



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICE HAT BADGE

From 1948 to 1995, various forms of hat badges were worn by Australian Army Apprentices.

1948 – 1952

Initially, Apprentices were issued with the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces Rising Sun badge (collar badge size) for wearing on khaki (later changed to navy blue) berets and blues caps. There is evidence that the larger hat size badge was also issued for wearing on berets. This was the “Third Pattern”, struck in 1904. Once the “Fourth Pattern” became available, from 1949, stocks of that version started to appear, however the “Third Pattern” was still being issued into 1951.

The 7th Intake, on enlistment in January 1952, were issued the new shiny gilt “Fourth Pattern” collar badge size. Anecdotally, Apprentices polished their burnished “Third Pattern” badges as they had seen soldiers returning from Korea and Japan doing. The “Fifth Pattern” badge, with the Saint Edward’s Crown may also have been issued and worn after 1954 before the Apprentices School badge became fully available.



Third Pattern



Fourth Pattern



Fifth Pattern

1951 – 1954

The first dedicated School badge was approved and issued from 1951. It appears that initially the new approved badge was only used in print form with the struck badge not being issued until during 1953.

The badge is modelled on the British Army Apprentices School badge introduced in 1947.



British pre-1953 Army Apprentices badge (left) and the first issued Australian version (right)

Heraldry

At the apex of the badge is the Imperial or Tudor Crown of England, expressing allegiance to the Sovereign, Superiors, Duty and Country.

Superimposed on a cogwheel representing trade and technical training is the English Cross of Saint George depicting Christian virtues and development of character.

The Saint George Cross is then overlaid with crossed double-edged swords, representing the military qualities of courage, discipline and physical fitness.

Superimposed on the swords and the Cross is a flaming torch of learning. At the base is a furred pennant with the words:

**“ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL
AUSTRALIA”**

1954 – 1990

Following the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953, military insignia, badges and buttons were produced with the Saint Edward’s or “Queen’s” Crown. Note that the King’s Crown badge continued to be issued to Apprentices as late as 1957 and was used on official School documentation until at least 1961.



British post-1953 Army Apprentices badge (left) and the Australian version (right)

1991 – 1995

When the Bonegilla School was retitled “Army College of TAFE”, the words on the furred pennant at the base of the badge were changed to accommodate the new title, reading “ARMY COLLEGE OF TAFE, AUSTRALIA”. This emblem appears to have never been struck or worn as a hat badge.



Army College of TAFE emblem

1996 – 2017

The Army College of TAFE was replaced by the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC), which included the Bonegilla and Bandiana technical training sites as well as other logistics corps' schools at Bandiana and elsewhere. This emblem also appears to have never been struck or worn as a hat badge.



ALTC emblem

2017 – Present

In 2017, the Army School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (ASEME, of the ALTC) adopted the AAS badge as the basis for its emblem, continuing the tradition. The emblem has not been struck as a metal hat badge. It is used as an embroidered emblem for unit patches and on sporting attire. Trainees attending ASEME wear their allocated corps hat badge.



ASEME emblem