

The History of the REME Cap Badge

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The history of our cap badge is well documented in *Craftsmen of the Army Volume 1* and in an article, 'The History of the REME Cap Badge' by Major D. J. Wright REME, which appeared in *The REME Journal* in 1982. This article is a 'potted' version giving the key facts about the history and development of the basic REME Cap Badge.*

Much of the detailed planning for forming REME, including the purely domestic details, was the responsibility of the Adjutant General of the time, General Sir Ronald Adam. In April 1942 he set up a committee to deal with the potential administrative or 'A' problems and other implications of the decision to form the Corps. The end product of this committee's work was Army Council Instruction (ACI) 1605 of 1942, published on 1 August 1942. The Chairman of the committee was Major General Oliver Edgcumbe (late Royal Signals) who was the Director of Organisation (later redesignated Director of Manning).

The Director of Mechanical Maintenance (DMM) – the immediate forerunner of the first Director of Mechanical Engineering (DME) – took the initiative by insisting that the new Corps should have a badge that was an expression of its purpose and invited suggestions from all Commands. More than 100 designs eventually arrived and these were set out in a large room of the War Office for inspection. DMM invited three senior and three junior officers to join the members of the Edgcumbe Committee to

* This article only describes the three approved basic Corps badges and not the many variants (e.g. the use of the 'calliper' type 'collar dogs' on side hats; the use of current 'collar dogs' as an inset in the badge for the Corps Band; and the many cloth badges. Indeed in *The REME Journal* 1982 article, 25 different badges were identified!

