

THE FORMATION SIGN



JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY

CLOTH SHOULDER TITLES OF THE DOMINION OF PAKISTAN 1947 – 1956

The partition of India in 1947 writes **Mark Shields** gave birth to two new nations, India and Pakistan, but not immediately to two republics. Indian independence was closely followed by the declaration of a republic in 1950, but Pakistan remained a dominion with King George VI, and later Queen Elizabeth II, as sovereigns until February 1956. The first independent Pakistan Army badges, therefore, retained a royal connection and included a full range of cloth titles for Corps and the cavalry and infantry units allocated to Pakistan at partition. Additionally, the martial Pakistanis raised several new regiments immediately after partition, for which cloth titles also exist.



Dating titles to the Dominion period is relatively easy. The Royal Pakistan Artillery, Engineers and Service Corps insignia demonstrably pre-date the 1956 republic. In the case of the other corps, "Pakistan" in the title indicates the period, since post-1956 metal corps badges in Pakistan, as in India, dropped the national name from the corps title. The pictures show cloth titles for all Pakistan Army Corps of the time except the Pakistan Armoured Corps, Pakistan Pioneer Corps, and the presumably tiny Pakistan Army Dental Corps, for which I have never found examples to accompany their metal badges. Most titles are self-explanatory for those familiar with typical Commonwealth army organization, possible exceptions being PMNS (Pakistan Military Nursing Service), MODC (Ministry of Defence Corps – a tri-service paramilitary administrative corps) and PRFVC (Pakistan Remount, Farms, and Veterinary Corps). The designation 1st Pakistan Battalion is given to the corps of officer cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy. The illustrations include titles for all the cavalry (5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 19) and infantry regiments (1, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16) of the post-1922 line allocated to Pakistan at partition, along with a number of regiments created in its immediate aftermath: The Pathan Regiment (Frontier Force); East Bengal Regiment; Azad Kashmir Regular Forces (Azad meaning "Free",