

The Corps Instructions of the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers



Corps Instruction Thirty Four *“The RAEME Craftsman Memorial”*


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Corps Instruction Number Thirty Four – The RAEME Craftsman Memorial

Introduction

1. Members of the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have served with great dedication and professionalism on all operations and deployments since World War Two.
2. In 1997, during the final months of existence of the RAEME Corps Directorate, it was decided that a memorial was appropriate to highlight service of Corps members in both war and peace. A statue of a “Craftsman” was deemed the most appropriate method of recognising service by members of the Corps.
3. The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Memorial to the Craftsman was dedicated in the Logistic Corps Memorial Park at South Bandiana on 24 Oct 98.

Aim

4. The aim of this instruction is to outline the background to the craftsman memorial, list the procedures for requesting a plaque memorial on the Craftsman Memorial Wall and detail when the Corps Flag is to be flown at the memorial

Request for Individual Memorial Plaques

5. The concept of the gardens surrounding the statue being a repository for ashes was at the suggestion of 1st intake apprentice LT Roy Thompson. A third wall was then added to the rear of the statue to hold the plaques containing the names of deceased Corps members with the following caveats and rules:
 - a. Spaces for the member’s spouse (one only) can be reserved next to the member’s plaque
 - b. Costs of the plaques are to be borne by the families requesting the plaque
 - c. Access to the Memorial may be denied by E&IG or the SADFO for security or other reasons
 - d. No ashes of deceased personnel are to be scattered at the memorial or in the area.
6. Requests for a plaque are to be addressed to the SO2 Corps Heritage, RAEME Head of Corps Cell, Latchford Barracks, Bandiana MILPO, VIC, 3694.

Flagpole

7. In front of the Craftsman memorial wall a flagpole has been positioned for the flying of the corps flag. The Corps flag is to be flown from this flagpole when:
 8. Colonel-in-Chief or Head of Corps are in the Albury Wodonga Military Area
 9. on the Corps birthday
 10. during the Corps Seminar
 11. on other days of significance to the Corps.

RAEME Time Capsules

12. There are two time capsules that were relocated from the RAEME Training Centre Headquarters site at North Bandiana and placed in the memorial garden. The first time capsule was buried on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Corps of RAEME and was opened on 11 Sep 03. The second capsule was sealed on 27 Nov 92 as part of the RAEME Golden Jubilee celebrations; it is to be opened on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Corps 01 Dec 42.

Arte et Marte

RAEME Craftsman Memorial



Figure 1: Craftsman Memorial



Figure 2: Examples of Memorial Plaques placed on the wall

History

1. Members from the RAEME Corps Directorate sought approval and finance for the project as well as a suitable site for it to be erected.
2. A renowned sculptor, Mrs. Dorothea Saaghy of Landsborough, Victoria, was commissioned to produce a bronze statue of a craftsman at work. The design brief described a craftsman in generic uniform and equipment with a tool kit and item under repair. The Craftsman was not to belong to any specific era or trade group. On completion of the sculpture Mr. Victor Kalinowsky of Moorabbin was commissioned make the bronze casting for the Craftsman statue.
3. Additional to the ‘Craftsman’ Memorial is a wall which provides a backdrop for the craftsman statue and the flagpole. This wall is available for the displaying of individual memorial plaques. The site for the “Craftsman” is the area above the memorial gardens at South Bandiana. This site has since evolved into the memorial park at Bandiana adjacent to the Army museum.
4. The wording on the dedication plaque mounted on the Craftsman reads:

This memorial is dedicated to the members of the Australian
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
and the

Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who
served their nation in war and peace.

The corps was formed on the 1st of December 1942,
consolidating into one corps the craftsmen,
artificers and engineers required to
perform the role of repairing, modifying, recovering
and maintaining the army’s weapons systems, vehicles,
aircraft, watercraft, instruments, communications,
radar systems and a wide range of minor equipment.

The corps was granted the title ‘Royal’
on the 10th of November 1948.

The corps motto is ‘ARTE et MARTE’ – With Skill and
Fighting. This memorial was dedicated on the 24th October
1998