

FLTLT Ian Johnston RAF took the initiative in getting 77 a squadron badge/crest, whatever, about Jun 1953. He produced several drawings and ideas for the motto.

The work selected for submission featured the Oriental Lion as it prevailed throughout Asia on pagoda roof corners where the beast was said to protect the dwellers from intrusions by evil spirits. This seemed apt as 77 Squadron had left Australia c1942-3 and then was still overseas and the Lion's purpose matched our objectives. (The squadron did not return until late 1954.)

When I last saw the final draft the Lion was shown in profile, which is quite distinctive, and distinguished. Some years later when I saw the approved crest, I was quite surprised to find the Lion turned to full frontal and not at all looking the way we wanted.

I have no idea who decided the change. It was suggested it may have been a technicality brought in by Chester Herald. This would be odd as I recall several badges which show birds, and the like, in profile both Sinister and Dexter.



Notwithstanding, the techos, bless 'em, took him in and labeled him the Grumpy Monkey. And we all lived happily ever after.

This is my best recollection; have not tried to research old files to discover the whys and wherefores. I attach a cropped copy of the porch version as perhaps suitable for the website to give an idea of how he might have appeared.