

CHAPTER 9

WEARING OF AIGUILLETES, SWORDS, CEREMONIAL BELTS, WHITE GLOVES AND WEBBING

CONTENTS

	Para
Wearing of aiguillettes	
Supply	0901
Dress with which aiguillettes are to be worn	0902
Method of wearing aiguillettes	0903
Occasions when aiguillettes are to be worn	0904
Shoulder devices	
The Royal Cypher	0906
Wearing of swords	
Description	0908
Supply of swords	0910
Dress with which swords may be worn	0911
Occasions when swords are worn	0912
Method of wear	0914
White gloves and webbing	0915

ANNEXES:

A - Patterns of Aiguillettes

B - Entitlement to wear aiguillettes and shoulder devices

C - White gloves and webbing

ILLUSTRATIONS

Plate No	Description	Page No
9-1	Male officer in No 1 Uniform wearing aiguillettes	9-6
9-1	Female officer in No 1 uniform wearing aiguillettes and sword	9-6
9-2	Male officer in No 5 dress wearing aiguillettes	9-7
9-2	Female officer in No 5 dress (post 1992) wearing aiguillettes	9-7
9-3	Female officer in No 6 dress wearing aiguillettes	9-8
9-4	Female officer in No 8 dress (post 1992) wearing aiguillettes	9-9
9-4	Female officer in No 8 dress (pre 1992) wearing aiguillettes	9-9
9-5	Officers shoulder boards	9-12
9-6	Swords, AO, BAO and WO	9-17
9-7	Sword belt	9-18
9-8	Canvas belt	9-19

Wearing of aiguillettes.

0901. Supply. Aiguillettes and shoulder devices are to be worn by officers holding the appointments indicated at **Annex B**. Entitled officers are to refer their requirements for the supply of these items to their parent RAF station quoting this AP as authority. The parent station will demand the accoutrements and arrange a loan issue to the officer concerned for the duration of the appointment. When the appointment is relinquished, the loan issue is either to be transferred to the new incumbent or returned to the issuing authority.

0902. Dress with which aiguillettes are to be worn. Aiguillettes are to be worn with Nos 1, 1A, 4, 5, 5A, 5B, 6, 6A, 6B and 8 dresses on the occasions indicated in para **0905** but are not to be worn on a greatcoat or raincoat. When aiguillettes are worn with a jacket, shoulder straps are always to be fitted to cover the shoulder attachment. Jackets which do not normally comprise shoulder straps are to be modified by sewing straps manufactured in the same material as the garment, into the shoulder seam and affixed by a small RAF gilt button close to the collar.

0903. Method of wearing aiguillettes. When worn by male officers, aiguillettes are to be attached to the appropriate shoulder of the jacket as indicated at Annex B by a hook or button, placed centrally on the shoulder, 3/4 in (19 mm) from the outside shoulder seam. The loop of the aiguillettes from which the tags are suspended is to be similarly attached under the lapel of the jacket so that on the Nos 1, 1A, 4 and 6 dresses, the tags fall over and in line with the inner seam of the appropriate breast pocket. On Nos 5A, 5B and 8 Mess dress jackets, the loop from which the tags are suspended is to be attached under the collar at the join of the collar and lapel. The hook or button is to be located so that the aiguillettes are not hidden by the lapel. With Nos 1, 1A, 4 and 6 dresses, the length of the longer cord should be such that the lower edge of the cord under the arm is approximately in line with the waist-belt, sash or waistline and in line with the middle button of the Nos 5, 5A and 5B dress jackets. With No 6A dress, aiguillettes are to be attached to the shoulder of the tunic in the same manner as with No 1A dress. The loop of the aiguillettes from which the tags are suspended is to be attached to the second button on the tunic underneath the wrap-over so that the tags fall slightly to one side of the buttons with the lower edge of the cord under the arm approximately in line with the sash. As only one size of aiguillettes is available, the position of the lower edge of the cord under the arm will vary depending on the build of the wearer. Minor adjustment can be achieved by moving the lapel attachment point.

0904. On female officers, attachment of the aiguillettes to the shoulder and under the lapel of Nos 1, 1A, 4 and 5 (post-1992) dresses is to be in the same manner as for male officers. Although there are no breast pockets, the tags are to fall on a similar alignment to those of aiguillettes worn by male officers with this numbered dress. With mess dress style uniform, a miniaturized light-weight version of aiguillettes is to be worn by female officers as follows:

a. With Nos 5 (pre-1992) and 8 dresses

- (1) RAF (female). From the shoulder of the dress, attached by a hook or hooks located on the centre seam, 3/4 in (19 mm) from the outside seam. The

loop from which the tag is suspended is attached to a hook located level with the top of the miniature badges of orders, decorations and medals on the brooch and immediately below the collar seam in line with the side of the wearers' neck.

(2). PMRAFNS. From the shoulder of the dress, attached in the same manner as for the RAF (female) officers, with the loop from which the tags are suspended, midway between the shoulder seam and the centre line of the dress running down from the collar opening.

b. With Nos 6 and 6A dresses. The attachment to the shoulder is to be in the same manner as for male officers but the loop from which the tags are suspended is to be attached under the lapel so that the tags fall on a similar alignment to those of aiguillettes worn by male officers with No 6 dress.

0905. Occasions when the aiguillettes are to be worn. Officers entitled to wear aiguillettes are to do so on the following occasions:

a. State occasions when:

(1) The Sovereign or the Sovereign's representative is present.

(2) A parade or celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign is mounted.

(3) Specially ordered on the occasion of any parade, ceremony or entertainment at which a member of the Royal Family is present.

b. Official occasions when the function or entertainment is given or arranged by a government department (including the armed forces) or a government institution. An official occasion is a formal event to which guests from outside the unit are invited. For example, a luncheon, ball and guest night could be in this category, whereas a dining-in night would not.

c. Public occasions when invitations are issued in the name of a municipal corporation, institution or livery company.

d. When visiting British and foreign Naval or Army establishments on formal occasions; also when visiting foreign Air Force establishments.

e. When inspecting and taking the salute at parades or when attending as a spectator.

f. When meeting or attending upon very important persons in an official capacity eg representing the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Air Force Board or the Royal Air Force.

g. Audiences and Investitures (in accordance with **Chapter 10**).

- h. Funerals and memorial services.
- i. On such other occasions as the Air Force Board may direct.

The aiguillettes may only be worn by personal staffs as listed at **Annex B**, sub-paras f, h and j, when in attendance in an official capacity upon the senior officer concerned. Diplomatic staff, mentioned in **Annex B**, sub-para g are normally only to wear aiguillettes in the country to which they are accredited, provided it is the custom of the country and has the sanction of the British ambassador.



RAF OFFICER IN No1 DRESS WEARING AIGUILLETTES





RAF OFFICER IN No 5 DRESS WEARING AIGUILLETES



Post 1992 No 5 dress



FEMALE RAF OFFICER WEARING No 6 DRESS WITH AIGUILLETTES





**RAF OFFICER WEARING No 5 or 8 DRESS WITH MINIATURISED
LIGHTWEIGHT AIGUILLETES**



Pre 1992



Post 1992



Shoulder Devices

0906. The Royal Cypher. The Royal Cypher which is surmounted by a crown, both of gilt, is a device to indicate an honorary appointment to the Sovereign. There are two sizes for wear by those entitled officers indicated at **Annex B**, as follows:

- a. Large (1 1/4 in (3.2 cm) high and 1 1/4 in (3.2 cm) wide, including fixed crown), with Nos 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, 6 and 6B dresses, and the greatcoat.
- b. Small (15/16 in (24 mm) high and 15/16 in wide, including fixed crown), with Nos 5, 5A, 5B, 6A, 8 and 8A dresses. Also certain officers after relinquishment of appointment (see Annex B, note 3).

0907. On uniform fitted with shoulder straps, the Royal Cypher is to be worn on both straps. With Nos 1, 5, 5A and 5B dresses, the lower edge of the device is to be 1 in (2.5 cm) from the bottom of the straps. With Nos 2, 2A, 2B, 6, 6A, 6B, 8 and 8A (male officers only) dresses, also when worn with a greatcoat (other than by Marshals of the Royal Air Force), the device is to be superimposed by the lowest rows of ranking braid, with the lower edge of the device level with the bottom of the lowest row of braid. With No 1A dress and on shoulder straps worn by Marshals of the RAF, the device is to be affixed to the lower edge of the shoulder strap. On Nos 5 and 8 dresses (pre-1992) worn by female officers, only one Royal Cypher is to be worn as follows:

- a. Female RAF officers. On the collar, immediately above the attachment for the loop of the aiguillettes.
- b. PMRAFNS. 1/2 in (13 mm) above the attachment for the loop of the aiguillettes.

The device is held in position by a split pin when worn on a shoulder strap. A modified version in brooch form, is worn on Nos 5 and 8 Dresses (pre-1992) by all female officers.

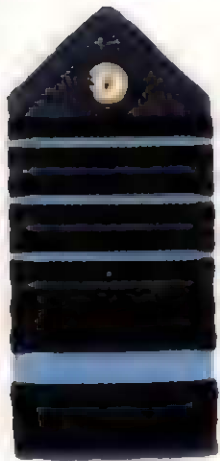
Per Issue { 3 sets of Large Cypher
1 set of miniature ...



OFFICERS SHOULDER BOARDS



1000
1000





KEY TO OFFICER'S SHOULDER BOARDS

Worn by Marshals of the RAF on greatcoat example shown is ADC

Worn by AVM and superior ranks except Marshal of the RAF on greatcoat with No 1A, 5, 5A and 5B. Example shown is AVM

Worn by AVM and superior ranks except Marshal of the RAF on No 1 dress.

Worn by AVM and superior ranks except Marshal of the RAF on No 1 dress. Example shown is ADC.

Worn by all officers except Marshal of the RAF on No 1 dress. Example shown is Air Chief Marshal

Air Commodore board for greatcoat who is ADC.

Wearing of swords

0908. Description. The following types of RAF swords may be worn on appropriate occasions:

- a. Air rank (AO)
- b. Below air rank (BAO)
- c. Warrant Officer (WO)

0909. The sword assembly consists of:

- a. Sword.

(1) Blade. Straight, 32 1/4 to 32 1/2 in (82 to 82.6 cm) - 1925 pattern or 72 cm (1994 scaled down version) long, both tapered gradually and fullered both sides. There is less engraving on the warrant officer sword than on the officer patterns.

(2) Mountings. Consist of guard, grip, back piece and pommel, ferrule, under nut and invisible top nut. The guard is of gold plated rolled brass pierced with an ornamental device, including the Royal Cypher. The back piece is in the form of an eagle's head. The officer patterns and some of the more recently manufactured warrant officer patterns, also have a badge showing the RAF eagle and crown made of gold plated thin sheet brass, raised from underneath and fixed and brazed to the dome of the guard. The grip is 4 1/2 in (11 cm) long and made of wood. The officer patterns are covered with white fish skin, bound with gilt wire and the warrant officer pattern is covered with plain, black fish skin.

b. Sword knot. The officer pattern is of blue and gold and comprises a gold lace strap with a blue silk line down the centre, gold acorn, gold and blue slider. The warrant officer pattern is of similar design but is of dark blue leather.

c. Scabbard. Of tanned leather, blocked and polished and fitted with three gold plated brass mounts. On the officer patterns, the rings on the top and middle mounts are held by a ball attached to a laurel wreath. On the air rank pattern, both mounts are ornamentally chased and the centre mount is slightly longer than on the other patterns. The bottom mount, known as the shoe or chape, is surrounded at the mouth by a laurel wreath on the officer patterns and a feature of the air officer pattern is that the shoe is asymmetric. On the warrant officer pattern, all laurel wreaths are omitted.

- d. Ceremonial belt.

(1) Officer pattern. Of blue silk web 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) wide with a bar of gold embroidery 3/8 in (9 mm) wide running length-wise along each edge. It is lined with blue morocco to match. The plate fastener bears the eagle and crown

surrounded by a laurel wreath, with the motto PER ARDUA AD ASTRA under the eagle and within the wreath.

e. Canvas belt. Of plain canvas, 2 in (5.1 cm) wide with shoulder strap 7/8 in (22 mm) wide. The buckle, slide adjuster and attachment rings, are of brass.

f. Slings.

(1) Officer pattern. Of similar material and appearance to the officer pattern ceremonial belt but 1 in (2.5 cm) wide with bars of gold embroidery 3/16 in (5mm) in width.

(2) Warrant officer pattern. Of similar material and appearance to the warrant officer pattern ceremonial belt, but 3/4 in (19 mm) wide.

Slings are worn in pairs, each connecting with the belt at one end and attached to a billet at the other. The shorter sling is worn at the left hand side of the belt and the longer sling at the rear of the belt.

g. Billets. Fittings of gold plated brass, the air officer pattern is embossed with an eagle and a crown motif, attached to a short leather strap. Billets are used to join the slings to the rings on the scabbard.

0910. Supply of swords. Swords and associated equipment are supply items and allocations to command headquarters are made, for use on a pool basis. Officers in certain appointments and on the Special Duties List qualify for long term loans and short term loans are made to officers participating in ceremonies on an individual basis. Items required for wear at weddings and private functions are to be obtained from commercial sources or Command pools of non-public swords. Abroad, where not available commercially, hire from the supply squadron on a prepayment basis is permitted. Supply procedure and entitlement to long term loan is outlined in AP 830 and Command Staff Instructions.

0911. Dress with which swords may be worn. Swords may only be worn with Nos 1, 1A, 6, 6A, 9 and 11 dresses.

0912. Occasions when swords are worn. Swords are to be worn on the occasions indicated in Annex D to Chapter 10. A member of a church congregation, attending the service only and not taking part in any parade or ceremony before, during, or after the service, should not wear a sword unless specifically requested to do so. Similarly, where wearing a sword at an indoor ceremonial function is likely to be an encumbrance, permission to omit the sword may be given by the sponsor co-ordinating the occasion. Swords may be removed temporarily whilst travelling in an aircraft or car and at a social function which may immediately follow a ceremony. In these circumstances, the belt may continue to be worn with the slings joined to form a loop.

0913. Warrant officers are only to wear swords when parading as a member of a colour party escorting a Queen's Colour or as Bandmasters. Bandmasters are to wear the BAO sword and colour warrant officers the warrant officer's pattern sword. This privilege does not apply on any other ceremonial occasion or to members of squadron standard parties.

0914. Method of wear. There are two methods of wearing the sword:

a. Parade commanders, commanders of guards of honour, officers under their orders, Directors of Music Bandmasters and warrant officers in colour parties are to wear the sword hooked up on the ceremonial belt, worn outside the jacket. When worn this way with Nos 1 and 6 dresses, the detachable belt is to be removed from the jacket and with Nos 1A and 6A dresses, the sash is to be dispensed with. The ceremonial belt can be prevented from sagging by fitting a small brass hook on either side of the jacket at waist level, or by use of a needle and thread. When a greatcoat is worn, the hilt of the sword is to be outside the sword slit of the greatcoat.

b. Inspecting and reviewing officers, those in attendance upon them and other officers not referred to in sub-para a, are to wear the sword in the normal fitting, ie the scabbard containing the sword is clipped to the two slings which in turn hang from a plain canvas belt worn under the uniform jacket with the shoulder strap over the right shoulder. With the sword in this position, the jacket belt is to be worn with Nos 1 and 6 dresses and the sash with Nos 1A and 6A dresses. When a greatcoat is worn, the hilt of the sword is to protrude beyond the wrap-over, which is to be folded back. The method of carrying the sword is outlined in **AP 818 (Drill and Ceremonial)**.

0915. White gloves and webbing. The occasions for wear and the orders of dress with which to wear, white gloves and webbing, are detailed at **Annex C** to this chapter.

SWORDS

Air Officer

Below Air Officer

Warrant Officer





CEREMONIAL SWORD BELT - BAO





CANVAS BELT - WITH AO SLINGS AND BUCKLES





This file was downloaded
from the RTFM Library.

Link: www.scottbouch.com/rtfm

Please see site for usage terms,
and more aircraft documents.

