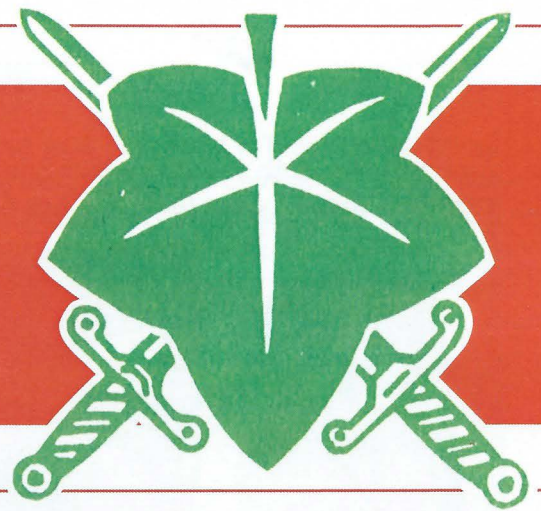


# THE FORMATION SIGN

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## BADGES OUT EAST



Guaranteed to attract the interest of many members this great picture was supplied by a member who used to own this jacket. It shows Private R.C. Hindle of Brisbane, Australia, an original member of HQ British Commonwealth Base, Kure, Japan just after he had received his discharge in Japan. The jacket was covered in 106 badges collected by Private Hindle from the Allied troops then stationed in Japan. The member who later owned the jacket said he found a further twenty badges in the pockets which had not yet been sewn on.

According to the original caption Private Hindle was about to start on a journey to Scotland on board His Majesty's Troopship Lancashire with ten pounds in his pocket. He then intended to hike all over Great Britain, living in youth hostels, before returning to Australia. A search of the Internet has failed to throw up any further news of Private Hindle's journey but the fact that his jacket later turned up in Britain does suggest he arrived here.

As well as a fair number of US Army signs there are some interesting British and Commonwealth signs including a pair of Indian Airborne wings and a cloth arm title of the Army Kinema Corporation. There are several signs not worn in Korea from both

Indian and British formations which may have been collected previously by soldiers serving in the Far East including the combination sign for 15th Scottish Division which appears to have on it the regimental flash of the Middlesex Regiment's 1st Battalion which was 15th Division's wartime Machine Gun Battalion. Converted back to infantry in 1947 the battalion served with 27th Brigade in Korea from August 1950 to June 1951.

This unusual arm title which also originates from post-war Japan was worn by the service journalists working for BCON, the tri-service, British Commonwealth Occupation Newspaper, an English-language daily produced for British Commonwealth troops stationed in Japan after World War II. Launched in Osaka in 1946 it changed its name to Japan News in 1950 when the head office moved to Tokyo and is still published today.

