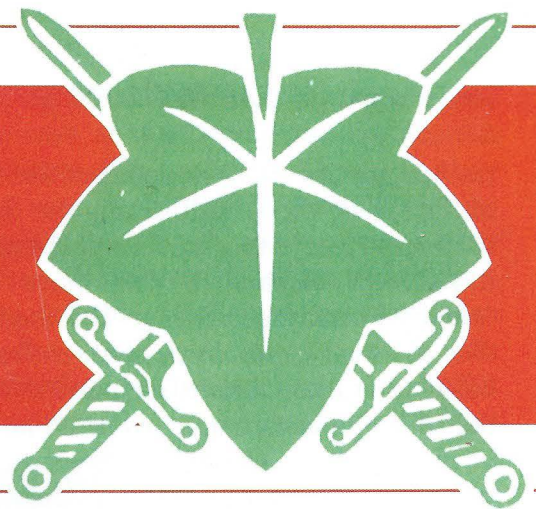


# THE FORMATION SIGN

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## THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA IN 1954

King George VI, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth, had been due to visit Australia in 1952. However writes **David Kellock** his ill health prevented the journey and it was decided that his daughter Princess Elizabeth and her husband Prince Phillip should go in their place. En-route to Australia the Royal couple stopped off in Kenya for a holiday and whilst at the remote Treetops Hotel received the news of the King's death. The tour was cancelled and the Princess returned to the UK as Queen Elizabeth II.



In Australia a special Royal Car Company of the Royal Australian Army Service Corps had been formed to drive the Royal couple, and the badge shown here issued. Following The Queen's Coronation in 1953, it was announced that the Queen and Prince Phillip would tour Australia in 1954. The Royal party arrived in Sydney, Australia on the 3rd February 1954 and left from Freemantle on 1st April 1954, between which dates they had visited every major city and many smaller towns in Australia. Queen Elizabeth was the first reigning monarch to visit Australia and the tour was a massive undertaking for the Australian authorities; subsequent Royal visits were less high profile events.



The RAASC re-formed the Royal Car Company for the duration of the 1954 tour. Using Daimlers, Humbers and Land Rovers they drove the Queen on 207 occasions, travelling 130 hours in the cars and over 2000 miles. The Royal Car Company clocked up half a million miles overall, keeping up with the Queen on her 33 separate flights around the country. The new Royal Car Company badge issued for this visit together with one for other military staff involved in the tour are shown here.

