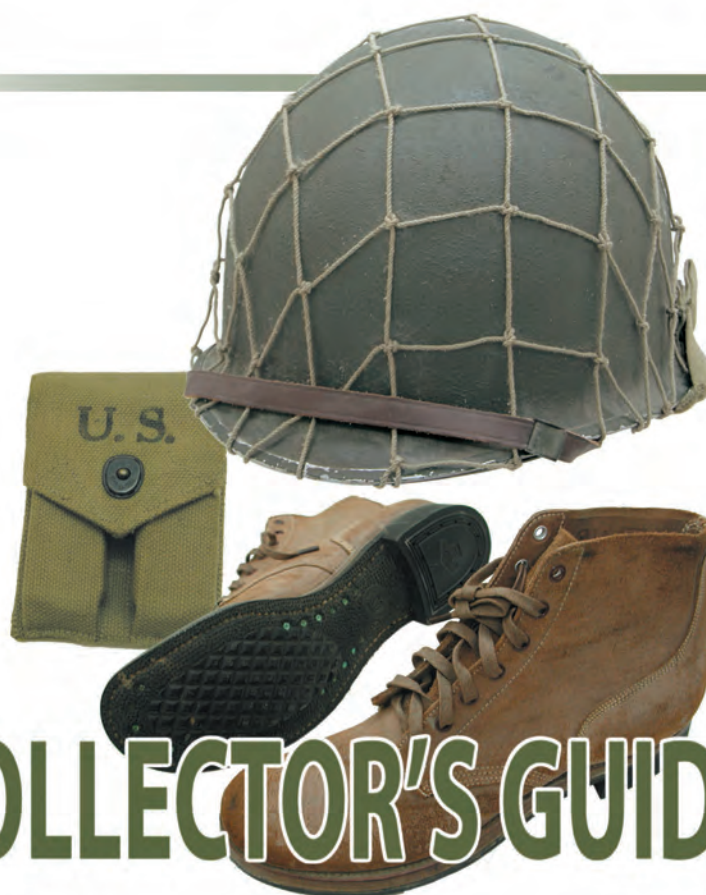


U.S. ARMY SERVICE FORCES
CATALOG, EUROPEAN
THEATER OF OPERATIONS

HENRI-PAUL ENJAMES

GI



COLLECTOR'S GUIDE

VOLUME 1



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Foreword

If retaining the format of the 1943 QMC Supply catalog has appeared both a convenient and pleasant way to show the author's extensive collection, we should also point out that a multitude of items illustrated here were not issued by the Quartermaster Corps, such as weapons and signals equipment for instance, and that these were referred to in specific catalogs of different sizes. Please note that most items are not reproduced to scale.

All period photographs, except when otherwise mentioned, are from the U.S. National Archives.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Leaflet handed in June 1944 to every member of the American invasion forces bound for Normandy, written and signed by General Eisenhower.

"Ever since my younger years, I have been interested in my country's historic past, especially in the Second World War and the United States Army. I was fascinated by the tremendous power it brought to bear to overcome the enemy. This army not only supplied its soldiers with the most modern equipment and uniforms, suitable for any combat situation, but went as far as treating them with their favorite drinks or candy bars.

I started collecting in the early eighties and I always strove to acquire items in the best possible condition, as their markings, when still readable, provide a wealth of information about manufacture dates and models. My only source then was a photocopy of the 1943 Quartermaster Corps Supply Catalog 3-1, but many books and articles on the subject have been published since.

I have aimed in this book to gather as much information as possible on the uniforms and equipment of the American soldier in Europe during the 1943-1945 period. All the while, I cannot boast that all will be told here, as it is most likely that future research will uncover more material.

The purpose of this book is also to assist the enthusiast in his quest for authentic items while the militaria market is nowadays 'infected' with numerous repros, notwithstanding the leftovers from the wardrobes of recent American war movies and TV serials.

I hope that young collectors reading this book will be attracted to American WW2 militaria, so that the sacrifice of those who fought for the liberation of Europe is not forgotten."

Henri-Paul Enjames

The United States Army, 1941-45

1. Organization

The wartime U.S. Army included three major components: the Regular Army, the National Guard and the Reserves. Regular and Guard units were brought up to war strength mainly by recalling Reserve officers, by voluntary enlistments and the draft ('Selective service'). Length of service for draftees was defined as "for the duration" plus six months.

2. Personnel

The following tables show the approximate allocation of personnel within the main military organizations, as well as the rank of their commanding officers.

TACTICAL UNIT	APPROX. NO. OF MEN	COMMANDER
Squad.....	12	Corporal
Platoon.....	50	Lieutenant
Company.....	200	Captain
Battalion (Inf.).....	900	Major
Regiment (Inf.).....	3,200	Colonel
Division.....	15,000	Major General
Corps.....	75,000	Lt. General
Army.....	300,000	General

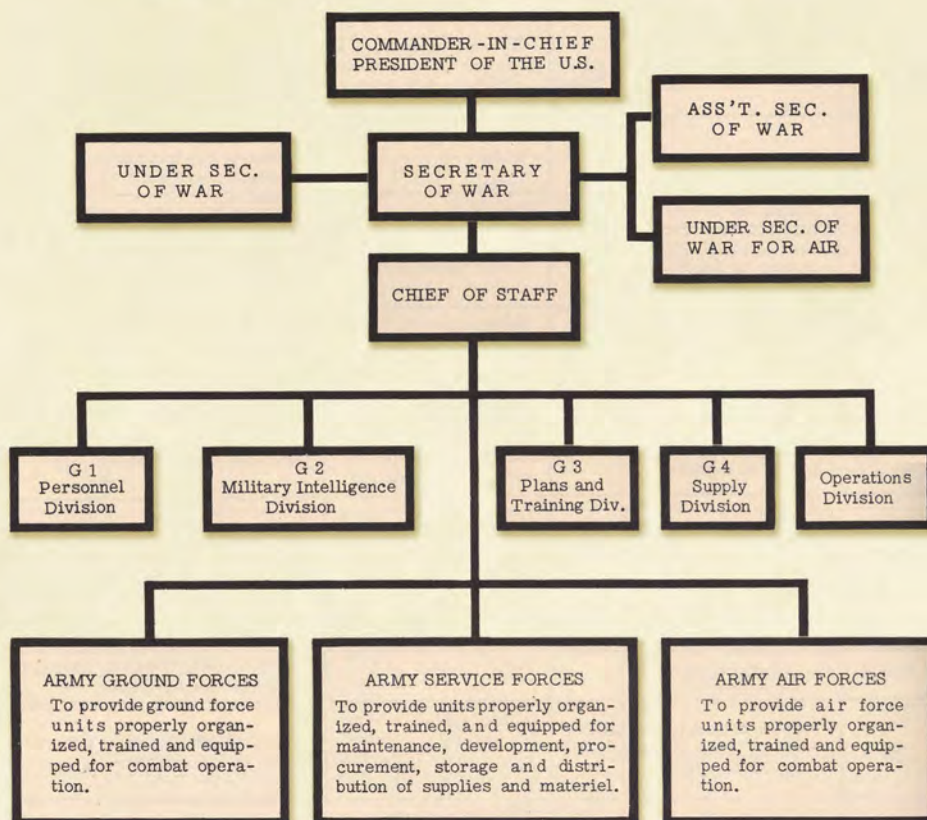
3. High Command

The President of the United States was the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. He commanded the military through his Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff he had appointed.

The Chief of Staff directed the Army's three major commands:

- The Army Ground Forces (infantry, artillery, etc.)
- The Army Air Forces
- The Army Service Forces (quartermasters, engineers, etc.).

ORGANIZATION OF ARMY



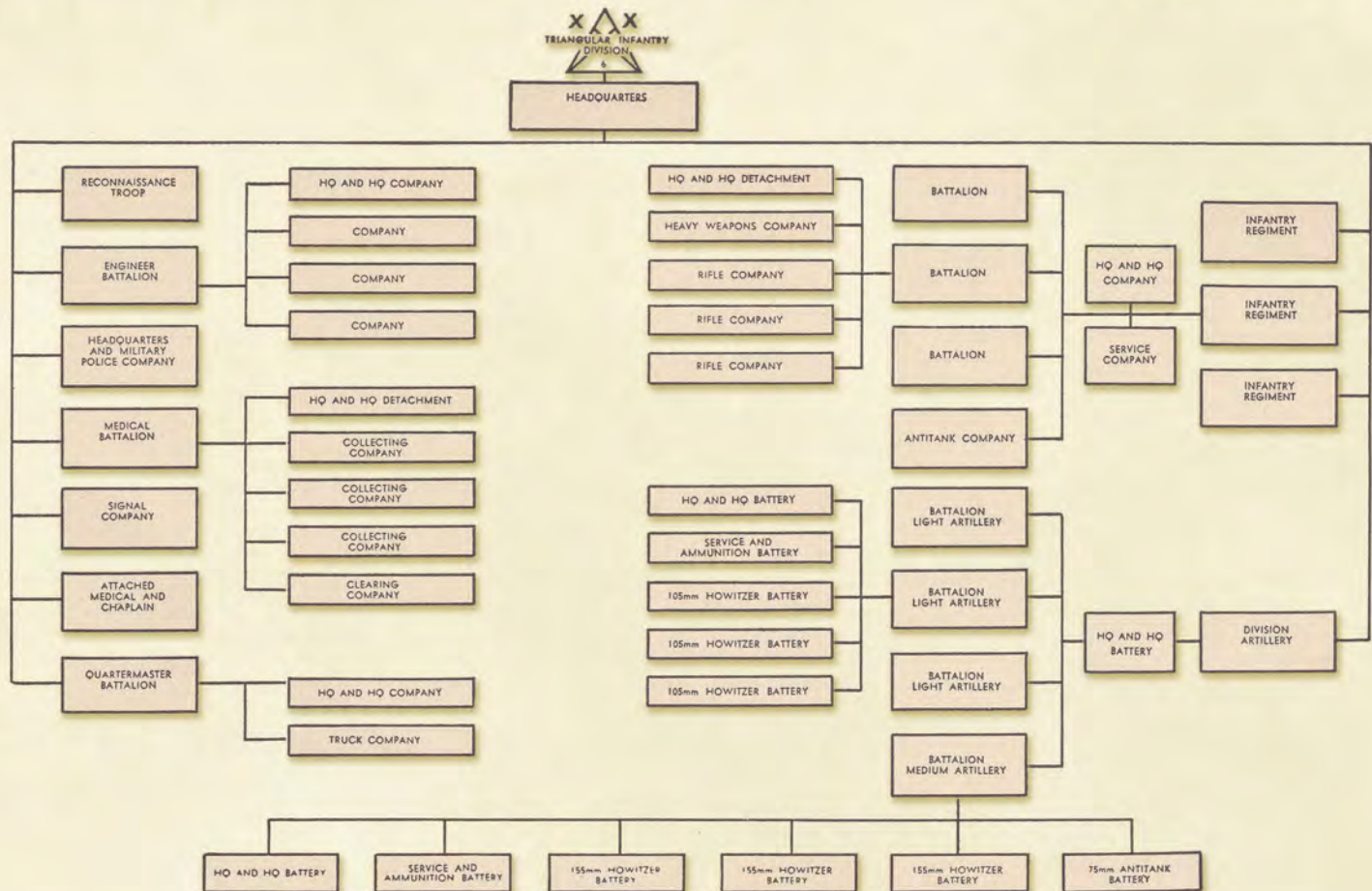
4. The Infantry Division

The Division was the basic organization for sustained action in the field. It was the smallest unit able to pursue strategic aims with its organic means. Depending on the assignment, the division could be supported by the Airforce and Army or Corps level units, such as tank

destroyer and tank battalions, as well as engineer and other combat support assets.

The standard "triangular" division had three infantry regiments supported by four field artillery battalions. Among the other components was a mechanized reconnaissance troop.

(see table of organization below)



5. A typical infantry division in the European Theater of Operations (ETO): the 1st Infantry Division, 1944-1945

- 16th Infantry Regiment
- 18th Infantry Regiment
- 26th Infantry Regiment

Division Artillery

HQ and HQ Battery

4. 5th Field Artillery Battalion

5. 7th Field Artillery Battalion

6. 32nd Field Artillery Battalion

7. 33rd Field Artillery Battalion

8. 1st Reconnaissance Troop, Mecz

9. 1st Engineer Combat Battalion

10. 1st Medical Battalion

11. 1st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment

12. Headquarters Special Troops

13. Hq Company, 1st Infantry Division

Military Police Platoon

14. 701st Ordnance Light Maintenance Company

15. 1st Quartermaster Company

16. 1st Signal Company

Attached units:

745th Tank Battalion (attached 6 June 1944-8 May 1945)

634th Tank Destroyer Battalion

(attached 1 August 1944-6 May 1945)

635th Tank Destroyer Battalion

(attached 7 June 1944-30 September 1944)

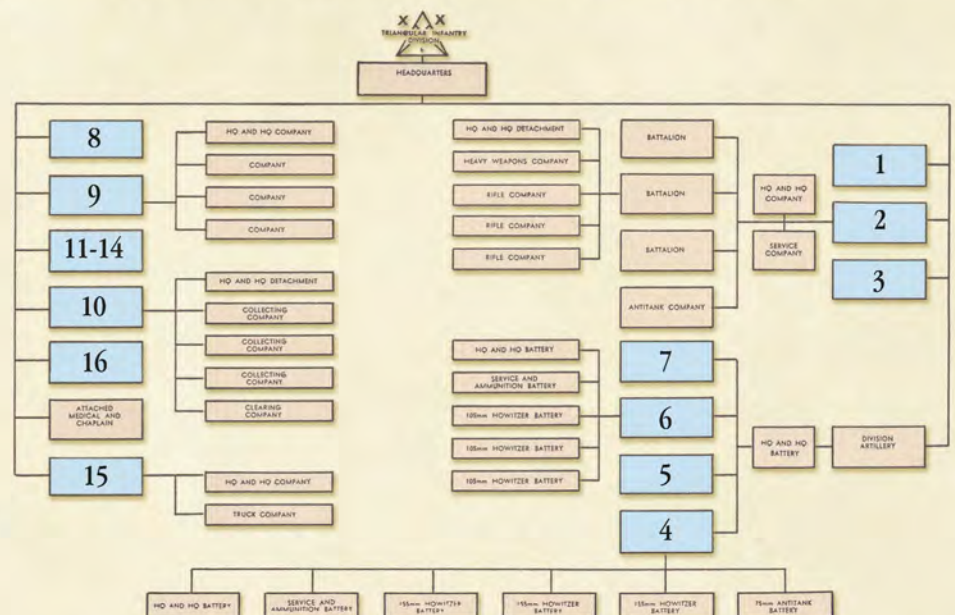
703rd Tank Destroyer Battalion

(attached 18 December 1944-31 December 1944)

103rd AAA Auto-Wpns Battalion

(attached 16 June 1944-7 February 1945,

24 February 1945-8 May 1945)



1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

REGULATION BRASSARDS, 1941-1945



General Staff Corps officers assigned to the HQ of a field army



General Staff Corps officers assigned to the HQ of an army corps



General Staff Corps officers assigned to the HQ of a division



Transportation Corps officers (ships, trains...)



Technical Observers and service specialists: civilian technicians and advisers



Gas Personnel



Recruiting service



Engineer fire and truck companies



Journalists, Feature writers and Radio commentators



Photographers (Press photographers)



Emblem, sleeve, combatant and non combatant: worn by Army civilian employees, and civilian personnel of military missions overseas or in the theaters of operations.



Geneva Convention neutrality brassard worn in the field by certain non-combatant personnel of the Medical Department and the Corps of Chaplains



Veterinary service



Military Police



Brassards denoting temporary rank bestowed on enlisted men during basic training,



or within Service schools and the Army Specialized Training Program.



Brassard worn during training by acting sergeants.

1. Brassards

A brassard is a distinguishing mark worn on the arm to denote a special function or assignment, permanent or temporary.

Regulation-sized brassards were about 4 by 18 inches, worn on the left arm, usually half-way between the shoulder and elbow. Brassards were not issued with any fastening device, they were therefore held on the sleeve most often by a safety pin.

2. Shoulder sleeve insignia

The first cloth unit insignia originated at the end of World War One, they were authorized in 1920. From 1930 to 1966, most unit patches were machine embroidered in color threads on a tan cotton backing ('flat edge' patches). After 1966, regulation unit insignia were manufactured with a thick border to prevent unraveling (the 'merrow edge'). During WW2, the Army ordered most of its cloth insignia from civilian companies, but it also produced some of its own. These patches can be told apart by their distinctive olive drab border, an olive drab thread being also visible in the weave on the back of the insignia.

Many patches were also procured locally in Europe and they offer a great variety of materials, colors and designs.

Shoulder sleeve insignia were worn at the top the left sleeve, 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam (→ page 12).

These unit patches were sewn on the wool service coat or Ike jacket, the wool or cotton shirt (when worn on its own), the wool overcoat and various field jack-

ets. Insignia was not worn on the fatigue uniform. As of 1944, a veteran being assigned to a different unit could continue to wear the patch of its former combat unit (the 'Combat patch') on the right sleeve.

The plates on the following pages illustrate the shoulder insignia for most of the units fielded on the European front, and the captions indicate their official campaigns.

Left.
Back view of the regulation shoulder insignia for the 2nd Infantry Division.

A shoulder patch for the 28th Infantry Division, Army-manufacture: green edge and weave thread on the obverse



A. Army Groups, Armies and Army Corps



1. 1st Army Group. Deception HQ activated together with several 'Phantom Divisions'. Became the actual HQ 12th Army Group on 14 July 1944. (→ page 11)
2. 6th Army Group Southern France landings, France, Germany
3. 12th Army Group France, Belgium, Germany
4. 15th Army Group Sicily, Italy, occupation of Austria
5. 1st Army D-Day, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland, Germany
6. 3rd Army Normandy, Brittany, Eastern France, Battle of the Bulge, Germany, Czechoslovakia
7. 5th Army Italy landings and campaign
8. 7th Army Sicily, Southern France landings, Vosges, Alsace, Saar, Germany
9. 9th Army Brittany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany

10. 15th Army Atlantic ports pockets, Germany
11. 2nd Army Corps North African landings, Tunisia, Sicily, Italy
12. 3rd Army Corps France, Battle of the Bulge, Germany
13. 4th Army Corps Italy
14. 5th Army Corps D-Day (Omaha Beach), Normandy, Eastern France, Battle of the Bulge, Germany
15. 6th Army Corps Italy, Southern France landings, France, Germany, Austria
16. 7th Army Corps D-Day (Utah Beach), Normandy, North- Eastern France, Belgium, Germany
17. 8th Army Corps Normandy, Brittany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Battle of the Bulge, Germany
18. 12th Army Corps Eastern France, Battle of the Bulge, Germany

19. 13th Army Corps Holland, Germany
20. 15th Army corps Normandy, Eastern France, Siegfried Line, Germany
21. 16th Army Corps Normandy, Holland, Germany
22. 18th Army Corps Operation 'Market-Garden,' Battle of the Bulge, Germany
23. 19th Army Corps Normandy, Belgium, Germany
24. 20th Army Corps Normandy, Loire region, Eastern France, Germany, Austria
25. 21st Army Corps Eastern France, Germany, Austria
26. 22nd Army Corps Germany
27. 23rd Army Corps provided the 15th Army HQ in 1945

1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

B. Infantry Divisions



- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1. 1st Infantry Division | North African Landings, Tunisia, Sicily landings and campaign, D-Day (Omaha beach), Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Germany, Czechoslovakia | 7. 9th Infantry Division | North African Landings, Tunisia and Sicily, Normandy, Belgium, Germany | 15. 34th Infantry Division | North African landings, Tunisia and Italy |
| 2. 2nd Infantry Division | D + 1 at Omaha, Normandy, Germany, Czechoslovakia | 8. 10th Mountain Division | Italy | 16. 35th Infantry Division | Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe |
| 3. 3rd Infantry Division | Tunisia, Sicily landings and campaign, Southern France landings (Saint-Tropez), Vosges, Battle of the Bulge, Germany, Austria | 9. 13th Airborne Division | (517th PIR) Southern France, Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge, Alsace, Germany | 17. 36th Infantry Division | Salerno, Italy, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe |
| 4. 4th Infantry Division | D-Day (Utah beach), Normandy, liberation of Paris, Belgium, Battle of the Bulge, Germany | 10. 17th Airborne Division | Battle of the Bulge, Germany (operation 'Varsity') | 18. 42nd Infantry Division | France, Germany, Austria |
| 5. 5th Infantry Division | France, Germany, Czechoslovakia | 11. 26th Infantry Division | Eastern France, Saar, Luxemburg, Battle of the Bulge, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia | 19. 44th Infantry Division | France, Germany, Austria |
| 6. 8th Infantry Division | Normandy, Brittany, Luxemburg, Battle of the Bulge, Germany | 12. 28th Infantry Division | Eastern France, Luxemburg, Battle of the Bulge, Germany | 20. 45th Infantry Division | Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Southern France, Eastern France, Germany |
| | | 13. 29th Infantry Division | D-Day (Omaha beach), Normandy, Brittany, Germany | 21. 63rd Infantry Division | France, Germany |
| | | 14. 30th Infantry Division | Normandy, Northern France, Belgium, Germany | 22. 65th Infantry Division | France, Germany, Austria |
| | | | | 23. 66th Infantry Division | Atlantic ports pockets, Germany |
| | | | | 24. 69th Infantry Division | Belgium, Germany |
| | | | | 25. 70th Infantry Division | France, Germany. |



- 26. 71st Infantry Division France, Germany, Austria
- 27. 75th Infantry Division France, Germany
- 28. 76th Infantry Division Luxemburg, Germany, Czechoslovakia
- 29. 78th Infantry Division France, Belgium, Germany
- 30. 79th Infantry Division Normandy, Eastern France, Germany
- 31. 80th Infantry Division Normandy, Eastern France, Luxemburg, Germany, Austria
- 32. 82nd Airborne Division North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Holland, Germany,
- 33. 83rd Infantry Division Normandy, Brittany, Eastern France, Germany
- 34. 84th Infantry Division Belgium, Holland, Battle of the Bulge, Germany
- 35. 85th Infantry Division Italy
- 36. 86th Infantry Division France, Germany
- 37. 87th Infantry Division France, Germany

- 38. 88th Infantry Division Italy
- 39. 89th Infantry Division France, Germany
- 40. 90th Infantry Division D-Day (Utah beach), Eastern France, Germany, Czechoslovakia
- 41. 91st Infantry Division Italy
- 42. 92nd Infantry Division Italy
- 43. 94th Infantry Division Brittany, Eastern France, Luxemburg, Germany
- 44. 95th Infantry Division France, Holland, Germany
- 45. 97th Infantry Division Germany, Czechoslovakia
- 46. 99th Infantry Division Belgium, Germany
- 47. 100th Infantry Division France, Germany
- 48. 101st Airborne Division Normandy, Holland, Battle of the Bulge, Germany (Berchtesgaden)
- 49. 102nd Infantry Division Germany
- 50. 103rd Infantry Division France, Germany, Austria
- 51. 104th Infantry Division France, Belgium, Germany

- 52. 106th Infantry Division Battle of the Bulge, Belgium, Germany.

(Note. Armored Divisions patches are shown on page 126, and Airborne units patches on page 137)

1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

C. Non-divisional units



1. SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force)
2. Allied Forces Headquarters (N. Africa, Italy)
3. North African Theater
4. ETO (European Theater of Operations)
5. ETO Advanced base
6. European Headquarters
7. Persian Gulf Command
8. European Civil Affairs

9. 1st Special Service Force
10. 474th RCT
11. 2nd Cavalry Division
12. 442nd Regimental Combat Team
13. Engineer Special Brigades
14. 36th Engineer Battalion
15. Task Force V (USA)
16. Airborne Command

17. Ports of Embarkation
18. Ranger qualification Badge
19. 2nd Ranger Battalion
20. 5th Ranger Battalion
21. Advance Section (Com Z)
22. Army Service Forces (Com Z)
23. London Base command
24. Red Ball Express Badge

D. Phantom units

Normandy was finally selected on 18 June 1943 as the target for the cross-Channel invasion. A far-ranging deception plan (code-named 'Fortitude') was then initiated. Fortitude was two-fold: firstly, it intended to fool German intelligence into believing the landings would occur in Norway or Denmark ('Skye'). The second intent of the operation ('Quicksilver') was to make the enemy think an alternative would be an amphibious assault on the Pas-de-Calais in Northern France.

The fictitious 1st U.S. Army Group (FUSAG, ➡ page 7) was then activated under Lieutenant General George Patton in East Kent. FUSAG simulated the assembly of a field army, complete with dummy wooden or inflated rubber tanks, etc. Moreover, shoulder insignia were manufactured for two army corps and 19 'Phantom' divisions. Not more than 1,000-2,000 patches were however made for this purpose.

1. 14th Army
2. 31st Corps
3. 33rd Corps
4. 6th Airborne Division
5. 9th Airborne Division
6. 11th Infantry Division
7. 14th Infantry Division
8. 17th Infantry Division

9. 18th Airborne Division
10. 21st Airborne Division
11. 22nd Infantry Division
12. 46th Infantry Division
13. 48th Infantry Division
14. 50th Infantry Division
15. 55th Infantry Division
16. 59th Infantry Division

17. 108th Infantry Division
18. 119th Infantry Division
19. 130th Infantry Division
20. 135th Airborne Division
21. 141st Infantry Division
22. 157th Infantry Division



1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

3. Distinctive insignia

Distinctive insignia (DIs) are small enameled metal insignia, chosen and worn by most regiment or battalion-sized units. More than 2,000 different designs had been authorized between 1923 and 1943. However, on 2 January 1943, owing to more than a thousand designs pending approval and the general shortage of strategic metals such as brass, the War Department suspended all further orders for distinctive insignia. But more insignia were unofficially designed afterwards and privately purchased by individual soldiers.

According to regulations and during the 1944-45 time frame:

— Enlisted men wore distinctive insignia on the left front of the gar-

rison cap, and on each lapel of the woolen service coat or Ike jacket ;

— Officers wore distinctive insignia on the shoulder loops of the service coat. It was also pinned on the left side of the officer's garrison cap until August 1942, when it was replaced by rank insignia.



1-2. Distinctive insignia of the 22nd Infantry Regiment (4th Infantry Division), screwback.

3-4. Distinctive insignia of the 2nd Infantry Regiment (5th Infantry Division), pinback.

5. Distinctive insignia of the 379th Infantry Regiment (95th Infantry Division), still on its NS Meyer Inc. card.

4. The clutch fastener

Until 1942, most metal insignia (DIs, collar disks, and officer's rank and arm or service insignia...) were fastened to the uniform with a 'post and round nut' or brooch pin. The first types of clutches, which held the insignia by locking on a vertical pin, had been patented in the twenties, but were seldom used because of their cost.

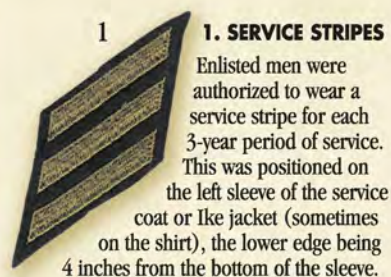
In 1942, Frederick Ballou and Melvin Moore invented a new type of clutch, cheaply stamped from sheet brass. Two patents were registered in January 1943 under Nos 2308412 and 2308424. The clutch then became the principal fastening device for metallic military insignia.



1. First-type clutch, patented in the 1920s and sometimes seen on early military insignia (officers' insignia of arm and service).

2-3. 1942-type clutch (Patent pending)

4. 1943-1947 clutch. After 1947 the design was improved: eight 'pimples' were embossed on the clutch to prevent it from turning on the pin and therefore slipping (5).



2. MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT BADGE

The Meritorious Service Unit Plaque was established in August 1944 to reward the efficiency of Army Service Forces units. Their personnel was allowed to wear the Meritorious Service Unit Badge on the lower right sleeve of the service coat or Ike jacket, or the shirt when worn as an outer garment.

3. OVERSEAS SERVICE BARS

One bar for each period of 6 months overseas, worn on the lower left sleeve of the service uniform.



2

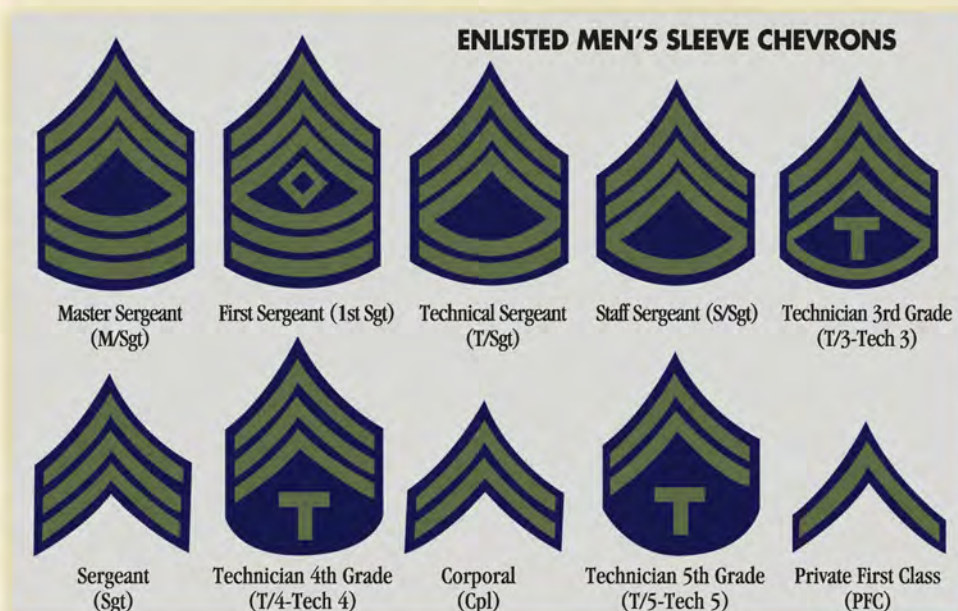


3

5. Rank insignia

Insignia of grade for officers were pinned on the shoulder loops of the service coat, wool overcoat, cotton field overcoat and field jackets, and on the left front of the garrison cap. The rank badge was also affixed to the shirt's right collar when it was worn by itself (prior to Aug. 1942, rank insignia were pinned on the shirt's shoulder loops).

The rank chevrons for enlisted men (EM) were sewn on each sleeve of the following, half-way between the shoulder and elbow: wool overcoat, wool service coat and Ike jacket, shirts and field jackets. Rank insignia were officially not worn on fatigue (HBT) uniforms (→ page 40-41).



1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

6. Officers' insignia of arm and service



Collar insignia



Adjutant General's
Department



Aide to General



Aide to Lieutenant
General



Aide to Major General



Aide to Brigadier
General



Air Force



Cavalry



Coast Artillery Corps



Field Artillery



Infantry



Corps of Engineers



Chemical Warfare
Service



Finance Department



General Staff Corps



Chaplains
(Christian)



Chaplains
(Jewish)



Inspector General's
Department



Judge Advocate
General's Department



Military Intelligence
Division



Ordnance
Department



Military Police



National Guard
Bureau



Quartermaster Corps



Signal Corps



Officer not member
of Arm or Service



Warrant Officer



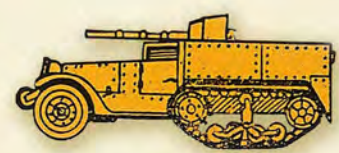
US Military Academy



Armored Force



Transportation Corps



Tank Destroyer Force

6. Officers' insignia of arm and service



Medical Department



Dental Corps



Veterinary Corps



Medical
Administrative Corps



Army Nurse Corps



Contract Surgeon



Sanitary Corps
reserve



Pharmacy Corps



Army Band



Women's Auxiliary
Corps

Army officers' insignia of arm and service were pinned on the lapels of the service coat, the collar itself bore the U.S. monogram. On the shirt collar – when worn as an outer garment – the rank insignia was

placed on the right side and the branch device on the left side. Prior to August 1942, the U.S. monogram had been worn on the right collar, and the rank insignia on the shoulder loops.



Quartermaster Corps branch insignia for officers,
early-war enameled manufacture, early style clutches.



U.S. device for the officers' service coat collar.

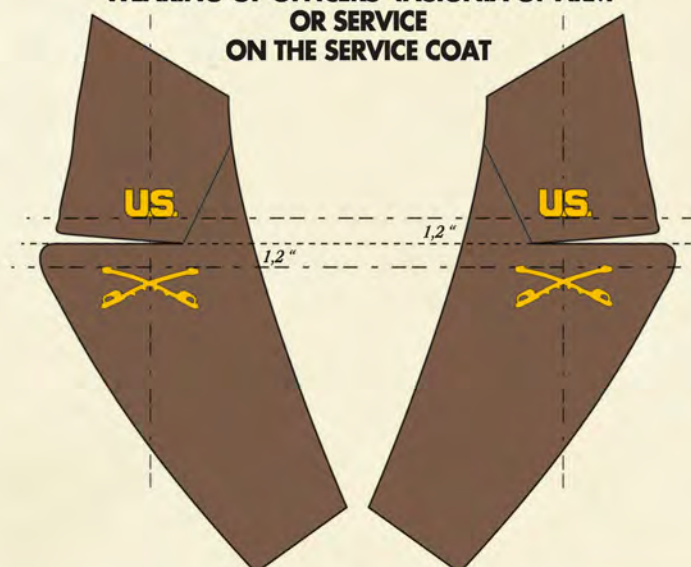


Chemical Warfare Service officer
branch insignia



Armored Force

WEARING OF OFFICERS' INSIGNIA OF ARM OR SERVICE ON THE SERVICE COAT



Field Artillery officer insignia,
clutchback.



Infantry

1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

7. Enlisted Men's insignia of arm and service

(Photo Militaria Magazine)



THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF WW2 COLLAR DISKS

(as classified by collectors)



WEARING OF METALLIC COLLAR INSIGNIA ON THE SERVICE COAT AND IKE JACKET OF ENLISTED MEN

Enlisted men wore the U.S. collar disk on the right side of the Service coat or Ike jacket, and the arm or service disk on the left collar. The coat lapels and garrison cap bore the unit distinctive insignia, here for the 116th Infantry (29th Division).



8. Medals and decorations

Two categories of medals were awarded to American service personnel:

- Decorations rewarded exceptional bravery or outstanding service
- Service medals were for honorable service or for participation in campaigns ;

Order of precedence for wearing United States military decorations

Medal of Honor
Distinguished Service Cross
Distinguished Service Medal
Silver Star
Legion of Merit
Soldier's Medal
Bronze Star
Purple Heart

A. Army decorations



1. ARMY MEDAL OF HONOR

Created on 12 December 1861, the 4th pattern (1944) is illustrated here. The highest American decoration is conferred for exceptional bravery, at the risk of one's life, facing the enemy, above and beyond the call of duty.

2. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Authorized 9 July 1918, awarded to Army personnel for acts of heroism which do not warrant the Medal of Honor.

3. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Authorized 9 July 1918, awarded for exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility.

4. SILVER STAR MEDAL

The 1918 Citation Star evolved into the Silver Star on 8 August 1932. It is bestowed on Army personnel for

gallantry in action while serving in any capacity, not warranting the award of the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.

5. LEGION OF MERIT

Created on 20 July 1942, it is the first American decoration which exists in three degrees (officer, commander, chief commander) and may be also awarded to military personnel of friendly foreign nations, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

6. SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Created on 2 July 1926, awarded to any person within the Army who distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

7. BRONZE STAR

Authorized 4 February 1944, awarded to personnel who distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious service in connection with military operations (except aerial flights) against an enemy on or after 7 December 1941.

8. PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington in 1782, reinstated in February 1932. It is awarded to military personnel who receive wounds as a result of enemy action, and posthumously to soldiers who are killed in action or die of their wounds.

1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

B. The Army Good Conduct Medal (enlisted men only)

Created on 28 June 1941, this medal is for one year of honorable federal military service during the war, or for 3 continuous years. Additional awards are symbolized by a loop ("hitch") on a bronze clasp to the ribbon.

C. The Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC)

Established 26 February 1942. Award given to American or Allied units for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy, since 7 December 1941. Renamed Presidential Unit Citation in 1957, it is a ribbon-only decoration worn above the right-hand pocket, and has no corresponding medal.

D. Ribbon bars

Ribbon bars were pinned above the left-hand pocket of the service coat, Ike jacket, and shirt, but not on the field or fatigue uniforms.

Ribbons are usually mounted on a thin metal bar, affixed to the uniform by a brooch pin or by clutches. Ribbon bars can also be found directly embroidered on a piece of cloth in the uniform's color.

Decorations and medals are worn in the following order of precedence:

- 1/ Decorations
- 2/ Service Medals
- 3/ Foreign decorations

Below.

Ribbon bar for the American Campaign Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. Pinback fastener.



The Good Conduct Medal. The obverse was sometimes engraved with the soldier's name.



The Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC)

Right.

Bronze stars and arrowheads were added to campaign medal ribbons for participation in a campaign, and in an airborne or amphibious operation.



UNITED STATES ARMY SERVICE RIBBONS, 1941-1945



Medal of Honor



Distinguished Service Cross



Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Star



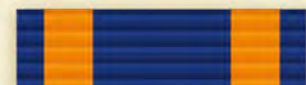
Bronze Star



Purple Heart



Distinguished Flying Cross



Air Medal



Legion of Merit



Medal of Merit



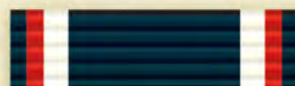
Soldier's Medal



Distinguished Unit Citation



World War I Victory



Army of Occupation



American Defence



American Campaign



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign



World War II Victory



Good Conduct Medal

E. Campaign Medals



1. MEXICAN SERVICE MEDAL

Established 1917 for service on the Mexican border between April 1911 and February 1917.

2. MEXICAN BORDER SERVICE MEDAL

Created on 9 July 1918. Awarded to personnel of the National Guard for service on the Mexican border between 9 May 1916 and 24 March 1917 ; and to Regular Army personnel for similar service between 1 January 1916 and 6 April 1916 on the provision they were not recipients of the Mexican Service Medal.

3. WORLD WAR ONE VICTORY MEDAL

Established 1919, awarded to officers and enlisted men for at least three months honorable service in Europe, Russia and Siberia in 1917-1920. Sector or battle clasps could be added to the suspension ribbon. (*J. Gawne Collection*)

4. WORLD WAR ONE ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL

Established in 1941 for personnel of the armed forces who served in Germany or Austria-Hungary between 12 November 1918 and 11 July 1923.

5. AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Established 28 June 1941. Issued to military personnel on active federal service for one year or more between 8 September 1939 and 7 December 1941 (i.e. before the declaration of war).

6. AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Established 6 November 1942. Awarded for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946.

7. EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Established 6 November 1942, for service within the theater between 7 December 1941 and 8 November 1945. A bronze star device was pinned on the ribbon for each battle or campaign, and a bronze arrowhead for each airborne or amphibious assault.

8. WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS (WAC) MEDAL

Instituted in 1943 for service both in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) between 20 July 1942 and 31 August 1943, and the WAC between 1 September 1943 and 2 September 1945 (→ page 162).

1- INSIGNIA AND DECORATIONS

9. Badges

Towards the end of 1943, in order to recognize the service and hardships of the infantry and to promote enlistments in this arm, the War Department established two special badges:

- The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), on 11 November 1943;
- The Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB), on 15 November 1943.

These were worn above the left-hand pocket, above the service ribbons.

The CIB brought a \$10 monthly pay bonus, and the EIB a \$5 bonus.

The EIB was given to officers and enlisted men of infantry regiments or separate battalions who had satisfactorily completed specific proficiency tests in shooting, marching, hand-to-hand fighting, patrolling, first aid, field hygiene and sanitation, discipline, etc.

The CIB was awarded to infantrymen (exclusive of medical personnel and chaplains) who, after 6 December 1941, had engaged in ground combat as members of an infantry unit of regimental or smaller size. Awards were made by commanders of infantry divisions, regiments, and separate battalions.



1



2

1. THE EXPERT INFANTRYMAN BADGE (EIB)

2. THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE (CIB)

3. MEDICAL BADGE

'Sterling' hallmarked, pinback.
(Coleman collection)

4. BADGE, PARACHUTIST'S

Paratrooper wings, authorized in 1941. This was awarded by commanding officers to soldiers who had completed the prescribed proficiency tests, or who had taken part in at least one combat airborne operation.

5. BADGE, GLIDER

Wings for glider-borne troops, awarded under the same conditions as the paratrooper's badge.



3



4



5

The Medical Badge

Even if it was often exposed to the same hazards as infantrymen, Medical Detachment personnel in infantry units were not rewarded by a special badge similar to the CIB until January 1945. The War Department then created the Medical Badge for such personnel who, after 6 December 1941, had satisfactorily performed medical duties while assigned to the medical detachment of an infantry unit of regiment or smaller size, during any period it was engaged in ground combat. The Medical Badge entailed a \$10 pay bonus for enlisted men only. It was worn above the left-hand pocket, above the ribbons bars.

Badge, Driver and Mechanic award

Created on 28 July 1942. Awarded to drivers and mechanics for efficiency and aptitude, it was pinned on the left-hand pocket flap, under the ribbon bars.

Four bars could be suspended from the basic badge:

- Driver-W (Wheeled vehicles)
- Driver-T (Tracked or half tracked vehicles)
- Driver-M (Motorcycle)
- Mechanic.



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2



3

BADGE, DRIVER AND MECHANIC AWARD

1-2. 'Sterling' hallmarked, pinback.
3. Qualification bars.

10. Badges, arms qualification

The U.S. Army created its first musketry proficiency badges circa 1880 to reward marksmen. According to the system enacted in 1921, three basic badges indicated the degree of proficiency, and additional bars specific weapons or courses.

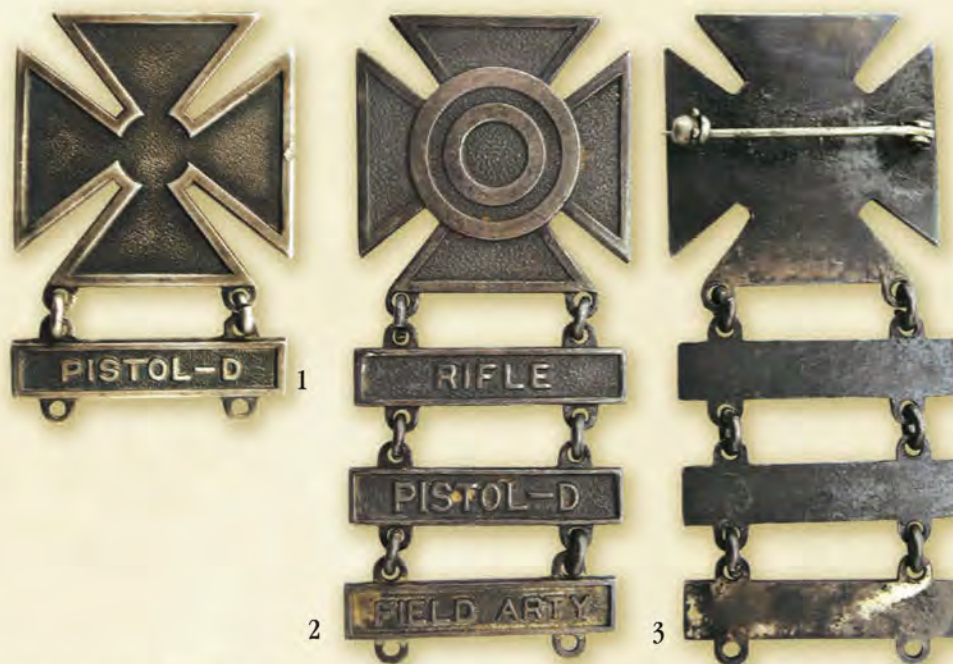
The three badges were:

- Marksman, Second-class Gunner: minimum score of 60/77% of points, depending on the weapon or qualification course ;
- Sharpshooter, First-class Gunner: 78/87%
- Expert: 85/91%.

The arms qualification badges were placed on the left-hand pocket flap, under the ribbon bars.

Authorized bars for shooting badges

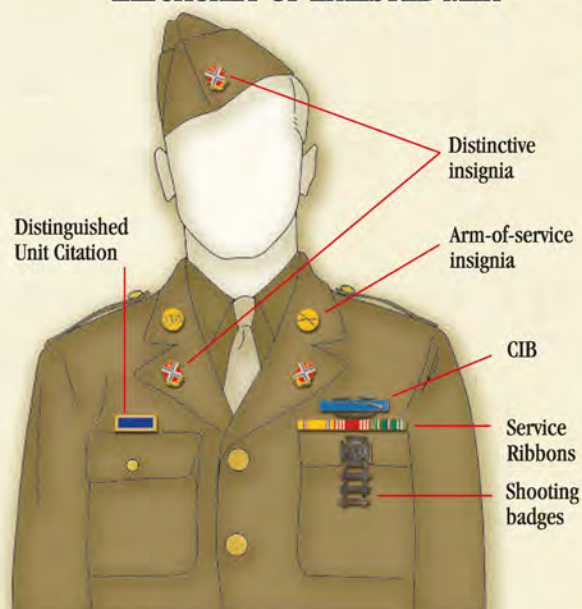
Rifle	Small bore pistol
Pistol- D (Dismounted)	Submachine gun
Pistol - M. (Mounted)	Small bore MG
Auto-Rifle	Carbine
Machine gun	Antitank
Coast Arty	81-mm mortar
Mines	60-mm mortar
Field Arty	TD 37-mm
Bayonet	TD 75-mm
Tank Weapons	TD 57-mm
CWS weapons	TD 3-inch (90 mm)
Machine Rifle	Antiaircraft weapons
Grenade	Inf. Howitzer
Small bore rifle	



1. Marksman badge. 'Sterling' hallmarked, pinback. Bar for dismantled pistol shooting.

2-3. Sharpshooter badge. 'Sterling' hallmarked, pinback. Bars for qualification with the rifle, pistol and gunnery (field artillery).

WEARING OF METALLIC INSIGNIA AND SERVICE RIBBONS ON THE SERVICE COAT AND IKE JACKET OF ENLISTED MEN



4-5. Expert badge. 'Sterling' hallmarked, pinback. Bar for proficiency with the pistol.

1. Introduction

Quartermaster Corps
officer collar insignia



A. The Quartermaster Corps

The Quartermaster Corps' functions were multiple, its main task being however to provide the soldier with most of what he needed to fight. The QMC looked after the soldier, fed him, clothed him, housed him, cared for his laundry, provided coal and gasoline and, if he should die at war, ensured his proper burial and the care-taking of his grave.

Quartermaster depots stocked more than 70,000 individual items for issue to various units. The Quartermaster also operated salvage units to recycle supplies left on the battlefield.

Officers were supposed to provide for their uniforms. The most affluent had them custom-made by tailors. However, the War Department granted newly appointed officers an allowance for this purpose. The QMC also ordered service uniforms from the ready-to-wear clothing industry and sold them almost at cost to officers in special post stores.



Tag for an officer's jacket made in England by a civilian tailor in Yeovil (Somerset).



Regulation tag for officers' service coats and coats ordered by the QMC and retailed at low cost in post stores.



Cutter's tags stapled to most parts of manufactured garments to ensure continuity of shades and sizes (→ page 41).

B. Standardization

Most articles stocked by the QMC were classified into three categories:

- Standard articles were the current adopted type and had to be procured and issued in preference to any other;
- Substitute standard type articles were not as satisfactory as

the standard article but were a usable substitute and therefore could be procured and issued to supplement its supply;

- Limited standard type articles were items either in use or available for issue as substitutes for the standard articles. New orders were not be placed for them, however, and stocks were to be issued until exhausted.

C. Classification according to condition

The QMC issued both new and refurbished uniforms and equipment. Recovered items were sorted out according to their condition:

- Class A: new items, never used
- Class B: used item, but looks as new
- Class C: used item that should be reissued without repairs
- Class CS (Combat Serviceable): used and repaired item, ready for reissue. Such articles were ink marked (or bore a small stapled tag) with the initials

CS where the mark was not visible when article was worn;

- Class X: used item that is beyond repair, marked in ink with a large initial X.

'Combat Serviceable' tag stapled on a piece of clothing or equipment by a quartermaster unit at the Fort Dix (New Jersey) induction center.



D. Size tariffs

Soldiers had to be outfitted with garments that best fit them, most items of uniform were therefore available in adequate sizes.

The size of headgear was indicated by a numeral followed by a fraction, or more simply by the initials S(mall), M(edium) and L(arge). The numeral corresponded with the head size, i. e. a size 7 1/4 was for a head measurement of 23 inches.

The size of service coats, field jackets, wool field jackets and wool overcoats was indicated by a number followed by a letter or letters.

The number was for the chest measurement and the letter stood for the individual's height. For instance, R(egular) correspond-

ed to a height between 5'8 and 5'11. S was for Small, R for Regular, L for Long and XL for Extra Long.

Shirt sizes were indicated by two numbers, the first for the neck measurement, and the other for the sleeve length (for instance: 15 x 34).

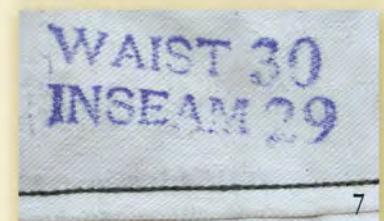
A shoe size was mentioned by a figure (5 to 18: length of the foot) and a letter (AA to EEE, for the width)

Overshoes and Shoe pacs were supplied in 3 widths only:

N: narrow

M: medium

W: wide.



1. Size markings of a Herringbone twill (HBT) fatigue cap. These were printed on the white contractor's label, as well as ink stamped inside the head band (2).

3. Size tag inside a M-1941 Wool knit cap.

4. Printed size tag for a (1941) Field Jacket, sewn inside the back on the flannel lining.

5. Woven size label for a 1943-type HBT fatigue jacket, sewn below the collar.

6. Ink stamped size marking on the lining of an EM's wool overcoat.

7. Size markings inside the waistband of a pair of early khaki cotton trousers.

8. Woven size tag inside a pair of wool serge trousers.

9. Woven size tag in an OD wool shirt. The first number was for the neck measurement and the second for the sleeve length.

10. Size (9 for the foot length) and width (B) markings for a service shoe. These were embossed in the leather at the inside top of the uppers. FV must have been the army inspectors' initials. The size and width were also stamped outside on the instep, and inside on the inner sole.

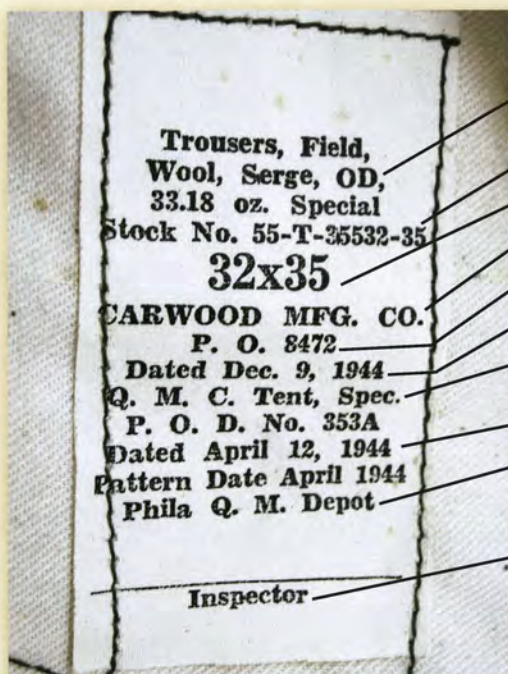
11. Size markings in paint on the sole of a pair of 'Shoe pacs, high.'



E. The Contractor's label

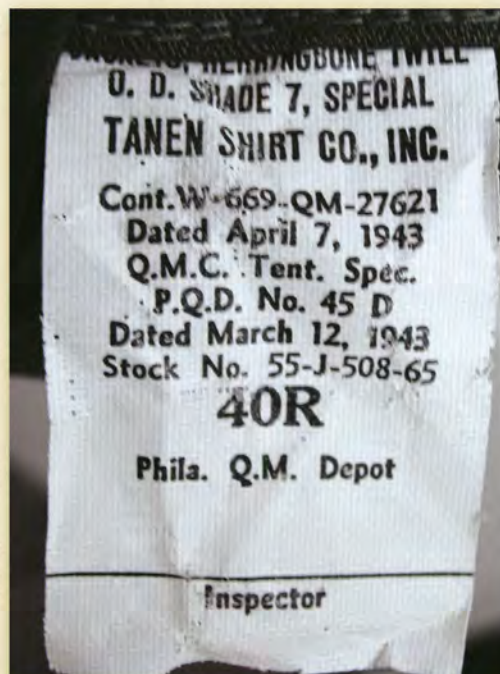
Most of the garments procured by the Quartermaster corps featured this type of contractor's label. It was located where it would not be visible when the garment was worn, for instance inside one of the lower pockets in the case of the EM's service coat.

The contractor's label was made of thin white linen. The text was most often printed in black, although blue or red letters are also found. The contractor's label does not stand up well to repeated washing of clothing and indications fade very fast.



The contractor's label bore the following information:

- The item nomenclature (not indicated on garments made before 1942)
- The item stock number
- Size
- Manufacturer
- No of contract or purchase order
- Date of purchase order
- Item specification (Tent. Spec. for Tentative specification)
- Date of specification
- Identification of contracting agency, most often the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot (PQD) for clothing.
- Inspector: space left for the initials or signature of the QM inspector who checked the delivered items. These penned initials are very seldom seen.



Contractor's tag for a batch of 10 wool knit caps made in 1943. The cap itself only bears a size label.



Contractor's label for a pair of wool trousers made in 1940. The item's name is absent.

F. Individual markings

Each item of clothing and equipment from the soldier's initial issue had to bear an identifying mark in ink. It was usually the initial of individual's last name and the last four digits of his Army Serial Number (ASN), separated by a dash. For instance: B-4380.

Some items, such as the barracks or duffle bag, had the full name of the soldier and his complete serial number.

Officer's clothing and equipment had the same type of marks, officers' serial numbers started with the initial O for *Officer*.

Opposite page.

Instructional poster for the marking of equipment and clothing, published by the Western Defence Command (San Francisco).

MARKING *of Equipment*

THE MARKING OF EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING AS SHOWN IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A. R. 850-5 UP TO AND INCLUDING CHANGE NO. 6, WD MARCH 4, 1943.

MAKE ALL REQUIRED MARKINGS LEGIBLE

NOTE:

1. The first name, middle initial, and last name as well as full serial number is put on both barracks bags.
2. Only last four numbers of serial number on other equipment.
3. Initial of the last name and last four numbers of serial number on clothing. Use dash between initial and number.



2. Officers' dress uniforms

On 17 August 1938, the US Army adopted two new dress uniforms for officers:

- The Blue dress Uniform
- The Formal White uniform for summer and tropical duty.

In June 1940, the War Department decreed that the possession of

the dress uniform would not be mandatory. Its wear became optional as of 1 April 1943 for the war's duration. These uniforms are illustrated here for the sake of information as they were not worn in Europe in 1943-45.

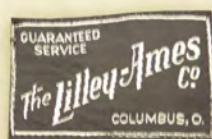


CAP, BLUE DRESS

Dress cap for a colonel in the artillery. The dark blue top has a band in the distinctive color (here red for artillery). The black leather peak is covered in dark blue cloth, embroidered with gold bullion oak leaves.



Dress coat shoulder straps, in gilt bullion on artillery red backing, the eagle rank insignia being embroidered in silver bullion.



The tailor's label, sewn in the dress coat, on the inside pocket.



COAT, BLUE DRESS

Dress coat belonging to the same officer. Made of dark blue wool gaberdine cloth, the coat has four pockets and an open collar. The rectangular shoulder straps, in the arm's color, bear the rank insignia. The officers' braid at the bottom of the sleeves is gilt piped in red. The U.S. and crossed cannons are pinned at the appropriate location on the collar and lapels.



TROUSERS, BLUE DRESS

Dress trousers in wool gaberdine material, the shade being slightly lighter than the coat's. The leg braiding is also in the branch color.

BELT, BLUE DRESS

Leather and brocade belt, done up in gold and red.





A black tie was worn, together with a white shirt, with both dress uniforms.

FORMAL WHITE TROUSERS

Made of the same material as the coat, and worn with low quarter white leather shoes.



FORMAL WHITE COAT

In white cotton, here for a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps.

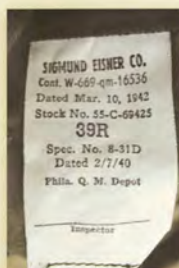


Low quarter shoes in black leather, recommended with the dress uniform.

3. The Enlisted Men's service uniform

**CAP, SERVICE, ENLISTED MAN'S**

Olive drab wool peaked cap, worn with the service uniform until 1941. It was then officially replaced by the Garrison cap (Overseas Cap) but was often retained or privately purchased for passes and furloughs. The russet leather chinstrap is held by two small gilt uniform buttons. The United States coat of arms, superimposed on a disk, was the cap device for enlisted men.

**NECKTIE, COTTON, MOHAIR, KHAKI (STOCK NO 73-N-120)**

Necktie in a cotton/wool blend, approved on 24 February 1942 to replace the M-1940 necktie in black mohair and the tan cotton tie introduced in 1939 for the summer/tropical uniform. When the shirt was worn by itself, the loose ends of the necktie were tucked between the first and second apparent shirt buttons.

**COAT, WOOL, SERGE, OD, 18 OZ. (STOCK NO 55-C-69299/55-C-69510)**

The US Army introduced a service coat with open collar and peaked lapels in 1926. It was also part of the field uniform until 1941 when the new cotton Field jacket was adopted (→ page 36). The first pattern, approved in 1939 and standardized in 1940 had a partial lining, a pleated back for ease of arm movement, a half-belt and belt hooks. The hooks were eliminated in March 1941, together with the russet leather Garrison belt.

The latter was however often retained for off-duty dress. The Service Coat not being part of the field uniform any more, the back pleats were deleted in June 1942 (Revised Service Coat M-1942). During the fall of 1944, the Service coat was classified as Limited Standard, but it was not actually replaced by the Ike jacket before the very end of the war.

The coat shown here is the 1939-type, badged up for a sergeant in the 80th Division. *(Militaria Magazine)*

JACKET, FIELD, WOOL, OD M-1944 (STOCK NO 55-J-384 510/ 55-J-384 940)

Insignia are for a Technician 4th Grade in the 42d Infantry Division.

This garment, together with two patterns of wool field jackets locally procured in Great Britain (→ page 37), had been chosen in April 1944 by General Eisenhower (thence it became the 'Ike' Jacket). Manufacture was to start in the US the following month. It was meant to be a field garment like the British Battledress blouse it copied. In the ETO, the new wool field jacket came in as an unwelcome competitor to the M-1943 Field Jacket (→ page 39) and, as a compromise, was to become a winter liner for the latter. In the end, the Ike jacket would prove an excellent replacement for the Service coat even if it was not available in sufficient numbers before VE-day.

**BELT, LEATHER, ENLISTED MAN'S (GARRISON BELT)**

Belt in russet leather, worn with the Service Coat until March 1941, and sometimes retained afterwards for off-duty wear.

