

The War Badge.

As the Great War progressed it had become the practice by some women to present a white feather to men who appeared to be fit and able bodied and not wearing the King's uniform as a sign of cowardice. This practice became upsetting and distressing for the men who had served but had been honourably discharged especially to those who were deemed unfit for further military duties. In September 1916 a Sterling silver War badge was issued together with an official certificate of entitlement. The main purpose of this badge was to indicate to these women and to any other doubters that the wearer was not a coward and should not be considered one. There were approx. 1,150,000 of these War badges (also known as Wound, Discharge or Services Rendered) issued. Each badge was uniquely numbered on the reverse and was to be worn on the right breast of civilian clothes only.



The certificate of entitlement shown below was on parchment paper and measures 15.5 inches X 19.5 inches. Both items are now collector's pieces.



Gordon Weedon