

THE OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

REGIMENTAL SHOULDER TITLES 1885-1965

Khaki Drill (K.D.) uniforms were issued in India in 1885 and it was on this dress that metal titles were first used by all ranks. Home service and other forms of dress at first had the title of the regiment stitched into the shoulder straps.

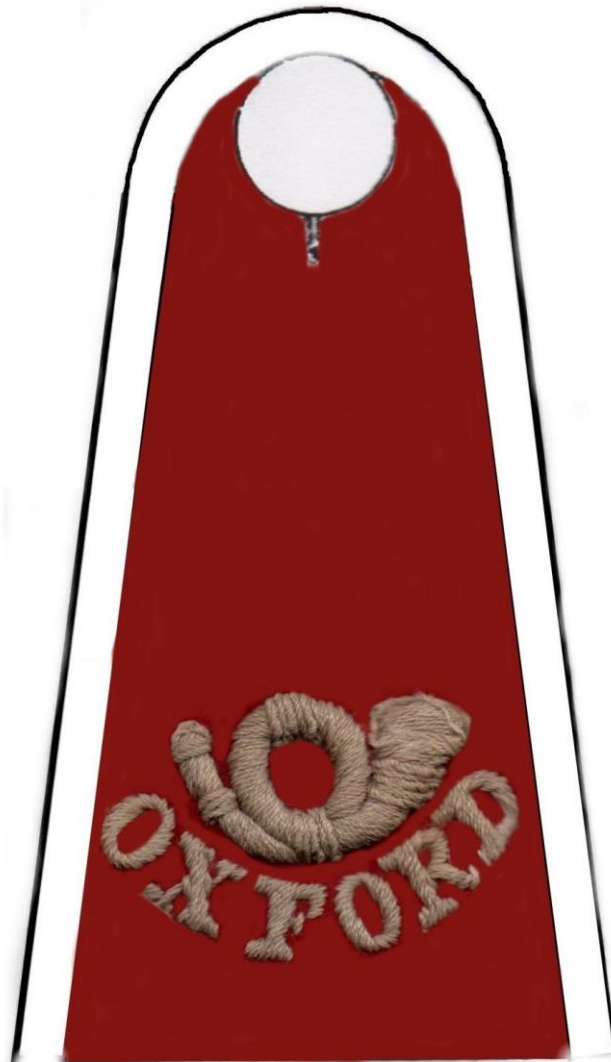
Embroidered titles were used on the service dress that was introduced in 1902; these were retained until 1907 when the Priced Vocabulary of Clothing and Necessaries for that year stated that embroidered titles would be replaced by metal. The Regulations go on to say that: Titles, etc, will be worn on the shoulder straps of tunics, S.D., and K.D. jackets, and greatcoats.¹

1885 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE

18th July - Metal Shoulder Badges, consisting of a brass bugle with "Oxford " in brass underneath, were taken into wear. These were given by the Officer Commanding, to be kept up by the men, and to be worn on khaki clothing.



The full dress tunics of the 1887-1902 period had on the shoulder straps the embroidered title of a French Horn over OXFORD. An almost exact replica of this title in metal was the first to be worn on the khaki service dress.



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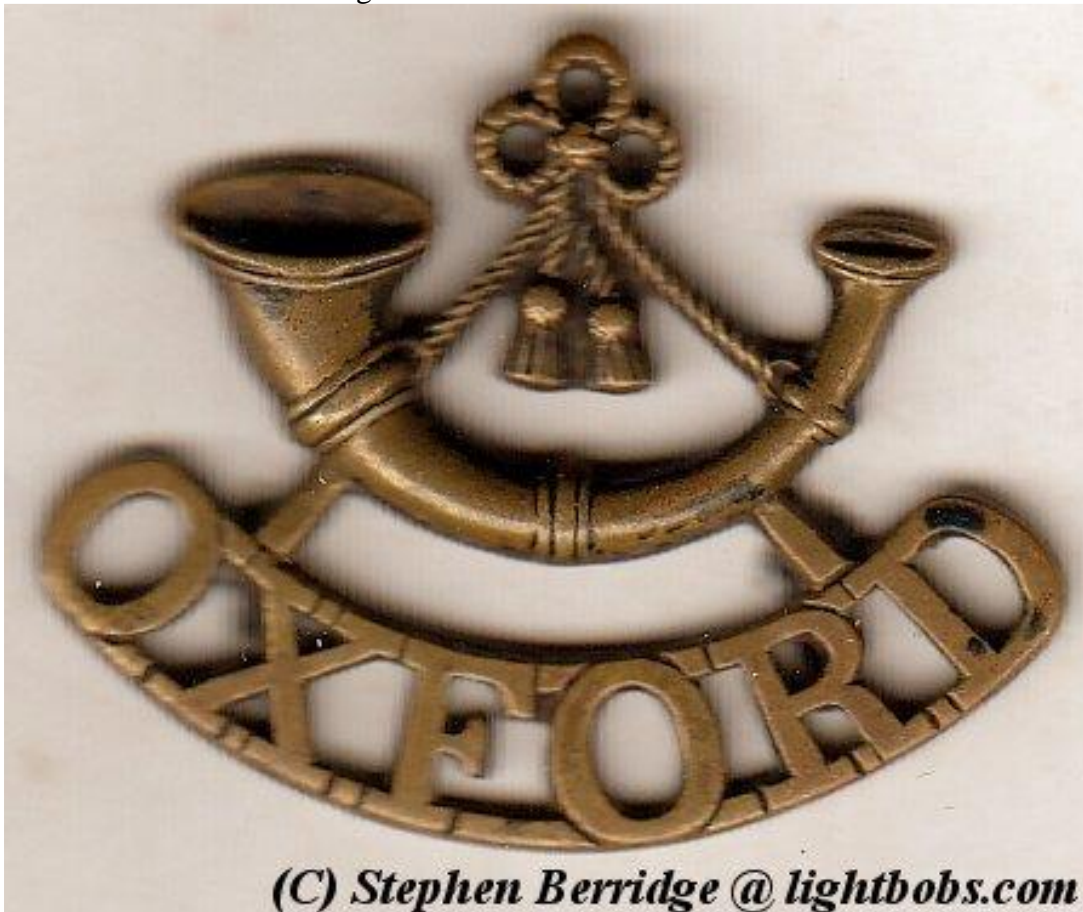


A Colour Serjeant of the
4th (Oxfordshire Militia) Battalion c1895.
Note the 4 above the title denoting a Militia Battalion.



From the 1906 Regimental Chronicle the embroidered
shoulder title can be seen.

By 1900 a smaller bugle/OXFORD had been introduced for other ranks, the officers having the same title but without the bugles.¹



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Other Ranks shoulder title c1890-1903



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Officers Shoulder Title c1899-1903 worn on the Khaki Service Dress

OXFORD

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Other ranks embroidered shoulder title worn on Khaki Service Dress below the shoulder straps 1902-1907. A separate battalion numeral was worn below the title.



Photograph from the 1903 Regimental Chronicle showing the "new" 1902 Pattern Service Dress uniform.

The title and numeral worn on top of the sleeve below the shoulder straps can be clearly seen.

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The Regulations go on to say that: Titles, etc, will be worn on the shoulder straps of tunics, S.D., and K.D. jackets, and greatcoats.¹



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Other Ranks Shoulder Title 1907-1908 and also recorded to be worn by the 2nd battalion until 1914.

In 1908 the title of the Regiment was changed to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and with it a change of shoulder title:-



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Other Ranks Shoulder Title 1908-1920

Also in 1908 the Territorial Force was created with a battalion in each of the counties. In Oxfordshire the battalion was numbered as the 4th (TF) Battalion. In Buckinghamshire the battalion was known as The Buckinghamshire Battalion and is dealt with separately.



An Other Ranks brass shoulder title for the 4th (TF) battalion. Although manufactured this pattern appears not to have been worn by the Battalion, instead the brass shoulder title below was worn.



An Other Ranks brass shoulder title for the 4th (TF) worn on Service Dress



and in White Metal on the Scarlet Full Dress tunic.

During the 1914-18 War “one piece” shoulder titles began to appear although the Regiment appears not to have adopted these until c1920.



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Other Ranks Brass Shoulder Title c1920-1939 & c1946-1954

With the introduction of “BattleDress” uniform in the late 1930s it was intended that no metal titles were to be worn, instead a khaki “Slip On” title appeared, to be worn on both Battle Dress and later the Greatcoat.



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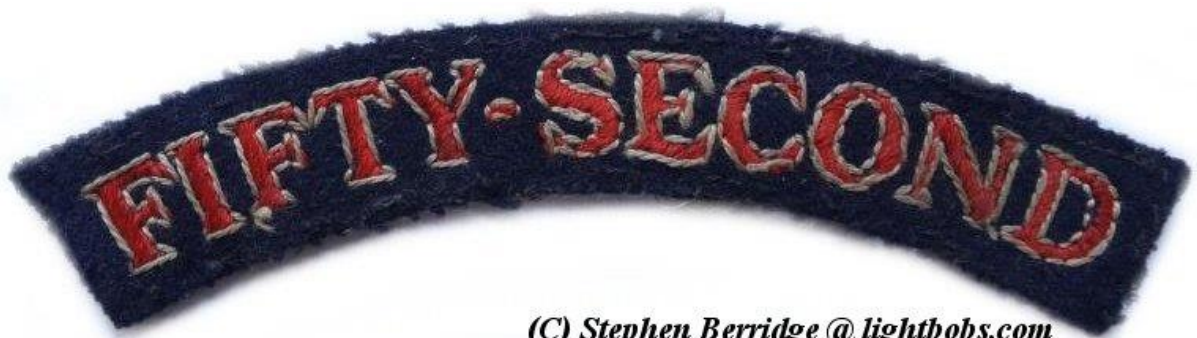
Other Ranks Slip On Shoulder Title c1939-1943

Regimental Chronicle 1942

Jan 1942 - The Regiment was allowed to choose the style of regimental title to be worn on the shoulders in battledress. The title finally chosen was the word "Fifty-Second" in Regimental colours, which looked very well and was most popular with all ranks

1942 In December (1942) the 52nd lost its "Fifty-Second" shoulder title. The powers-that-be had noticed it and pronounced it highly irregular. Be that as it may, its loss was felt keenly by all ranks and the title "Oxf. Bucks" which replaced it was not received with any enthusiasm.

There are various accounts that despite the "official" loss of this title it continued to be worn within the battalion.



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All Ranks Embroidered Shoulder Title worn by the 2nd Battalion 1942-1943



(C) Stephen Berridge @ lightbobs.com

All Ranks Embroidered cloth Shoulder Title 1943-1946 Also issued Printed on canvas



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1950 REGIMENTAL JOURNAL APRIL NUMBER 116

Dress

(c) Shoulder titles-worsted gold lettering OXF & BUCKS LT INFNTY on a Light Infantry green backing.

Note. The War Office has ruled that in future the Regiment will wear the shoulder title OXF& BUCKS L. I., but that existing stocks of present shoulder titles will be used up. The new OXF & BUCKS L. I. designations will be an ordnance issue. Therefore at present the OXF & BUCKS LT INFNTY shoulder titles will continue to be worn.



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All Ranks Cloth Shoulder Title c1946-1950



A Serjeant of the Regiment c1950

1953 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE

Officers Dress Regulations

(b) Shoulder Titles

“Oxford & Bucks L.I.” in gold lettering on a Light Infantry green background.



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All Ranks Cloth Shoulder Title c1950-1958



Corporal Roy Bailey of the 1st Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
(43rd & 52nd).



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Other Ranks White Metal Shoulder Title 1954-1958.

These titles were adopted by the Regiment when part of the Light Infantry Brigade. This same title continued to be worn on the battledress blouse by the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (TA) Battalion until c1963.



Her Majesty The Queen inspecting the guard of honour with Captain K. H. Lander, the guard commander

In this photo of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (TA) from the 1960 Regimental Chronicle the White Metal OXF & BUCKS title can be clearly seen worn on the shoulder strap and above the cloth GREEN JACKETS shoulder title.

In 1958 the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (43rd & 52nd) were transferred from the Light Infantry Brigade to the Green Jacket Brigade as 1st Green Jackets (43rd 52nd) and adopted the embroidered **GREEN JACKETS** shoulder title on the top of the battledress sleeve and a black metal **43RD & 52ND** on the shoulder strap of the battledress blouse, Number 2 Dress jacket and on tropical dress.



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All Ranks Black Metal Shoulder Titles worn by 1st Green Jackets (43rd & 52nd) 1958-1965



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All Ranks cloth shoulder title worn by all members of the Green Jackets Brigade 1958-1965

In 1963 the 1st Green Jackets (43rd & 52nd) were converted to a "Rifle Regiment" this had no effect on the Regular Battalions shoulder titles but the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (TA) replaced their White Metal "Regimental" titles with Black ones to denote their new "Rifles" status and were worn until 1967 when they became part of the 4th (V) Bn Royal Green Jackets.



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Other Ranks shoulder title 1963-1967 Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (TA).

Sources

Various volumes of the Regimental Chronicles of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry and the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 1892-1965

1. Collecting Metal Shoulder Titles by Ray Westlake