

THE FORMATION SIGN

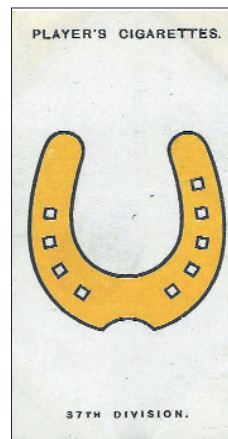
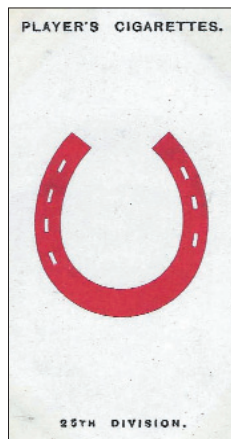
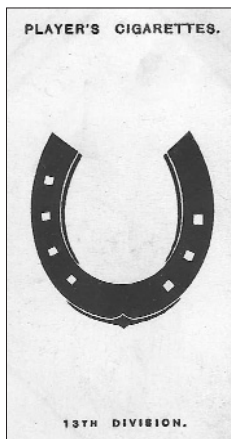
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The Mysterious Badge of 13th Division

The article in FS 280 writes **Mike Taylor**, closes with the Editor's comment that the badge comes in facing pairs, as witness the white highlighting on the edges of the horseshoe. Mike points out that the horseshoe has three nail holes on one side, four on the other, a design clearly derived from the like-named WW1 Division. In WW1 a similar design of a red shoe was worn by the 25th Division, the 37th Division wearing a yellow (or gold) version with a 4 and 5-hole pattern or none.

All three are recorded in Wheeler-Holohan's *Divisional and Other Signs*, the Military Historical Society's 2018 Special Number, *World War One British Army Corps and Divisional Signs and The Badges of Kitchener's Army* by our member **David Bilton**, those below, 1930 Players cigarette cards. Whilst both David and the MHS depict 25th and 37th cloth horseshoes, that of the 13th Division never appeared as a cloth sign as the Division left Britain in June 1915 and spent the rest of the war in the Middle East where divisional signs were not usually worn.



The WW2 version has additionally at the toe of the shoe, four small diagonal hash marks, angled downward with the four nail holes, the white highlighting on the outer edge of the side with three nail holes, on the inner edge of the four-hole side.

This invites the question whether there was a 'proper' way to wear the badge - did three or four nail holes face front? Given that this is the British Army, and that they had taken the trouble to design a facing pair, it probably was mandated in some way.