



**Above:** The 1st Battalion,  
The East Sydney Regiment  
Collar Badge worn by Officers  
of the Battalion.

## BETWEEN THE WORLD WARS

### 1st First Battalion (The East Sydney Regiment) 1918 - 1939

Throughout the First World War the Militia Battalions remained home in "Homeland Defence" during which time 1st Battalion is noted as having several antecedent units and designations. In 1921 parts of 5th Battalion and 2nd Battalion 1st Regiment were joined to be 1st Battalion which assumed the unofficial territorial title of The East Sydney Regiment.

On 4th August 1920 His Excellency Sir Ronald Munro Fergusson, the Governor General of Australia presented a Silken Union Flag referred to at times as a King's Banner or a King's Colour to the NSW AIF Battalions at a Grand Parade on the Sydney Domain. Presented informally to a representative party of the AIF Battalions on parade they were then placed into the custody of the equivalent numbered AMF (Militia) unit on parade for that purpose.

In 1921 approval was given for all the Australian Infantry Battalions to bear King's and Regimental Colours. The King's Banner awarded to 1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF by agreement became the King's Colour for 1st Battalion. It was at that time defaced<sup>1</sup> with a central crest surmounted by an Imperial Crown. The central crest was further emblazoned with the words First Infantry and in the centre the numeral 1. When the Second World War Battle Honours awarded to

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<sup>1</sup> Defaced is the technical term for National Flags etc being emblazoned with crests and or scrolls.

2/1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF were approved in 1961 they were emblazoned on the King's Colour. Also in 1921 1st Battalion acquired through public subscriptions and donations from the Officers a Regimental Colour which was emblazoned with the two Battle Honours already awarded namely SUAKIN 1885 and SOUTH AFRICA 1898-1902.

In 1927 the Australian Army confirmed and awarded the Battles Honours earned by 1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF during the First World War which were inherited by 1st Battalion, The East Sydney Regiment. Ten of those Battle Honours were then emblazoned on the Regimental Colour. Also in 1927 the territorial title of The East Sydney Regiment was confirmed as was the original motto - Nominis Memento vide AAO 132/1927. In 1928 the motto Nominis Memento was changed to Primus Agat Primas vide AAO 579/1928.

In 1930 1st Battalion was linked with 19th Battalion and re-designated as 1st/19th Battalion. In 1937 the City of Sydney by charter adopted the Battalion as "The City of Sydney Regiment" and was re-designated as 1st/19th Battalion, The City of Sydney Regiment". The Battalion retained that title until 1st Battalion was delinked from 19th Battalion in 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War during which it would remain in the Greater Sydney and New South Wales in defensive operations and a training role against an anticipated Japanese landing.



**Above:** The 19th Battalion  
The South Sydney Regiment  
Collar Badge worn by Officers  
of the Battalion.

### **19th Infantry Battalion (The South Sydney Regiment) 1918 – 1939**

Throughout the First World War the antecedent units of 19th Battalion also remained at home employed in "homeland defence". In 1918 The lineage of 19th Battalion continues through 19th Kuring-Gai Infantry Regiment which was re-designated as 2nd Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment (Kuring-Gai Regiment).

In 1920 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF was also presented with a King's Banner by the Governor General at a Grand Parade held on the Sydney Domain on 14 August 1920. It would later become the King's Colour of 19th Battalion, The South Sydney Regiment.

In 1921 19th Battalion was formed from parts of 2nd and 5th Battalions 19th Infantry Regiment and 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment and adopted the unofficial territorial title of The South Sydney Regiment.

Also in 1921 approval was granted to Australian Infantry Battalions (Militia) to bear King's and Regimental Colours. The King's Banner awarded to 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF by agreement became the King's Colour of 19th Battalion. However, it was not defaced in any way and always remained as a plain silk Union Flag. By public subscription and donations made by the Officers 19th Battalion also acquired a Regimental Colour which at that time was emblazoned with a central crest surmounted by an Imperial Crown. The central crest also displayed the colour patch of 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF and the words

Nineteenth Battalion. At that time it was not emblazoned with any Battle Honours.

The King's and Regimental Colours of 19th Battalion, The South Sydney Regiment were formally presented to the Battalion (then commanded by Major JM Maughan DSO) by the Governor of New South Wales at a parade held at Liverpool Camp on 22nd March, 1925.

In 1927 19th Battalion inherited the Battle Honours of 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF. 10 of the Battle Honours were then emblazoned on the Regimental Colour of 19th Battalion. Also the unit motto of Fortiter et Fideliter and the territorial title, The South Sydney Regiment, were both officially approved.

In 1930 19th Battalion was linked with 1st Battalion and re-designated as 1st/19th Battalion. In 1937 the City of Sydney by charter adopted the Battalion as "The City of Sydney Regiment" and was re-designated as 1st/19th Battalion, The City of Sydney Regiment.

In 1939 19th Battalion was de-linked from 1st Battalion and was then linked with 20th Battalion and designated as 20th/19th Infantry Battalion.

During the Second World War 19th Battalion was unlinked from 20th Battalion and would go through further title and territorial changes while being involved in the defence of Darwin before being accepted into the AIF and fighting in New Guinea and New Britain.