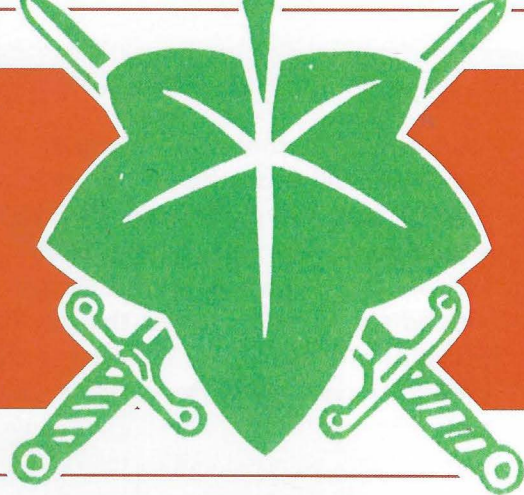


THE FORMATION SIGN

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After the War Was Over



The 2nd Bn Royal Scots, in Palestine since February 1945, moved to Malta in December 1946, then to Trieste in June 1947 as part of the peacekeeping force in the disputed area between Italy and Yugoslavia, known as The Free Territory of Trieste, established in February 1947 under the Treaty of Peace with Italy. Intended as a neutral independent country which would cool down territorial claims between Italy and Yugoslavia, it was divided into Zone A, administered by an Anglo-American Military Government which included the port city of Trieste and a narrow coastal strip known as Venezia Giulia, and Zone B, a small area administered by Yugoslavia.



The Royal Scots regimental history writes **Tom Moles** records that while the two countries were moving into their new frontiers there was some excitement, and troops were sent to strategic positions in case of trouble; in March 1948 as a precautionary measure, British troops from 24th Infantry Brigade, British Trieste Force were advanced to the frontier. The photo shows Royal Scots digging in close to the disputed border wearing the 24th Brigade sign, the red and yellow lines painted on their helmets echoing the coloured lines of the Hunting Stewart tartan. "To the relief of all, everything passed off with little incident ... there were some demonstrations, a few bombs thrown, a few shots fired". Essentially a free city for seven years the territory was dissolved and given to Italy and Yugoslavia in 1954.

The variety of services involved in running a complex situation such as the Free Territory is reflected in these three items. The Allied Force Permit authorises the bearer to enter the Territory, the two badges – courtesy of **Robin McGregor** – identifying those serving in the Military Government Prison Service and the Venezia Giulia Police. Can anyone provide further information on these bodies?

