



HISTORY OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY CAP BADGE

Physical description

Brass cap badge of a muzzle-loading gun on ground facing left, a rammer resting against the wheel, above is a scroll bearing a pair of back-to-back sprays of laurel, resting on which an Imperial (King's) crown. Below all an elaborate scroll bearing QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT (Where faith and glory lead). Remnants of a pair of lugs are on the reverse.

History note

The laurel sprays in place of the motto UBIQUE on the upper scroll identify this as a badge worn by a Territorial artillery unit in the period pre-1917.

The decision in 1832 that the mottoes granted to the Regular Artillery should not extend to non-Regulares (see below) resulted in many variations to the basic badge. For example, Volunteer Force badges worn 1902 - 08 were all in white metal with VOLUNTEERS on the UBIQUE scroll, while in Territorial gunner units the UBIQUE scroll bore a spray of laurel until 1917, when they were granted the Regular honour.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery was formed in 1722 and until 1833 the Royal Cypher or Ordnance Arms were used in badges. In 1832 a badge was granted comprising the Royal Arms, a cannon and, to the Regular artillery only, two mottoes. This was brought into use by a General

Order in 1833. (The same two mottoes were Gazetted at the same time to the Royal Engineers - London Gazette, 10 July 1832).

The pattern of the Royal Arms differed in detail over time but invariably included the quartered shield within the Garter belt and motto, a crown and lion above, the Lion and Unicorn supporters, a scroll bearing DIEU ET MON DROIT below.

Below the latter was a cannon, a muzzle-loading field gun on ground, with a rammer propped against one wheel, and the two mottoes. Above the gun was a scroll bearing UBIQUE (Everywhere) and below it the second scroll bearing QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT (Where fate and glory lead).

The motto “Ubique” took the place of all battle honours. There was a minor change to the pattern of the gun in 1871 to reflect the taking into service of the 9pdr. Field gun.

This “Royal Arms and Gun badge” survived a number of re-organizations and remained in use until 1902 when the gun and two scrolls, with a (King’s) crown added above the top scroll, became a headdress badge in its own right, the “gun badge”.

In officers’ versions of this badge the gun wheel usually rotated.

The “gun badge” remained unaffected when, in 1924, the Garrison, Royal and Royal Field Artillery groups were united as a single Corps of Artillery.

The Royal Horse Artillery retained a separate identity within the Royal Regiment of Artillery and in 1935-6 adopted an alternative badge for the field service and later for the general service cap (beret-style), otherwise wearing the gun badge.



The Royal Horse Artillery Cap Badge

When in 1883 the field service cap was taken into wear the “Royal Arms and Gun” badge was found too large and heavy for this headgear and from about 1890 the collar badge of a fused grenade, with no scroll below, was taken into use in its place.



Collar badge of a fused grenade.

(The RA grenade has 7 flames compared to the Royal Engineers one which has 9)

The cap was taken out of service in 1902 but re-introduced in 1939. Presumably taking the 1883 use of the fused grenade for this type of headgear as a precedent, grenade collar badges, with the “Ubique” scroll below, was taken into use for this cap from 1939 to 1943. When the general service cap (beret-style) was introduced in 1943 the gun

badge was worn. After the Second World War, from around 1948, a smaller version of the gun badge was introduced for the beret. The gun badge remains in use to the present day.