



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Message

Nov. 9, 2022

No. 2 Construction Battalion:

A Message from the Municipality of the County of Kings

In the first year of World War I, more than 200 Black men were denied participation in the military. These rejections were unacceptable to community leaders across the county. The formation of the No. 2 was officially authorized on July 5, 1916, after the successful petition of the Department of Defence and Militia by members of the Black community who wanted to serve their country but were turned away at recruiting offices on the grounds of race. Despite their commitment to the war effort, Black soldiers and communities faced discrimination at home and overseas.

By the time the No.2 set sail for Europe, more than 600 troops – including soldiers from Kings County, N.S. – had enlisted.

The Municipality of the County of Kings celebrates the legacy, contributions, and service of the No. 2 Construction Battalion – the largest Black unit in Canadian military history!

For more information on the history of the No. 2 Construction Battalion visit:

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/no-2-construction-battalion#>

The Nominal Roll for the No. 2 Construction Battalion can be found here:

<https://archives.novascotia.ca/2construction/results/?Search=>



Figure 1 Photo: No. 2 Construction Battalion (courtesy Museum Windsor/P6110
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/no-2-construction-battalion>