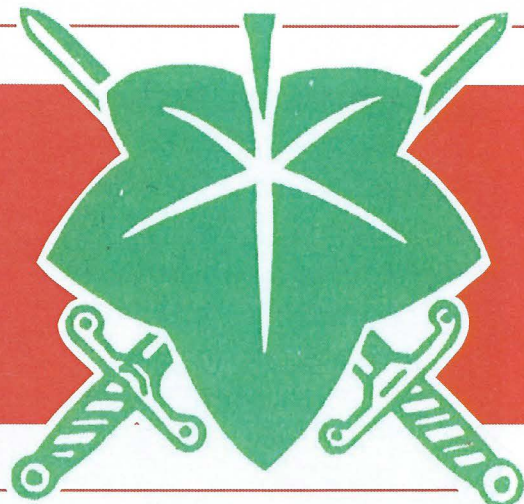


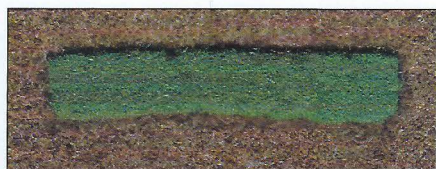
THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



THE GREEN FLASH

The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) is the Army's senior reserve regiment with unbroken service to the crown since 1539. Originally a home defence Militia unit, in 1877 the Royal Monmouthshire Light Infantry became Engineer Militia organised as Siege and Railway Companies. After serving in the First World War in France, Gallipoli and Italy the regiment was re-formed in the Supplementary Reserve in 1922, its 100 and 101 Army Troops Companies serving with the BEF and 21st Army Group in the Second World War.



After conversion to Engineers it became a regimental custom to wear 'a shoulder flash of rifle green to denote the origin of the regiment'.

When Army Council Instruction 1118 of September 1940 authorised units to wear 'a flash in regimental colours on the sleeve' the regiment received permission in March 1941 to wear the green flash of the Royal Monmouthshire (Light Infantry) Militia on battle dress, then both parade and combat dress. 'Although the right was once questioned' it was upheld by the authority of a War Office letter dated October 1941 and the flash continued to be worn by all members of the regiment until No2 and Combat Dress replaced battle dress following the 1967 TA reorganisation.



In February 1982 the Commanding Officer decided that the regiment would

again exercise its right to wear the flash. Considered inappropriate for wear on combat dress it was to be worn on the jersey, heavy wool, two inches from the shoulder by all officers and Senior NCOs 'including Regular soldiers and Regt Wksps' by 17th April 1982. Described as a strip of heavyweight baize, 51mm x 8mm - Hodges notes that the regiment now know it as 'the snooker table' - it was Rifle Green in colour 'approximating to BS4800-14C39'. [BS4800, the British Standard Colour Chart, describes 14C39 as 'Holly Green'- Ed]. The flash shown was worn by an officer of the regiment between 1982 and 1986. Although details have not been found it appears that around 1991 the flash was taken into wear for Service Dress and No2 Dress with a blue backing and for Mess Dress with red. The version now worn on working dress by the regiment - part of 12 (Force Support) Engineer Group, 8 Engineer Brigade, Force Troops Command, its three Field Squadrons; 100 based in South Wales and Bristol, 225 based in the West Midlands and the Jersey Field Squadron based in the Channel Island - is also shown. [The Editor is grateful to **Jim Barker** for providing an original RMonRE document on which this article is based]

