



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
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Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4833

19 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 21 September 2023 requesting further details on various Service badges, particularly:

1. *WHO (of the Air Staff) designed the badge and who was the Chief of Air Force at the time?*
2. *Army Order No.3*
3. *Air Ministry's discussion on the matter*
4. *approval documents by the Kings*
5. *design of the Tudor crown badge (pre-1955)*
5. *why is the eagle looking 'left' and not 'right'?*
6. *all information on the gold & green figure top-left of your attached letter.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

With respect to the Royal New Zealand Air Force Badge, I refer you to the response of 21 September 2023 and direct you to the Air Force Museum ([research@airforcemuseum.co.nz](mailto:research@airforcemuseum.co.nz)) for information that is publicly available concerning the history of this Badge, the original Sovereign's authorisation of the Badge, and of the Royal New Zealand Air Force in general. On 19 July 1943, Air Vice-Marshal Leonard Isitt became the Chief of Air Staff of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

It is unclear what you mean when you are requesting a copy of *Army Order No.3*. There is Defence Force Orders for the Army Volume 3 concerning personnel matters. This document is not available in a format for public release; however, if this is the information you are seeking, and there is a particular chapter/topic that you are interested in, please clarify that and your request will be considered accordingly.

Enclosed are copies of the Sovereign's authorisation of the New Zealand Army, Royal New Zealand Navy, and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Badges. A digital copy for the Royal New Zealand Air Force Badge is not readily retrievable, but as noted above, please contact the Air Force Museum.

The NZDF is not responsible for and does not hold information on the design of the United Kingdom's sovereigns' crowns. Information may well be publicly available on the internet.

The image at the top left of this letter is the NZDF Badge. Your request for all information concerning this Badge is declined in accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA as a substantial

research and collation effort would be required. As previously noted, a copy of the Sovereign's authorisation of the Badge is enclosed with this response. Some information about this Badge is publicly available in response to an earlier request for information at the following location:

<https://fyi.org.nz/request/4789/response/15720/attach/4/OIA%202016%202568%20Hill%20ODPA%20response%20letter%20and%20enclosure%20reduced.pdf>

Work continues to identify other historical information about the NZDF badge that may be held. An update will be provided to you once that work is complete.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosures:**

1. New Zealand Army Badge authorisation
2. Royal New Zealand Navy Badge authorisation
3. New Zealand Defence Force Badge authorisation



*Approved  
Elizabeth II*



*Badge of the  
New Zealand Army*

*College of Arms  
December 2001*

*V. H. Guyon Jones  
Garter King of Arms*

### Development of the New Zealand Army Badge 1949-2002



The original New Zealand Army Badge was adopted in 1949 from the British Army. The badge was intended to give a common identity to a reorganised, post-war, New Zealand Army. The only condition laid down by the British for its use was the addition of the letters "NZ" in gold placed under the main crown. This amendment was to differentiate between the badge of the NZ Army and that of the British Army.



On the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the badge was redesigned. The crown on the lion and the main crown were changed from the Tudor Crown of King George VI to the St Edward's Crown adopted by the new monarch. The final version of the badge was authorised in 1954.



In 1995 it was proposed to replace one of the swords with a taiaha. This proposal featured several times in the Army News during the year and sought Army wide feedback or suggestions. This version of the badge was not officially authorised or adopted.



On 24 May 1999 the Chief of General Staff issued a Special Order of the Day authorising a change to the Army Badge that incorporated the words "Ngati Tumatauenga" and replacing one crossed sword with a taiaha. This change reflected the culture that existed in the New Zealand Army while acknowledging the historic linkage. The standard coloured master of the badge was approved by the Chief of General Staff on 7 February 2000.



On 25 September 2000 an application was made to the New Zealand Herald of Arms for a Royal Licence to be granted for the new badge. Following approval of the design by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the badge was presented, in its heraldically correct configuration, to the Chief of General Staff by the Herald of Arms on 16 July 2002. The standard master, representing the original approved by the Queen, was approved by the Chief of General Staff in September 2002.

The original of the Badge is held in the Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum in Waiouru with five high quality copies made to allow for wider display of the badge. The standard masters of the Army Badge are held by the Logistic Executive of Army General Staff and are used to ensure that reproductions of the badge do not vary from the original.



Approved  
Elizabeth II



*The Badge of the*  
**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY.**

14 November, 1969.  
College of Arms,  
London

Anthony R. Wagner.  
Garter King of Arms.



Approved

Elizabeth R



Badge of  
NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

Conrad Swan

Garter.

College of Arms  
21 October 1993

Inspector of Regimental Colours