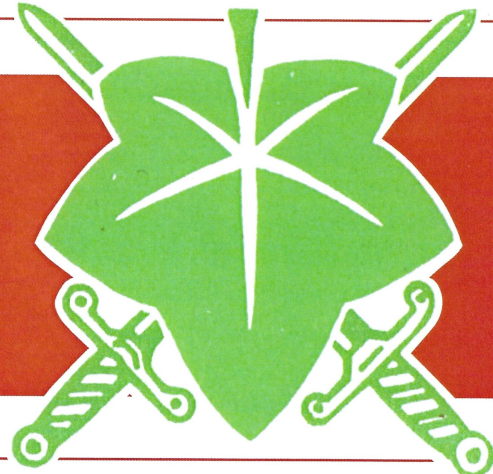


THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



Join the Army...

Encouraged to join by the Paid Pensioner Recruiters, their PPR cuff badge and crownless GR cap badge depicted in this 1924 metal sign, between the two World Wars the soldiers of the British Army – 209,000 of them in 1935 (for comparison the current population of Portsmouth is 205,000) - served in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Palestine, India, Sudan, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Uganda, Tanganyika, Gambia, the Gold Coast Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Trans-Jordan, Burma, Singapore, Penang, The Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kowloon.

Given recent comments about the size of our armed forces it is interesting to note that in 1931 the Chief of the General Staff observed that *"The British Army is pared to the bone...we have disarmed too much and...our Army is so small that it is incapable of fulfilling our international obligations"*. What might he think about the Army's current strength of some 72,510 full-time troops...