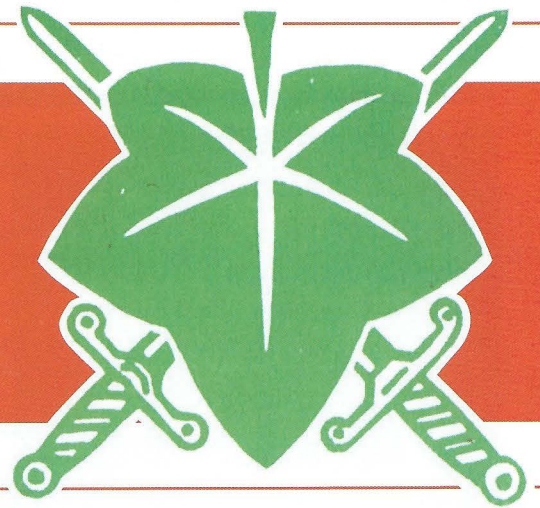


# THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



## AUGUST '14

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Army Form E. 635.

**Territorial Force.**

**EMBODIMENT.**

**NOTICE TO JOIN.**

No. Rank and Name } *1398 W. H. H. H. H.*

6TH BN. R. WAR. 1 Regt. or Corps.

Whereas the Army Council, in pursuance of His Majesty's Proclamation, have directed that the 6TH BN. R. WAR. 1

\_\_\_\_\_ be embodied on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of *AUG - 5 1914*

You are hereby required to attend at *THORP STREET.*

not later than *6.45* o'clock that day. Should you not present yourself as ordered you will be liable to be proceeded against.

*C. Davis* ESQ. Adjutant,  
6TH BN. R. WAR. 1

Date *4.8.14*

When the Great War broke out on 4th August 1914 the 'contemptibly small' British Army consisted of just 733,000 men, a figure which would soon be dwarfed by the 8,700,000 men and women from Britain and the Empire who subsequently served. The most active and well-remembered of the theatres of war was the Western Front in France and Flanders where 5,400,000 served. A further two million men served in Mesopotamia, Egypt and Palestine fighting the Turks and 550,000 in Macedonia and Italy.

When the war ended in November 1918, nearly one million servicemen had been killed in action or died of wounds, 565,000 of them in France and Flanders.

The war brought many new technical innovations to the battlefield. The Vickers machine gun, adopted in 1912 as a standard British Army weapon became so important a weapon that a new British Army corps was created for it, its Heavy Section separated in 1916 to form the Tank Corps, its new weapon a further technical achievement. The Royal Flying Corps, two years old in 1914 expanded

to such an extent that by 1918 it had become a separate armed service.

New weapons saw soldiers learning new skills which were often recognised by skill-at-arms or trade badges. Trench warfare saw the introduction of bombers and trench mortar gunners, extra fire power in trenches provided from 1915 by experts with the American-designed Lewis machine gun, the badge adopted to mark the latter's skill, still worn today. The Royal Artillery, unable to fire by direct observation, recruited sound rangers, observers and surveyors to assist their gunnery, with the observation work of the Royal Flying Corps playing an important role.

The cloth badges issued to mark these new military skills were however few compared to the vast range of other cloth items introduced to help identify the regiments and formations of a large army wearing a standard uniform, especially once trench warfare saw service dress caps and their badges replaced by steel helmets. The introduction of shoulder titles, formation signs and regimental flashes not only established a system that is still echoed in the dress of today's army but also laid the foundations for our hobby.

This commemorative issue presents a snapshot of the vast range of badges worn by the armed and civilian services during The Great War. Hopefully it will prompt members to add to the record over the next four years. Lest we forget the effects of the war on those who fought, the two contrasting military service records which appear on the last page of this issue show how two erstwhile civilians enlisted for the duration were affected.