers actually issued if the allocation was not total.

Numbers	Last Number Used	Date of Allocation	Allocated To
1 to 515		1912	RFC – transfers and civilians
516 to 1013		1913	RFC – transfers and civilians
1014 to 2690		1914	RFC – transfers and civilians
2691 to 1740		1915	RFC – transfers and civilians
17401 to 39639		1916	RFC – civilians
39640 to 40300		Jul-Oct 1916	RFC – transfers
40301 to 45300		Jul-Aug 1916	RFC – transfers
45301 to 47300		Aug-Nov 1916	RFC – civilians
47301 to 49800		Aug-Oct 1916	RFC – transfers
49801 to 50800		Nov-Dec 1916	RFC – civilians
50801 to 51800		Oct 1916-Jan 1917	RFC – transfers
51801 to 52800		Dec 1916	RFC – civilians
52801 to 52950	52949	Dec 1916- Jan 1917	AID Examiners
52951 to 56950		Jan 1917	RFC – civilians
56951 to 57950		Jan 1917	RFC – transfers
57951 to 60950		Feb 1917	RFC – civilians
60951 to 61950		Jan – Feb 1917	RFC – transfers
61951 to 64950		Feb-Mar 1917	RFC – civilians
64951 to 65950		Feb-Mar 1917	RFC – transfers
65951 TO 68950		Mar 1917	RFC – civilians
68951 to 69000	68997	Jan-May 1917	RFC – cadets
69001 to 70000		Mar-Apr 1917	RFC – civilians
70001 to 75000		Feb-Sep 1917	RFC – Canadians

75001 to 77000		Apr 1917	RFC – civilians
77001 to 77100		Jan 1917	AID Examiners
77101 to 79100		Mar-May 1917	RFC – transfers
79101 to 80100		Apr-May 1917	RFC – civilians
80101 to 80200		Apr 1917	AID Examiners
80201 to 84200		May 1917	RFC – civilians
84201 to 84400	84202	May 1917	AID Examiners
84401 to 87400		Jun-Jul 1917	RFC – civilians
87401 to 88400		Jul 1917	RFC – transfers
88401 to 90400		Jul-Aug 1917	RFC – civilians
90401 to 90600		Jul 1917	AID Examiners
90601 to 93600		Aug-Sep 1917	RFC – civilians
93601 to 94600		Sep 1917	RFC – transfers
94601 to 95600		Sep 1917	RFC – civilians
95601 to 95700		Sep 1917	AID Examiners
95701 to 98700		Sep-Oct 1917	RFC – civilians
98701 to 99700		Oct 1917	RFC – transfers
99701 to 100700		Oct-Nov 1917	RFC – cadets
100701 to 102700		Oct-Nov 1917	RFC – civilians
102701 to 102742	102702	Nov 1917	AID Examiners
102744 to 109000		Nov 1917	RFC – transfers
109001 to 110000		Nov 1917	RFC – civilians
110001 to 111000		Nov 1917-Jan 1918	RFC – cadets
111001 to 113000		Nov 1917-Jan 1918	RFC – civilians
113001 to 116000		Jan 1918	RFC – transfers
116001 to 117000		Jan 1918	RFC – civilians
117001 to 118000		Jan 1918	RFC – cadets
118001 to 120000		Jan 1918	RFC – civilians
120001 to 122000		Jan 1918	RFC – transfers
122001 to 125000		Jan-Feb 1918	RFC – civilians
125001 to 128000		Feb 1918	RFC – transfers
128001 to 129000	128999	Feb-Mar 1918	RFC – cadets
129001 to 131000		Jan-Feb 1918	RFC – transfers
131000 to 133000		Feb-Mar 1918	RFC – civilians
133001 to 137000		Feb 1918	RFC – transfers
137001 to 138000		Feb-Apr 1918	RFC/RAF – cadets
138001 to 140000		Mar 1918	RFC – transfers
140001 to 143000		Feb-Apr 1918	RFC/RAF – civilians
143001 to 149000		Mar 1918	RFC – transfers
149001 to 150000		Aug 1917-Mar 1918	RFC – civilians (Boys)
150001 to 155000		Sep 1917-Mar 1918	RFC – Canadians
155001 to 160000		Oct 1917-Dec 1918	RFC/RAF – civilians (Boys)
160001 to 166000		Apr-May 1918	RAF – civilians
166601 to 166500		May 1918	RAF – army transfers
166501 to 170000		May 1918	RAF – civilians
170001 to 175000		Nov 1917-May 1918	RFC/RAF – Canadians
175001 to 185000		May-Oct 1918	RAF – cadets
185001 to 188000		May 1918	RAF – army transfers
188001 to 200000		May-Jun 1918	RAF – civilians
200001 to 202902		1 st April 1918	RNAS Enlistments 1914
202903 to 210316		1 st April 1918	RNAS Enlistments 1915

210317 to 225060		1 st April 1918	RNAS Enlistments 1916
225061 to 244710		1 st April 1918	RNAS Enlistments 1917
244711 to 260000	254574	1 st April 1918	RNAS Enlistments 1918
260001 to 270000	269999	Jun-Jul 1918	RAF – civilians
270001 to 275001	273223	May-Jul 1918	RAF – Canadians
275001 to 300000		Jul-Sep 1918	RAF – civilians
300001 to 303000		Aug 1918	RAF – army transfers
303001 to 307973		Sep-Oct 1918	RAF – civilians
307974 to 308085		1918	RAF – South Africans
308086 to 313000	312534	Nov-Dec 1918	RAF – civilians
313001 to 316000	315179	1 st April 1918	RN/RNAS
316001 to 326000	322151	Oct 1918	RAF – cadets
326001 to 329000		Dec 1918-Mar 1919	RAF- civilians (Boys)
329001 to 330000		Mar 1919	RAF – civilians
330001 to 331000		Apr 1919	RAF – civilians
331001 to 333000		May 1919	RAF – civilians
333001 to 335000		Aug 1919	RAF – civilians
335001 to 336000	335999	Aug 1919-Jan 1921	RAF – civilians (Boys)
336001 to 338000		Aug-Sep 1919	RAF – civilians

There will be a future article on the role the Boys played in the service.