

BADGE NOTES

by Gary Gibbs

August 2007

Further to my badge notes in issue 227 on the slip-on shoulder title. Information has been sent in by members Terry Sampson, C Kempton and Charles Thomas who have all identified it as belonging to The Corps of Military Police (India), which was formed in July 1942 as an Indian Army Corps. In 1943 the Corps raised 5 Beach Maintenance Provost Units, numbers 91-95 also a number 97 in 1945. Three were disbanded in 1944 and the others in 1946/47. Terry also informs us that the beach sign would have had a light blue background, but due to washing it has completely faded out to white.

Charles Thomas has also sent in information on badge number four in the same issue. There are known patterns of Indian badges to corps and regiments, but cast silver or silver plate, with the addition of a crown, Ashoka and other devices. They are unauthorised 'bazaar' versions.

New Badges

The new 'large' regiment cap badges have started to appear on the market. At present four are available with two more to come.

Photograph 1 depicts The Yorkshire Regiment cap badge. It is 45mm high by 40mm wide and has a slide fixing, stamped London Badge & Button Co Ltd. Two versions of this badge are known to exist. One version all in a brownish colour metal with lightened highlights and a silver rose, the second one electro gilt with a white rose, silver outlined.

Photograph 2 is to The Royal Regiment of Scotland and comes with a backing plate, which has been included in the photograph. It is a two part badge with a separate crown. The crown is electro gilt with two lugs east to west, the lion is a electro gilt with burnished highlights with a white metal St Andrew's cross and motto. This part of the badge has five white metal lug fittings, one on each corner of the cross and one in the centre cross over. Overall it is 60mm high by 45mm wide.

Photograph 3 is the new Rifles badge and is all silver metal. It has two lugs east to west and stamped on the rear of the crown F&S. The badge is 43mm high by 40mm wide.

Photograph 4 is to the new Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. It is made of electro gilt with burnished highlights and a translucent red low bake enamel rose. It has a slide fixing stamped FIRMIN. The badge is 45mm wide by 50mm high.

Photograph 5 has been sent in by member George Savage and is to the Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps. It is 2½ in by 2⅛ in, die struck blackened brass. It bears Edward VII cypher. It has a hinged pin and clasp fitting on the reverse, north to south. George would like to know if this is an officer's badge?

Photograph 6 is a blackened brass crowned, leafed, bugle horn with 18 in the centre, Does anyone know the unit that this badge belonged to?

Photograph 7 is in white cast metal and has the gun on a torse mounted on a strap inscribed FORWARD. Can anyone identify it?

Photograph 8 is made of a dark brass metal, Nothing is known of this badge or who wore it.

Photograph 9 is in white meal and once again can anyone identify it. Photographs number 6 to 9 are from the late Hugh King collection.

Photograph 10 has been sent in by John Woodhouse who has it as an other ranks Scots Guards waist belt buckle. The buckle is brass, officer's versions of this pattern are known to exist. It is thought that this is possibly a Scottish militia unit. Any information on this waist belt buckle would be of interest.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3



Photograph 4



Photograph 5



Photograph 6



Photograph 7



Photograph 8



Photograph 9



Photograph 10

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MAY 2007

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Mine badges

The following two mine badges are worn by instructors attached to ENFOR and NATO in Bosnia during 2006.

Photograph 17: Has a yellow ground and merrowed edge, with a central red triangle. The words MINES INFORMATION COORDINATION CELL are in black. The MI CC are in white, the skull and crossbones, white, edged black. This badge is 110mm wide by 50mm deep.

Photograph 18: Has a black background with a red edge and the words MINE AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR are in white. The badge is 60mm wide by 20mm deep.



Photograph 17

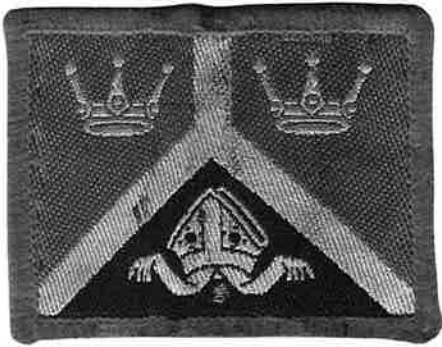


Photograph 18

Cadet badges

The next two badges are a change from regular units and are from the cadets. These two are worn by members of the 152 Detachment, South West London Army Cadets.

Photograph 19: This badge is 45mm high by 55mm wide. Made with a red background and merrowed edge. The dividing upside down Y is in yellow as are the crowns. The middle of the Y is dark blue with a white bishops mitre cap.



Photograph 19: The South West London army cadet badge



Photograph 20: The Royal British Legion badge

Photograph 20: The local branch of The Royal British Legion presented this badge to the cadets in appreciation for all their assistance. It is worn on a separate brassard when the cadets perform duties with The Royal British Legion like Remembrance Sunday. The badge has an all blue background and merrowed edge with everything else in yellow. It is 45mm wide by 60mm deep.

Adjutant General's Corps

The new Tactical Recognition Flashes have now been issued. They are 55mm wide by 40mm deep. All five badges have a blue merrowed edge and are split diagonally with blue at the top and red at the bottom. The letters ETS are in light blue, SPS in green whilst ALS, MPGS and MPS in yellow.

ETS = Education and Training Services. MPGS = Military Provost Guard Service. MPS = Military Provost Staff. SPS = Staff and Personnel Support and ALS = Army Legal Service. These badges can be seen in photographs 21 to 25.



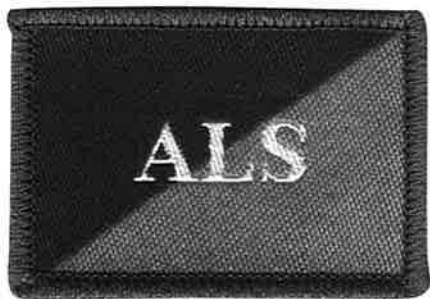
Photograph 21: Military Provost Guard Service



Photograph 22: Military Provost Staff



Photograph 23: Education and Training Service



Photograph 24: Army Legal Service



*Photograph 25: Staff
and Personnel Support*

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February 2007

Our member George Savage has sent in the following Lincolnshire Regiment 'Imp' badge and some information on it. He would like to know if members have any further information. Photograph Number 1 the badge is die-struck with two copper lugs on the reverse (top and bottom), size 33mm high by 15mm wide. Information was obtained from the Royal Anglian's Assistant Regimental Secretary in 1975 and he states: "This badge is not a collar badge, but a shoulder/sleeve badge, which was worn at the top of the sleeve below the brass shoulder title (Lincoln) by the 4th Territorial Battalion (the Imp of the Lincoln Cathedral being a symbol of the City when the Battalion was formed). The date when it was first worn is not known, but it is believed to be just before the 1914-1918 war. However, a small individual photograph is known and shows the brass Imp being worn by a member of the 4th Battalion serving in the 1939-1945 war on the left sleeve of his battledress, below the 49 Divisional formation sign."

Mr Savage also got in touch with the National Army Museum and their reply was that they were convinced it was not a British Army badge! This badge can be seen on p60 of Colin Churchill's book *History of the British Army Infantry Collar Badge*, published in 2001 by The Naval and Military Press. Colin Churchill states: "The scarce and attractive 'Lincoln Imp' badge in brass or gilding-metal is not a collar badge, but was worn as an arm badge around WWII by the Regular units."

I have in my collection notes on another Imp badge, cloth this time, worn by the 1st Battalion on the helmet (but there is no date with these notes). It was 1½ inches high by ¾ inch wide made in dark blue material with red eyes and cross. The cross is on an oval, sitting on the chest of the Imp.

Photograph Number 2 is also from the Lincolnshire Regiment. It is a die-struck brass badge with a brown 'copper' colouring to it, which has rubbed off on the circle and





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Sphinx. The badge is $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in size and has two copper lugs top and bottom. What is different with this badge to similar ones is that it has only six points to the star instead of eight and the top point as a crown. I have in my own notes information that says it is possibly a purgree badge. Can any member throw any more light on what the badge is.

Photograph Number 3 is of an epaulette, being khaki/stone in colour. Sewn to the top is a title slide of the same colour material, with the initials C.M.P. (I). The C.M.P. is possibly Corps of Military Police and the (I) Intelligence or I Company. Can any member identify this title. On the bottom of the epaulette is the badge to the Indian Beach Group. It consists of a red sword and wings, dark blue waves, in a red circle. The background was probably white, in its original state (Howard Cole's 1950 edition book states the background to be light blue, but this does not seem to be the case with this badge.)

Photograph Number 4 has been sent in by Maj ADJ McVeigh and he would like more information on it. The badge is silver plated brass with two vertical prongs at the rear, possibly a modern adaptation, and is 40mm high by 30mm wide. The badge is of the current Indian Army, 5th Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) pattern which depicts two



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upright kukris crossed right over left, with 5 between. This pattern differs from the one shown in John Gaylor's book *The Sons of John Company*, in that the 5 is surmounted by a circular wreath containing two upright fishes, heads and tails together supporting the Ashoka. There is a short indecipherable inscription (Sanskrit) under the fish tails.

Photograph Number 5 is from the Royal Signals and is 35mm wide by 50mm deep. It is embroidered on dark blue felt. The oval is light blue at the top and green at the bottom with a dark blue band running across the centre. The letters R and U are in yellow.

Photograph Number 6 is worn by the medical personnel attached to 16 Air Assault Brigade, 2006. It has a blue merrowed edge and the colours are top to bottom yellow/blue/red.



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I was fortunate in that I was able to photograph a good proportion of Hugh King's collection before he sadly died and the following three photographs depict unknown badges from his collection. Any information on them would be most useful. Photograph Number 7 (left) depicts a silver crown and thistle wreath with a gilt Maltese cross, lions and bugle horn centre. The badge (right) is all black and depicts crossed rifles, thistle and rose wreath, with scrolls at the top and underneath the Victorian crown. Photograph Number 8 (left) is all white metal, whilst (right) is black and has a thistle wreath and a large garter in the centre. Photograph Number 9 illustrates (left) a gilt plate, with the Garter and motto surrounded by an oak leaf wreath. The 2 in the centre is silver on a black ground and (right) an all gilt plate.