

St John Ambulance Australia



Peter Falkland Youth Leader of the Year Award

Handbook

The Peter Falkland Award

WHAT IS IT?

This award is the highest accolade for any St John Cadet and is presented in the honour of Major General Peter Falkland, a former Chief Commissioner with St John Ambulance Australia.

During his term as Chief Commissioner Major General Falkland was committed towards developing the talents of young volunteers and the Cadet movement.

When he passed away the award was named in his honour to recognise the contribution of an outstanding cadet in each State/Territory of Australia.

Recipients of the award assume the role of the Aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Commissioner of St John Ambulance in their State/Territory.

All candidates for the award are nominated and have to attend an interview to select for the Cadet of the year Award.

**Thank you to Margret Jacobson
Divisional Superintendent
Hobart Adult Division
2006**

Major-General Peter Falkland The Seventh Chief Commissioner - The Soldier

Major-General Peter Falkland A.O. became the seventh Chief Commissioner in November 1984. The delay in him taking up the appointment to succeed Dr Young who retired on 24th June 1984 was that he was not a member of the Order and had to wait to be admitted as a Commander of the Order to qualify as a Priory Executive Officer. He came to St John after a distinguished military career, having served in Borneo during World War II and as Deputy Commander, 1 Australia Task Force, Vietnam. He was also Head of the Australian Defence Staff in Washington D.C. and concluded his army career as Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

While Peter Falkland was not the first soldier to be Chief Commissioner, he was the first non-medical soldier. However, he had an even hurdle to overcome—he was not, and never had been, a member of St John. When announced, his appointment was not met with universal enthusiasm. Most of the Commissioners of the day felt that one of their number should have been appointed. Many people felt that the last thing the brigade needed was a soldier at the top.

It was a mark of the man that Falkland learnt very quickly what he needed to know to run the organisation. He quickly understood the general regulations and set about winning over the Commissioners, a task he achieved in a very short time. He was appointed to the Priory Structure Review Committee and contributed significantly to the review, which among other reforms led to the adoption of the public name “St John Ambulance Australia”. Also in some discussion the name “Operations Branch” came out of the review. The first name the committee favoured was the “Public Duties Branch” which did not meet with approval of either Falkland or the Brigade Standing Committee. Falkland felt that the name not sufficiently “professional” and successfully pushed the title “Operations Branch” as the brother to the Training Branch.

Falkland continued the reforms commenced by Gordon Young and increased the number of District visits made by National Headquarters Staff. He was a very easy going person as was his wife, Bunny. They soon mixed easily with the St John family and like everyone else, he soon became a St John man. One of the very noticeable changes in the Falkland regime to that of Gordon Young was the relationship of easy and frequent communication that developed between the Chief Commissioner and the Director of Training Branch (Villis Marshall). This had never previously occurred and Villis Marshall frequently attended meetings of the National Headquarters Staff, particularly in January, and visited the Cadet camps. This close working relationship provided beneficial results for the Operations branch, including (ultimately) an expanded number of qualified instructors, recognition of the skills maintenance program and free training for Operations Branch members.

Unfortunately, about 1988 Falkland was diagnosed with cancer: and while he appeared to have an early remission the tumours re-appeared in 1989. He continued to carry out his duties until hospitalised late in the year. Shortly before his death, the Prior, His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden, visited him in Calvary Hospital Canberra, and invested him as a Knight of Grace in the Order of St John.

Major General Peter Falkland The Seventh Chief Commissioner – The Soldier

Despite having to overcome a body of opposition in his early days, in the short time, Peter Falkland became a popular and effective Chief Commissioner. His name is commemorated in the Peter Falkland Awards made to Cadets who have achieved at outstanding levels.



The seventh Chief Commissioner, Peter Falkland, in Tasmania to help promote the St John Week appeal, late 1980s.

**Source: The Zambuks: Ian Howie-Willis
The Seventh Chief Commissioner- The Soldier page 120.
Article by John Spencer, NSW November 2001.**

The Aiguillettes

What?

The Aiguillette is the Gold and red Braided (cord/lanyard) that is worn by the Cadet of the Year for the year of their appointment.

A cord hung in loops from the right shoulder, known as an aiguillette.

The cords are bound together, lying flat, side by side.



In some states, after the year of their appointment the cadet is initialled to wear a red lanyard for the rest of their St John life, from Cadets into Adults and beyond. This not the case in the Northern Territory.



Aiguillettes are normally purchased by State Headquarters and therefore remain the property of St John Ambulance Australia.



The Origins of the AIGUILLETTE!

Originally, the word “Aiguillette” referred to the lacing used to fasten plate armour together and, particularly, to support the arm defences. As such, a knot or loop arrangement was used which sometimes hung down from the shoulder.

At Present worn by the Aide-de-Camp in recognition of their role and duties.

A series of fanciful and somewhat ridiculous legends have grown about the origin of aiguillettes.

- The idea started with the custom of the Generals Aide-de-Camp carrying of rope over his shoulder, together with pegs fastened thereto, for the purpose of hobbling his own General's horses.
- That aiguillettes originated with the cord and pencil worn by generals and staff officers for writing dispatches.

These such accounts have no basis in fact.

MEANING:

A small needle, and is the tag which covers the ends of the cords, such as those of a shoe lace. BUT by extension, the term also refers to any ornamental studs, cords, or pins.

Source “Origin of Aiguillettes” All Hands 615 (April 1968): 34-35
Naval Department Library

Wearing the Aiguillette

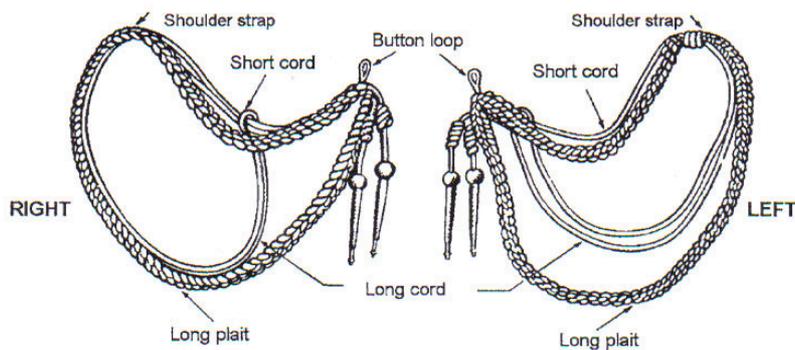
Note in St John Ambulance the Aiguillette is worn on the RIGHT SIDE only.

Figure 2-1 shows how the aiguillette is assembled. The short plait and cord are joined to the long plait and cord by a short shoulder strap in which is worked a button hole or to which a small hook is sewn.

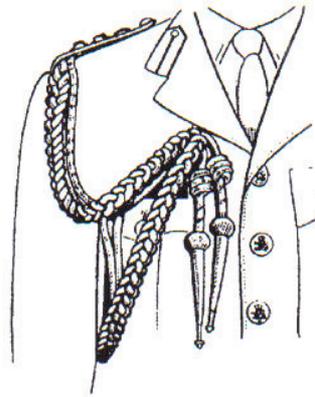
The shoulder strap of the aiguillette is secured under the shoulder strap of the uniform by a button (or small eyelet). The long plait and cords pass under the arm and the loose end of the long cord is looped over the top of the short cord. A small gold button loop is fixed at the junction of the long and short plaits. The method of wearing the aiguillette on various garments is shown in figure 2-2.

NOTE: Nameplates are worn with aiguillettes as appropriate.

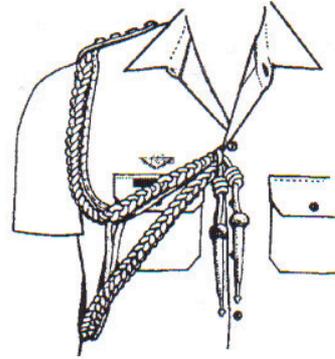
2.1



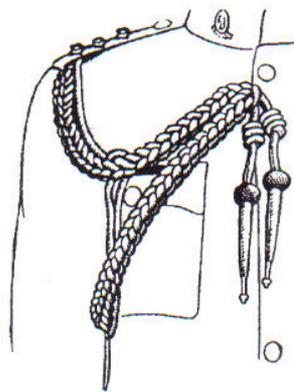
2.2



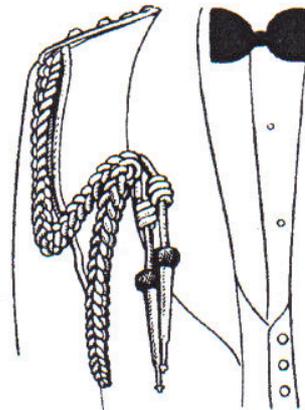
a. Service Dress Jacket



b. Shirt or Safari Jacket



c. Patrol Blue/White Coat



d. Mess Dress

Source: Australian Defence Forces Uniform Manual
ASOD Volume 2 Part 3

The Lanyard

The lanyard first came into use in the Artillery at the end of the nineteenth century, and consisted at that time of a simple piece of string about four feet long, whose purpose was to secure the jack knife which all gunners were required to carry.

The spike of the jack knife was used as a hoof pick to remove stones from horses hooves, and the blade used in emergency to cut looses horses which became entangled in the head ropes and heel ropes on the picket lines.

The Lanyard was also used to secure the fuse key used to set the fuses for shrapnel shells.

The lanyard was therefore worn on the right shoulder by gunners. Thus the lanyard has a honourable and useful history, and we can be proud to wear it white or adopt the lanyard as a adornment, and wear a coloured lanyard.

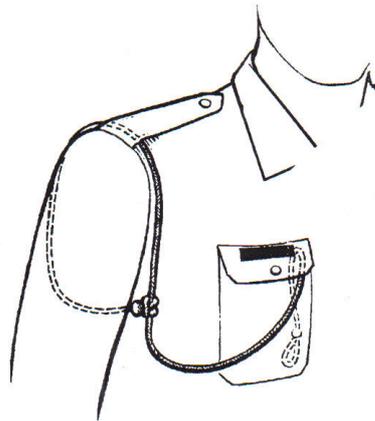
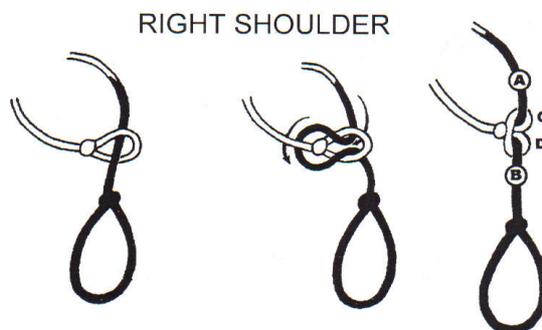


Figure 2-6: Method of knotting and wearing the lanyard (right shoulder)



Note: The lanyard section A-B is pulled straight and the sections C and D are pressed together and stitched with a cotton which matches the colour of the lanyard.

The winner of the Peter Falkland Youth Leader Award should be encouraged to participate in all aspects of St John during the year. They are representing all juniors, cadets and youth in the Northern Territory.

Some of the activities they can be involved with include:

**St John Investiture
Volunteer Weekend
Divisional Inspections
First Aid Competition
Territory Cadet Camp
Attend Anzac Day ceremonies
External award ceremonies – ie Australia Day, Youth Awards,
Volunteering SA&NT Awards
Volunteer Week promotions
St John promotion days and expos
Other community events**

Coverage of their award should be included in:

**Vollie News
Outback Ambulance
Local newspapers
Local radio interviews
St John Annual Report**

Peter Falkland Recipients in the Northern Territory

Initially, the Award was made for an essay competition and then for a project at national level.

The winners were:

1991	Sharon Webb	South Australia
1992	Raeleen Phillips	New South Wales
1993	Edmund O'Loughlin	Western Australia
1994	Dales Searles	Western Australia
1995	No Award	

From 1996, the Award was made to the Cadet / Cadet Leader of the Year in each State / Territory

1996	Not awarded in the Northern Territory	
1997	Paulo Fernandes	Darwin Cadet Division
1998	Ben Mooney	Cadet Band Division
1999	Michael Holmes	Darwin Cadet Division
2000	Peter Williams	Alice Springs Cadet Division
2001	Peter Williams	Alice Springs Cadet Division
2002	Kate Anning	Alice Springs Cadet Division
2003	Emily Macmillan	Humpty Doo Cadet Division
2004	Sara Rilstone	Alice Springs Cadet Division
2005	Amali Laine	Kormilda College Division
2006	Michael Hatfield	Cadet Band Division
2007	Amy McKay	Cadet Band Division
2008	Claire Chandler	Cadet Band Division

**From 2009, the award was changed to the
Peter Falkland Youth Leader Award.**

2009	Karl Staben	Palmerston Cadet Division
2010	Julie Murray	Palmerston Cadet Division
2011	Leanne Eltagonde	Palmerston Cadet Division
2012	Hailee Skinner	Youth Division
2013	Sarah McLaughlin	Cadet Band Division
2014	Kirsty Janssen	Alice Springs Youth Division
2015	Arnah Holland	Youth Division