

CUSTOM & TRADITIONS

The Headdress Badge of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

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As the centenary of the Landing at Gallipoli approaches it is worthwhile examining the origins of our Regimental hat badge which, while not worn by our Gunners at Anzac, epitomises the professional standards they, their predecessors and their successors strove for and provides a link with our brother artillery regiments of other nations of the British Commonwealth.

It is unfortunate that there has been considerable misinformation in relation to the actual year the badge was introduced in Australia; therefore, this article aims to provide a conclusion to that discussion and, incidentally, to establish when the battle-honour 'UBIQUE (Everywhere)' was first adopted by the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA).

In January 1902 the British Army introduced a khaki drab Service Dress (SD) for normal wear by all ranks at home or abroad. As a consequence, a new design of cap badge was introduced for the Royal Artillery (RA) incorporating a field gun surmounted by a scroll bearing the battle-honour UBIQUE, above which was an Imperial crown. Below the gun was a scroll bearing the motto 'QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT (Where Right and Glory Lead)'. This badge design was enthusiastically adopted by the majority of artillery corps of the dominions and colonies of the British Empire, appearing with a bewildering variety of mottos and unit designations in the scrolls.

The Australian artillery did not initially follow this trend, preferring to retain various designs of the grenade for both its Permanent and Citizen Force units, supplemented within its expeditionary forces by the Commonwealth pattern general service badge - the 'rising sun', and the RAA scroll badge.

In 1921 distinctive corps and regimental badges were abolished within the Australian Army and the Commonwealth pattern badge was adopted by all ranks.¹ During this latter period the Australian Gunner, whether Permanent or Citizen Force,

officer or other rank, was identified only by his scarlet hat or cap band, and the scarlet and dark blue colour patches at the sleeve head of his jacket.

Figure 1 (see next page) shows the brass Commonwealth pattern badge being worn on the brim of the khaki felt hat, the SD cap, and the collar of the SD jacket in accordance with *Standing Orders for Clothing, Part 3, Dress, 1925*.

A suggestion in 1924 supporting the re-introduction of regimental badges and buttons was firmly rejected by the Military Board (MB) but by the end of this decade the matter had obviously come under further consideration.² In July 1929 the MB circularised formations seeking submissions from units and staffs in regard to designs for corps and regimental crests, stressing the necessity for simplicity of design to reduce the cost of associated unit cap and collar badges based on the crests '...when their issue is re-introduced...'³.

From the artillery point of view many of the submissions from formations and units supported the re-introduction of the former Australian Field Artillery (AFA) and Australian Garrison Artillery (AGA) hat and collar badges in use prior to 1921. These badge designs, although no longer worn on the uniform, were still in use as regimental crests, adorning stationery and mess crockery. There was a general agreement that all units of each branch should adopt the same pattern of badge.

There were however a number of submissions suggesting that the badge of the RA, or a variant thereof, be adopted by the whole of the Australian artillery. Foremost amongst these was from LTCOL H.C. Bundock, the GSO2 (Arty) on the staff of the Director of Military Training, who noted that the RA badge had recently been adopted without modification by the Canadian artillery and suggested that a similar design, perhaps with the replacement of UBIQUE with AUSTRALIA, might be adopted here for both Permanent and Citizen



Figure 1. Gunners K.E.H. Stillman (left), Whitaker and Walsh of the 2nd Heavy Brigade RAA (circa 1928) (Glyde Collection)

Force artillery.⁴ The Commander Divisional Artillery, 2nd Division, believed the RA embraced in sentiment all dominion artilleries and that '...the affiliation that exists should be of the closest possible character...', considering that the regimental crest of the AFA should be the badge of the RA complete with all mottos.⁵ Finally the Acting Commandant, 2nd District Base, whose command included 1st Field Battery RAA, 1st Heavy Brigade RAA and 1st Heavy Brigade AGA, recorded that the consensus of opinion amongst these units was that the badge should be similar to that of the RA provided that authority could be obtained.⁶ He also gave his opinion that the question of the adoption of the motto UBIQUE was one for consideration, noting his understanding that it had recently been introduced in Canada.⁷

The most important aspect of the submissions by these latter officers is that it completely challenges our modern Regiment's perception of both the origin of our hat badge, and the introduction of the battle honour UBIQUE. Until now reliance for the former has been placed wholly on a 1960s publication by the late Alfred Festburg that identifies the gun badge as being worn continuously by the RAA from 1913 and, by association, that the motto UBIQUE has

been in use since that year.⁸ Despite providing no source material to support his assertion, in fact photographic and documentary evidence argues wholly to the contrary, subsequent writers have simply perpetuated this view.

The submissions make it clear that in 1929 our senior Gunners were in fact only then proposing the introduction of the gun badge, that no such badge was in use at that time as is claimed by Festberg, nor had it been previously. At this time also, the adoption of the battle-honour UBIQUE was a subject to which it was felt that consideration could be given, particularly on the basis of its recent adoption by the Canadian artillery. The battle honour was quite obviously not then in use in Australia.⁹

Instructions in regard to items of dress and scales of issue for both Permanent and Citizen Force members are very precise in identifying the Commonwealth pattern badge as the only authorised headdress badge during the decade 1921 to 1930. Nor is there evidence that such a badge may have existed prior to this. The annual Priced Vocabulary of Clothing and Necessaries (PVCN) describe only the grenade or RAA cypher as the current issue headdress badge for the RAA up to and including the

1921-22 editions.¹⁰ Furthermore LTCOL Bundock, the senior Gunner representative on the General Staff at Army Headquarters, akin to the post-Second World War Director Royal Artillery, had been commissioned into the RAA in 1908 and it is improbable that his recommendation in 1929 for the adoption of a similar badge to that of the RA would have failed to mention that an identical badge had already been on issue to the RAA -if that had previously been the case.

The Director of Ordnance Services advised all formation and district base HQ on 10 April 1930 of the details of badges that had been approved for corps of the Australian Military Forces. Notwithstanding that no correspondence has yet been sighted to suggest that permission was sought from the War Office for the use of the RA badge design this list almost certainly included an artillery badge; The Mercury, a Hobart newspaper, in its regular Naval and Military column dated 14 May 1930, records that regimental badges for the field and garrison artillery had now been approved. The statement in this article that the motto QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT would be replaced by CONSENSU STABILES immediately identifies the new design as having been based on the badge of the RA. On 7 July 1930 the Secretary, Contract Board, advised the Quartermaster-General that tenders were now being invited to govern the production of badges for the period ending 31 August 1933. The list of badges included 6500 hat badges for Artillery, this being the estimated requirement for the first year of issue. Badges were to be of 20 gauge BWG brass, dipped bright and scratch brushed on both sides.¹¹ The tendering process was open until 25 July 1930.

Stokes and Son, a well established badge manufacturer of Caledonian Lane, Melbourne, was the successful tenderer. They produced the design shown in Figure 2 on which the motto in the centre banner of the RA badge was replaced by the title AUSTRALIA, and the motto on the two outer banners by 'CONSENSU STABILES'.¹² The battle-honour UBIQUE was retained on the upper scroll. The shape differed slightly from that of the RA badge, being based on designs manufactured by Stokes for the volunteer and territorial elements of the New Zealand Artillery prior to the Great War. The upper scroll was flatter, and there was no step in the gun carriage for the elevating screw.¹³

It has not been established when the first issue of this badge was made; however, The Sydney Morning Herald dated 30 September 1930 records the parade of 1st Heavy Brigade RAA on the previous day as

the first occasion that full dress uniform had been worn since the Great War, referring to the "...shine on the dot of the 'i' in Ubique ..." from which it might be assumed that an initial issue had been made to the RAA by this date. In *The Advertiser*, an Adelaide newspaper, an article dated 30 January 1931 records that new hat badges, similar in design to that of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, had been issued to members of the various batteries in South Australia, regarding it as "... interesting ... [that the] ... old motto UBIQUE ..." had been retained.¹⁴



Figure 2. Stokes and Son manufactured Design

What does seem to have escaped general comment at this point is that, in addition to adopting a common hat badge and battle-honour, the three separate regiments; the RAA, AFA and AGA, now served under a common motto - 'CONSENSU STABILES' (Strong in Agreement), previously carried only by the RAA. Also at this time the first suggestion that steps be initiated for the granting of the title Royal to the Militia artillery was raised, culminating just over six years later in the amalgamation of the AFA and AGA as the Royal Australian Artillery (Militia) RAA(M).¹⁵

The badge was issued to all ranks of the RAA Regiment, up to and including staff sergeant, and all ranks of the AFA and the AGA, for wearing on the forage cap, SD cap, khaki felt hat, and the white cork Wolseley pattern helmet and was attached to the headdress by lugs with a short shank and a retaining pin. It was the practice within some units to wear this badge on a background of scarlet facing cloth that showed around the edges of the badge.¹⁶ In December 1937 approval was given for other ranks of the RAA(M) to wear it on the coloured Field Service cap.¹⁷ At that stage all officers and warrant officers serving with the RAA Regiment were members of the Australian Staff Corps or the

Australian Instructional Corps and wore the badges appropriate to their respective Corps.

Figure 3 shows the regimental badge now in evidence on the SD cap- in accordance with Standing Orders for Dress, 1931. Note that a grenade, common to both PMF and Citizen Military Forces (CMF) other ranks, is being worn as a collar badge. In the following month approval was given for other ranks of the RAA Regiment to wear the RAA cypher badge on their collar.

Immediately prior to the Second World War a metalware manufacturer, Henry Arendsen, of Malvern, Victoria, produced a variant badge design bearing a close resemblance in detail to that worn today (see Figure 4). It is not certain why two distinctly different strikings of this badge were accepted by the MB, although it is probable that a surge in requirements had led to the introduction of a second supplier. On the outbreak of war all supplies of badges were directed to be of lacquered or oxidised finish. Both designs will be noted with a gloss black lacquer over the original gilding metal finish, subsequent supplies being manufactured in oxidised copper. The supply of badges for the CMF ceased in January 1941, although they could continue to be worn by members already issued with them and stocks held in store could continue to be issued and worn while they lasted.¹⁸ Wearing of regimental and corps badges by the Australian Army



Figure 4. H. Arendsen Manufactured Design

was discontinued completely in March 1942 and the Commonwealth pattern general service badge was issued in lieu to all Gunners.¹⁹

Post-war dress for the Army, issued in September 1948, authorised the wearing of distinctive headdress badges by the Australian Regular Army and the newly reformed CMF. Subsequently, instructions were given that pre-war stocks of badges on hand could be issued.²⁰

The motto of the regiment changed to 'QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT' at the beginning of 1950 although Alfred Festberg records that the regimental badge design had been redrawn in 1949 to incorporate this motto.²¹ There is no evidence



Figure 3. 1st Field Cadre RAA at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW, 24 May 1933, (Glyde Collection)

however that a pattern of badge bearing the new motto and ensigned with the Tudor crown was ever manufactured or issued in Australia because of the general post-war manufacturing difficulties affecting all aspects of Service requirements.²² The requirement to redraw the design because of the change of crown from the Tudor to the St Edwards pattern following the death of HM King George VI in 1952 and the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II to the throne also complicated matters. It is believed that the new badge was issued from about December 1954, in a gilding metal finish, and was die-struck by both Stokes and Sons of Melbourne and Amor Pty Ltd of Sydney. In shape it was almost identical to the former Arendsen design (see Figure 4), and for officers and Warrant Officers Class One now came with an additional gun wheel superimposed on the badge, a common practice on British Commonwealth artillery badges even prior to 1902, but neglected on post-Federation Australian designs until now (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. Stokes and Sons Manufactured Design for Officers, 1954

During the early 1960s super pure aluminium was selected as the preferred material for badge manufacture and existing designs were supplied in this material as replenishment of stocks became necessary. It is believed that anodised hat badges for the RAA were introduced by early 1972. These were identical in design to the die-struck brass badges but were produced in a gold anodised finish and attached to the headdress by pins and a clutch grip.²³ Initial manufacture was by Swann and Hudson of Frankston, Victoria, and later by R. Simpson (Aust) Pty Ltd. An anodised example with superimposed gun wheel is maker marked HAWKE (see Figure 6). Some other examples are devoid of the manufacturers' markings. The older gilding metal design was declared obsolescent but continued to be

issued until remaining stocks were exhausted. Anodised aluminium badges were phased out from January 1997 and replaced by plated metal badges with pins and clutch grips.



Figure 6. HAWKE Manufactured Design

These badges have been worn during the post-Second World War period on the Hat, Khaki Fur Felt, the Cap, Forage, blue or khaki, the beret, and on the white helmet by members of the RAA bands. Smaller sized badges in brass or gold wire embroidery were worn on the beret from the 1980s, the former being purchased at the wearer's expense from the regimental shop.

It can thus be established beyond any doubt that the earliest introduction of our current Regimental badge (see Figure 7) and the adoption by the Regiment of the battle-honour UBIQUE occurred simultaneously in 1930. The year 2015 will therefore represent a period of 85 years during which all branches of the Regiment, Permanent and Citizen Force, Regular and Reserve, have served Everywhere under the gun badge.



Figure 7. Current Issue Design

End Notes

1. *Standing Orders for Clothing*, Part 1 and Part 2, 1921; and *Standing Orders for Clothing*, Part 3, 1922 and 1925. The Commonwealth pattern badges were in gilding metal for all officers and all other ranks of the Permanent Forces. Other ranks of the CMF were issued oxidised metal badges. In 1928 warrant officers of the CMF were given permission to wear gilding metal badges.
2. Military Board Instruction (MBI) Q.32 of 17 May 1924.
3. NAA: B1535; 716/2/11, Regimental Crests and Badges, 1929-1930, Defence memo 8750 of 9 July 1929 (Circular Memorandum MB 332/1929).
4. NAA: B1535; 716/2/96, Corps Badges, 1929-1930, Minute, General Staff, Artillery Section, to the Adjutant-General dated 29 August 1929.
5. *ibid*, CDA 2 Div 1929/225 of 16 September 1929 to HQ 2 Div.
6. *ibid*, HQ 2MD Letter 20487, LTCOL J.L. Hardie, Staff Corps, Administering Command 2DB, to the Secretary, Military Board, dated 17 September 1929. 1st Field Battery RAA was a predecessor to the current A Battery RAA.
7. *Standing Orders Volume I (Customs and Traditions) for The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery*, Revised August 2011 [paragraph 105], records that authority was granted to wear QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT and UBIQUE on its appointments by HM King George V on 5 August 1926. Daniel Mazeas, *Croquis d'Insignes Armee Canadienne 1920-1950: Canadian Badges*, self-published, Guingamp, France, 1970, gives GO 42/1927 as the authority for the adoption of the badge bearing these mottos. It should be noted however that the motto QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT had been in use on headdress badges by the permanent elements of the Royal Canadian Artillery since the late 1870s and by the artillery of the Non-Permanent Active Militia since 1904. The Canadian artillery adopted the RA pattern badge in 1904 with the word CANADA appearing on the upper scroll in place of UBIQUE until 1927.
8. Festberg, Alfred N., *Australian Army Insignia, 1903-1966*, Military Historical Society of Australia, Victorian Branch, 1967, pp 42-43. This publication incorrectly identifies the Stokes design as being worn from 1913 to 1930, and the Arendsen design as worn from 1930 to 1942.
9. Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 71 of 12 Dec 1903, Part 1. - *Regulations for Uniform, Equipment, &c., for the Royal Australian Artillery*, directs that certain articles of officers' full dress, such as belt buckles and pouch badges, were to be as for those of the RA with the exception that the motto UBIQUE was to be obliterated from them.
10. The motto CONSENSU STABILES was wholly that of the permanent RAA until 1930 and would not have been used on headdress badges by CMF artillery units between 1912 and 1922 as these latter, if worn, were purchased at regimental expense and generally conformed to the design of the badges on issue at public expense prior to 1912.
11. Birmingham Wire Gage, a standard for describing the thickness of metal strip or wire, in this case 20-gauge represents .035 of an inch. Bright dipping is a peroxiding process that stops the metal tarnishing after its initial brightening.
12. Stokes and Son was notified as the contractor for RAA hat badges vide MBI Q.127/1931 of 31 Aug 1931, MBI Q.95/1933 of 30 Dec 1933, and Australian Army Order (AAO) 270/1937 of 30 Nov 1937. This badge first appeared in PVCN 1931, issued in November of that year, with a listed price of 5½ pence, which cost remained unchanged in subsequent editions up to and including 1940.
13. *The Register News-Pictorial* dated 31 January 1931 carries a photograph of the new hat and collar badges for the artillery [trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/54169007], while *The Queenslander Illustrated Weekly* dated 30 April 1931 carries on page 4 an article entitled *Bits of Metal. What They Tell of Military History*, listing the '...new hat badge in gilt of the Australian Artillery...', a photograph of which appears on page 36 of the same edition [trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23138341].
14. Authorisation to wear approved regimental badges in lieu of the Commonwealth pattern badge appeared in an amendment to *Standing Orders for Clothing Part 3, Dress*, 1925 promulgated in AAO 191/1930 of 17 Apr 1930, and was confirmed by *Standing Orders for Dress*, 1931 and 1935 editions.
15. NAA: B1535; 716/2/96, Minute, LTCOL Bundock to the Adjutant-General dated 29 Aug 1929; AAO 12/1936 of 31 Jan 1936 notified the granting of the title Royal to the Militia elements of the Australian Artillery and Engineers.
16. *Standing Orders for Dress*, 1931 and 1935 editions provide for regimental badges to be worn on a background of facing cloth in the colour of the Arm, showing 1/16th of an inch around the badge, although this reference is specifically to collar badges on officers SD jackets.
17. MB 19163 of 9 Dec 1937.
18. NAA: MP508/1; 36/702/107, MB 1038 of 7 Jan 1941.
19. *ibid*, MB 22049 of 2 Mar 1942 and MB 28410 of 19 Mar 1942.
20. MBI 167/1948 of 3 Sep 1948.
21. Festberg, Alfred N., *Hat Badges of the Australian Army 1948-1971*, Part No. 1, Plate 8. Published by the author, Melbourne, May 1971.
22. The AHQ Dress Committee acknowledged a great difficulty in the production of badges at their meeting on 18 Sep 1951 although this was apparently rectified by late 1955. See NAA: MP927/1; A36/1/166, AHQ(MGO) Letter 61/03/443 of 15 Oct 1951; *ibid*, AHQ Dress Committee Agendum No. 31/1955 of 27 Sep 1955. Festberg, *Australian Army Insignia, 1903-1966*, p.43, purports to show such a badge but it is of British manufacture, not Australian, and differs completely from the 1949 drawing he shows in *Hat Badges of the Australian Army 1948-1971*. It is of course possible that examples were privately purchased from military outfitters in the United Kingdom and worn by RAA officers. Articles appearing in *The Mercury* and *The Examiner* both dated 12 October 1951 provide a drawing of the new badge, stating that it had been approved and will be worn by all members of the RAA, from which a conclusion might be drawn that final design approval had occurred only recently prior to the date of the articles.
23. Specification Army (Aust) 5368.