



THE CAP BADGE OF  
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

## THE ROYAL ARTILLERY

Unlike the infantry Regiments of the line, the Artillery has no Regimental Colours - its colours are the guns themselves.

Nor does the Artillery have several battle honours - its single battle honour is the one word '*UBIQUE*' (EVERYWHERE).

UBIQUE - Everywhere

QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT - Where Right and Glory Lead

## THE BATTLE HONOUR - '*UBIQUE*'

Battle Honours seek to record occasions when a unit has distinguished itself in war.

Commemorations of such notable exploits of a unit's past help create and maintain a pride within itself.

The first Battle Honour, or Honorary Distinction as it was correctly called, was awarded in the British Army to the 18th Royal Irish Regiment by King William III for its service at the siege of Namur in 1695. Thereafter the custom of granting Battle Honours became more common.

All the regiments which took part in the defence of Gibraltar (during the Great Siege of 1779-83) were allowed to bear the title '*GIBRALTAR*'. This included a number of batteries from the Royal Artillery. The Gunners were also awarded the Battle Honour '*WATERLOO*'.

In 1832, King William IV of England granted the Royal Regiment of Artillery the right to wear on their appointments the royal arms and supporters over a cannon with the motto, "*Ubique Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt*" (Everywhere Whither Right and Glory Lead).

In 1833, however, to reflect its role on every battlefield, King William IV ordered that it should bear the Battle Honour title of *Ubique* ('*Everywhere*') as it should be distinct and separate and was to substitute for "*all other terms of distinction for the whole Regiment*". This was the end of all other Battle Honours in the Royal Artillery.

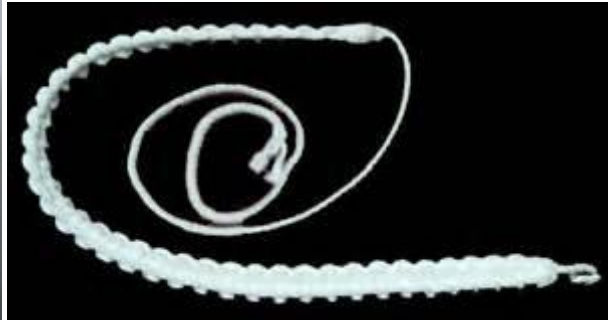
The Battle Honour (*Ubique*) is unique to the Gunners. It simply means that wherever there is a battle the Gunners are there, serving and supporting.

A committee was assembled in 1882, under Major General Sir Archibald Allison, to review all the past history of the British Army and to regularise the holding and the granting of Battle Honours, less the Royal Artillery who had already been given the single Battle Honour '*UBIQUE*'.

Battle honours are not to be confused with "Honour Titles" which are borne by a number of batteries in the Royal Artillery.

## THE ORIGIN OF THE WHITE LANYARD

The lanyard had a genuine purpose in war. It was originally a piece of cord, approximately a metre in length, used to secure a jack-knife which was issued to both the artillery and the cavalry. The knife had a number of uses; the blade was for cutting loose horses which became entangled in the head and heel ropes of the picket lines, and the spike of the knife was used as a hoof pick, for the removal of stones from horses hooves. A fuse key was also attached to the lanyard.



Hanging loose, the lanyard soon became dirty and for the day-to-day barrack routine it looked out of place on an otherwise smart uniform; so for peace time purposes the lanyard was plaited, and whitened with Blanco, to match both the white bandolier and the white waist belt worn by the gunners of the day. The lanyard was worn on the left shoulder with the end containing both the knife and fuse key tucked into the left breast pocket.

In 1920 the lanyard was moved to the right shoulder, simply because of the difficult problem of trying to remove the knife from the pocket underneath the bandolier. By now the bandolier and belt, worn with battle dress, had long ceased to be white, whilst the lanyard remained so.

The knife was removed in 1933 and the lanyard then became a straight cord, worn purely as an ornamental item of dress.

In 1955 it was, for a short time, reintroduced in the plaited style, but it quickly went back to the straight lanyard currently worn today.