
The Corps Instructions
of the
Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers



Corps Instruction Twenty Nine

“Artificer’s Qualification Badge”

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14 October 2018

Corps Instruction Number Twenty Nine – Badge Qualification Artificer

References:

- A. Army Dress Manual, Chapter 4

Introduction

1. The concise Macquarie Dictionary defines an Artificer as; ‘a skilful or artistic worker, one who is skilful in devising ways of making things; an inventor’. Recognition as an Artificer is widely regarded as being the pinnacle of a tradesman’s career.

Aim

2. The aim of this instruction is to provide guidance on the eligibility criteria and detail the presentation protocols for the Badge, Qualification, Artificer (hereafter referred to as the ‘Badge’).

Description

3. The Badge, as shown in Annex A, is a representation of a crossed blacksmith hammer and pincers. The Badge is to comply with all of the design requirements detailed in Reference A.

Eligibility Criteria

4. Appendix 403 to Reference A states the badge is to be worn by a member who has qualified as an artificer, in accordance with Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers policy. Qualification as an Artificer in RAEME is achieved by successfully completing the required promotion and trade courses listed below.

5. **Aeroskills Based Artificer Categories.** The training requirements to progress to Artificer Aircraft (ECN 411-5) and Artificer Avionics (ECN 412-5) are the successful completion of the following courses:

- a. Subject 2 Warrant Officer Combat Service Support
- b. Subject 4 Warrant Officer Aviation Technician Ops
- c. Aviation Technician Quality Systems Auditor.

6. **Ground Based Artificer Categories.** The training requirements to progress to Artificer Mechanical (ECN 006), Artificer Electronics (ECN 007) and Warrant Officer Recovery (226-10) are the successful completion of the following courses:

- a. Subject 2 Warrant Officer Combat Service Support
- b. Subject 4 Warrant Officer Artificer’s Course.

Wearing of the Badge, Qualification, Artificer

7. Members of the Corps at the rank of SGT who have successfully completed the mandated training courses relevant to their Employment Category in Para 5 or 6 above are entitled to wear the Badge.

8. Additionally, members of the Corps in the following employment categories are also entitled to wear the Badge on Ceremonial and Mess uniform:

- a. Mechanic Recovery, ECN 226-12A
- b. Artificer Ground, ECN 013

- c. Artificer Air, ECN 021
 - d. RAEME RSM, ECN 350-15A
 - e. Officers who have previously met the eligibility criteria.
9. The entitlement to wear the Badge remains extant for personnel who have been assessed as eligible under the provisions of previous versions of this Corps Instruction.
10. Once the eligibility criteria have been satisfied personnel are entitled to wear the Badge, Qualification, Artificer regardless of rank, Employment Category or Corps.

Artificer Scroll

11. The Artificer Scroll provides a mechanism to formally recognize the achievement of Artificer Status within the corps and to be presented in conjunction with the Badge. An example of the Artificer's Scroll is shown in Annex B.

Presentation

12. The presentation of the Badge is to be organized and managed by the relevant Course Manager in the respective school (RAMS, ASEME, ASLO).
13. Presentation of the Badge is to occur at the successful completion of the required course for each trade. Where possible, the presentation is to be made by HOC RAEME or his representative.

Arte et Marte

Annexes:

- A. Badge, Qualification, Artificer,
- B. Example of Artificer Scroll
- C. History of the Artificer Badge

Badge, Qualification, Artificer

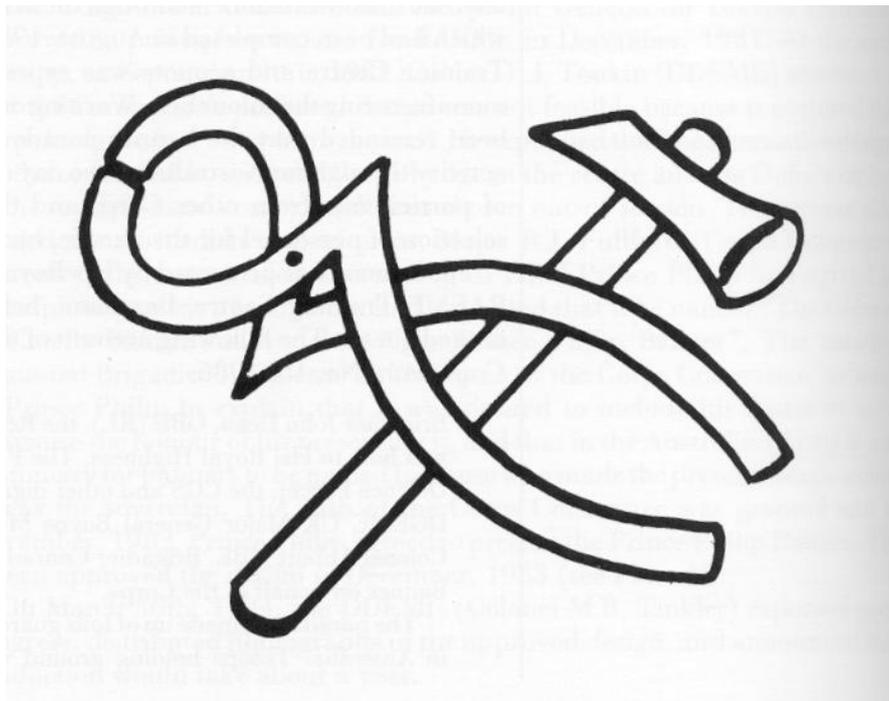


Fig 1: The badge as shown is a representation of crossed blacksmith hammer and pincer



Artificer's Scroll

From this day forward

Harry Bluebell

is recognised as an

Artificer

in the

**Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical
Engineers**



Dated the 1st day of December 1942

Recognition as an Artificer in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers acknowledges the attainment of professional mastery in soldierly and technical skills, knowledge and attitudes. The Badge Qualification Artificer was authorised for reintroduction by the Australian Army in 1989.

An Artificer is an Army higher technician, possessing in addition, the personal qualities and skills to lead, to train, to coordinate and to initiate. They must have supervisory skills, technical skills, military skills and instructional skills. An Artificer must understand their craftsman, be able to manage their shortcomings and coordinate their efforts towards a productive and specific outcome. An Artificer must show initiative, be ambitious and have a desire for achievement of higher standards. Integral with much of their day to day functions is the ability to communicate clearly and confidently in both the written and verbal form.

You are charged with the responsibility of furthering the highest standards of Army values, core behaviours and technical mastery and in fostering esprit de corps within the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. You are to diligently discharge your duty whilst speaking, advising and working with commanders, officers and soldiers of all levels.

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BRIGADIER

Head of Corps

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

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HISTORY OF THE ARTIFICER BADGE

1. The origin of the Artificer badge goes back to the early part of the 19th century. During this period the badge (a representation of crossed hammer and pincers), was worn by tradesmen of the British Army. The Badge gave instant recognition of the blacksmith and the armourer, the only 'trades' required in the early years of military mechanisation. It was only in the latter part of the 19th century when machinery became more complex that the title 'Artificer' was commonly used, the badge denoting a higher class of metal working.
2. In 1882 the Corps of Artificers was formed and members of this Corps generally wore the uniform of the regiment to which they were posted but with the Artificers badge worn to denote their profession. The Corps of Armourers and the Corps of Artificers together with the Ordnance Store Corps (formed in 1865) were amalgamated in 1894 to form the Army Ordnance Corps, the forerunner to the RAOC. The hammer and pincers badge continued to be worn by tradesmen in the Army Ordnance Corps throughout the Boer War, World War 1 and the interim years.
3. In 1942 the Corps of REME was formed and the tradesmen brought their badges (hammer and pincers) with them into their new Corps. REME Artificers wear them to this day as recognition of their specialist skills as do Artificers of several other Commonwealth Armies. It is a badge that is held in high regard.
4. The Australian Military Forces Standing Orders for Dress, 1935 stated that the Armourer Staff Sergeant was authorised to wear the distinguishing badge of the hammer and pincers. This is the first official recognition of the Artificer qualification in the Australian Army and the badge was worn throughout World War 2 mainly in a black oxidised finish by entitled personnel. No record can be found of when the badges ceased to be worn but it is believed to be one of the many embellishments and forms of dress which ceased to exist at the end of the war.
5. The reintroduction of the Badge was authorised by Army Office in 1989.