

THE FORMATION SIGN

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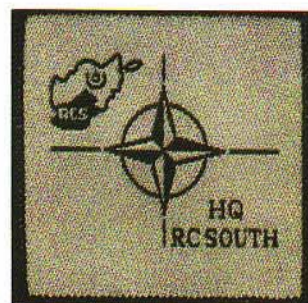
FOR SIMPLICITY OF DESIGN



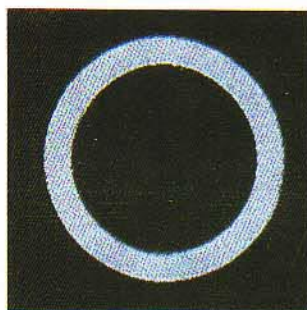
At an inaugural parade held at York on Tuesday 5th August 2008, the British Army acquired a new division when the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt presented the GOC of 6th Division with a divisional flag. The location was appropriate as troops of the division's predecessors had mobilised from there in August 1914. **Robin Hodges** looks at the background to the division's newly-introduced badge.

Division' would reform to direct the International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command South (ISAF RC South) in Afghanistan. He announced the temporary establishment of the two-star deployable HQ which would be based at York until 2011. The multi-national staff in Afghanistan wear the HQ RC South black on sand badge but almost from formation the RSM, later the ADC and finally the Project Officer in York were researching a badge for the HQ Staff when they moved to York as HQ 6th Division in February 2008.

On 26 July 2007 the Secretary of State for Defence announced that a new 'Headquarters 6th



An early contender was the badge originally worn by the 6th Division, a regular formation that embarked as part of the original BEF in 1914 and served throughout the war on the Western Front. The Somme and Cambrai were just two of its battles. An alternative was the badge of the North West Army (India) as it had some connection with the Khyber Pass and Afghanistan and the Society was asked for help in providing an image of this badge.



In the end the GOC, Major General 'Jacko' Page, selected the original 6th Division badge as being a simpler design, clearly visible and with an historical precedent. Interestingly the Players cigarette cards of the 1920s record this badge as 'having no particular significance, being chosen for its simplicity of design'. After approval by the Army Dress Committee, the initial order was supplied by Tolley Badges of Birmingham. Tolley, who have supplied high quality badges to the Scouts and Guides for many years, have recently produced a number of Army badges. Robin has supplied the Editor with a complete list of the badges made by the company in the first quarter of this year and this will appear in the next issue. Members should note that Tolley do not sell individual or small quantities of badges and collectors wishing to obtain examples are advised to write to the appropriate PRI.

With thanks to Chris Barker/Ministry of Defence for the photo and Martin Mace, editor, Britain at War for clearing its use.