

# BADGE NOTES *Nov. 2008*

by Gary Gibbs

Members Peter Freeborn, George Savage and Derek Hambidge have sent in information on badge number 1, p172 of issue 232 of the Bulletin, telling us that this badge belonged to The Calcutta Light Horse. Peter has also sent in the following on the unit. A volunteer unit which was constituted under this title in 1887. Its origins, however, go back to an irregular cavalry unit raised by Clive (of India) in 1759 to repel a threat to Calcutta from the Dutch. The light cavalry men were mainly recruited from companies associated with the Tea or Jute industries. They had two, possibly unique traditions: The rank and file chose their own officers by ballot, and the troopers sat down to dinner with their officers. During the 1939-1945 War, a group of Light Horsemen, together with volunteers from The Calcutta Scottish 'unofficially' neutralised some German shipping in Goa which were acting as a focal point for directing submarines to ships sailing out of Indian ports. The unit was disbanded in 1947.

A number of members have also written in regarding badge number 3, p173 of issue 232 of the Bulletin and have suggested it could be a pouch belt badge from the 93rd Burma Infantry or The Burma Rifles.

Member Richard Tatham has sent in information on badge number 3, p116, issue 231 of the Bulletin saying that the badge illustrated is not to Trinidad & Tobago but that of the Jewish Padres of the Royal Army Chaplains Department and is the Star of David

Photograph No 1 is an American badge that was worn by members of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards below their blue/red/blue tactical recognition flash on the right arm. It was worn whilst serving with the 1st, 205th US Corps during Task Force Phoenix whilst in Afghanistan. It has black crossed bayonets and crescent on an olive green background.

Photographs No 2 and 3 belong to the new Educational Training Service (ETS). No 2 is the other ranks metal version, and bears a gilt coloured crown and scrolls over a silver coloured flaming torch. No 3 sent in by member Eric Osborne is an officers bullion version. It has a full coloured crown, the scrolls are light blue, gold edged, the ETS in gold. The flames are red and yellow and the torch is light blue with gold edges. All on a navy blue background.

Photograph No 4 has been sent in by R Oakley who would like information on it. It is white metal GRI with King's crown over.

Photograph No 5 has been sent in by Derek Hambidge. This was sent to him originally as a Scots Guards officers dirk belt plate, but they have never worn a dirk! On making further enquires it came back to him as a Scots Guards pipers dirk belt plate. It is not a known Scots Guards pipers pattern one either. Can anyone identify it? It is silver on a gilt plate with green enamel backing to the thistle.

Photograph No 6 is the new tactical recognition flash to the Royal Regiment of Fusilier and is divided yellow and marron, with a marron merrowed edge.

Photograph No 7 has been sent in by George Savage who thought it would be of interest to members. It belonged to the 1st Battalion, Vickers Armstrong Home Guard, sewn onto a forage cap and was worn by a friend of his during the war. It has an orange

background whilst the H.G. AV 1st. B.N. is in light blue.

Photograph No 8 has been sent in by member Tony Poucher who would like some information on it. Unfortunately both side are missing on the photograph. It has a dark blue background, the cross is red and the circle and wording are white.

Photograph No 9. With the reduction of the British Army Bands, other than the Household Cavalry Band, the cavalry regiments now only have two bands between them, one for the light cavalry and one for the heavy cavalry. At present they are in the middle of sorting out what to wear. This photograph shows a member of the light cavalry band in No 1 Dress blues. On his scarlet cap and on the collar of his No 1 Dress jacket can be seen The Royal Armoured Corps badge. I was told by the musician that these badges were being worn whilst their new ones were being sorted out.



*Photograph 1*



*Photograph 2*



*Photograph 3*



*Photograph 4*



*Photograph 5*



*Photograph 6*



*Photograph 7*



*Photograph 8*



*Photograph 9*

---

# BADGE NOTES

by Gary Gibbs

I have been told that two new band badges have been issued, one to the Light Cavalry Band and one to the Heavy Cavalry Band. I have also been told that only a few were made and that none will be available to the collectors' market. I am hoping to have pictures of these two badges at a later date.

Photograph number 1 is from our member Paul North and he wonders if anyone can identify this cloth badge. The top half is red with a navy blue arrow shape and the bottom half in navy blue with three red crowns. The badge is shield shaped and is 65mm wide by 75mm deep.

Photograph number 2 is to 10 Signal Regiment. There are two coloured versions and both are 50mm square. One has a black bear leaning on a drum on an olive green background whilst the other is a black bear and drum on a sand coloured background.

Bulletin number 231, page 117 badge number 4 has been identified by one of our Dutch colleagues, Wil Zaagman, as belonging to the Dutch Korps Militaire Administratie (MA), the equivalent of the British Army Pay Corps. Photograph number 3 being a yellow collar patch with the badge from the MA. Both these badges show a papyrus on a sword pointing down, signifying the origins of paper and the military connection. The ground form of the badge is a stylised capital W, the initial of Queen Wilhelmina, who reigned when the badge was devised in the late 1940s. I described the background as red, Wil informs me that this incorrect. When the MA was a separate entity, its arm-of-service colour was pink. When it joined in 2002 with the medical



*Photograph 1*



*Photograph 2*



*Photograph 3*



*Photograph 4*



*Photograph 5*



*Photograph 6*

service, the technical service and the supply and transport service to form the Logistic service the colour was changed to yellow.

Photograph number 4 illustrates a flower in wreath, it is a white/light brownish colour on a khaki background. Who would have worn this badge and when. Having a flower in the centre, was it connected to a ladies unit.

Photograph number 5 is to the new Mercian Regiment and is worn as a Tactical Recognition Flash. It is on a 75mm diamond patch. The background is dark navy blue with a merrowed edge. The double headed eagle is light blue with yellow beaks, legs and coronet.

Photograph number 6 has been sent in by Len Wallis and is a bronze coloured badge, with lugs east and west. On the back, at the bottom, behind the wreath is a small plaque bearing G7246. The badge is 35mm wide by 48mm deep. There is another version of this badge which is probably a collar badge, 25mm wide by 30mm deep, also with lugs east and west. Can anyone identify this badge and what could the G7246 represent?

[WWI Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, the equivalent of the ATS of 1939-45 and beyond. Ed.]

---

## BADGE NOTES

May 2008

by Gary Gibbs

For this issue of the Bulletin I have a mixture of metal and cloth badges. The metal ones, photographs 1 to 4 are unknown to me, so any information on them would be most useful. They came to me as black and white photographs so the colour, etc is not included. The cloth badges are of recent manufacture.

Photograph No 1 is a star plate with a crown on the top ray, and a cypher in the centre, underneath in a three part scroll *Defence Not Defiance*.

Photograph No 2 is a full wreath with a crown at the top, in the centre a garter encribed *Labor Omnia Vincit*. In the centre of the garter a numeral 3 over a script cypher.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

Photograph No 3 is either a pouch or pouch belt plate and consists of a wreath with a King's crown at the top opening. In the centre on a plate, a bird, possibly a peacock standing on a torse and scroll bearing a title which I can only make out the first part 33rd, this badge is possibly colonial.

Photograph No 4 is a waist belt buckle, in the centre of which is a lions head.

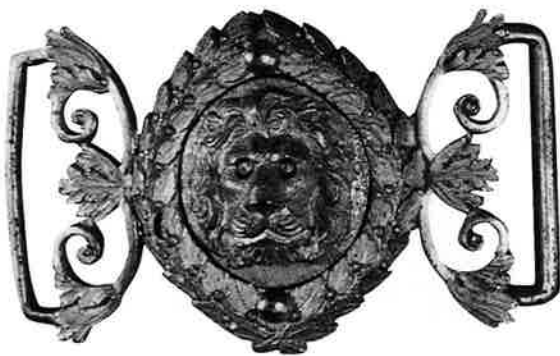
Photograph No 5 is an olive green badge with a black griffin holding a fork. It is 40mm wide by 50mm deep and is to the RAUXAF 2620 County of Norfolk Squadron.

Photograph No 6 – The Joint Assessment Team (Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Warfare unit). It has a black merrowed edge with an olive green background and black retort bottles. The wording is in light blue. The badge is 50mm square.

Photograph No 7 is to the Royal Artillery, 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observers Battery. The badge is 50mm wide by 45mm deep and consists of a khaki outer ground, a black triangle with a green centre and black inner circle. Another version is known to exist to the same size, but with a gold triangle with a green centre and gold inner circle. Two



*Photograph 3*



*Photograph 4*

mess dress size versions have also been seen, the patterns are as the two larger ones, but only 35mm wide by 30mm deep.

Photograph No 8 is a Royal Marine Commando arm badge, black on olive green. Bearing Royal Marine Commando in a scroll at the top and in a box underneath the commando dagger.



*Photograph 5*



*Photograph 6*

Photograph No 9 is that worn at the Army Headquarters Scotland. It consists of a red merrowed edge and background with a black central strip and a yellow rampant lion with some black lining. It is 50mm square.

Photograph No 10 is worn by the Army Cadets of Surrey on the beret. It is black on olive green, 45mm wide by 600 deep. The badge consists of a garter and motto with crown above, in the centre of which is a dragon over a rose. Underneath in a scroll *Princess of Wales's*.





*Photograph 7*



*Photograph 8*



*Photograph 9*



*Photograph 10*