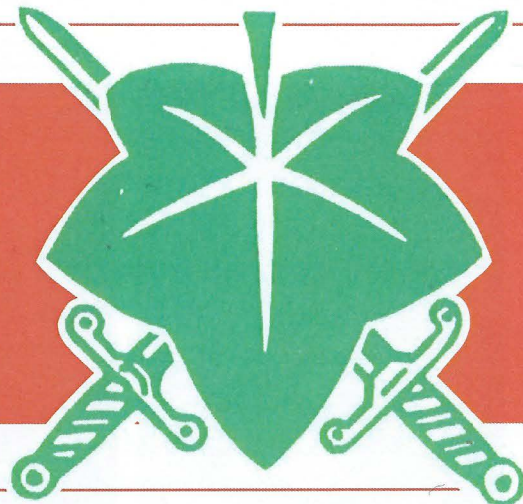
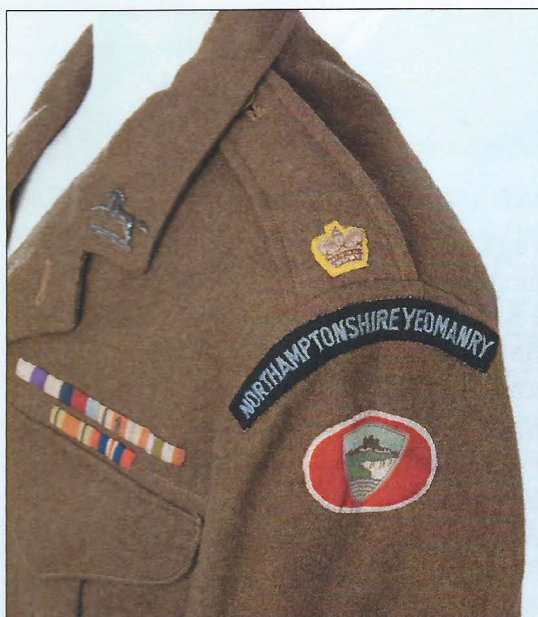


THE FORMATION SIGN

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ONE MAN IN HIS TIME



The February 1947 edition of *The Services and Territorial Magazine* carried an article on the new links to be formed between the Regular regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps and the RAC's new Territorial units. Several of the latter, having served during the war with other arms, usually as Gunners were now to serve as the Divisional Armoured Regiments of the newly-revived Territorial infantry Divisions.

The Northamptonshire Yeomanry, armoured since joining the Tank Corps in 1920 as 25th Armoured Car Company - its duplicate regiment had served with 11th Armoured Division in Europe - became the Divisional Regiment of 44th (Home Counties) Division, a somewhat eccentric posting - the generally accepted Home Counties being Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex - possibly accounted for by the fact that the yeomanry regiments from those counties had been and remained Gunners, London's yeomanry all to serve with the newly-formed 56th London (Armoured) Division.

In April 1950 the Northamptonshire Yeomanry sought permission from the War Office Dress Committee to resume wearing their wartime cloth arm designation which had been adopted in 1941 to give 'an air of smartness to an otherwise drab uniform'. Removed 'under protest' when the universally disliked 'Royal Armoured Corps' designation was forced on the RAC in 1943, it had been readopted in 1945 as 'all ranks wished to be recognised as a regiment rather than as a member of a Corps'. Their initial application to wear it in the post-war RAC was refused but in March 1952 it was authorised in lieu of the metal titles authorised that year for RAC units, an officially-issued cloth title introduced in the List of Changes on 30th September 1952.

The TA reductions of 1956 brought the first amalgamations of yeomanry regiments with consequent changes in dress distinctions on battle dress. The Northamptonshire Yeomanry became D (Northampton Yeomanry) Squadron of the Inns of Court Regiment, keeping its cap badge, cloth arm title and collar badges with the Inns of Court brass title added to the shoulder strap. In April 1961 The Northamptonshire Yeomanry became 250th Independent Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (Northamptonshire Yeomanry). Serving with 22nd Engineer Group and assigned a role in support of BAOR, Squadron HQ and No1 Troop were based in Northampton, No2 Troop at Kettering and No3 Troop at Brackley. The dress distinctions authorised for battle dress in March 1962 included the supplementary arm title 'NY' and Northamptonshire Yeomanry collar badges and buttons. Sergeants and Staff Sergeants continued wearing the white horse arm badge on a light blue background superimposed on the chevrons, WOIs wearing it below their rank badge.

