

Vintage Rhode Island State Police Insignia

By Jim Ignasher



1986 Ford Crown Victoria

The Rhode Island State Police were established in 1925. There are some indications that in the 1920s – 30s they may have worn a simple uniform shoulder patch made of black felt with red lettering that read, "State Police". In recent times someone has reproduced such patches to be sold to collectors.

The first R.I.S.P. patch pictured below is sometimes known as the "anchor style", and was worn from the 1950s to about 1966, when the "capitol" patch was introduced.

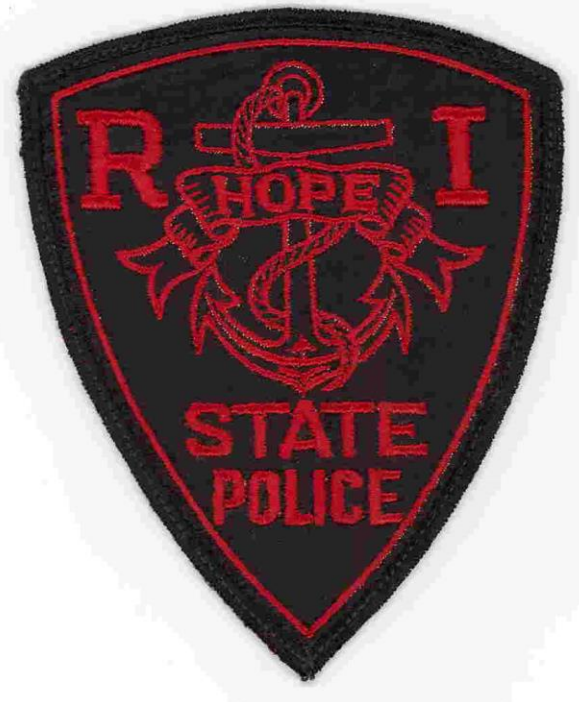
Two variations of these anchor patches were produced. The first and more common variation was made with a ribbed twill-fabric background and was worn on regular uniforms. The second variation had a black silk background and was worn on dress uniforms.

These "anchor patches" are highly sought after by collectors and because of the rarity of these emblems have been reproduced. Ways to tell the difference between the originals and reproductions are as follows:

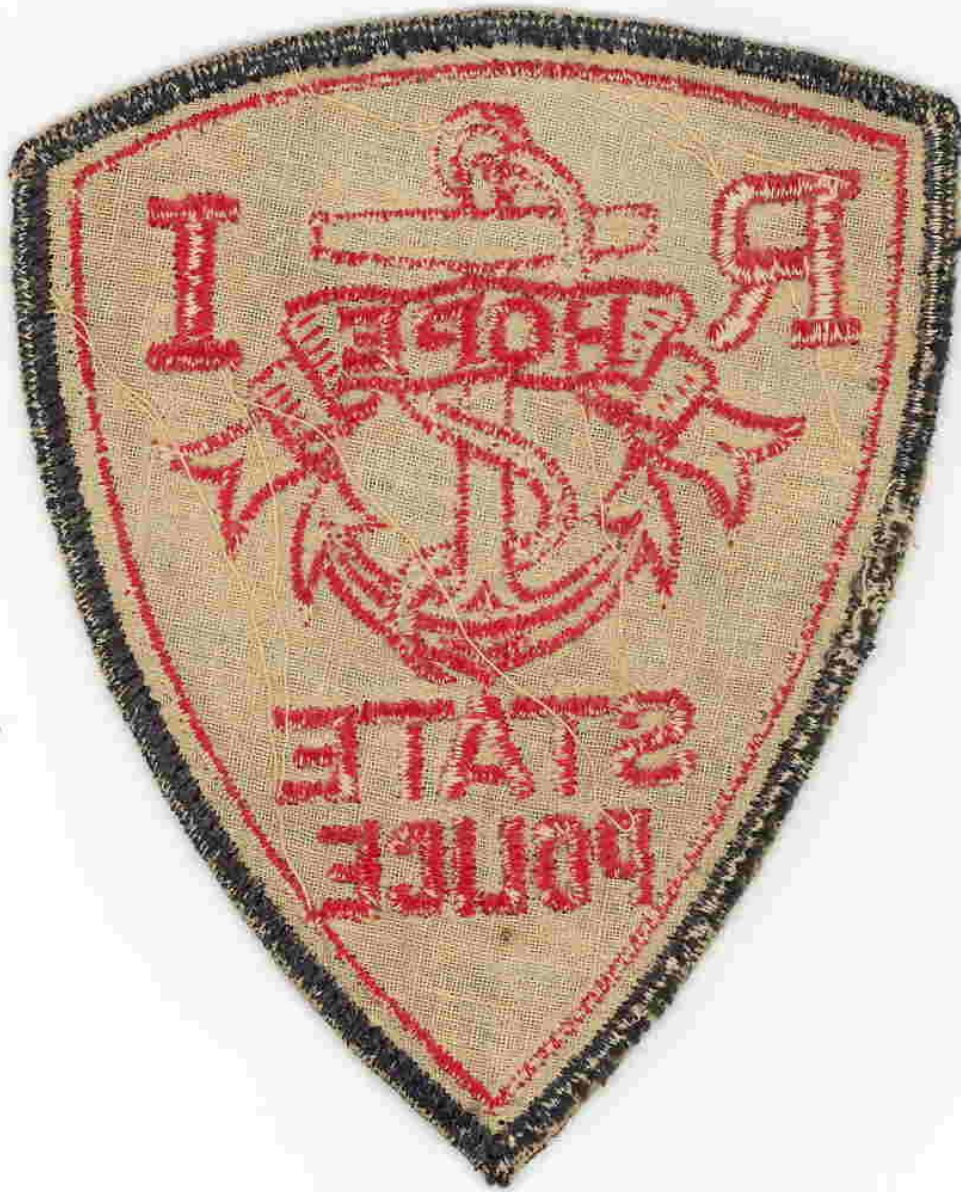
- 1) Virtually all originals will have been worn at one time, and will be "uniform take-offs". (Look for the stitching holes.) Any mint condition originals are exceptionally rare.
- 2) The original twill background patches have a manufacturing defect in the anchor cord, the reproductions do not.
- 3) The reproduction "silk" emblems are made with a shiny nylon background – not silk.
- 4) The backs of all original patches will have a fine cotton cloth backing which is not woven into the fabric of the patch. (See examples next page)



Twill background “anchor style”
Note the defect in the anchor cord.



“Anchor Style” Silk Version
No defect in the anchor line.

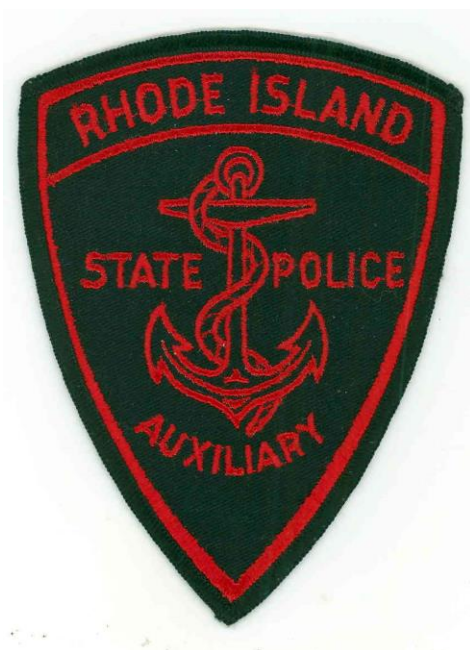


Reverse side of an original patch.



Reverse side of a reproduction.

During the 1950s and early 1960s the R.I.S.P. had auxiliary troopers. These emblems are also uncommon.





This emblem was worn, but for some reason the lettering was dyed blue.



Reverse side showing blue dye.



An original version of the American Legion Auxiliary patch.

About 1966 the R.I.S.P. adopted a more attractive patch depicting the state's capitol building which is still being worn today. The original patches had a grey background, but ones currently worn by the agency have a black background.



An early version of the "Capitol Patch" with a grey background and a detailed image of the state's capitol building.



A later version of the "Capitol Patch" with a grey background and a more detailed American flag.
The current emblem worn by the R. I. S. P. has a black background.



The 75th Anniversary patch was only worn for one year on the right shoulder of the uniforms.