

# People's Liberation Army Flag, Unit 8706 with Red Guard Armband

**Date:** 1968

**Media:** Printed silk & printed cotton.

**Comment:** The Red Guards were paramilitary units of radical students and workers which were formed during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution or Chinese Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976. It was the response to Mao Zedong's call to revitalize the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese Communist Party, and by extension China itself.

During this era the Red Guards made banners and flags and began wearing red armbands, scarves and pins and carrying the infamous Little Red Book. As evidenced by this flag, the students and workers evolved a cult of Mao, and his image often graced these items.

Translation of the characters reads: "Memorial to honor, having received a cordial meeting with the great leader Chairman Mao on August 11th 1968; The great leader Chairman Mao meeting with military cadres is the greatest glory and the great happiness of our army; all the comrades of the 8706th unit having participated in Mao Zedong Thought call held by Chinese Communist Party Central Committee in Beijing."

This is framed with a companion piece, ZFC3016, an armband inscribed, "Proletarian revolutionary rebels' great unified command center City of Tianjin, Copper Electrolysis Plant."

Chinese Cultural Revolution items, while ubiquitous in China between 1966 and 1976, are quite scarce in the West.

**Provenance:** Acquired by Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0753 & ZFC3016) by private purchase in 2004. [www.FlagCollection.com](http://www.FlagCollection.com)