

The badge (or device or crest) of the Heir Apparent (The Three Plumes) was granted to the 23rd Foot in 1714 on the change of title of the regiment to The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers, in recognition of its service in Marlborough's campaigns. It is possible that this badge could have been used by the regiment earlier than 1714. It certainly appeared on the Colours in 1742 and its use was confirmed by Royal Warrant dated 1st July 1751. It consists of three white feathers (or plumes) behind a gold coronet. The scroll below the coronet bears the motto *Ich Dien* (German for 'I Serve').

For the 41st Foot, the use of the Prince of Wales's Plumes was authorized in December 1831 and the badge appeared as a device, together with the regimental motto, on the Colours that were presented to the 41st Foot in 1841. These Colours were carried throughout the subsequent campaign in Afghanistan. In 1881, the Plumes were adopted as the centre badge of the helmet plate of the newly titled Welsh Regiment, and later, in 1899, adopted as the cap badge on introduction of service-dress caps. This cap badge, with the scroll 'THE WELSH' and later 'THE WELCH' beneath, was worn with distinction by thousands of Welshmen throughout the two World Wars



A version of this badge was introduced in 1960 as a common badge to be worn by all three infantry regiments in the Welsh Brigade when the familiar regimental cap badges worn by Welsh soldiers since before the Great War were discontinued. However, in 1970 the Royal Welch Fusiliers reverted back to their previous badge, a grenade flamed, proper, inscribed 'Royal Welch Fusiliers', within the crest of The Prince of Wales.

On its formation in 1969, soldiers of The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) continued to wear the Welsh Brigade design despite disapproval by many of this pattern as it did not conform to the traditional design for The Prince of Wales's crest. Accordingly in 1973, steps were taken to rectify this. A number of draft sketches were prepared and rejected, but finally one was finally accepted by the Regimental Committee and approved by the Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales. This design was submitted to the College of Arms and the Army Dress Committee. In the event, its approval was a formality and revised design was introduced for the Royal Regiment of Wales in November 1975. It is this 1975 badge differenced by a scroll with the words 'THE ROYAL WELSH' upon which the present-day regimental cap badge is based. Soldiers wear a silver anodised version with a green square backing. Officers and Warrant Officers wear an embroidered version with the edging in green integral to the badge when used with a beret and blue edged when worn with a No. 1 dress cap. A larger version of the cap badge is used in the front of bearskin and seal-skin caps and on the front of pioneers' aprons when in ceremonial dress. This new cap badge was adopted by 3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh on 28th February 2009 and by the 1st and 2nd Battalions on 9th March 2009.



This crest is thought to have originated with Edward, the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III. According to legend, the Black Prince obtained the arms from John of Bohemia, amongst whom he fought in the battle of Crécy in 1346. After the battle, the prince went over to the body of the dead king (whom he admired for his bravery) and took his helmet, lined with ostrich feathers. The feathers and the dead king's motto made up the prince's new badge and came to be used by subsequent Princes of Wales. Technically, the badge should be described as the Duke of Cornwall's plumes or feathers, as the badge is that of the eldest son of the sovereign, whether or not he has been invested as Prince of Wales.

This badge without the scroll 'The Royal Welsh' and with a red background appears as the centre badge on both the Sovereign's and the Regimental Colour of The Royal Welsh. This follows the tradition when in 1747 thirteen regiments were specifically authorised to bear centre badges on both Colours. The thirteen included both 23rd Foot and 41st Foot.