

BADGE NOTES

5/2002

by Hugh King

Unwary and, perhaps, less experienced badge collectors have long run the risk of buying examples which have subsequently been proved to be reproduction or fake. Sadly, not all reproduction, copy or fake badges are marked as such and yet often they are of very high quality and, with the exception of their newness, may be virtually indistinguishable from genuine items. Recent evidence suggests that even badges sold initially as copy or reproduction, at appropriately low prices, are re-emerging through subsequent dealing as genuine at inflated prices. The consequences are clear for disappointed collectors. The message is simple: Let the Buyer beware. Check your sources. Beware the bargain. Consult more experienced collector friends. Insist that reproduction or copy badges are marked as such. If in any doubt, leave well alone.

When *Kipling and King* was last updated the descriptions of a number of badges which at that time (March 1998) had been approved but not taken in to production, were listed with full descriptions on the final page of Volume II. The descriptions are as follows:

Band of the Dragoon Guards. Directors of Music and Bandmasters full dress helmet plate. On a white metal cut star a gilt strap inscribed "The Band of the Dragoon Guards". Within the strap on a white metal ground, the monogram "D.G." in gilt. Musicians' full dress helmet plate: As above except that the white metal star is rayed. Now on issue.

Band of Hussars and Light Dragoons. All ranks No 1 dress cap badge: The White Horse of Hanover. Now on issue.

Band of Royal Lancers. All ranks No 1 dress cap badge: A pair of crossed thigh bones with a skull superimposed thereon. A scroll across the lower portion of the bones inscribed "Or Glory" in silver plate.

Military Provost Guard Service. The Royal Crest in gilt with, beneath, a scroll inscribed "Military Provost Guard Service", also gilt, superimposed on two crossed keys in silver. Now on issue.

Dorset Yeomanry. All Ranks cap badge: Superimposed on a crossed sword and rifle, a circlet enclosing a mailed gauntlet, with fist clenched, in silver. The circlet inscribed "Tu Ne Sede Malis" in blue enamel with silver edges and letters. Below a scroll inscribed "Dorset Yeomanry" resting on the hilt and butts of the crossed arms. All ensigned by St Edward's Crown in gilt.

Army Foundation College, Harrogate. The Royal Crest superimposed on crossed swords and a laurel wreath. Below a scroll inscribed "Army Foundation College". The scroll in silver, remainder in gilt. Now on issue.

Royal Military School of Music. A Lyre superimposed by St Edward's Crown, below a scroll inscribed "Nulli Secundus", in silver. The name was changed to CORPS OF ARMY MUSIC.



2 June 1992

From: Field Marshal Lord Carver
2 June 1992

Dear Sir, In the article on Gulf Badges in the May 1992 issue of your Bulletin, it is stated that the shoulder badge worn by 7th Armoured Brigade was claimed to be "exclusively the true, original (red) Desert Rat". It is true that it was the same as that worn by 7th Armoured Division from the time of its arrival in the United Kingdom at the end of 1943, but it was not the original. The story of that, and of the badges worn by 4th and 7th Armoured Brigades when they left the division, is accurately recorded in the enclosed extract from Lieutenant-Colonel George Forty's book about 7th Armoured Brigade.

I can vouch for its accuracy as I was serving in 7th Armoured Division when all the various versions of the shoulder badge were adopted and I commanded 4th Armoured Brigade from June 1944 to February 1947.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Carver
JM

The Editor,
The Bulletin,
The Military Historical Society

Dear Colonel Wyatt,

I enclose a letter about the Gulf Badges article in the Bulletin. If you want to reproduce the extract from George Forty's book, you may wish to seek his permission. As you probably know, he is Honorary Curator of The Tank Museum, RAC Centre, Bovington, Warminster, Dorset BA20 6JG.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Carver JM