

POST-WAR BRITISH ARMY UNIT MARKINGS

It would be quite a challenge to compile an article to encompass all permutations of unit markings. It is far easier to present the documents as they are found so the reader can tease out the information directly. Not only does that save me from a challenging task but it gives clear authority as to the actual prescription for a particular date.

There has been no unified source for marking requirements. These extracts have been found in Regulations for the Equipment of the Army, Staff Duties in the Field, Notes on M.T. Administration, Materiel Regulations, Equipment Regulations, Standing Orders, Road Transport Regulations. These documents are now either obsolete or unclassified.

Mention must be made of the fundamental changes to unit markings that started in April 1977 and completed in April 1978. This was the result of a review of the vehicle signing policy as part of the Defence White Paper of 1975. This prompted the elimination of vehicle signs that were not strictly necessary, this was on tactical and financial grounds.

As part of a “One Army” concept, TAVR units were to be treated in the same way as the regular units. Integral to this was the abolition of fancy signs that had emphasised this distinction and made the identity of any unit so very obvious to an observer. However to this day, unit pride often results in vehicle markings that are contrary to the prevailing Road Transport Regulations.

Further details of signage can be found in the articles on “Painting”.

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