

REGIMENTAL STANDARDS

The custom of displaying the Colonel's arms on Standards and appointments was quite unofficial; nevertheless it persisted until 'expressly forbidden' by the Regulations of 1743. As with Infantry Colours, junior subalterns carried Standards of Horse: the cavalry rank of Cornet was derived, like that of Ensign, from the old term for the Colour that was entrusted to him. However, in 1796 a Warrant declared "His Majesty approves that the Standard should be carried by a steady Non Commissioned Officer". The present practice of having cavalry Standards borne by Warrant Officers was not instituted until 1822, when His Majesty was pleased to command that the Standards in cavalry regiments shall be carried in future by Troop Sergeant Majors. The official reasoning behind this change was that a Cornet was usually too young and inexperienced to be entrusted with such a precious emblem, though the same thinking did not apply to the Infantry, whose Colours have been borne by subalterns down to the present date.