

E. R.

Mr Kendrick

POPPIES OR OTHER EMBLEMS

1. Thank you for letting me see the attached Home Office Circular 25/1985.

2. This precedent could indeed be potentially awkward for us. Poppies may be uncontroversial in GB but they are certainly not here in Northern Ireland. Our present policy is not to allow prisoners to wear any badges/emblems at all and I think we should stick to that. To allow poppies would be difficult viz a viz other emblems from the other side. But I hope we are not put in the position of having to defend the decision not to allow poppies. Let us hope that word of this change in GB does not filter through.

S C JACKSON

27 August 1985

To All Prison Department Establishments

Requests by Prisoners to Wear Poppies or other Emblems

It has been decided that inmates should be permitted to wear a poppy to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Governors should ensure that arrangements are made in good time each year so that inmates will be able to make a donation to the Earl Haig fund and obtain a poppy if they wish to do so.

This instruction applies only to requests by prisoners to wear a poppy. Governors should use their discretion when considering requests from prisoners to wear other emblems or badges and should not permit the wearing of emblems which are offensive or could threaten control.

MISS P C DREW

P3 Division

Prison Department

15 August 1985

PDG/85 174/22/1

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22.8.85
Mr Brown Advice, please
Mr Jackson SCT
22.8.85
A procedure?
Will this cause us
problems?
B 21K

The Governor
HM Prison
MAGILLIGAN

WEARING OF THE 'STAR OF DAVID' AT HM PRISON, MAGILLIGAN

A prisoner awaiting trial in C Wing at Belfast Prison submitted a board paper to the Department recently requesting permission to wear a 'Star of David' necklace. During our research, it was discovered that Protestant prisoners at HM Prison, Magilligan are permitted to wear the Star of David on necklaces.

It has been decided that the Star of David is not acceptable as a religious emblem other than for a member of the Jewish faith. Moreover, in Northern Ireland it has acquired a paramilitary significance, especially to certain Loyalist groups. Therefore, Mr Jackson has agreed and I have been asked to inform you that no more necklaces with a Star of David should be admitted to your prison unless they are being worn by or are intended for wear by a Jewish prisoner. However, any prisoners now wearing a Star of David may be permitted to retain it.

A. E. McKEONNIE

Northern Ireland Office
Dundonald House
BELFAST

5 February 1982