

THE FORMATION SIGN

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Supporting the Royal Air Force



During the Second World War the ranks of the RAF were augmented by volunteers from many countries, the first volunteers Czech, Polish and Belgian airmen. In the following years the Air Ministry authorised over forty nationality shoulder titles starting with a title for Aden in 1942, another for Zanzibar the same year, one source records over 808 different national titles.



Perhaps the most unusual title was that worn by Miguel 'Mike' Enciso Seiglie, better known as The Lord, who in August 1942 travelled from Cuba to Toronto where he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and qualified as a pilot. In January 1944 he arrived in Liverpool as a Flight Lieutenant and became a Lancaster pilot (his aircraft was made in Canada)

flying missions over Berlin, Nuremberg, Kassel, Mannheim and objectives in the Baltic Sea. On the 9th April 1945 he took part in the sinking of the German cruiser *Admiral Scheer* in Kiel. Further details at <https://www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com/>

Another Black Cat

This unusual fibre helmet, recently sold at auction has 56th Division's black cat painted on the front with "Queen's" – presumably indicating the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) below. The red/blue/green flash above the cat is unusual but *Badges on Battledress* (page 104) records that the regiment's 2/5th, 2/6th and 2nd/7th Bns in 56th Division wore separate rectangles in green, red and blue below the divisional sign. Thoughts welcome.



Longstanding Queries

Both of these badges have appeared in the *Formation Sign* before but as far as **The Editor** knows they have never been identified. Ideas please.



THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY WAS FORMED IN 1951 BY MAJOR JOHN WARING TO FOSTER AND ENCOURAGE THE STUDY AND COLLECTING OF CLOTH FORMATION SIGNS