

YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT - 32 TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



The Australian Army Museum of Western Australia is now open three days per week, Wednesday through Friday. A COVID-19 plan is in place with social distancing and limits on numbers in individual galleries.

For those unable to visit at present, the Virtual Visit series will be continuing to present interesting features of the collection and their background stories.

11TH Battalion Queen's Colour (1920 Presentation)



DESCRIPTION

Union flag with gold fringes. In the centre the Arabic numeral "11" on a red background within a gold circle inscribed "ELEVENTH INFANTRY - PERTH REGIMENT", surmounted by the Crown. Emblazoned on the colour are the following Second World War Battle Honours:-

BARDIA 1941, CAPTURE OF TOBRUK, DERNA, BRALLOS PASS,
RETIMO, LIBERATION OF AUSTRALIAN NEW GUINEA, MATAPAU,
ABAU-MALIN, WEWAK, WIRUI MISSION

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This Colour has an interesting history of successive presentations and transformations, It was originally authorised by King George V in 1919 in recognition of services of 11th Battalion (AIF) during the Great War. It was presented by His Excellency the Governor General Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, PC, CGMG at a parade in King's Park on 2 October 1920 and was handed over to 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment (Perth Regiment) CMF In 1921 this unit became redesignated 11th Battalion (The Perth Regiment) Subsequently the Colour was consecrated by the Chaplain General, Archbishop Colonel Riley, at a parade on the Esplanade, Perth, 15 November 1924.

At the time of presentation and consecration this colour was a plain union flag with no central devices or other distinctions. Following Military Board approval given in 1925, the centre circle and Crown were added, in accordance with the approved design for a King's Colour. The title of the Regiment was changed to "The City of Perth Regiment" in 1933. With the re-activation of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) following the Second World War, the 11th/44th Infantry Battalion (The City of Perth Regiment) was raised as a linked battalion in 1948 to carry on the identity and traditions of the pre-war 11th and 44th Battalions respectively. The King's and Regimental Colours formerly held by these two battalions were passed on to the new battalion who paraded them in rotation on ceremonial occasions.

With the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II to the throne in 1952, all Colours that had originally been presented as King's Colours, and were still carried by units on the then current Order of Battle, were automatically deemed to be Queen's Colours.



Queen Elizabeth II visits Perth, 1954. Household Royal Guard of 11/44th Infantry Battalion, City of Perth Regiment at Government House awaiting arrival of Their Majesties. Photo courtesy ABC.Midwest and Wheatbelt and Sergeant Darcy Branch-Smith

<https://www.facebook.com/abcmidwestandwheatbelt/posts/10152229193165985/>

Under major reorganisation of the CMF in 1960, all individual infantry battalions within each State were amalgamated to form State regiments, taking effect from 1 July 1960. Thus the 11/44th, 16th and 28th Infantry Battalions were amalgamated to form The Royal Western Australia Regiment. In September 1960, at a parade held at Northam Camp, the Colours carried by all former battalions were handed over for safe keeping by the new Regiment. Battle Honours for the Second World War were promulgated under Australian Army Order 135/1961 and the 10 selected honours approved for emblazoning on the Queen's Colour were added in 1962

These former colours were laid up in the undercroft at the State War Memorial, King's Park on 29 November 1964. These were transferred to the Army Museum of WA in 1988 as part of the Bicentenary Colours Project. It was then discovered that the pike was actually the original pike belonging to the King's Banner presented to 1st Battalion, the Western Australian Infantry Regiment in 1911. (The location of this original banner is currently unknown). Provenance of this is from the silver plate, inscribed as follows

*"Presented by His Most Gracious Majesty The King Emperor to
1st Battalion The Western Australian Infantry Regiment formerly
3rd and 4th Battalions Western Australian Infantry in recognition
of services rendered to the Empire in South Africa 1901-02".*

LINKS FOR FURTHER ENJOYMENT

Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia web site

<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

Discover the Tradition of Regimental Colours in the Australian Army

<https://www.army.gov.au/our-history/traditions/colours-standards-guidons-and-banners>

Collections Care Manual Western Australian Museum

<https://manual.museum.wa.gov.au/book/export/html/127>

<http://www.11thbattalionaif.com/>

<https://anzacheroes.com.au/collie-boys-of-the-11th-battalion-3rd-infantry-brigade-aif-1914/>

<http://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/>

