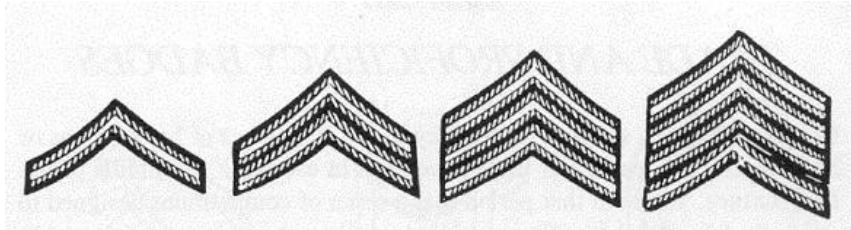


Good Conduct Chevrons, Overseas Service Chevrons & Wound Stripes

Good Conduct Chevrons

Good Conduct Chevrons were originally introduced in 1836. They awarded to ORs below the rank of Sergeant, and were worn on the *right* lower sleeve. In 1881 this was changed to the *left* lower sleeve. A man wearing them also received the relevant “good conduct” pay. Because they were for good conduct and the man received a gratuity they could also be forfeit for misconduct and had to be “re-earned”! Once a man was promoted to Sergeant they had to be removed. To Old Sweats they were known as “G-Flogs” or “GCs”.

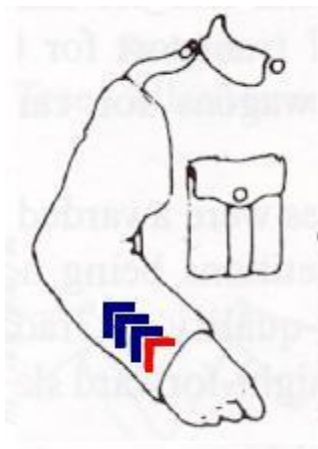


2 Years, 6 Years, 12 Years and 18 Years Good Conduct Stripes.
With example of 18 Years Good Conduct Stripes along with 3 Wounds Stripes on Left Sleeve.

Overseas Service Chevrons

Officially styled “Chevrons for Overseas Service”, they were awarded under AO 4 of 1918 and under the amendment in AO 132 of 1918. Nominal Rolls for submission were compiled in April 1918 – that for 8/RWK survives and is dated 20 April 1918. They could be worn in combination with Good Conduct Stripes, and were not limited to junior ranks. One Blue Chevron was worn for each year’s service overseas, with a Red Chevron indicating that the soldier went overseas before 31st December 1914. Four Blue Chevrons and One Red Chevron was the maximum awarded.

OS Chevrons were discontinued in 1922, though they reappeared (all years in red) 1944-45.



Overseas Service Chevrons – showing the maximum number (right) (1 red –1914 & 4 blue – 1915, 16, 17, 18)

Wound Stripes

The French introduced a wound stripe in early 1916 known as *Insigne des blessés Militaire*. The British Army followed this in August 1916 – official Army Orders (AOs) or Army Council Instructions (ACIs) as follows:

AO 204 of 6 July 1916

The following distinctions in dress will be worn on the service dress jacket by all officers and soldiers who have been wounded in any of the campaigns since 4 August, 1914:-

'Strips of gold Russia braid, No.1, two inches in length, sewn perpendicularly on the left sleeve of the jacket to mark each occasion on which wounded.

In the case of officers, the lower end of the first strip of gold braid will be immediately above the upper point of the flap on cuff. Warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men will wear the gold braid on the left sleeve, the lower edge of the braid to be three inches from the bottom of the sleeve. The additional strips of gold braid, marking each subsequent occasion on which wounded, will be placed on either side of the original one at half-inch interval.

Gold braid and sewings will be obtained free on indent from the Army Ordnance Department; the sewing on will be carried out regimentally without expense to the public.'

ACI 1637 of 22 August 1916 states;

'.... it is notified for information, that the term "wounded" refers only to those officers and soldiers whose names have appeared, or may hereafter appear, in the Casualty Lists as "wounded".

The braid will be supplied to officers and soldiers under regimental arrangements, and Commanding Officers will ensure that it is not worn by those who are not entitled to it.

sufficient for two jackets will be supplied to each man.'

ACI 2075 of 3 November 1916 states;

'1.... the term "wounded" refers only to those officers and soldiers whose names have appeared or may hereafter appear in casualty lists rendered by the Adjutant General's office at a base overseas, or by the G.O.C. any force engaged in active operations.

Reports in hospital lists are not to be regarded as authoritative for this purpose.

2. Officers and men reported "wounded - gas," or "wounded - shock, shell," are entitled to the distinction.

Accidental or self-inflicted wounds or injuries do not qualify."

Approval was given in an AO, dated 7 June 1917 for the extension of the provisions of AO 249 of 1916, to include members of the Military Nursing Services, including those of the Dominions, members of Voluntary Aid Detachments and special probationers employed in military hospitals.

AO 1, dated 6 March 1919 extended the eligibility to Officers, Soldiers and Nurses wounded in any campaign prior to 4 August 1914. Official casualty lists constituted the authority.

Wound stripes were discontinued in 1922, but reintroduced in February 1944, only to be discontinued again after the war.



The metal version of the wound stripe with back-plate and cotter pin