

## BADGE NOTES

by Gary Gibbs

Nov 2013

Very few new Army badges have appeared on the market over recent months and I fear for collectors this situation will only get worse. As we pull out of Afghanistan and those troops come home they have to wear their official cloth badges and what with the Army shrinking and it will continue to do so, new badges will become less and less.

For this issue of the Bulletin I have turned to the RAF who seem to have a never ending supply of Squadron badges, be they pilots, ground crews etc, most are colourful in both content and colour.

**Badge number 126** is to the A/C Salvage and Transportation Flight, RAF Abingdon. It is 80mm in diameter. The wording is black on a yellow ground and the badge has a yellow merrowed edge. The lorry is green in colour with a black duck on its back. The duck has yellow legs and beak.

**Badge number 127** is the flying suit badge to 22 Search and Rescue Squadron RAF. It is 80mm in diameter. The official description of the badge is "a torteaux, a Maltese Cross throughout, overall a 'pi' fimbriated". This badge was approved by King Edward VIII in May 1936. The Greek sign 'pi' denotes the Squadron's service in France with the 7th Wing, the pilots often took over the Wing's HQ, hence the 22 over 7 or 'pi'. When the badge was approved the Squadron was stationed in Malta, hence the cross. The badge has a red central circle with a white cross and black 'pi', The outer ring is light blue with the wording in yellow all surrounded by a yellow wreath, topped by a full coloured crown. The scroll at the bottom is yellow with black wording.

**Badge number 128** is to 60 Squadron Ground Crew. It is 80mm in diameter. The edge is black with a blue ground. The wording is in red and the comical helicopter is two tone green with black, yellow ended blades, wheels black, the teeth and eyes are white.

**Badge number 129** is to 234 Squadron Ground Crew. It is 80mm in diameter and comes with a black merrowed edge and a blue ground with a black, blue and red dragon.

**Badge number 130** is the 28 (AC) Squadron and features a helicopter. The badge has a black merrowed edge, black helicopter and wording (Merlin Force), black scroll with light green lettering 28 (AC) SQN. The badge is 80mm in diameter.

**Badge number 131** is one of the biggest arms badges I have seen to the RAF. RAF Coningsby, Refueling Section, it is 125mm in diameter. It comes with a black merrowed edge. The black wording is on a yellow ground. The centre of the badge is light blue and has a green and yellow refueling lorry mounting a grey and yellow aircraft coming to land on a runway.

**Badge number 132** has been sent in by member Derek Hambidge who would like some information on it. He suspects it could be Canadian. It is 45mm high by 45mm wide. All white metal with a brass shield. It comes with a lugged fitting.

**Badge number 133** is a pipe majors badge to a TA Signals unit. It is 135mm wide by 145mm high. The badge is embroidered in gold and silver wire with coloured silk Union flags, the spear points have blue silk centre as do the scrolls. The thistle wreath, the pipes, edging to the Union flag and mottos are gold wire, Mercury standing on the globe is all in silver wire with black highlights.



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August 2013

For this issue of the Bulletin badge notes we have a mixture of cloth and metal badges, some of which will test the knowledge of our membership.

**Badge numbers 116 to 120** have been sent in by member Douglas Twomey who would be grateful for assistance in positive identification. **Badge number 116** is to the Royal Fusiliers in gun metal with a long slider, does this indicate it was a pugree badges. It is 35mm high by 25mm wide and topped by a King's Crown.

**Badge number 117** is a silver (not hallmarked) 14 flamed grenade with 62 on the ball. The lugs are fixed east to west and it is 21mm high by 21mm wide.

**Badge number 118** is a bronze Guelphic crown. It looks to be of considerable age and comes with wire fittings. It is 35mm high by 26mm wide.

**Badge number 119** is a bronzed badge with a star and HBVC in the centre. Underneath in a scroll is December 1911. Could this be a Canadian badge?

**Badge number 120** - Prince of Wales's feathers. With so many regiments having this type of badge I would not like to hazard a guess as to which it belongs to. Douglas suggests Pembrokeshire Imperial Yeomanry. There are two versions in bi-metals, one fitted with lugs and the other with a slider. Both are 30mm high by 35mm wide. The feathers are in white metal and the crown in brass.

**Badge number 121** is possibly to the Royal Fusiliers. It is in gun metal and has a Queens Crown on the top. It is lugged east to west and is 38mm high by 20mm wide.

**Badge number 122** has been sent in by a member of the general public and is a real brain teaser. It is all in brass and comes with a pin fixing which looks like a replacement for lugs or screws. It has been looked at by a number of members but it is almost impossible to sort out what the letters are. Has anyone any ideas on what the letter are and its possible use.

**Badge number 123** is worn by members of the Royal Marine 4th Assault Squadron. It depicts a crocodile spewing out a tank. It is 90mm wide by 100mm high. It has a black merrowed edge, the crocodile is grey in colour with white teeth and red tongue. The tank is dark green. The rest of the badge is different shades of light browns with white lettering.

**Badge number 124** is to 8 Squadron, Royal Air Force who take on the motto the Stabbed Cats. The badge is 90mm in diameter. It has a yellow merrowed edge with a blue ground and yellow lettering. The cat is light blue with a silver bladed brown handled sword.

**Badge number 125** is worn by the Army Air Corps when serving in BATUS (Canada), 29 (Batus) Flight. It is 80mm wide by 120mm high. It has a black background, the motto *Laus Prolixus* is black on a yellow scroll. The crown in in proper colours. The flight's wording is in yellow on a dark blue ground. The eagle is white and brown and the two flags in their proper colours on a light blue ground.



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Number 123



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Number 125

# BADGE NOTES

Feb 2013

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**Badge number 107** is to the Gurkha attached to the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC) Staff and Personnel Service (SPC). It is made in two coloured metals, the lion, the crown and the laurel wreath are in dead gilt whilst the scroll and crossed kukris are in dead silver (white metal). Its lug fixings are north to south and its size is 40mm high by 30mm wide.

**Badge number 108** is a rank slide on the new MTP camouflage material. This rank slide is unofficial and very few have been made. The colour of the wording 'Army Photographer' is a golden colour cotton. It has been seen with the rank of Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant and Warrant Officer Class 1.

**Badge number 109** celebrates Poppy Day. The badge comes with either an olive green or black background with a red poppy. It is velcro backed and is 60mm square, it is worn by members of the armed forces and police in Afghanistan to celebrate Poppy Day.

**Badge number 110** is the parade waistbelt buckle to The Mercian Regiment. It is made from solid brass with a gilt finish. The title is around the outer ring, in the centre can be seen the Mercian Saxon crowned double headed eagle.

**Badge number 111** again celebrates Poppy Day. One version uses different shades of grey making up the Union Flag whilst the other version use green, the poppy is red. This badge comes in various sizes.

**Badge number 112** is the Formation flash for the Initial Training Group (ITG) and is 60mm square. It has an olive green background with a black merrowed edge. The swords, shield and scroll are silver and black.

**Badge number 113** is to J (Juliet) Company (known as the jokers) 42 Commando, Royal Marines. It is velcro backed and 70mm square. The wording is white as is the skull, the hat is yellow, green and red with yellow bobbles.

**Badge number 114** is to the Second Fusiliers (one of those battalions notified for disbandment under the recent government cut-backs). It has black lettering and merrowed edge on an olive green background. Another version is known to exist with a desert colour background. It is 70mm long by 35mm high.

The three photographs that make up **badge number 115** illustrate the 'Special Proficiency Pay' badge, worn by a Lance Corporal (Corporal) of the Grenadier Guards in service dress (it should be noted that there are no single chevrons worn in the Foot Guards). A Lance Corporal has two chevrons and a Corporal has three). It is one of the rarer proficiency badges, worn on the lower left arm, in this case above a single bar long service chevron. The badge itself is the usual white/cream SP in wreath on khaki.

It was ordered under Army Order 41 of 1938 which entitled soldiers to extra pay who had enlisted on or after October 1925.

The following information on recent illustrated badges has been sent in by member P Watkins which members may find of interest (see also Questions and Answers).

Peter Hart's badge queries in Issue 250, November 2012 page 112. The second badge it to the Australian 23rd Light Horse Regiment. The Barossa Light Horse 1930-1948. The collar badges were the same as the hat badge but smaller and in facing pairs.

The third badge is to South Africa (Republic), South African Artillery.

Issue 248, May 2012, page 179, badge number 71 - Indian, Eastern Frontier Rifles. Very little is known about this unit other than that it operated in East Bengal between the wars and was certainly in existence in 1930. The badge is of white metal and an example can be seen in the Gurkha Museum, Winchester.

Badge number 32 in Issue 244, May 2011 - Canada, Loyola College OTC. Founded in 1899 in Montreal. It was incorporated into the Canadian OTC in 1912 together with all other OTC units. All retained their individual cap badges. The Canadian OTC was disbanded in 1968 and it is not known if the badge continued to be worn under the new arrangements brought in at the time.

Badge number 1 in Issue 242, November 2010. Army Depot Police, Far East Land Forces. This unit policed army installations in the area under the Command of GHQ FARELF which was the successor to the wartime Allied Forces South East Asia, The FARELF designation being introduced in 1947. It was a multi-racial unit including amongst others sikhs and Malays. It was still in existence at the ANZUK force camp at Terendak, Malacca in 1968 and presumably continued to exist until the UK withdrawal from the region.

The same badge with comments by Charles Thomas in Issue 243, February 2011. The Sikh Police Force on Stonecutters Island was the subject of an article in the April 1977 issue of *Soldier* Magazine, the title at the time being given as the Army Department Ammunition Depot Police Force. The Ammunition Depot was located on the Island from the late 1920s, when it was under the control of the Royal Navy. The Police Force was formed when it reverted to RN control after the war and was initially comprised of European officers and Sikh policemen drawn mostly from the Shanghai Municipal Police Force and Prisons Department. Changes in the organisation of the Hong Kong Defence Force in 1959 saw the Depot transferred to the Army and when the last European officer left in 1966 the unit became entirely Sikh in composition. The article states that Sikhs were chosen for the task as their religion prohibits smoking which was considered to be a desirable attribute for an ammunition depot. An accompanying photograph featured five policemen who were recruited in India in 1952 and who were still serving, but unfortunately, it was not sufficiently clear as to give an indication as to the badge. However a further article about the composite ordnance depot at Kowloon in the November 1983 *Soldier* Magazine mentions the police on Stonecutters Island and gives the strength at this time as 45. Among the photographs is a portrait style one of Staff Sergeant Jamiat Singh clearly showing shoulder titles comprising his police number and 'ADP' with a completely different pagri badge. This has the overall appearance of the Queen's Crown RAOC badge in use at the time, but with the Royal Cypher in the centre instead of the Ordnance shield.

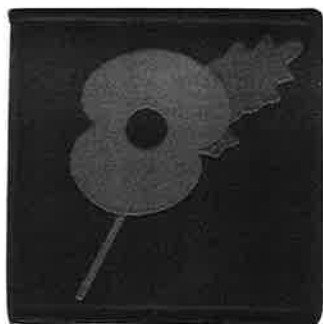




Number 107



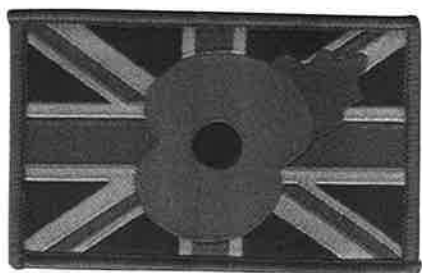
Number 108



Number 109



Number 110



Number 111



Number 112



Number 113



Number 114



Number 115

