

Australian Army Medical Badges



**Pre-federation State Forces to
RAAMC**

Alan Beckerleg

The reason why

Back in 1967 as a young CMF Infantry storeman in 2RVR (now 8/7RVR), while on a training weekend at the Ranger Barracks in Ballarat I failed to cover the butt of the RQMS. When the CO of the Battalion came to the Q Store enquiring as to the whereabouts of the ARA Cadre Stores WO2 I made a vague statement that he may be out in one of the stores sheds knowing full well that he was giving the old Ballarat Bitter a bit of a touch up at the Robin Hood Hotel around the corner from the Depot. The CO knowing the habits of the RQMS duly sprung him getting Brahms and Liszt. As a consequence of my inability to tell porkies to the senior officer in the battalion on the following Monday Parade night I found myself being issued with a new set of corps flashes and hat badge and reporting to my new allocated place of employment, the battalion RAP.

Thus began my 30 years of employment, both part time and fulltime in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. I served as both an Assistant Medical and as a Clerk Admin within the Corps over that 30 years, from Pte Medic in Hospital units to WO2 Asst Admin at HQ 2 Div Med Svcs. Many of the units I have served in no longer exist or have been re-roled and renamed as the Army has evolved into the organisation it is today.

The reason why I have compiled this book, from many sources is that there has been no one source which has collated the many badges and patches of the Australian Army Medical Services into one publication. As a beginning collector of Medical Corps memorabilia I was amazed to find that for a relatively small Corps there had been so many badges issued over the first century of the Corp's existence. That is not to mention those badges and patches which were in use by the State Forces prior to Federation.

I trust that this book will be of assistance to my fellow medical militaria collectors.

Alan Beckerleg

Colonial (State) Militias NSW



**This was the initial badge used by the NSW Medical
Staff from the 1870s.**

NSW 2



This one appeared to be in service for some short time in the 1880s

NSW 3



This badge was brought in during the 1890s and was worn by the NSW Medical contingent which served in the Boer war and continued to be worn by the AAMC following Federation until 1903 when an Australian Army Medical Corps Badge based mainly on this design was struck and issued.

Queensland



The general Service Helmet plate was worn by members of the Queensland Defence Force from 1884 until 1902. By 1901 there were nineteen medical officers and several score of Ambulance Corpsmen in uniform in Queensland

Queensland 2



The unofficial regimental Corps badge of the Army Medical Corps in the Queensland Defence Force. This was cast in the period 1900-1902 but never issued. The identity of the Queensland Medical Department was subsumed into the AAMC after Federation in 1901.

Victoria



**This badge was used by the Medical Corps of the
Victorian Defence Force from the 1880s until Federation
in 1901**

South Australia



**South Australian Medical Corps badge used from
1880s until Federation 1901**

Tasmania



This badge is alleged to have been used by the Tasmanian Defence Force Medical Corps but the King's Crown is suggestive that it may have been another badge minted after the death of Queen Victoria and probably did not get general issue prior to Federation.

That could mean that the State Militia Crest would have been in general use by the Tasmanian medics.

West Australia



**This was the State badge for the WA Defence Force but
no Medical Corps or Department badge as such
Appears to have been issued.
The strong probability is that doctors and medics wore
the badge of their parent unit prior to Federation.**

Australian Army Medical Corps Badges 1903-1917



**Height: Hat Badge 69mm
Cap Badge 41mm
Collar Badge 31mm**

Finishes: Brass, oxidized with painted cross

Badges also worn in brass and oxidized with voided cross

Shoulder titles: AAMC

Motto: Paulatim (Little by little)



The voided cross badge, red felt was placed behind the badge to produce the red cross.

This badge also came in oxidized and in all three hat, cap and collar sizes

AAMC 1917- ? 1925



**Height: Hat badge 46mm
Collar badges 31mm**

**Finishes: Oxidised, void and non-void
Shoulder titles: AAMC**

AAMC ? 1925-1948



**Height: Hat badge 70mm
Collar badges 32mm**

Finishes: Brass and oxidised

AAMC Officer's Enamelled



Height: Hat badge 70mm
Collar badge 32mm

These are noted by Cossum as being very rare and may have been in use up to 1955 despite change to RAAMC in 1948

RAAMC 1948-1955



In 1948 the Corps became Royal.

**Height: Hat badge 45mm
Collar badges 31mm**

RAAMC 1955



In 1955 the Queen's crown badge came into general use
On hat and collar badges.

RAAMC 1972 -



Anodised badges with clutch pins replaced the hat and collar badges
and are still in use

References:

1. J.K. Cossum: Badges of the Australian Army Volumes 1-3
2. J.K. Cossum: Australian Army Badges, cloth insignia of the army in Australia 1860-1993
3. Alfred N. Festberg: Hat Badges of the Australian Army 1903-1930
4. COL John Pearn: Arms and Aesculapius
5. Monty Wedd: Australian Military Uniforms 1800-1982

