

ADm
202/131.

40 MVBDO

31 Aug 40

Description of Air Attack on Ser. Commanders
on 26 Aug 1940.

1 Aug 40

Strength 210 + 4098.

31 Sep 40

Congratulatory message from King to 1st Div
1 Rm AA Reg in honour of enemy shot down

3 Sep 40

RHD and Big Wd to form Siege Regs on
6 Sep 40

25 Nov 40

Training order - to be ready for overseas service
by 7 January 1941

Shapes on packing Cases.

"A"



Exp Wd
1st Div

"B"



Exp Wd
2nd Div

"C"



Exp Wd
Commander's Sec

"D"



Exp Wd
Machine
Gun

E



F



Sig D
Exp Wd
Exp Wd

Survey - Mod - "C" - Green

AD Bde Wd
GK Unit
GOR

"D" - Green

1 Rm AA Regs Wd
A Bty
B Bty

"A" - Green

22 Lt Bty

"A" - White

DM
3/131.

33 L. Buj - 'F' - White with green dots.

11 S/L Rags }
R Buj } - B - Green
S Buj }

Cit Bde 114 - D - Yellow.

Kens. Buj }
Dwen Buj } - D - Yellow

X Buj }
Y Buj } - A - Marve.
Z Buj }

7/M/73 Buj - A - Red.

L/M '7p - E - Yellow

Quaking Bay - E - Red

Is. Bay - E - Green

Mprop Bay - E - White

Don't mind - E - Marve

11 Bx Rm - F - White.

DM 400 Strength 202 + 4093.

DM 400 Admiralty agreed to supply 9 RN Officers,
H. Nandaas, OHS, 243 ratings to complete MNBDO.
Arrangements for United Kingdom to accompany
MNBDO Overseas.

DM 400 Provided 500 ORs for uniforms of MNBDO II

[H. N. 9th Regt 'R' Buj to Jan. Brookhurst]
Includes 1st Establishment

Units of RN at Regt and Balmis (H1, H2, H3)

DM
132.

DM 400 1000003 Mrs. M. T. Hague } L. M. J. - missing
1000003-11 Mrs. P. Whittaker } presumed dead -
in war on Portsmouth.

ROYAL MARINES

Fig. 1 ✓

ROYAL MARINES

Fig. 2 ✓



Fig. 3 ✓

COMMANDO

Fig. 4 ✓

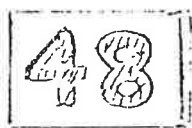


Fig. 5 ✓



Fig. 6 ✓

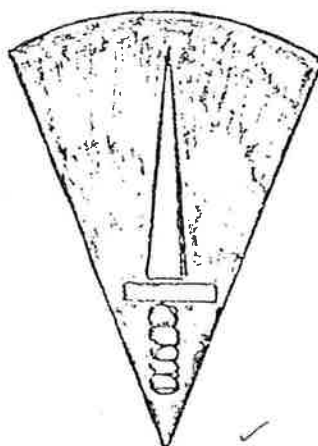
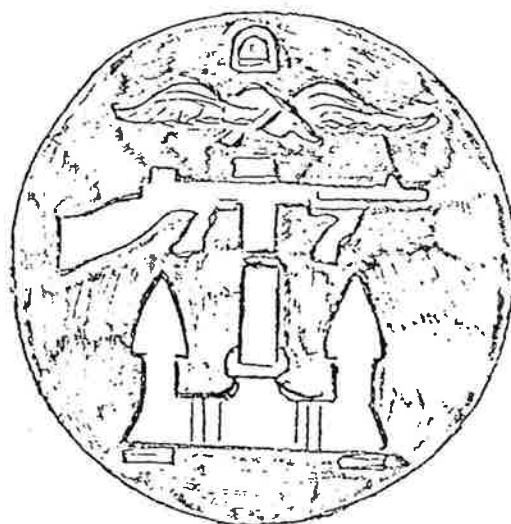
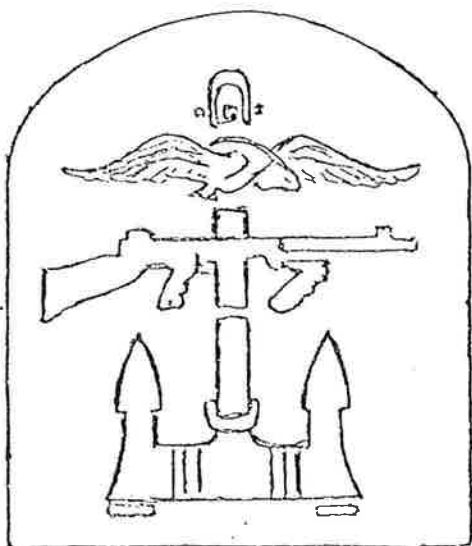


Fig. 7 ✓



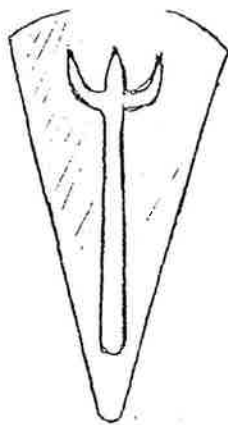


Fig. 10 ✓

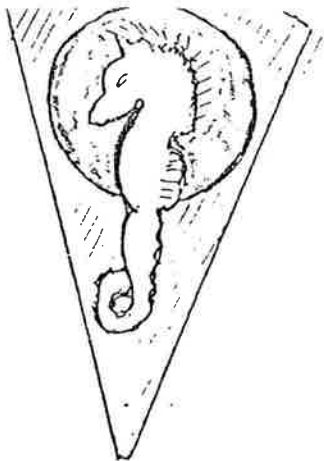


Fig. 11 ✓

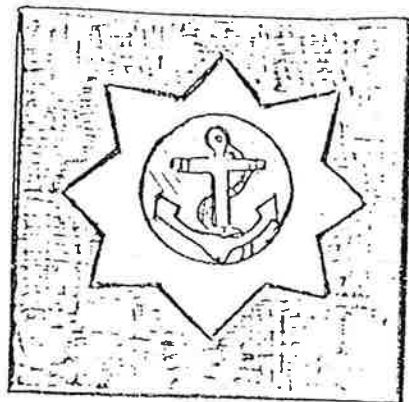


Fig. 12 ✓



Fig. 13 ✓

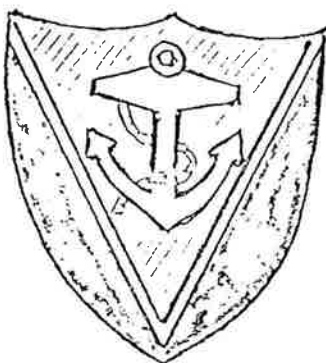


Fig. 14 ✓



Fig. 15 ✓

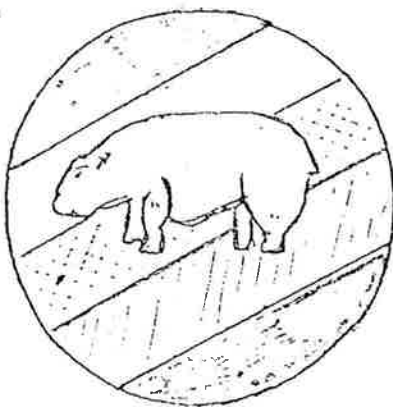


Fig. 16



Fig. 17

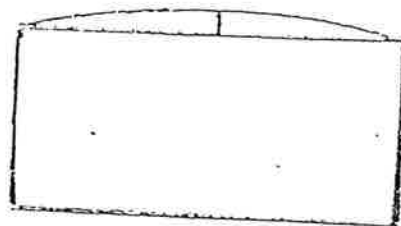


Fig. 18

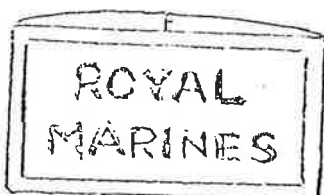


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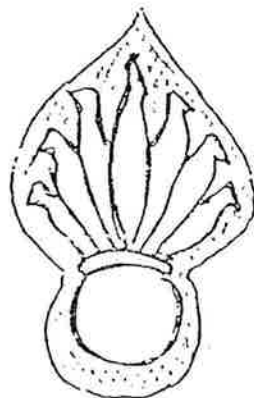


Fig. 20 ✓



Fig. 21

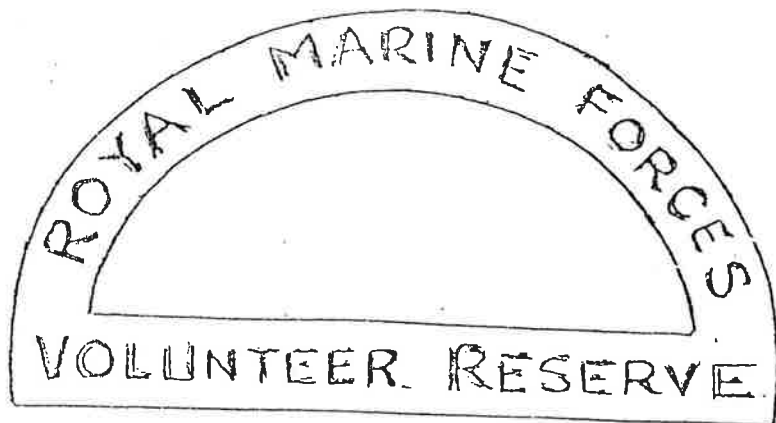


Fig. 22 ✓



Fig. 23 ✓



Fig. 24 ✓



Fig. 25 ✓



Fig. 26 ✓



Fig. 27 ✓

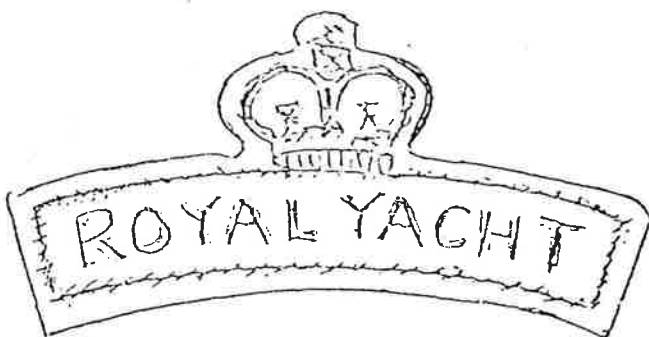


Fig. 28 ✓

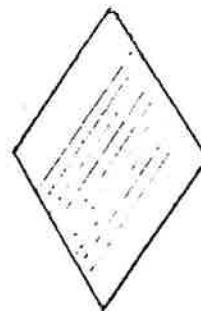
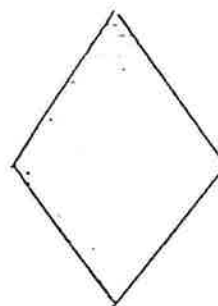


Fig. 29



Fig. 30 ✓



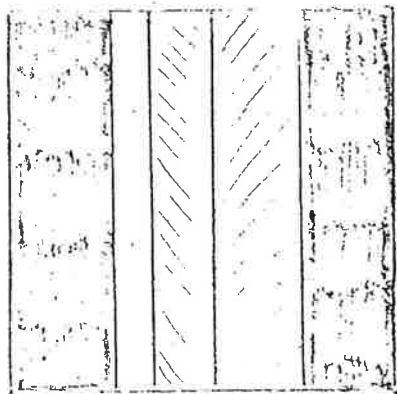


Fig. 32

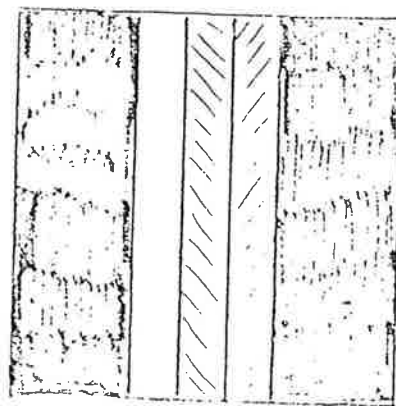


Fig. 33



Fig. 34

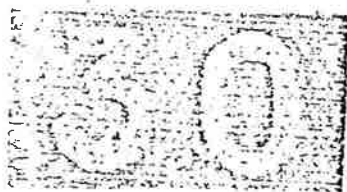


Fig. 35



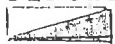
Fig. 36



- Figure. 1. Title ROYAL MARINES.
Silk embroidered Red letters on Blue silk tape.
Manufactured by CASH'S. As issued for wearing on B/D.
- Figure. 2. Title ROYAL MARINES.
Embroidered on felt - Red letters on Dark Blue.
Not worn officially - purchased privately. There are a number of variations of 'unofficial' titles - some with plain lettering and some with serifs. The Corps Museum has a specimen Blue letters on Red... doubtless a manufacturer's error.
- Figure. 3. Title ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO.
Embroidered on felt. Red letters on Dark Blue.
As issued from 1946 and still worn to date (1976) on Jersey Heavy Wool.
- Figure. 4. Title COMMANDO.
Silk embroidered Red letters on Blue silk tape.
Manufactured by CASH'S. Issued for wear on B/D during WW and worn, when applicable, under ROYAL MARINES title (Fig
- Figure. 5. Numerals denoting ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO number.
Silk embroidered Red letters on Blue silk tape.
Manufactured by CASH'S, these numerals ranged from 40-48 inclusive. Worn during WW2 above ROYAL MARINES title (Fig.1.) and COMMANDO (Fig.4.)
- Figure. 6. Numeral No.46.
Embroidered on felt - Red on Dark Blue arc.
Of similar design there was also No.45.
- Figure. 7. Sign COMMANDO DAGGER.
Embroidered on felt - Red dagger on Dark Blue segment.
Initially issued during WW2 for wearing with Royal Marine Commando insignia. There was a printed version also.
- Figure. 8. Sign COMBINED OPERATIONS.
Printed - Red on Blue.
- Figure. 9. Sign COMBINED OPERATIONS
Embroidered on felt. Red on Dark Blue.
- NB. The shape of Figures 8 and 9 varied from circular to square with rounded top - either printed or embroidered or vice versa and were worn by all members of the Armed Forces serving in Combined Operations Command. The signs were worn in pairs by Royal Marines (with SAG facing forwards) on B/D and, in WW2, on No.1 Dress. Some RM Commando formations continued to wear this sign in preference to the 'Commando Dagger' sign (which was issued later) eg. 41 RM Commando.
- Figure.10. Sign ROYAL MARINE DIVISION.
Yellow trident embroidered on Red felt segment.
Following the disbanding of RM DIVISION this sign was discontinued until 1945. It was then adopted by 116 (RM Infantry Brigade (formed 4 Jan 45) comprising 27, 28 and 30 Royal Marine Battalions.

- Figure 11. Sign 104 RM TRAINING BRIGADE (and later ROYAL MARINES TRAINING GROUPS (DEVON) and (WALES)).
Worn by Permanent Staff of these Training Establishments.
Yellow Seahorse embroidered on Blue disc, on Red segment.
"Known within the Corps as the 'Pregnant Prawn'".
- Figure 12. Sign 117 (RM) INFANTRY BRIGADE.
Yellow fouled anchor on Red disc, on Yellow eight-pointed Star on Khaki square. (Two versions- embroidered or printed.
"Although the sign was adopted by 117(RM)Inf.Bde. it was not generally issued - except to one or two Companys. It was however, in general use as a Vehicle marking (ie. painted on mudguards etc.," 117(RM)Inf.Bde.(formed 15 Jan 45) comprised 31, 32 and 33 Royal Marine Battalions.
- Figure 13. Numeral 31 Bn ROYAL MARINES.
Red figures woven on small Khaki square.
Worn over ROYAL MARINES title (Fig.1.). Of a similar design there was also 32 and 33.
- Figure 14. Sign 34 ROYAL MARINE AMPHIBIOUS SUPPORT REGIMENT.
Embroidered on felt. Yellow fouled anchor, on Red segment with narrow Yellow border, on blue shield.
- Figure 15. Sign ROYAL MARINES ENGINEERS.
Printed. Yellow grenade, Green rope fouled on Red anchor, on a Blue shield.
- Figure 16. Sign MOBILE NAVAL BASE DEFENCE ORGANIZATION (MNBDO)
Polar Bear embroidered on Blue, Yellow, Green, Red and Blue diagonal striped cloth circle.
"This sign may have been spurious or worn unofficially - former MNBDO personnel are unable to recall ever seeing a cloth sign, such as this, worn. There has been mention that the design 'may' have been painted on Vehicles and Direction Boards, although examples of Christmas Cards do exist which display the sign.
Correspondence with former members of MNBDO has revealed that Units of the Organization were identified (on uniform) by geometrical shapes of 'cut-out' cloth - either Red, Green, Yellow and Blue plus some other colours.

For example:

| | | |
|---|---------|--|
| Squares | denoted | 2 Air Defence Bde HQ and GOR |
| | | and 3 and 4 AA Regiments and Batteries. |
| Diamonds | " | 12 Searchlight Regiment and Batteries. |
| Triangles | " | 2 Coast Artillery Regiment or Batteries. |
| Circles | " | Landing and Maintenance Unit |
|  | " | MNBDO Group Signals. |

These applied to MNBDO II (although the shapes allotted to other Units of MNBDO II.... Survey etc. are not mentioned

- Figure 17. Arm of Service strip. 37 SIGNAL COMPANY RM.
Felt strip approx. 2" x 1/4" White/Blue.
This form of identification was usually only worn by the Royal Corps of Signals.
- Figure 18. Epaulet Slip-on. Orange braid.
Worn by Officers, seconded to the Royal Marines during WW2.

- Figure 19. Spaullet Slip-on title ROYAL MARINES.
Red letters embroidered on Blue felt. On K/D slip-on.
Issued for wearing on Tropical shirts during WW2 and Post-war.
- Figure 20. Sign ROYAL MARINES SIEGE REGIMENT.
Red grenade woven on Khaki.
Another, probably 'Unit made' sign, was Red 'cut-out' shape of grenade on khaki backing.
- Figure 21. Spaullet Slip-on. Dark Blue (not Navy Blue) braid.
Worn by Probationary Cadets RM at RM Pre-OCTU Deal and Browdown.
- Figure 22. Title ROYAL MARINE FORCES VOLUNTEER RESERVE.
Red letters embroidered on Blue arc and bar.
The first pattern title worn by the RLFVR in 1948 - replaced later by Figures 23 and 24.
- Figure 23. Title VR.
Silk embroidered Red letters on Blue silk tape.
Manufactured by CASH's. The second pattern title of RLFVR and worn below ROYAL MARINES title (Fig.1.)
- Figure 24. Title VR.
Embroidered on felt. Red letters on Dark Blue.
Worn beneath ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO title (Fig.3.) by all Ranks of the RLFVR who completed the Basic Commando Course
- Figure 25. Title R.
Embroidered on felt. Red letter on Dark Blue.
Replaced Figures 23 and 24, on the change of title RLFVR to Royal Marines Reserve (1966)
- Figure 26. Title 44 COMMANDO ROYAL MARINES.
Embroidered on felt (all in one piece) Red letters on Blue
- Figure 27. Title 46 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO.
Embroidered on felt (all in one piece) Red letters, with serifs, on Dark Blue.
- Figure 28. Title ROYAL YACHT.
Gold wire letters and border, surmounted by St. Edward's Crown, on Blue. For wear on No.1 Dress.
Of a similar design, but slightly smaller and on Green, for wear on No.2 Dress (Lovat), and Red on Blue.
Worn by the Band of Portsmouth Division, Portsmouth Group RM. and Royal Marines Detachments in the Royal Yacht.
- The Tudor Crown type was only issued in Gold on Blue and Red on Blue variations.
- Figure 29. RED DIAMOND.
Red cloth/felt 1½" x 1".
Awarded to signify Recruit Section Commanders at the Depot or during final training at ITCRM. Towards the end of training all Recruit Section Commanders go before the King's Badge Board - the best all-round Marine usually receives The King's Badge.

Figure 30. THE KING'S BADGE.

Issued in Gold on Blue, Red on Blue, Khaki woven on Khaki on K/D., Gold on Red (for Mess kit) and Gold on Green. Worn at the point of the left shoulder, on all Dress (with the exception of Shirt sleeve order and Working dress) throughout the recipients entire career. Instituted in 1918 by HM King George V., irrespective of the Reigning Monarch the Royal Monogram (centre) is always GVR.

Figure 31. Flash. 'O' Battery 12 Searchlight Regiment RM.
Dark Green cloth diamond.

Worn during period of detachment, from MNBDO II, when 12 S/L Regiment RM were engaged in Defence of Plymouth during Blitz 1940/41. Continued worn on return to MNBDO I

Figure 32. Pugarree Flash ROYAL MARINES.

Corps colours Blue, Yellow, Green, Red, Blue 'made up' of strips of cloth.

Figure 33. Pugarree Flash ROYAL MARINES.

Corps ribbon Blue, Yellow, Green, Red, Blue.

Sketches of Figures 32 and 33 are to accurate scale. Worn on Bush hats or Topees.

Figure 34. Title. Variation of 44 ROYAL MARINES COMMANDO.

Red letters with serifs on Dark Blue.

Specimen sketched was worn by Rev. Maurice A.P. Wood, DSC, MA when Chaplain to 44 RM Cdo. and was manufactured in Poona (India) pre-1943. In addition his Shoulder insignia included Black Maltese Cross over CHAPLAIN (on K/D slip-on shoulder strap), title ROYAL NAVY (over RM title) and, below these was COMMANDO DAGGER (Fig. 7). Rev. Wood later became Chaplain to 48 RM Cdo. Now (1976) Bishop of Norway.

Figure 35. Numeral 30 ASSAULT UNIT RM. (sometimes called 30 Commando). Embroidered on felt. Light Blue figures on Dark Blue (or Black) oblong. A 'Unit made', possibly stencilled, variety also exists.

Worn in CME in conjunction with ROYAL MARINES and COMMANDO titles. On return to UK, in preparation for D-Day, the title COMMANDO was 'taken down'.

Figure 36. Crest. SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE RM.

Silver wire parachute, Blue embroidered wings, Green frog with White chest and Yellow mouth. Frog 'holding' Gold wire paddles and floating on Green (Lily ?) leaves. Green 'S.B.' on Yellow ribbon with Gold wire edged scroll.

Figure 37. Flying suit crest. AIR SQUADRON. 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE RM.

Printed. Black RM., RA. and R.E.M.E. badges. Red dagger with Black winged hilt guard. On Green circle. Red, White, Red border with Red rope in centre. Red letters on White scrolls with Red edges. The whole on a Black background. Taken into use late 1960's/1970.

ADDITIONAL RM. INSIGNIA.

Following consultation with War Artists, and from their 'On the Spot' notes made during WW2., and from conversations with former members of the Royal Marine Battalions - the following details are available concerning RM. Battalion's Insignia worn circa 1940-43.

The cloth strips 'cut out' to form Roman numerals appear to have been cut from old Infantry Red (possibly old RMLI) tunic. From specimens in my own collection the size of the numerals were approx. 1" tall by $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide. Some were sewn onto a khaki serge backing prior to sewing onto tunic sleeves - others were sewn directly onto the sleeves.

I 1 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Information from several former members of the Battalion"

II 2 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Seen worn with Trident sign (of RM Division - Fig.10) July 19
Seen without Trident sign - in 1940 and Oct. 1941".

III 3 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Seen 19 July 1941".

V 5 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Seen 22 September 1941."

VII 7 Royal Marines Battalion.

"From my own collection - sewn onto a khaki backing"
"Originally believed that 7 Bn wore a 'cut out' Arabic '7' -
this specimen has now proved that they, like all the other
Bns, wore Roman numerals"

VIII 8 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Seen worn with Trident sign (of RM Division - Fig.10)
29 May 1942. Seen without Trident sign 21 October 1941"

IX 9 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Seen worn with Trident sign 29 May and in July 1942".

X 10 Royal Marines Battalion.

"Information from a former member of the Battalion".

XV 15 Royal Marines (Machine Gun) Battalion.

"Seen 22 April 1942"

NB. There was not a 4th Bn or 6th Bn during WW2. In WW1 the 4th Royal Marines Battalion had won imperishable fame at Zeebrugge and in honour of its achievement it was decided that there should never be another 4th Bn. (Ref. "The Marines were there" by Sir Robt. Bruce Lockhart.)

No information available regarding 11 Royal Marines Battalion insignia - the 11th Bn were the Land Defence Force of LNBDO I.

ROYAL MARINES INSIGNIA - QUERIES.

Although the following sketches were noted, during WW2 by War Artists, so far they have not been completely identified.

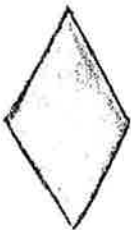
Any ROYALS who know "what" the signs represent - or even wore them - are kindly requested to contact the writer. So much the better if such information could be accompanied by actual specimens of the signs.



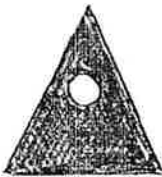
Red cloth 'cut-out' 'M'. (Unknown)
Worn below ROYAL MARINES title and seen In the Strand
22 September 1942.



Red cloth 'cut-out' 'B'. (Unknown)
Worn below ROYAL MARINES title and seen Waterloo Station
30 September 1942.



Black(or Very Dark Blue) cloth Diamond. (Unknown)
Worn below ROYAL MARINES title and seen Waterloo Station
16 May 1942.
(probably a Unit of 12 S/L Regiment RM... 'O' Bty. wore
Green diamond... JGB.)



Green triangle with White 'dot'. (Unknown)
Worn below ROYAL MARINES title... the wearer also wore a
Khaki FS Cap which had a GREEN backing behind the badge)
"Seen Waterloo Station 13 November 1942".
(probably a Unit of LNBDO II... a similar sign is depicted
on one of LNBDO II's Christmas Cards
JGB.).



Unknown. Seen London 25 April 1945.
All worn below ROYAL MARINES title.
a. 21st Army Group sign (Blue cross on Red shield);
b. Royal Artillery Arm of Service strip (Red/Blue)
c. Yellow and Blue halved triangle.



Additional Information.

Title (variation). 42 Royal Marines Commando.

Figures '42', letters R.M.COMMANDO within a border all embroidered in Red onto a Mid-Blue 'Drill' type of material.

Issued for wearing, on the formation of 42 PM Commando "by conversion" from 1 RM Battalion (July 1943).

John Bailey.
September 1976.