



RE-BADGING PARADE

OF THE

ROYAL PIONEERS SIMPSON BARRACKS NORTHAMPTON

WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 1985

Colonel-in-Chief - H.R.H. Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester GCVO
Colonel Commandant - General Sir George Cooper GCB, MC
Director Army Pioneers & Labour - Brigadier F.J. Lucas CBE
Parade Commander - Lieutenant Colonel M.C. Le Masurier
Commander No. 1 Guard - Major H. E. Ferguson
Commander No. 2 Guard - Major M. J. Hunting
Commander No. 3 Guard - Major G. M Downey
Parade R.S.M. - W01(RSM) T. Warren

Band and Corps of Drums
THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
Bandmaster - W01 J. W. Baines

ORDER OF PARADE

- 1130hrs** The Parade marches on.
- 1140hrs** The Colonel-in-Chief arrives.
Royal Salute
The Colonel-in-Chief inspects the parade
The Colonel-in-Chief addresses the parade
Last Post - Corps flag is lowered
No. 1 Guard (old cap badge) marches off
Reveille - New Corps flag is raised.
- 1155hrs** Numbers 2 & 3 Guard (new cap badge) march off.
(approx)

Spectators are requested to stand and serving officers to salute during the playing of the National Anthem (Royal Salute) and the sounding of The Last Post.



On 17th October 1939 the Royal Pioneer Corps came into being as the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps. As a result of a representation made to the War Office by the then Colonel Commandant, Field Marshall Lord Milne this ambiguous and generally unpopular title was changed to Pioneer Corps on 22nd November 1940.

In November 1946, His Majesty King George VI decreed that in recognition of its services the Corps should in future enjoy the distinction **Royal**.

The Corps, at its peak in May 1945, was probably the largest Corps in the Army. It included:-
12000 Officers
166000 British Personnel
400000 Commonwealth Personnel

Over 3000 British Personnel and 6000 other nationalities serving with the Corps lost their lives during World War II.

In November 1939 the War Office approved a badge for the Corps. Described as:-

A rifle, a shovel and a pick 'piled' on them a laurel wreath, all ensigned with a crown.
Beneath, the motto Labor Omnia Vincit (Work Conquers all).

The badge was not designed for the Pioneer Corps but was approved in October 1918 for the Labour Corps which was formed in 1917 and disbanded in 1919.

A proposal to change the badge of the Corps to reflect its changing role received the concurrence of the Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, who made a major contribution to the design. Following consultation with, and the agreement of, Garter King of Arms the design of the new badge was submitted to, and approved by, Her Majesty The Queen in March 1984.

The description is:-

Two Pioneer axes crossed in saltire beneath their heads and surmounted of a Pioneer Sword and a laurel wreath below the same scroll inscribed *Royal Pioneers* and the whole ensigned by a Royal Crown all argent.

By removing the pick and shovel of the badge the outdated image of labouring is eradicated; instead, the inclusion of the axes and sword is both traditional and symbolic of the skills required by members of the Corps in discharging their military role.