

## Dress of the Royal Artillery Volunteers from 1859.

Volunteers.- There were artillery units amongst the volunteer corps which sprang up in the days of the Napoleon 111 scare, but these were disbanded and the volunteer artillery which were converted into the artillery of the Territorial Force in 1908 date from 1859. From the start the uniform of 1st GVA R.G.A. [Royal Garrison Artillery 1859] was very much the same as the regular Royal Artillery.

Most of the original corps were small of only of battery strength, and were alone, these small corps were then collected into administrative brigades and by 1880 the administration brigades had been formed into corps of brigade strength. This meant that some alteration to uniforms, badges and buttons had to be made. Badges and buttons were in white metal and officers lace was in silver.

After 1878 other ranks wore the Austrian knot in scarlet on the sleeves of their tunics. [uniform tunic held by 266 Para GVA Bty. [v].] Various devices were worn on the busby grenade, [The busby was named after the London maker] along with a white horse hair cockade.

On converting to Territorials in 1908 the busby was replaced with the helmet which was very much like the police helmet. Helmet plates worn on the front of the helmet were the same as regular army plates but were of white metal and the mottoes were replaced by a blank scroll where those of today's date show UBIQUE or the badge may have shown a Laurel spray. the motto scroll below the gun would then have had Artillery Volunteers or Volunteer Artillery within the Scroll. [Silver badges held in the officers mess as menu holders show GVA in the top scroll]

After the introduction of service dress in 1902 the badge worn on the service dress cap, forage cap and pouch was the same as the regular army but with Volunteers on the upper scroll. The officers service dress cap badge was in bronze, the other ranks was in white metal. Since 1880 other ranks had worn the universal grenade in white metal on the collars of their tunics. Officers wore the service dress collar grenade without the scroll.

The early shoulder titles on the epaulet's were simply the initials of the corps, e.g. 1st GVA for the 1st Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery, this like the piping of the uniform and the Austrian Knot was in red.

Territorial Army. - In 1908 the Territorial force was created, and many of its original units were formed from and carried on the traditions of disbanded volunteer corps. The uniform of the R.A. (T.F.) was similar to that of the R.A., buttons and badges being in gilt or gilding metal and lace being of gold, but the motto Ubique was not granted. the helmet plate and cap badge had a laurel spay in place of Ubique on the top scroll and the officers' collar grenade had no scroll below it. Officers wore the letter "T" below their rank badges or, with service dress, below their collar badges and other ranks wore a "T" above their shoulder titles. The early titles had the designation of the unit added e.g. T over RFA over Gloucestershire later the designation was omitted.

In October 1917 H.M. King George V was pleased to approve of the units of Territorial Force being allowed to wear the mottoes and honours of their corps, regiment or department in consideration of their service during the war, and from that date the territorial gunner has worn R.A. badges.

In 1921 the Territorial Force became the Territorial Army, many Yeomanry units were converted to gunners and by 1939 several T.A. infantry battalions were converted also. In 1940 the letter "T" ceased to be worn by officers and other ranks, shoulder chains are worn in No1 dress by some of the convert Yeomanry regiments. after the W W 11 period the T.A. and also the GVA went through many changes in establishment and role.

Source. The Dress of the Royal Artillery from 1898-1956. by Major D.A. Campbell, late R.A., Royal Artillery Institution 1950. (held in 266 [GVA] Bty R.A. Library)