

The Royal Engineers: Symbols and other information

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SYMBOLS

The Corps Badge (The Royal Arms)



William IV granted the Engineers permission to wear the 'Royal and Supporters', together with a cannon and the motto 'Ubique quo fas et Gloria ducunt' (Everywhere Right and Glory lead) in 1832.

The Royal Engineers Militia, Volunteers and Territorials, had a lightly different badge in that the motto Ubique was omitted from the scroll, in its place was a laurel branch.

The Cap Badge



The cap badge was first used as a hat badge on the khaki helmets issued to troops during the South African War of 1899-1902. It is made up of the Garter and Motto (Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense) surmounted by a crown. In the centre is the monarch's initials.

The Monogram or Cypher



The Monogram or Cypher is used on notepaper, cards and other official documents.

Royal Engineer Grenade



The grenade first appeared on Royal Engineers uniform in 1824 when it was worn on the tail of an Officer's full dress coat. In 1825 a brass grenade was introduced for other ranks of the Royal Sappers and Miners. Later the grenade came to be worn on the epaulet and then the collar. In 1922 the '9 flamed' grenade was authorized (whilst the Royal Artillery grenade only has 7).

SONGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CORPS

Wings

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iH75BFU95CA>

Wings is the Regimental March of the Royal Engineers. It is a combination of two tunes, scored by Bandmaster Newstead of the Royal Engineers Band. The tune was officially recognised in 1902.

Hurrah for the CRE!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZiUnmRta-E&list=PL55EB1A24178B974B>

The Corps song, Hurrah for the CRE originated during the South African War is sung in a mixture of English and Zulu to the traditional South African tune of *Daer de die ding*.

*Good Morning Mr Stevens and windy Notchy Knight,
Hurrah for the CRE
We're working very hard down at Upnor Hard,
Hurrah for the CRE
You make fast, I make fast, make fast the dinghy,
Make fast the dinghy, make fast the dinghy,
You make fast, I make fast, make fast the dinghy,
Make fast the dingy pontoon.*

*For we're marching on to Laffan's Plain
To Laffan's Plain, to Laffan's Plain,
Yes we're marching on to Laffan's Plain
Where they don't know mud from clay.*

*Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,
Ooshta, ooshta, ooshta, ooshta,
Iknoa malee, picaninny skoff,
Ma-ninga sabenza, here's another off.
Oolum-da creid Matabele,
Oolum-day, away we go.*

*Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah, ah,
Shush..... Whoow!*

PATRON SAINT

The patron saint of the Royal Engineers is Saint Barbara. Saint Barbara lived during the mid-third century and is the patron saint because of her old legends association with lightning and mathematics.

Her story consists of her being carefully protected by her father who kept her locked in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world, Barbara then become a Christian in secret. When her father found this information out he took upon his sword to kill her but her prayers created an opening in which she was transported to a mountain gorge where two shepherds watched their flocks. Her father pursued her rebuffed by the first shepherd but then betrayed by the second who turned to stone and his flock turned to locusts. Her father tortured her however because she kept true to her faith each night her wounds healed and the flames set to burn her would distinguish when they came near her. Her father then sentenced her to death to be carried out by him, however after the beheading as punishment he was struck by lightning and his body consumed by flames. Saint Barbara's tomb then became a site for more miracles.

Saint Barbara became the patron saint of artillerymen. She is also traditionally the patron of armourers, military engineers, gunsmiths, miners and anyone else who worked with cannon and explosives. She is the patron Saint of the Italian navy also. Saint Barbara's day is also celebrated by many other army military corps including the Royal Artillery and RAF armourers and also many sections of the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, Irish and Norwegian armies that deal with explosives. She is also the patron Saint of the US Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance men.

THE CORPS COLOURS



Pantone Colours

Blue: 2965c, Red: 202c