

THE SCARLET PATCH. Talking of hats again, it does seem to be a pity that, having lost our exclusive and original claim to the blue beret, we can no longer call the scarlet patch peculiarly our own. Perhaps it is that once again imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. All the same, there are still living those who served in the original R.M. Brigade in World War II, that is, in the First, Second, Third and Fifth Battalions which formed at Bisley under Brigadier Morford right at the beginning of 1940. They will remember that in those early days they wore a funny little khaki hat called a fore-and-after, and that the Corps badge was superimposed on this originally without further adornment. Then the idea was conceived, largely in the brain of Brigadier Morford, of setting off the globe and Laurel better by backing it with scarlet. Considerable trouble was taken over this matter, and a scarlet patch was evolved which showed up under the badge in semi-circular form and which fitted nicely at the bottom into the fold of the fore-and-after. It should be recorded, if it has not already been done elsewhere several times, that the shape of this patch followed closely on from that worn on the old Brodrick and, on the abolition of the Brodrick, of the first peaked caps which came a long time before the red band of the present caps was ever thought of.

As always in a war, many varieties of hat or cap were to be seen around between 1940 and 1950, not the least of which was the beret (blue for Marines) which had to be taken into wear with all forms of dress, owing to the manufacture of sufficient blue caps being just not on. With the blue beret, naturally, went the Globe and Laurel. Between the two it was right and proper that the scarlet badge should be inserted. So you have thus, gentlemen,

This is where we came in, and I repeat that it does seem a pity when one sees the scarlet patch as well as the blue beret being used in so many other fields today.

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