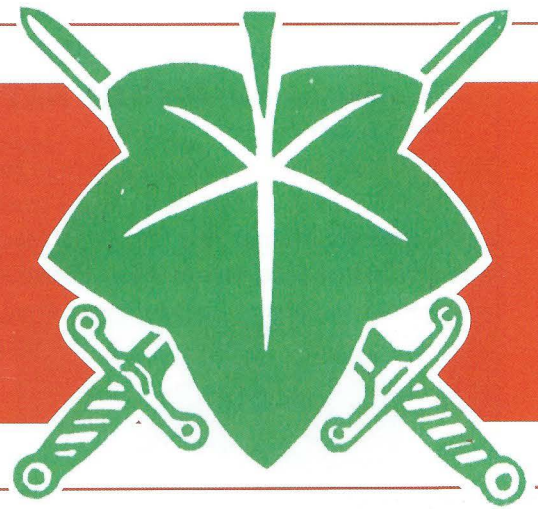


THE FORMATION SIGN

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CONTEXT IS ALL

It is an unfortunate aspect of our hobby that the scarcity of some items has led to the production of replicas which, presented on their own, provide little evidence of their authenticity or provenance. Once in a while however items turn up with an excellent pedigree or with supporting documents to provide solid proof of their origins. This grouping acquired by **Robin McGregor** would appear to be one such example.



The envelope, with a Field Censor's mark and a 1944 postal cancellation, addressed to **Pte Shalom, M, P.15542, P.T.D., Depot Staff, M.E.F.** contains an untouched group of cloth badges to a Palestinian soldier of the Palestine Regiment - his enlistment in Palestine confirmed by the P prefix to his army number - serving with the Jewish Brigade Group,

Although over 27,000 Palestinian Jewish volunteers joined the British Army during the war the British government was hesitant about forming a Jewish army from Palestinian units until summer 1944 when the War Office and War Cabinet agreed that although a full Jewish division was 'impracticable' a Brigade Group could be raised in the Middle East. The Jewish Brigade Group was duly established in Egypt in late September 1944 with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of The Palestine Regiment and 1st Palestinian LAA Battery; further Palestinian units joined to bring the Brigade up to strength when it reached Italy in November 1944 where it fought until the end of the war before moving by road to join 21st Army Group in Germany at the end of July. Soldiers attached to the Palestine Training Depot - as on the envelope's address - wore the flash of their Jewish or Arab unit. Two further examples of the Brigade's title are shown.



Also in the envelope was this woven title. The name Fire Guard was given to all those carrying out air raid fire prevention duties in Great Britain in August 1941 and their insignia is well known. Is this the title for their Palestinian equivalent and if so was it worn on a uniform? Can anyone shed light on its use?