

CHAPTER 5

FLAGS, STANDARDS, GUIDONS, COLOURS AND BANNERS

Introduction

5.1 This manual refers to Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners, as 'Colours' except where otherwise indicated. The guns are the Colours of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (one or more guns on a parade constitute a Colour Party).

History and significance of flags and Colours

5.2 The practice of carrying symbols into battle has existed for centuries, the Eagle Standards of the Roman legions being perhaps the best known.

5.3 During the thirteenth century the nobility went into battle with their entire body and most of their horse hidden by defensive armour, thus increasing the difficulty of quick identification. This was overcome by the use of distinctive badges or crests on their equipment, including pennants or banners. It is from these banners carrying ensigns of heraldry that Regimental Colours are directly derived.

5.4 A Standard was the largest of the numerous flags flown in armies in the Middle Ages. As its name implies, it was a flag made to stand, as opposed to being carried. Regiments of Household Cavalry had always carried Standards, which are practically square in shape. Hence today, in the British Army, Household Cavalry and Dragoon Guards carry Standards, while the junior arm, Dragoons, carry Guidons.

5.5 The term 'Guidon' is derived from the old French *guydhomme*, the flag carried by the leader of Horse. It has always been swallow-tailed and regarded as being junior to a Standard.

5.6 Colours were used in the British Army originally as a means of identifying the location of the headquarters of regiments in battle. In time the Colours became a focal point of regimental esprit de corps and there are many stories of exploits of great heroism by soldiers defending the colours from loss. When battle honours were added to Colours they became a record of the military achievements of a regiment and were held in even higher esteem by members of the regiment. The consecration of Colours was seen to add religious significance to them, and through the Colours, to the Regiment and its duties.

5.7 Colours were carried only by the infantry and cavalry regiments. Other regiments which were responsible for skirmishing ahead of the major formations did not carry Colours because they did not always wish their location to be known and also because of the greater risk of loss of any Colours to the enemy.

5.8 After 1881 Colours were no longer carried in battle because of the improving technology of weapons and the greater distances involved in warfare. However they remained a strong focal point for a regiment and continued to be held in great esteem and accorded great respect.

5.9 In the Australian Army, Standards or Guidons are carried by Armoured units or Regiments. Queen's and Regimental Colours are carried by the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Infantry Battalions and University Regiments. Banners are carried by those Corps or Units that have had them presented by Royal or Vice-Regal personages. The Army Banner is the Senior Device of the Australian Army and can be Paraded by all military units.

5.10 Flags have a common history with Colours in that they originated in the identifying banners of individual organisations. As these gradually grouped to form nations, flags were adopted as national symbols. Some flags have been modified over time to reflect the changing history of the nation, for example the British Union Flag incorporated at various stages the symbols of the separate elements of Great Britain—England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. This chapter deals with the carriage of flags on parades and activities such as memorial services, dinners, association functions etc [chapter 22—'Standards, flags, ensigns, pennants, star plates, corps and unit flags'](#) provides details on other aspects relating to flags.

5.11 The Australian National Flag (ANF) may be carried by all units who do not have Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners. The procedures for carrying the ANF on parade are the same as for Colours. The protocols to be observed when parading the ANF are detailed in [chapter 22](#). The ANF is not to be paraded with Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners. This is because of difficulties with precedence (the ANF takes precedence over Colours) and musical salutes (ANF is saluted with the first four and last four bars of the National Anthem; Colours are saluted with 'Point of War').

5.12 The general practice by a linked unit, if in possession of the Standards, Guidons or Colours of parent units is to parade them together, however, they may be paraded separately at activities specific to one of the former units, for example memorial days.

Precedence

5.13 National flags have precedence over all others, including State Flags, Service Ensigns and Colours. [Chapter 22](#) details the protocols to be observed with more than one national flag.

5.14 When on parade together the precedence of the Army Banner, Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners is in that order. At all times the position of seniority is from the right of the parade to the left in descending order. In all cases the Sovereign's Colour is senior to a Regimental Colour.

5.15 Within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) the seniority of Standards and Guidons is by the order of units as laid down in chapter 1, [annex A](#).

5.16 The seniority of Colours is as follows:

- a. Corps of Staff Cadets;
- b. Royal Australian Infantry Corps (within the Corps the order of seniority is by regiments, as listed in chapter 1, [annex A](#), and within the regiments by battalions in numerical order); and
- c. university regiments, by order of seniority as listed in chapter 1, [annex A](#).

5.17 The order of precedence for Banners is as follows:

- a. The Army Banner;
- b. The Banner of Queen Elizabeth II (by order of seniority of corps as listed in chapter 1, [annex A](#);
- c. the Banner of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother;
- d. the Banner of the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Phillip);
- e. the Banner of the Princess Anne;
- f. the Banner of the Princess Alice; and
- g. the Banner of the Governor-General (by order of Service, corps and, within units, by date of presentation).

5.18 When the Army Banner is paraded with existing Unit/Corps Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners, the Army Banner is to be paraded in the centre front of the Colour Party.

5.19 When the Colours (including the guns of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery) and Banner of a corps appear together on a parade, the Banner is marched on and off the parade with the unit and is positioned within the centre of the front rank of the senior guard/sub-unit.

Description of flags and Colours

5.20 The descriptions of the ANF and the various Colours as they are carried on parade are as follows:

- a. **ANF.** The ANF when carried is made of lustrous nylon. The dimensions are 68 cm on the pike and 137 cm on the fly exclusive of the pike pocket. The ANF does not have a fringe.
- b. **Standard.** A Standard is made of crimson silk damask (Exeter pattern). The dimensions are 65 cm on the pike and 74 cm on the fly, exclusive of the 5 cm gold fringe and the pike pocket.
- c. **Guidon.** A Guidon is made of crimson silk damask (Exeter pattern) and is swallow tail in shape. The dimensions are 68 cm on the pike and 103 cm on the fly to the end of the swallow tail which are rounded off 30 cm from the ends. The point of the slit is 78 cm from the pike. The dimensions are exclusive of the 4 cm gold fringe and the pike pocket.
- d. **Colours.** Colours are made of silk. A Queen's Colour is in the basic design and colours of the ANF. A Regimental Colour of regiments or units with the title Royal are dark blue. Other Regimental Colours are dark green. The dimensions are 90 cm on the pike and 113 cm on the fly, exclusive of the five cm gold fringe and the pike pocket.
- e. **Banners.** The Army Banner is manufactured from Red English Silk. A Sovereign's Banner or a Banner of a corps which has Her Majesty the Queen as its Colonel-in-Chief is made of dark blue silk. Other Banners are of crimson silk. The usual dimensions are 68 cm on the pike and 88 cm on the fly, exclusive of the five cm gold fringe. An exception is the banner of the Australian Cadet Corps which is 55 cm on the pike and 68 cm on the fly, exclusive of the fringe. Eligibility to banners is as follows:
 - (1) **Sovereign's Banner.** Any corps or unit including those who hold Standards, Guidons or Colours, may receive a Sovereign's Banner.
 - (2) **Banner.** Corps, other than Armour and Infantry (which have an entitlement to Standards, Guidons, or Colours), may receive a Banner from a member of the Royal Family other than the Sovereign, or the Governor-General. Training establishments which do not have an entitlement to Colours may receive a Governor-General's Banner.
- f. **Other Honourable Insignia.** Occasionally, other Honourable Insignia may be privately presented to corps or units. These have no status and compliments are not to be paid to them.

5.21 Diagrams of examples of Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are shown in [figure 5-1](#).

Colours Register

5.22 A register of the current Colours of the Army and registers of laid up Colours by State are included in the *Ceremonial Manual*, volume 2, chapter 3.

Battle honours

5.23 Regiments of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) and the Royal Australian Infantry Corps (RAInf) may emblazon upon their Standards, Guidons and Regimental Colours those Battle Honours, (which include Theatre Honours), as prescribed by the authorising document. The approved Battle Honours of the Australian Army are listed in the *Ceremonial Manual*, volume 2, chapter 2. Those honours which are emblazoned are identified in this list. Battle Honours emblazoned on the Army Banner include, South Africa, World War I and II, Korea, Malaya/Borneo, South Vietnam and Peacekeeping.

Notes

Battle Honours are normally emblazoned on the Regimental Colour, however, with approval of the Chief of Army they may be emblazoned on the Queen's Colour if insufficient space is available on the Regimental Colour.

Guidance on the positioning of Battle Honours on Colours may be obtained from the Ceremonial and Protocol Section—AHQ.

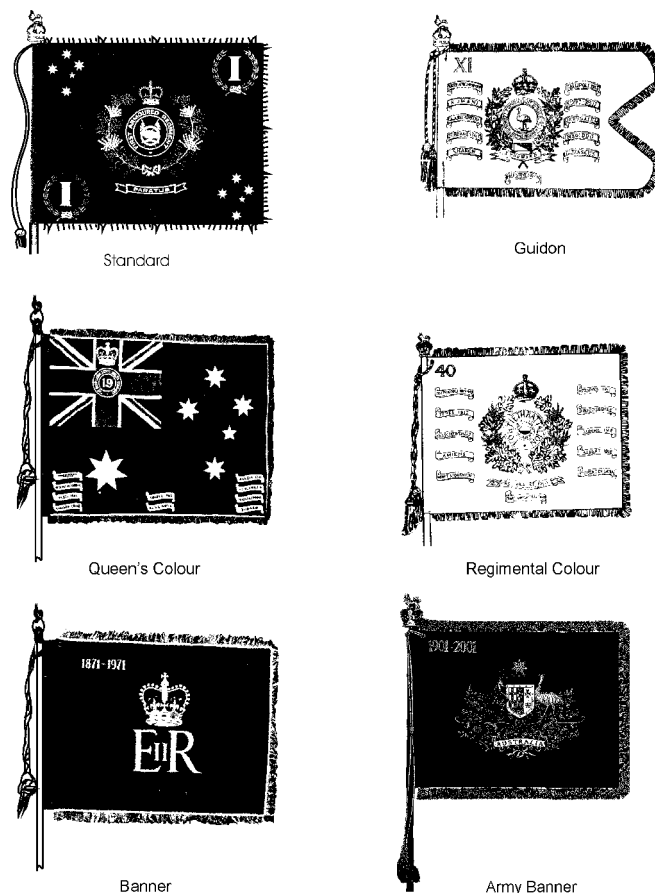


Figure 5-1: Examples of Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners

Distinguished Unit Citation Streamers

5.24 The streamer of a distinguished Unit Citation, awarded by a foreign government and approved by AHQ, is to be attached to the Guidon or Regimental Colour of the entitled unit at all times. Citations currently approved are:

- 4/19 PWLH**—United States of America Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), for active service with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in South Vietnam 1965–66;
- 1 RAR**—United States of America Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), for active service with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in South Vietnam 1965–66;
- 3 RAR**—United States of America Presidential Unit Citation (for the Battle of Kapyong);

- d. **6 RAR**—United States of America Presidential Unit Citation (Army), (for the Battle of Long Tan); and
- e. **8 RAR**—Republic of Vietnam Cross of gallantry with gold palm Unit Citation (for operations in the Minh Dam Special Zone).

5.25 Guidons and Colours are to be marched both on and off parades with the streamer in place. When new Guidons or Regimental Colours are presented they are done so with a new streamer.

Associated equipment

5.26 The following paragraphs describe the equipment used with Colours.

5.27 **Pikes.** There are two patterns of pikes as follows:

- a. ANF, Standards, Guidons and Banners: 225 cm in length without the Royal Crest or spear point, and fitted with a brass shoe and;
- b. Colours are 245 cm in length, without the Royal Crest, and fitted with a brass shoe.
- c. The pikes are selected ash wood stained and French polished. They can either be a two-piece pike joined in the centre or one single length. The Army Banner pike is unique due to its three piece configuration. Only the Army Banner is to be paraded using a three piece pike. These items are relatively expensive and of limited availability. They are not to be altered in any way from the manufactures design. Pikes are to be laid up with their respective colours.

5.28 **Royal Crest.** A gilt Royal Crest 15 cm in height is attached to the top of the pike and is detachable. This crest is standard for both pikes. The Royal Crest is used only on pikes used to carry Colours, it is not used with the ANF.

5.29 **Spear point.** A spear point 20 cm in height is attached to the top of the pike and is detachable. The spear point is to be used on pikes carrying the ANF or flags and ensigns other than Colours.

5.30 **Cord and tassels.** The cord and tassels of the ANF are of a white nylon braided cord, seven mm in diameter and 140 cm long, each end finished with a Turks knot. For Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners cords and tassels of crimson silk and gold thread mixed are used to affix the insignia to the pike. The tassel head is made of turned wood core covered with crimson silk fabric in the same colour as the banner. It is embellished with gold-knotted netting. A fancy bullion twisted cord is wrapped around three times at the point where the skirt is attached to the netting. The skirt is made of looped gold fringing wrapped around looped crimson fringing and contains five or six large gold bullion hangers. The length of the skirt is 71 mm. The gold fringing with the large bullion hangers are gathered together at the bottom of the tassels.



Figure 5-2: Example of cord and tassels



Figure 5-3: Cord with Turks Knot

5.31 Affixing the Colour, cord and tassels to the pike. The method of affixing the Colour, cord and tassels to the pike is as follows:

- a. Unscrew the crest from the head of the pike and insert the pike through the pike pocket until the rings are clear, screw the crest on the pike. Rotate the pike until the tail of the lion is towards the fly.
- b. Pass the double loop of the cord through the right side ring (from top to bottom), through the eyelet in the Colour, behind the pike and through the outer ring (from back to front); pass tassels through double loop and tighten up. Place the running keeper midway between the top of the pike and tassels.
- c. The position of the Colour on the pike may be lowered **slightly** to suit the height of the ensign.

5.32 Colour belts. Colour belts are made with wool broad cloth (Blue for Regiments, Rifle Green for university Regiments and Scarlet on special requests) and backed with black leather. Gold lace is not used on either side of the badges and battle honours on the front of the belt (see [figure 5-4](#)). Gold lace is curved up above the Royal Cipher and curved down under the last badge or battle honour. All embroidery is raised hand embroidery with two per cent gold bullion wire and coloured silk threads. The colour of the velvet on the scrolls and battle honours is to match the velvet in the crown of the Royal Cipher. All badges and battle honours are spaced in this area in an aesthetically balanced way. Sometimes battle honours are set out in two columns. The area under the bottom curve is reserved for any citations awarded to the unit (in the past this area was used for affixing a plaque honouring those who donated the belt).



Figure 5-4: Standard Banner/Colour Belt

On new belts, if loops for the wearing of medals are required they are fitted below the Royal Cypher and above the unit name. The space to be allowed is 90 mm. On existing belts these medal loops are to be placed 90 mm above the crown of the Royal Cypher. All colour belts consist of two pieces and are adjustable at the front and at the back with hidden leather straps and buckles. The pike pocket is made from brass and is covered with the same coloured broadcloth with two rows of gold ribbon sewn at the edges to match the rest of the belt.

The Army Banner Belt has been specially developed for the Army Centenary Banner and is a one off design. Two parallel rows of 12 mm metallised Gold lace go all the way around the belt (see [figure 5-5](#)).



Figure 5-5: Army Banner Belt

5.33 When not being paraded by units, the Army Banner is lodged in the foyer of the Office of the Chief of the Army. When not in use, Colours should be lodged in the Officers' Mess or at another suitable location (eg Regimental Headquarters). A unit that has more than one set of colours may lodge a set of Colours in the Sergeants' Mess and units with one set of Colours may lodge one Colour in the Officers' Mess and the other Colour in the Sergeants' Mess (rotating them between the messes).

ADMINISTRATION OF COLOURS

Presentation of Colours

5.34 Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are presented by the Sovereign, a member of the Royal Family, the Governor-General or by a personage nominated to act on their behalf. In order that appropriate arrangements may be made, requests for personages to make the presentation **MUST state three dates, the location of the parade and proposed time**. The provisions of chapter 3, [annex A](#) are applicable. The ceremonial procedure for presentation of new Colours and replacement of existing Colours is contained in [chapter 8—'Consecration and presentation of new Colours'](#). The life of Colours is covered in chapter 8, [annex B](#).

Lodging of Colours

5.35 When not being paraded by units, the Army Banner is lodged in the foyer of the Office of the Chief of the Army. When not in use, Colours should be lodged in the officers' mess or at another suitable location (eg regimental headquarters). A unit that has more than one set of colours may lodge a set of Colours in the Sergeants' Mess and units with one set of Colours may lodge one Colour in the Officers' Mess and the other Colour in the Sergeants' Mess (rotating them between the messes).

5.36 Colours should be located against the wall in a Colour stand or placed in a display case on the wall. When the Queen's and Regimental Colours are displayed together, the Queen's Colour is to be positioned in the senior position (ie on the left as viewed by the person facing the Colours) [figure 5-6](#). If the Colours are crossed beneath a portrait of Her Majesty, The Queen's Colour is placed so that the pike crosses in front of the pike of the Regimental Colour, the Queen's Colour is to be on Her Majesty's right, (ie on the left as viewed by the person facing the Colours).

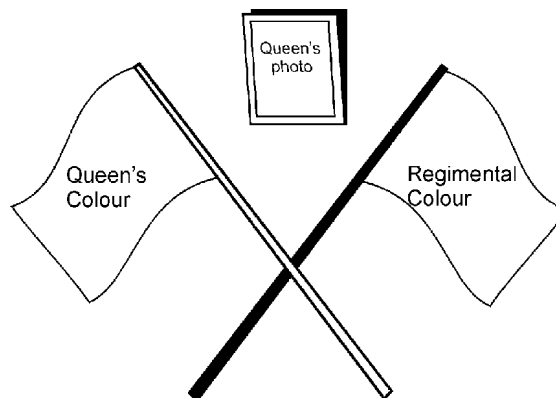


Figure 5-6: Displaying a Set of Colours

5.37 When a number of sets of Colours are displayed around a portrait of Her Majesty they are positioned with all the Queen's Colours on the left of the portrait and all the Regimental Colours on the right. The Colours are positioned with the senior unit/regiment on the left, as viewed by the person facing the Colours ([figure 5-7](#)).

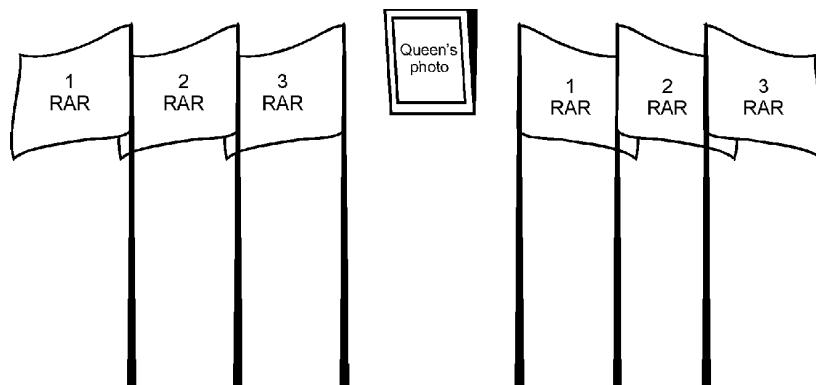


Figure 5-7: Displaying more than one Set of Colours

5.38 When a single Standard, Guidon, Colour or Banner is displayed it is positioned so as to show the obverse side; that is, with the banner to the right of the pike (see [figure 5-8](#)).

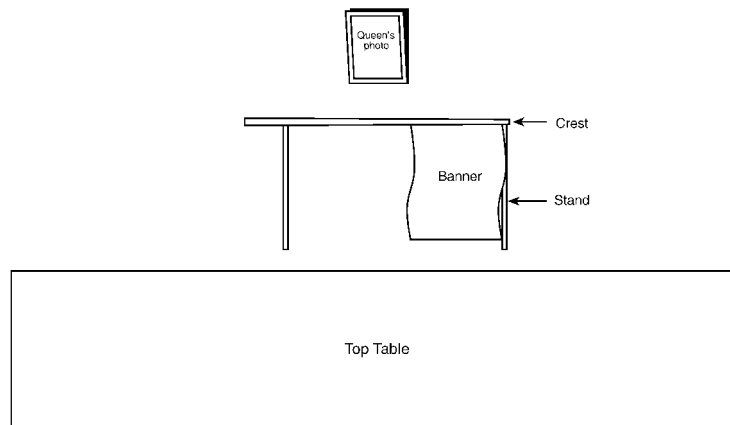


Figure 5-8: Displaying a single Banner during a Regimental Dining in night

Laying-up of Colours

5.39 The procedure for the laying-up of Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners is contained in [chapter 10—'Laying-up of Colours'](#).

Overseas service

5.40 Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are not to be taken overseas unless the unit has been ordered for garrison duty in a non-operational or non-active service area in peacetime. The Standard, Guidon, Colours or Banner of a unit ordered overseas for operational or active service are to be placed in an ordnance depot in Australia for 'safe keeping'. If a unit is placed on operational or active service whilst overseas its Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banner are to be returned to Australia.

5.41 On the declaration of a 'State of War' all Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners in the possession of units are to be placed in an ordnance depot, or with a suitable sister unit for 'Safe Keeping'.

Movement of Colours

5.42 Consecrated Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are to be escorted at all times, usually by the normal Colour Party. When this is not practical, such as over long distances (interstate/overseas) the Colours are to be transported while cased, by safe hand.

5.43 It is permissible for Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners, when being transported over long distances to be secured in a lockable container separate from the pikes. Utmost care is to be taken in packaging to ensure no damage is incurred.

Colours or Guidons held in trust

5.44 Where as a consequence of reorganisation a RAAC regiment or a RAInf battalion is reduced to a squadron or company sized unit, such units are to retain in trust, and be custodians, of the Colours or Guidons of their parent units.

5.45 Units holding Colours or Guidons in trust **are not permitted to parade them** but they may uncase them at formal dining in nights.

5.46 In exceptional circumstances approval may be granted by the Ceremonial and Protocol Section—AHQ for Colours or Guidons held in trust by independent sub-units, which are in a serviceable condition, to be paraded (separate approval is required for each occasion). On such occasions Colours or Guidons will normally be paraded as part of a regimental, formation or corps Colour Party. As Colours or Guidons held in trust will not be replaced in any circumstances, extraordinary efforts are to be taken by trustee sub-units to preserve them.

Handling of Colours

5.47 All personnel are to wear gloves when handling Colours at all times. This includes presentation of new Colours. Chaplains are either to wear gloves for the consecration of Colours or, if ungloved, bless the Colours with their hands poised above the Colours. Chaplains need not wear gloves when handling Colours within a church or chapel.

PROCEDURES FOR CARRYING/PARADING COLOURS ON CEREMONIAL PARADES

Occasions on which Colours are carried

5.48 Entitled units are to carry Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners, as appropriate, on all ceremonial parades. A Standard, Guidon, Queen's Colour or Banner is to be carried by a Guard of Honour or escort provided by an entitled unit when mounted for any of the following personages:

- a. The Sovereign;
- b. a member of the Royal Family titled HRH;
- c. a Governor-General or a Governor, Lieutenant Governor or officer administering the government in the capacity of Her Majesty's representative within the area of their jurisdiction; (State Governors are only entitled to this honour in their own State);
- d. a foreign sovereign;
- e. the head of state of a foreign nation; and
- f. a member of a reigning foreign imperial or royal family.

5.49 A Standard, Guidon, Queen's Colour or a Banner presented by either a member of the Royal Family or the Governor-General, may be carried by a Royal Guard of Honour. Only a Regimental Colour or a Banner presented by a personage other than a member of the Royal Family may be carried on a half guard of honour.

Units not entitled to carry Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners may carry the Australian National Flag on either royal or half guards.

5.50 Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners of disbanded units are not to be paraded, except during the laying up ceremony.

Trooping the Standard, Guidons, Queen's, Regimental Colours and Banners

5.51 The Standard, Guidon or Queen's Colour may be trooped in the case of a parade mounted:

- a. for The Sovereign;
- b. for a member of the Royal Family;
- c. for the Governor-General and a governor, lieutenant governor or officer administering the government in the capacity of Her Majesty's representative within the area of their jurisdiction;
- d. to replace the Colours; and
- e. to celebrate the Sovereign's birthday.

5.52 The Regimental Colour and Banners may be trooped:

- a. on the occasion of a parade held to replace the Regimental Colour or Banner;
- b. on the birthday of the regiment or unit;
- c. for a review by a personage other than those mentioned in [paragraph 5.48](#); and

- d. for any ceremonial occasion ordered by the Commanding Officer.

5.53 The Colours or Banners of disbanded units are not to be trooped.

Standard/Guidon Party

5.54 A Standard or Guidon Party comprises a warrant officer class 2 as the Standard/Guidon ensign and two senior noncommissioned officer escorts. The warrant officer class 2 must be a member of the RAAC who currently holds the appointment of Squadron Sergeant Major or equivalent. The drill for Standards and Guidons is to follow as far as practicable the drill for Colours. The warrant officer carrying the Standard or Guidon does not carry a personal weapon.

5.55 If a Standard or Guidon is to be mounted three suitable vehicles are required. One vehicle carries the Standard or Guidon, the other two carry the escorts. The drill and procedure for a mounted Standard or Guidon is to follow as closely as possible the drill and procedure for a dismounted parade.

Colour/Banner Party

5.56 Colours are to be carried by subalterns for ceremonial parades, except that at the Royal Military College of Australia (RMC) they are carried by under officers. When Colours are to be marched into a sergeants' mess for regimental dinners they should be carried by subalterns, however, this will be dictated by regimental/corps customs and traditions as laid down in the appropriate standing orders. Banners are normally carried by subalterns, but may be carried by warrant officers class 2, except that the Duke of Edinburgh's Banner of the Australian Army Cadet Corps is to be carried by a cadet under officer. The Queen Elizabeth II Banner of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery is to be carried by a subaltern only.

5.57 The Queen's Colour is carried on the right by the senior ensign, who is to command the Colour Party.

5.58 The armed Colour escort is to normally consist of a warrant officer class 2 (the senior escort) and two staff sergeants or sergeants. At RMC, staff cadet colour sergeants and or sergeants are to be used in lieu. If no senior noncommissioned officers are available junior non-commissioned officers may be employed as escorts. The escorts are to carry chrome bayonets on their rifles.

5.59 The armed escort for a Banner is to consist of two personnel of the rank of Staff Sergeant or Sergeant. At RMC Cadet Colour Sergeants and or Sergeants are to be used.

5.60 The senior escort of the armed Colours escort is to be posted between and one pace distance from, each Colour ensign, however, when two sets of Colours are being paraded the senior escort is to be positioned between the junior Queen's Colour and the senior Regimental Colour. Each Colour is to be covered by an armed Colour escort two paces to the rear. When only one Colour or Banner is carried the armed Colour escorts are to be posted one pace either side of, and in line with, the Colour or Banner.

5.61 Once the Colour Party is posted on parade (at the completion of the 'Musical' salute) the RSM takes up a position two paces centre rear of the escorts and becomes a part of the party. When the Colour Party marches off the parade the RSM remains in position with the troops. Once the party has left the parade ground/area, and the troops on parade have completed the salute, the RSM marches forward to a position on the right flank of the parade ground.

Special instructions for the Colour Party

5.62 The Colour Party is to stand at attention and at ease with the remainder of the parade, however, it must never 'stand easy'.

5.63 Bayonets are to be used on the weapons of armed escorts, and must be fixed irrespective of whether the Colours are cased or uncased. The bayonets are to be temporarily fitted with a metal or plastic tip, or have smooth rounded tips to avoid damage to the Colours.

Escort to Colours

5.64 An escort to the Colours, if provided, is to consist of a formed body of troops (of company equivalent size) under the command of an officer, and must not be confused with the armed Colour escorts within a Colour Party.

Parading Colours

5.65 When Colours are paraded, on occasions other than the mounting of an honour guard, there is to be no less than the following personnel (less the Colour Party):

- a. parade commander (of the rank of captain);
- b. two guides (warrant officer class 2 and sergeant); and
- c. 64 other ranks.

Australian National Flag Party

5.66 The Flag Party used to carry the ANF is to be the same as that used for a single Colour or Banner and is subject to the same conditions, drills and procedures, however, the escorts are referred to as 'Flag Escorts'. The Flag to be carried is 137 x 68 cm in size and is mounted on a 225 cm length pike. The Royal Crest is not to be mounted on top of the pike and the flag does not have a gold fringe. The ensign for the ANF is always to be a commissioned officer. Escorts to the ANF are to be Warrant OfficerS Class 2 or of Sergeant rank.

Detailed procedures

5.67 The detailed procedures for the aspects listed below are included in annexes to this chapter:

- a. uncasing, dressing, and casing Colours;
- b. positions of the Colour Party/Banner Party on parade;
- c. marching Colours on and off parade;
- d. honours accorded by Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners;
- e. marching Colours into and out of guards;
- f. marching Colours into and out of a church;
- g. marching Colours into and out of a mess dinner; and
- h. lodging the Colours.

RULES FOR CARRYING AND LOWERING FLAGS, STANDARDS, GUIDONS, COLOURS AND BANNERS

Position of uncased Standards or Guidons

5.68 At the Halt. Uncased Standards or Guidons are to be held at the stand at ease or order position according to whether troops are standing at ease or at attention. During an inspection with uncased Standards or Guidons the Standards or Guidons are to be at the carry. Uncased Standards or Guidons are also to be at the carry on the following occasions:

- a. firing the Feu-de-Joie;
- b. firing of volleys;
- c. when three cheers are given on the occasion of the Sovereign's Birthday; and
- d. guard mounting except that the Standard or Guidon may be brought to the attention position during the posting of sentries.

5.69 When mounted and on the march. Uncased Standards or Guidons are to be at the carry position when:

- a. marching or driving to the parade ground from the place of lodgement and return;

- b. marching or driving onto and off the parade ground;
- c. being received;
- d. marching or driving in slow time (all occasions);
- e. passing through the ranks during trooping; and
- f. advancing in review order.

5.70 At all other times uncased Standards or Guidons are to be brought automatically to the slope, on the command quick march and returned to the attention position when the Standard or Guidon party halts. However, if the Standard or Guidon is mounted the construction of the vehicle usually prevents the Standard or Guidon from being held at the slope position.

Lowering of the Standard or Guidons

5.71 Standards or Guidons are lowered when marching or driving past in slow time, but are not to be lowered when marching or driving past in quick time.

Position of uncased Colours

5.72 **At the Halt.** Uncased Colours are to be carried as follows:

- a. uncased Colours are to be held at the order or stand at ease position, according to whether the troops are at the attention or stand at ease position; and
- b. during the inspection the Colours are to be at the carry position.

5.73 Colours are to be at the carry position during the ceremonies listed below:

- a. guard mounting and at the attention position during inspections;
- b. firing the Feu-de-Joie;
- c. firing of volleys; and
- d. when three cheers are given on the occasion of the Sovereign's Birthday.

5.74 **On the March.** Uncased Colours are to be at the carry when:

- a. marching to the parade ground from the place of lodgement and return;
- b. marching onto and off the parade ground;
- c. on the parade ground; and
- d. marching in slow time (all occasions).

5.75 At other times uncased Colours are to be carried at the slope. On such occasions the Colours are brought to the slope automatically on the order quick march and returned to the order position when the Colour Party halts.

Position of cased Colours

5.76 Cased Colours are carried as follows:

- a. on the march they are carried at the slope,
- b. at the halt they are to remain at the order position, and
- c. due to its intricate design, the Army Banner cannot be folded as per a normal device. It is therefore never to be transported or moved in a cased state.

Lowering of Colours and the Australian National Flag

5.77 The Colours are never lowered when marching past in quick time.

5.78 The ANF is not to be lowered at any time as this signifies subordination of the Nation. It is to fly free at all times, it is never to be held.

5.79 Unlike other devices, the Army Banner is not lowered on the Royal Salute, unless for the Sovereign. The Army Banner is also not lowered when on parade with the Sovereign's Banner(s) unless for the Sovereign. The Army Banner is to be lowered during the Royal Salute when the Governor-General of Australia is in attendance on all other occasions. If lowered for the Royal Salute, the Banner is not draped across the ground. The normal drill for 'wet and muddy conditions' is to be used at all times.

Precedence of the Queen's Colour

5.80 When the Colour Party is in line the Queen's Colour is to be on the right. When the Colour Party is in file the Queen's Colour is to lead (the Queen's Colour is considered to be still on the right when the Colour Party is in the retired position).

COMPLIMENTS TO FLAGS, STANDARDS, GUIDONS, COLOURS AND BANNERS

General

5.81 Compliments are to be paid to the ANF and uncased Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners when carried by a Flag/Colour Party, and to the guns of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA), when on parade as detailed in these instructions. Compliments are not paid to cased Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners. During an inspection of the front rank the inspecting officer, if wearing uniform, is to salute with the hand when passing the ANF/Colours. Other members of the inspection party, who are wearing uniform, are to also pay compliments to the Colours. Civilian personnel are to pay compliments by turning their head and eyes in acknowledgement, and gentlemen wearing headdress remove their hats. The parade commander is to give similar compliments by bringing the sword to the recover and turning the head and eyes towards the Colours. This procedure is not repeated during the inspection of the remaining ranks. During a funeral at which Colours are present compliments are paid to the deceased only.

5.82 When Colours are to be received on parade spectators are to stand on the senior ensign's command 'Colour Party, quick march' and remain standing until the Colour Party is in position, within the parade, until the completion of the 'Musical' salute. Spectators in uniform are to salute only for the playing of the 'Musical' salute.

5.83 When Colours are marched off parade, spectators are to stand on the command 'march-off the Colours' and those in uniform are to salute only while the band plays the 'Musical' salute. At the completion of 'Point of War' spectators complete the salute, however, they remain standing until the Colours have cleared the parade ground and the parade returns to the attention position.

5.84 The Colours are not saluted as they pass by spectators during the march-on and march-off.

5.85 When the ANF is received on parade and marched off parade the same procedure is followed, except that the salute played is the first four and last four bars of the National Anthem, 'Advance Australia Fair'.

Compliments during the march-past

5.86 The reviewing officer and all others on the dais salute all Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners, and the ANF, as they march past the saluting base.

5.87 Spectators are to stand and salute as the ANF, a Standard, Guidon, Colour or Banner pass to their immediate front. Once the party has passed by the salute is completed and they resume their seats.

Compliments paid by Colour parties and escorts

5.88 When Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are uncased, Colour parties and escorts are to pay compliments only to persons entitled to the compliments of having the Colours lowered or 'Let Fly'. Two units both carrying uncased Colours, are to give the order eyes right to each other as they pass. When Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are cased, Colour parties and escorts are to pay such compliments as would be appropriate if no Colours were present.

Honours accorded by Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners

5.89 Honours accorded by Standards, Guidons, Colours and Banners are detailed in [annex B](#).

Parts of a Colour

5.90 The named parts of a Colour are described in [figure 5-9](#).

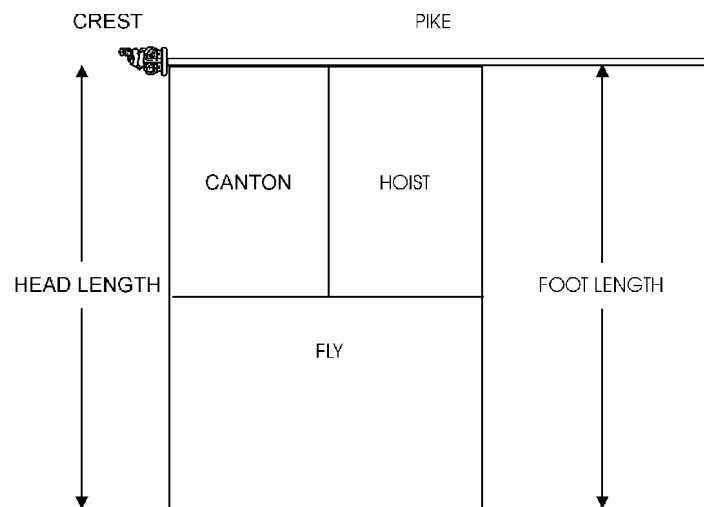


Figure 5-9: Parts of a Colour

Colours at funerals

5.91 Standards, Guidons, Colours, or Banners are not to be carried at funerals for service members below the rank of colonel. They may, however, be carried for officers of the rank of lieutenant colonel, who died in service whilst in command of a unit which has a Standard, a Guidon, Colours, or whose corps has a Banner.

5.92 A unit which is entitled to carry a Standard, Guidon, Colours or a Banner may do so regardless of whether or not the unit makes up all or, a part of the escort party.

5.93 A Standard, Guidon, Colours, or a Banner at a funeral are paraded in the centre of the escort party. They are draped with black crepe (7.5 to 10 cm in width) which is to be tied in a large bow at the head of the pike, just below the Crest, with the loose ends trailing. Drapes on Standards, Guidons, Colours or Banners are to be removed as soon as possible after the body has been interred.

5.94 When Standards, Guidons, Colours, or Banners are paraded with an escort party at a funeral no compliments are to be paid to them by a unit, party, or individual (military or civil) who are parading as a part of the military funeral until the unit, party, or individual ceases to be in charge of, or in attendance to the coffin, casket (or urn) which contains the remains of the deceased.

5.95 The Army Banner can be carried at funerals. It is restricted to the funerals of past and present Chief and Deputy Chief of the Army, past Chiefs of the General Staff and past and present Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Army.

5.96 When carried at funerals, the Army Banner is to be draped in black crepe. The black crepe is to be fixed to the banner in accordance with [paragraph 5.93](#).

COLOURS IN CHURCH

5.97 During a church parade or other appropriate service the Standard, Guidon, Colour or Banner may be deposited in the church. This is not to be confused with the 'Laying-Up of Colours' or a 'United Drumhead Service'.

5.98 The procedure for placing Colours in a church is as shown in [annex D](#) to this chapter.

5.99 All drill movements are to be carried out in the church with dignity, reverence and with minimum of noise. Honours are not to be paid to the Colours in the church by personnel, other than by the congregation standing, when the Colours are marched into and out of the church.

5.100 An armed escort is to be provided for Colours paraded at a church service. In circumstances where church authorities refuse the entry of an armed escort, the local senior commander or the commander of a functional command or formation may order an alternative site, or an alternative ceremonial procedure (such as having escorts remain on guard outside the church).

5.101 Colours are to be marched into and out of a church in slow time. Arms are to be carried, bayonets are to be fixed and headdress is to be worn by the Colour Party.

Annexes:

- A. [Detailed procedures for Colours on ceremonial parades](#)
- B. [Marching on and off of Colours at a parade](#)
- C. [Marching on and off of a Colour for a Guard of Honour](#)
- D. [Colour Drill for churches](#)
- E. [Colour Drill for mess dinners](#)