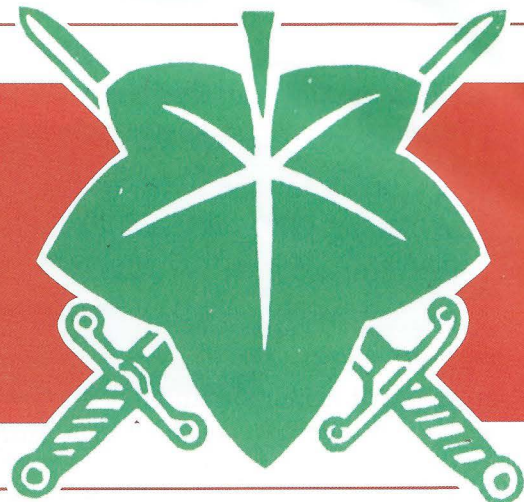


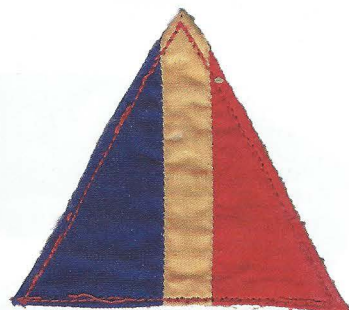
THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



FROM KOREA TO AFGHANISTAN – 250 ISSUES OF *THE FORMATION SIGN*

This is the 250th issue of the *Formation Sign* since its first appearance as the *Bulletin of The Military Heraldry Society* in early 1951, the exact month of publication unknown as it bears no date. The four foolscap pages of Bulletin 1 listed all 16 of the Society's members, four of them American and one, member Number 14, **John Landers** still a member today. The first issue included hand-coloured drawings by **John Waring** of new signs for (left to right, below) the Army MT School, Army Personnel attached to the Ministry of Supply, 5th Army Group RA and the Hong Kong Defence Force. Tantalisingly for modern members it also notes that "Formation Signs worn by Polish units in Britain may be purchased from M Semkow of Notting Hill Gate".



A whole page is dedicated to the first Identification Section, a regular feature of all 250 issues. Whilst many of the badges shown in Bulletin 1 were quickly identified that shown below, left, submitted by a certain **W Y Carman** (Member No 13) still awaits a definitive identification. Eventually identified as possibly the badge of Sussex County Division, FS 235 appears to contradict this with a photograph showing it worn as a regimental sign by an officer of AA Command. Other mystery badges which have defied identification for over sixty years are shown below. Can we perhaps celebrate Issue 250 with positive identifications?



By Bulletin 2, now five pages, Society membership had grown to twenty-four including Member 21, **Les Cable**, then a Cpl serving with the EAEME in Nairobi and Member 24 **Colin Allison**, then as now a resident of York. Contributions included Les recording an unofficial shield-shaped sign for East Africa Command, the Secretary and Founder, Captain Waring offering to sell members examples of the sign of 99 AGRA, made but never worn, which he had bought from the manufacturers and a note that new shoulder titles bearing gliders had been approved for certain regiments. Bulletin 2 also included the first of many lists of signs that would become the Waring Identification Pamphlets. Now read on for a flavour of the next 248 issues...