

# Insignia of the Services



Paul  
Brown

*Insomnia*  
of the *SERVICES*



# *Insionia of the Services*



## *Paul Brown*

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*1941*

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## FOREWORD

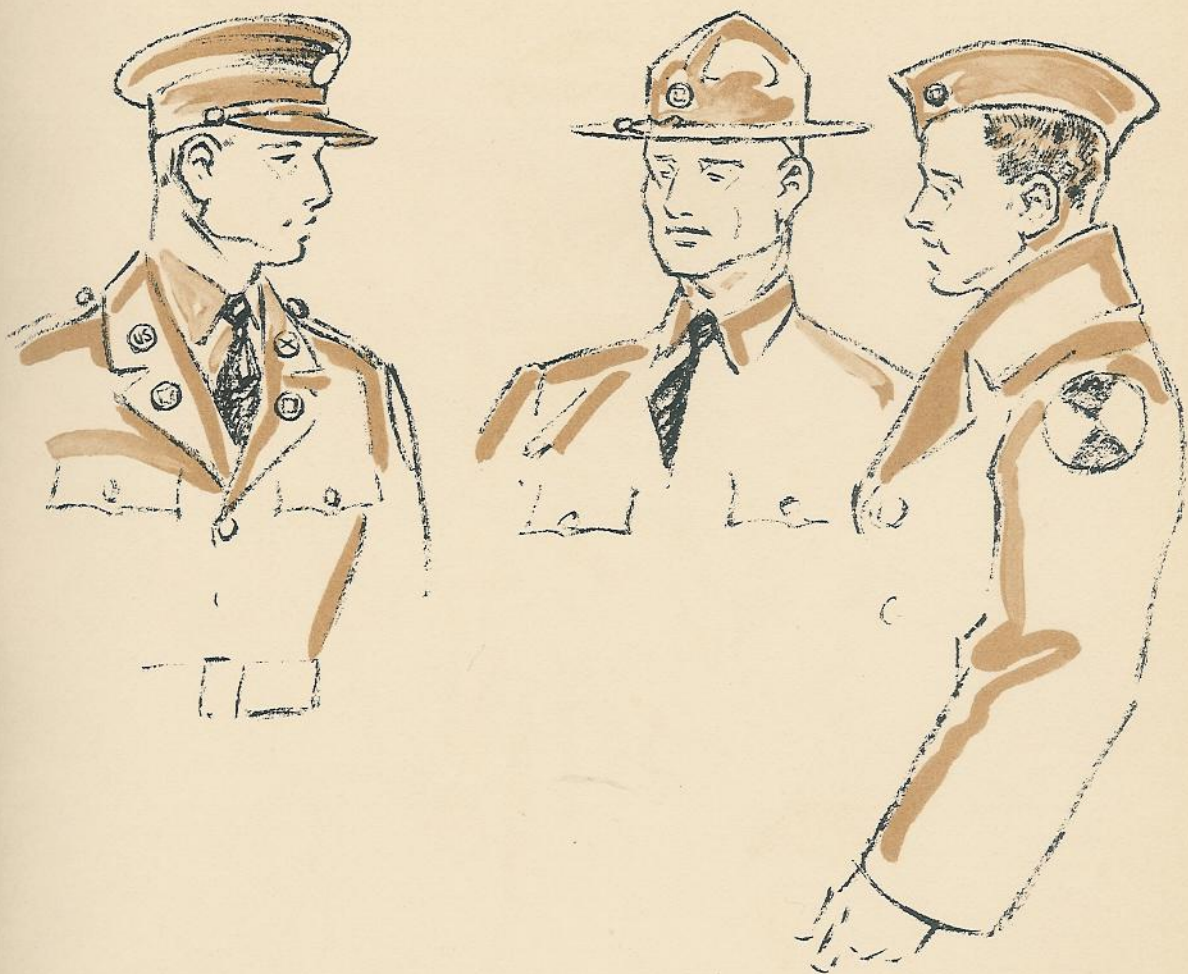
The purpose of this book is to enable civilians to tell the rank or grade and branch of a man in uniform. It is not a book of uniform regulations. While the ranks, grades and branches will doubtless remain the same it is probable that minor changes in the wearing of braids, insignia, etc., will be ordered. Also bear in mind that conditions may warrant the wearing of insignia or gear in a manner other than that which is now prescribed.

On the page which shows parachutist, the insignia which appears at the top should have a caption which reads: Air Corps. A silver star over wings denotes a command pilot.



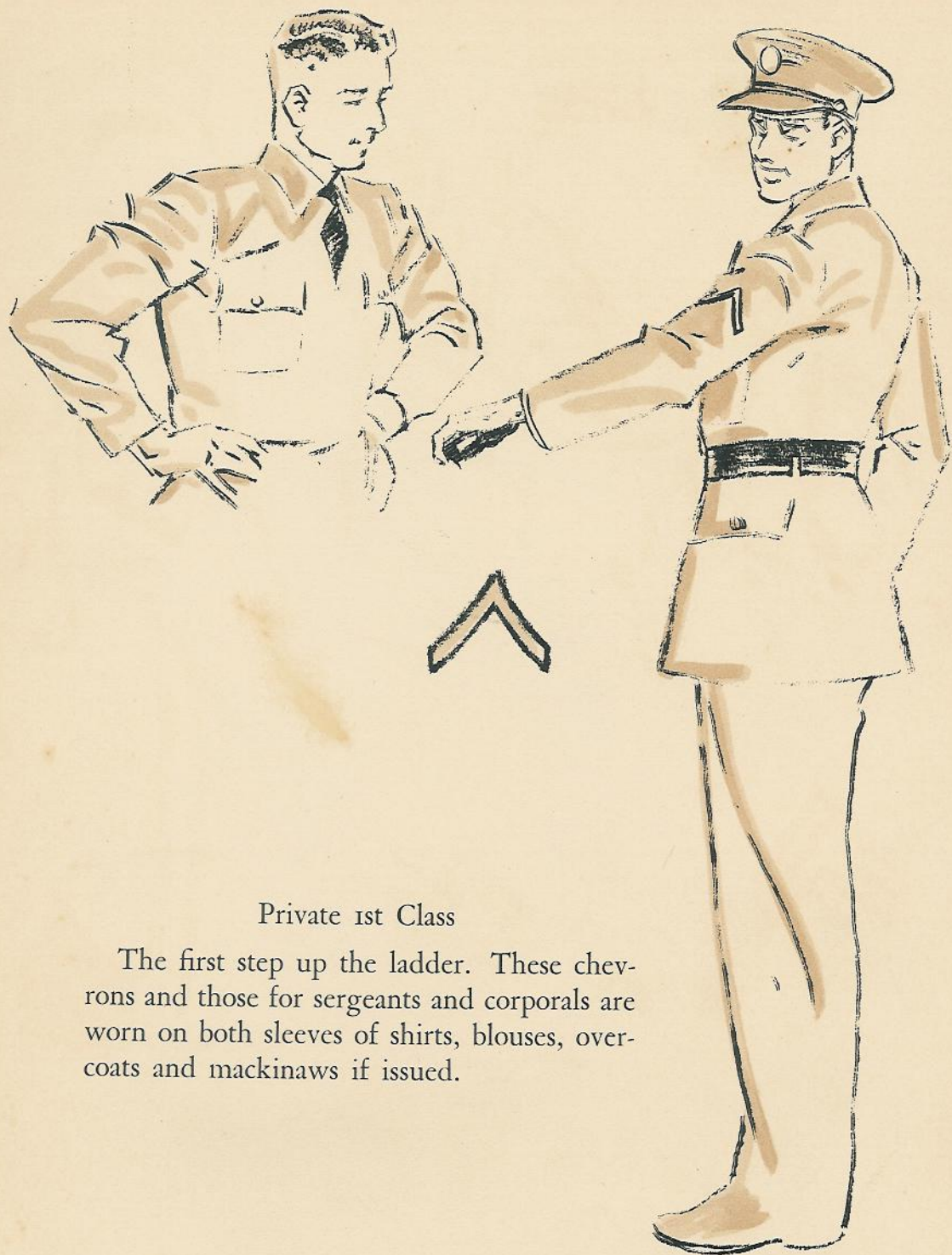
"Doughboy" 1918  
23<sup>rd</sup> Inf.

Paul Browne



## U. S. ARMY

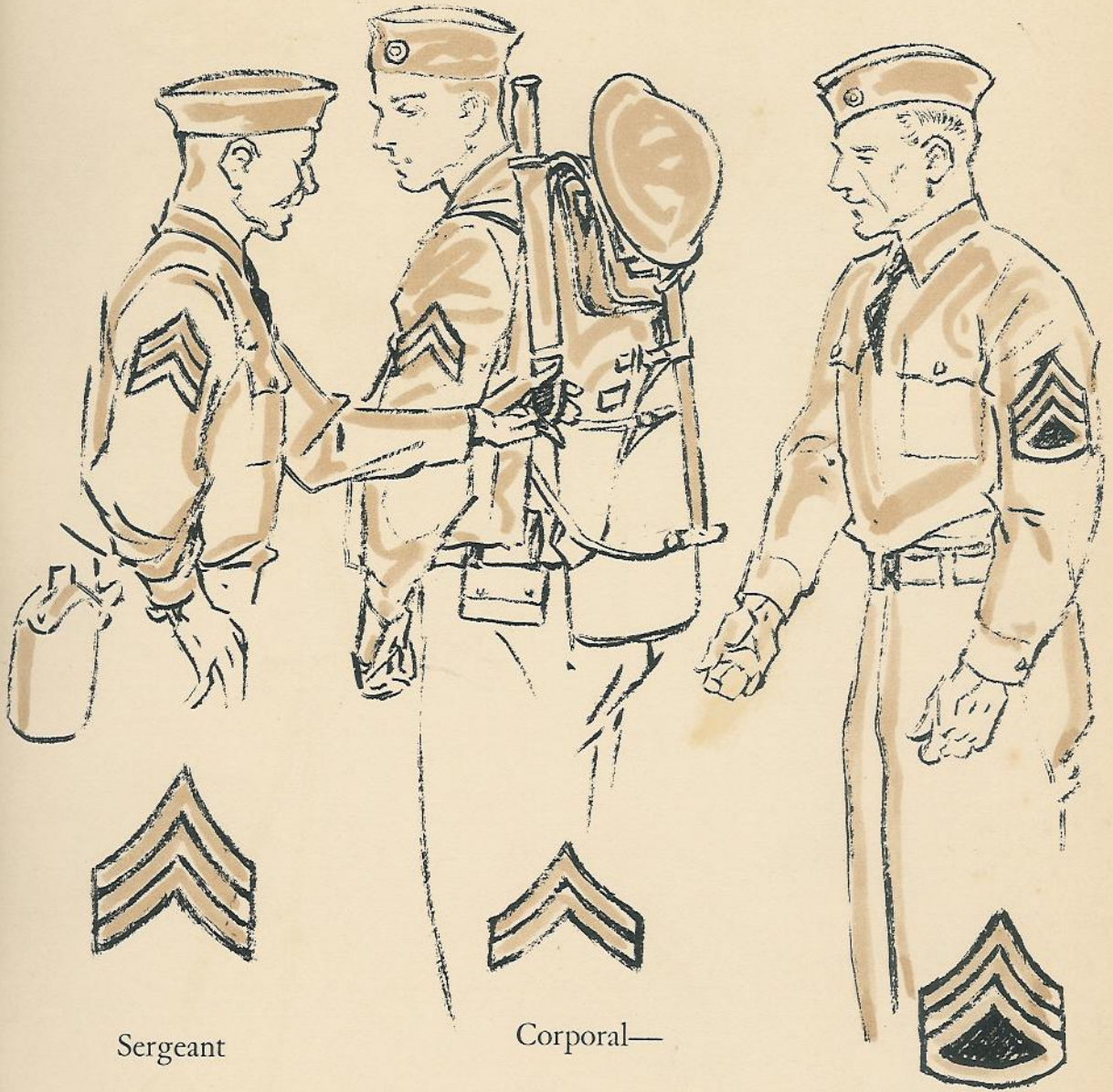
On this page is a recruit in the first clothing that may be issued to him. The soldier starts out as the well-known "Buck Private." The buttons shown on the collar and blouse lapels and headdress denote United States Army, branch of service, regiment and company. These buttons will be explained in detail.



### Private 1st Class

The first step up the ladder. These chevrons and those for sergeants and corporals are worn on both sleeves of shirts, blouses, overcoats and mackinaws if issued.

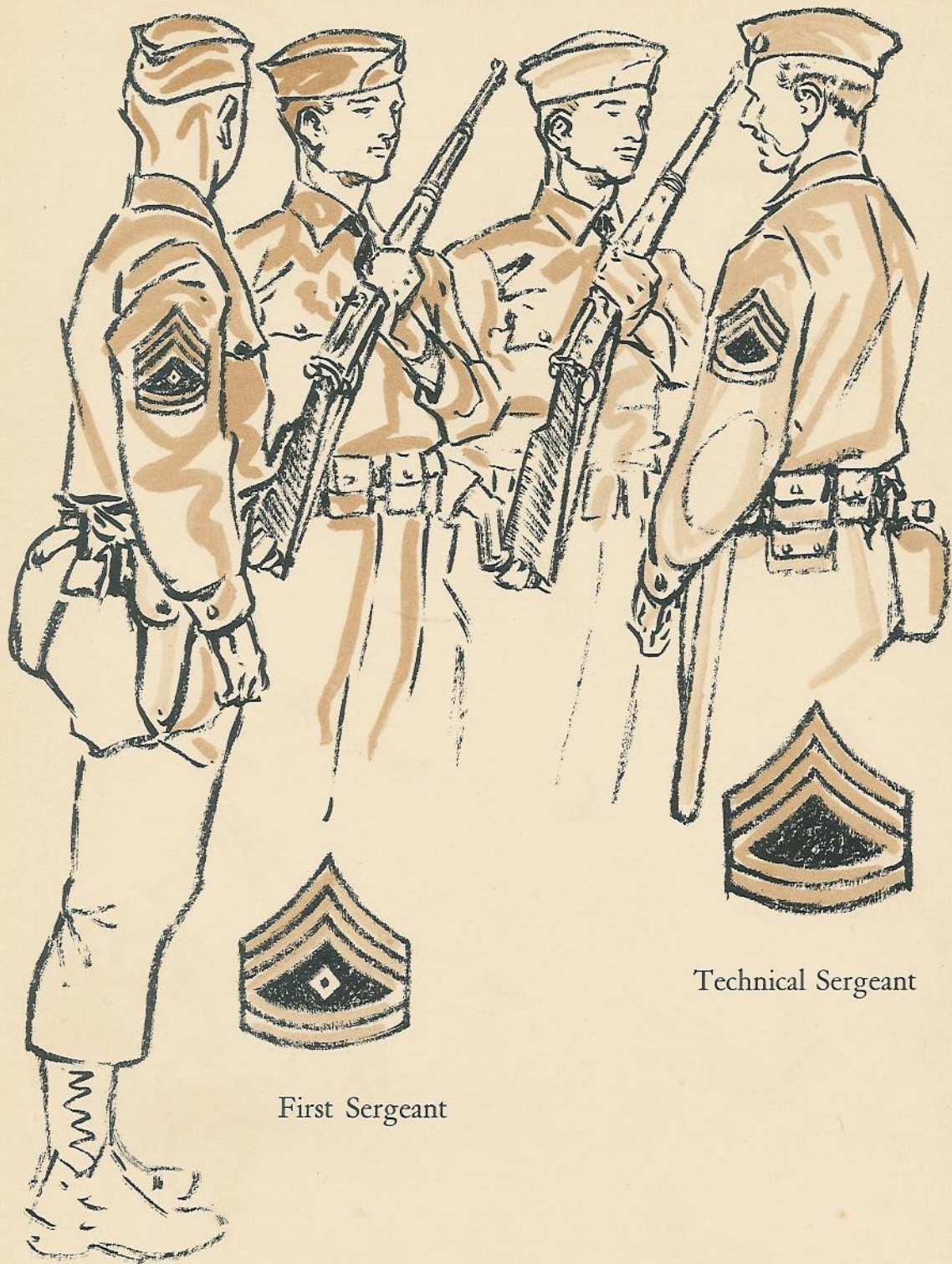




Sergeant

Corporal—

Staff Sergeant



First Sergeant

Technical Sergeant



Chevrons as worn on a shirt,  
blouse and overcoat





No chevrons are on raincoats



### Enlisted men's headdress

Regimental insignia are worn on campaign hats and the left side of field caps. The button on the front of a garrison cap has for its center a design which is very much like the device on an officer's cap. Nothing appears on the helmets.

Hat cords on enlisted men's campaign hats are of the color of the branch he is in. These colors are blue for infantry, yellow for cavalry, etc., and will appear as piping on the field caps.

Two identification tags, known as "dog tags," are worn about the neck of every officer and enlisted man.



An Old Timer

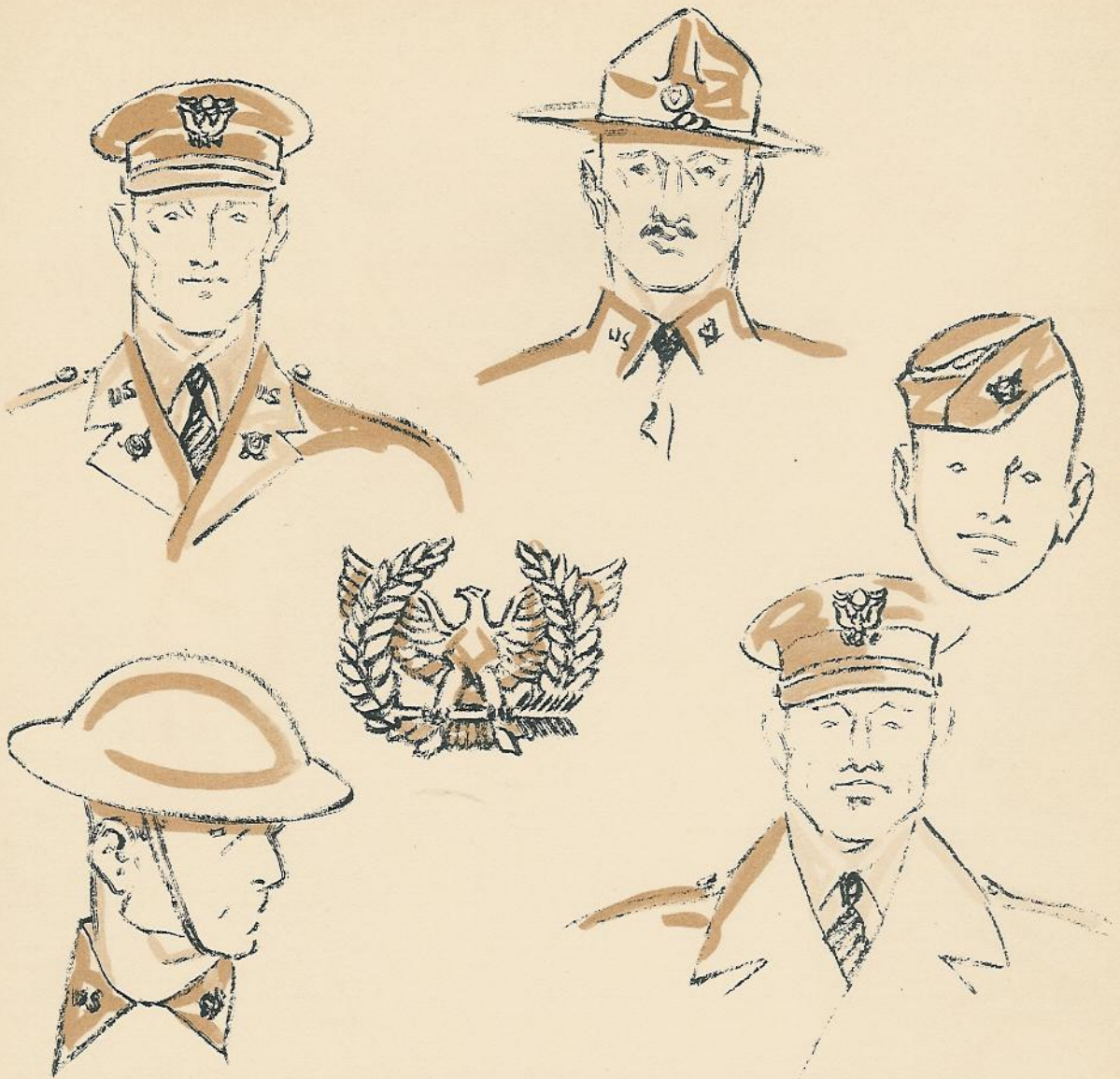


A Master Sergeant

The service stripes worn mid-way on the left sleeve are called "hash marks." One for each "hitch," or three years of service.

The chevrons on the lower left sleeve are of gold and each one represents six months' overseas service in World War I.

The gold chevron on lower right sleeve is a wound stripe, one for each wound.



### Warrant Officers

Warrant officers wear the officers' insignia on their garrison caps. They wear a hat cord of gold and black with a black keeper and acorns. The shoulder strap of the officers' belt is not worn by warrant officers. Their rank or grade is denoted by the warrant officers' insignia worn on each lapel.



From left to right. Master Sergeant—Technical Sergeant—First Sergeant—Staff Sergeant—Sergeant—Corporal—Private 1st class.

Branch insignia. Examples of buttons worn on the left side of the collar of enlisted men's blouses. The design in the center of each button is approximately that used by officers to denote their branch.

### Buttons



Infantry



Cavalry



Artillery



Coast Artillery



Ordnance



Engineers



Signal Corps



Quartermaster Corps



Medical



Chemical Warfare



Air Corps



Finance

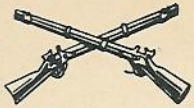


U. S. button on front of garrison cap

The number of a man's regiment and his company should appear on these buttons. The letters M.G. (machine gun), A.C. (armored corps), etc., may also appear on some insignia.

The colorful regimental insignia are of all shapes and designs. They are of enamel and are over 500 in number with more to come. These insignia are worn on each lapel of a blouse, on the left side of field caps, the front of campaign hats and on an officer's shoulder straps.

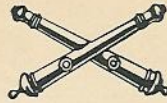




Infantry  
*Hat cord, light blue*



Cavalry  
*Hat cord, yellow*



Field Artillery  
*Hat cord, scarlet*



Engineers  
*Hat cord, scarlet, white acorns*



Signal Corps  
*Hat cord, orange, white acorns*



Coast Artillery  
*Hat cord, scarlet*



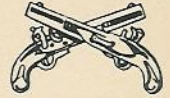
Air Corps  
*Hat cord, ultramarine blue with golden yellow acorns*



Ordnance Department  
*Hat cord, crimson yellow acorns*



Chemical Warfare Service  
*Hat cord, cobalt blue white acorns*



Military Police



Medical Corps  
*Hat cord, maroon white acorns*



Dental Corps  
*Hat cord, maroon white acorns*



Veterinary Corps  
*Hat cord, maroon white acorns*



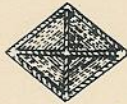
Army Nurse Corps



Medical Administration  
*Hat cord, maroon white acorns*



Quartermaster Corps  
*Hat cord, buff*



Finance Department  
*Hat cord, silver gray golden yellow acorns*



Chaplain



Jewish Chaplain



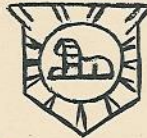
Warrant Officer  
*Hat cord, gold and black with black acorns and keeper*



West Point



Aid to General Brigadier



Military Intelligence Reserve



Adjutant General's Department



National Guard Bureau



Inspector General's Department

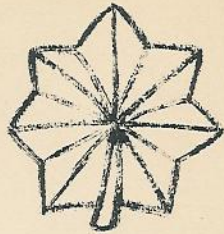
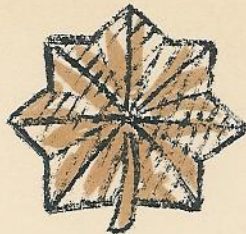
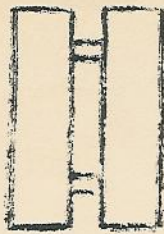


General Staff



Judge Advocate General's Department

Branch insignia worn by officers. These insignia appear on the lapels of the blouses and if no blouse is worn the branch insignia are worn on the left side of the shirt collar.



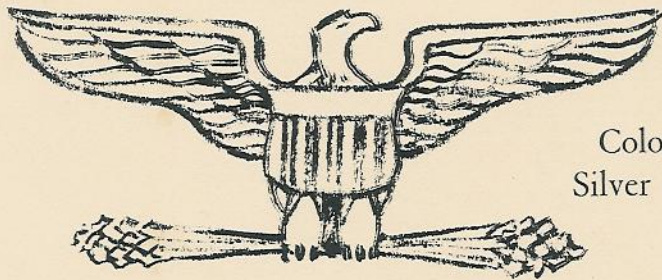
2nd Lieutenant  
Gold bar

1st Lieutenant  
Silver bar

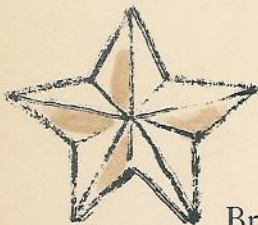
Captain  
Two silver bars

Major  
Gold oak leaf

Lieutenant colonel  
Silver oak leaf

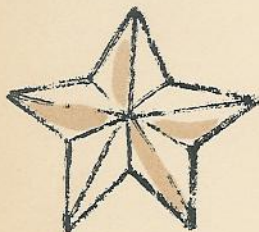


Colonel  
Silver eagle



Brigadier general  
One star

Worn on shoulder straps of blouses, overcoats and mackinaws. On shirts the insignia of rank appear on the shoulder straps when no blouse, etc., is worn.



Major general  
Two stars



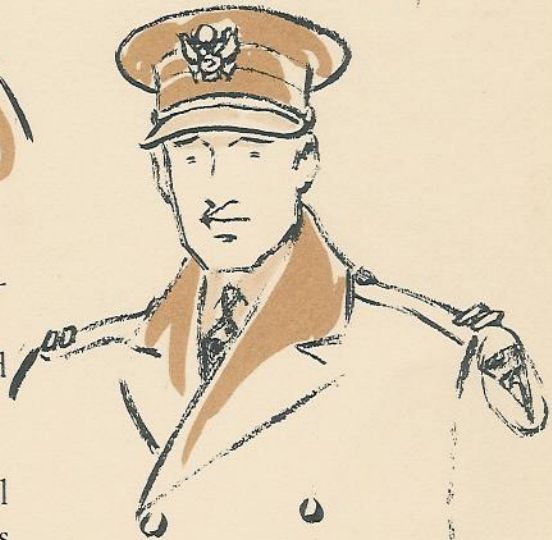
Lieutenant general  
Three stars



General  
Four stars



Headdress of officers



Cap device

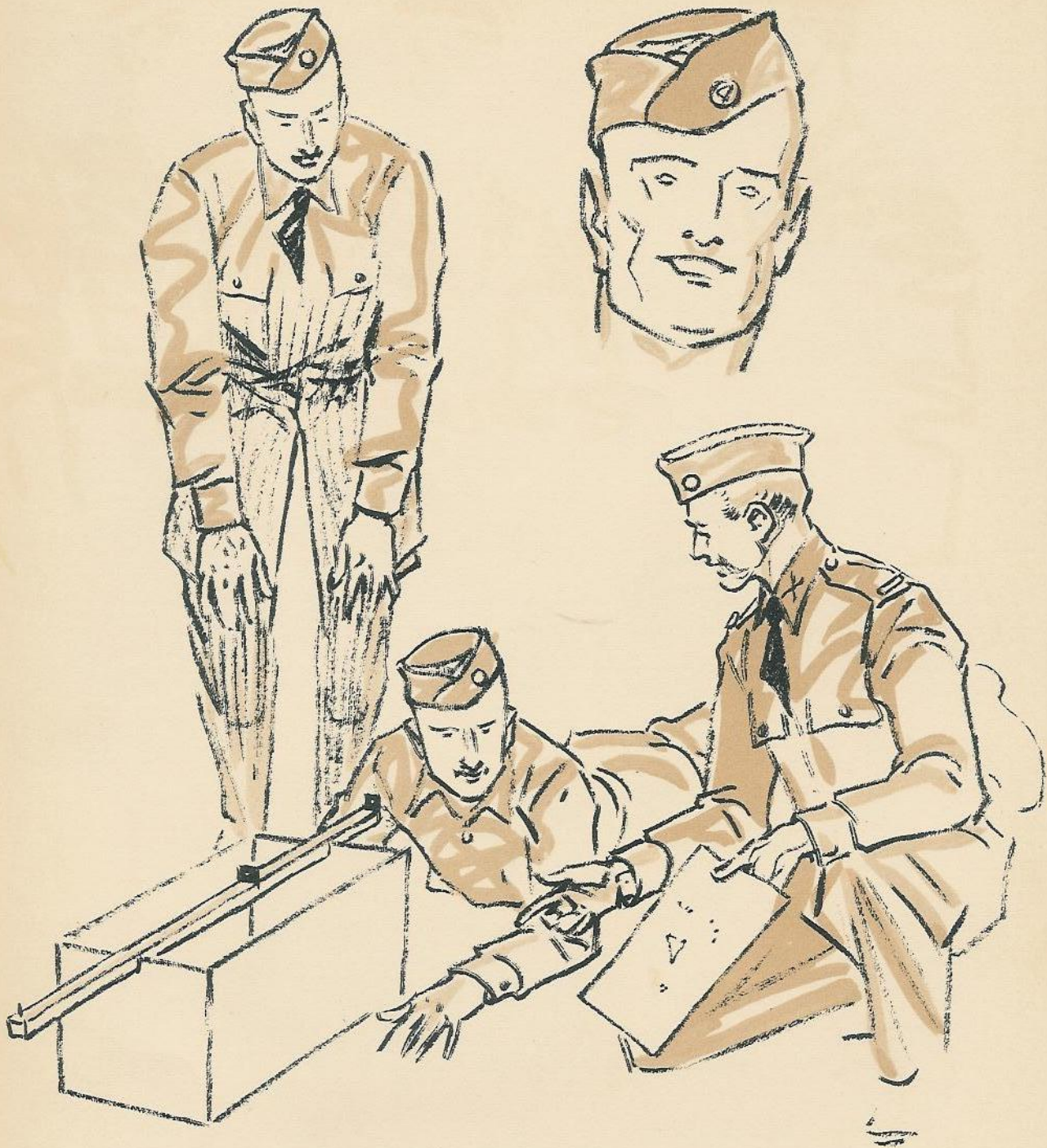
Cap with army officer's cap device

Campaign hat, button on front is the regimental insignia

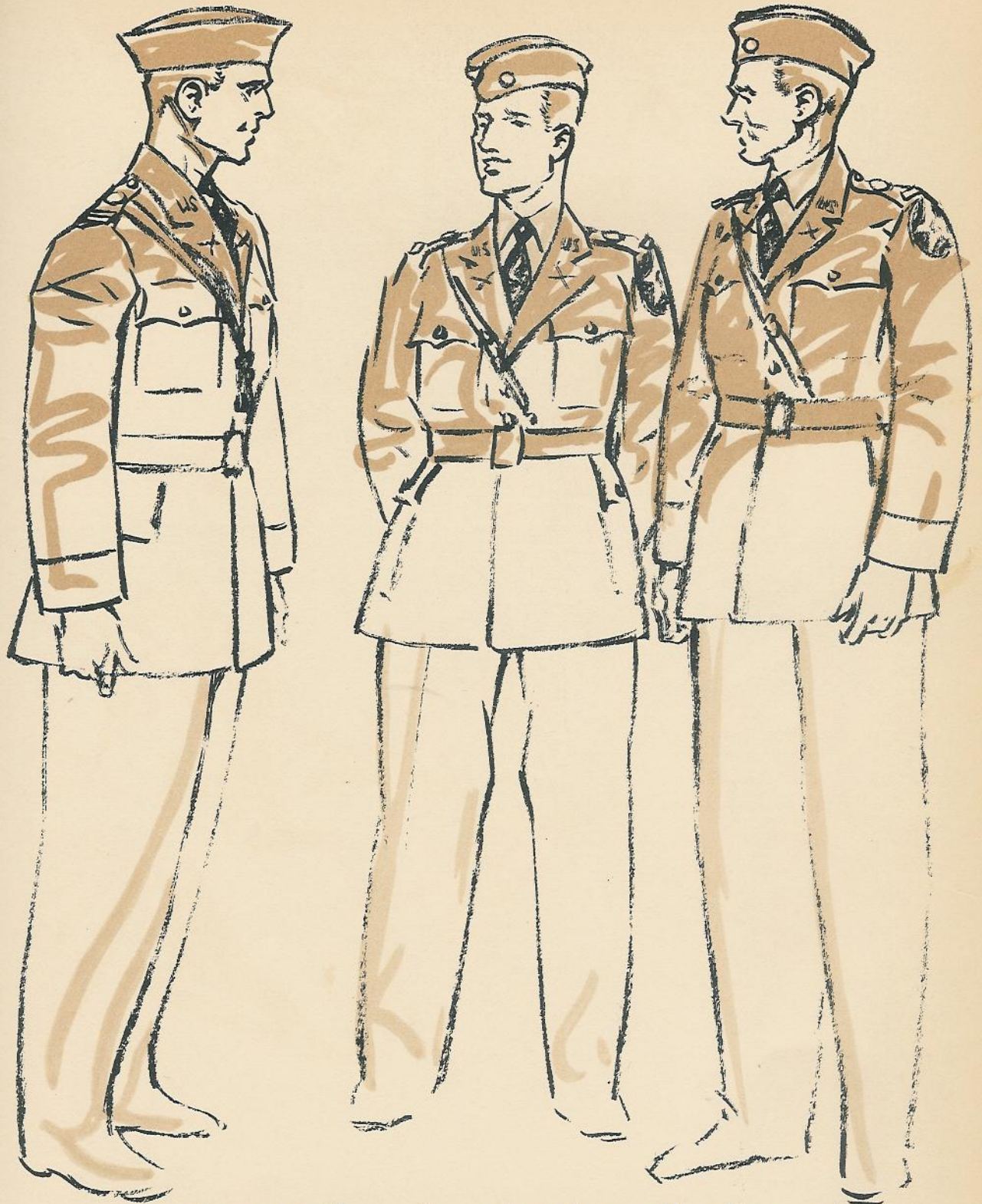
Hat cords are black and gold with gold acorns and keeper.

Generals wear gold hat cords.

On "overseas" or field caps the regimental insignia appear on the left side. These caps have black and gold piping along their top edges. Generals have gold piping. No design on helmets.



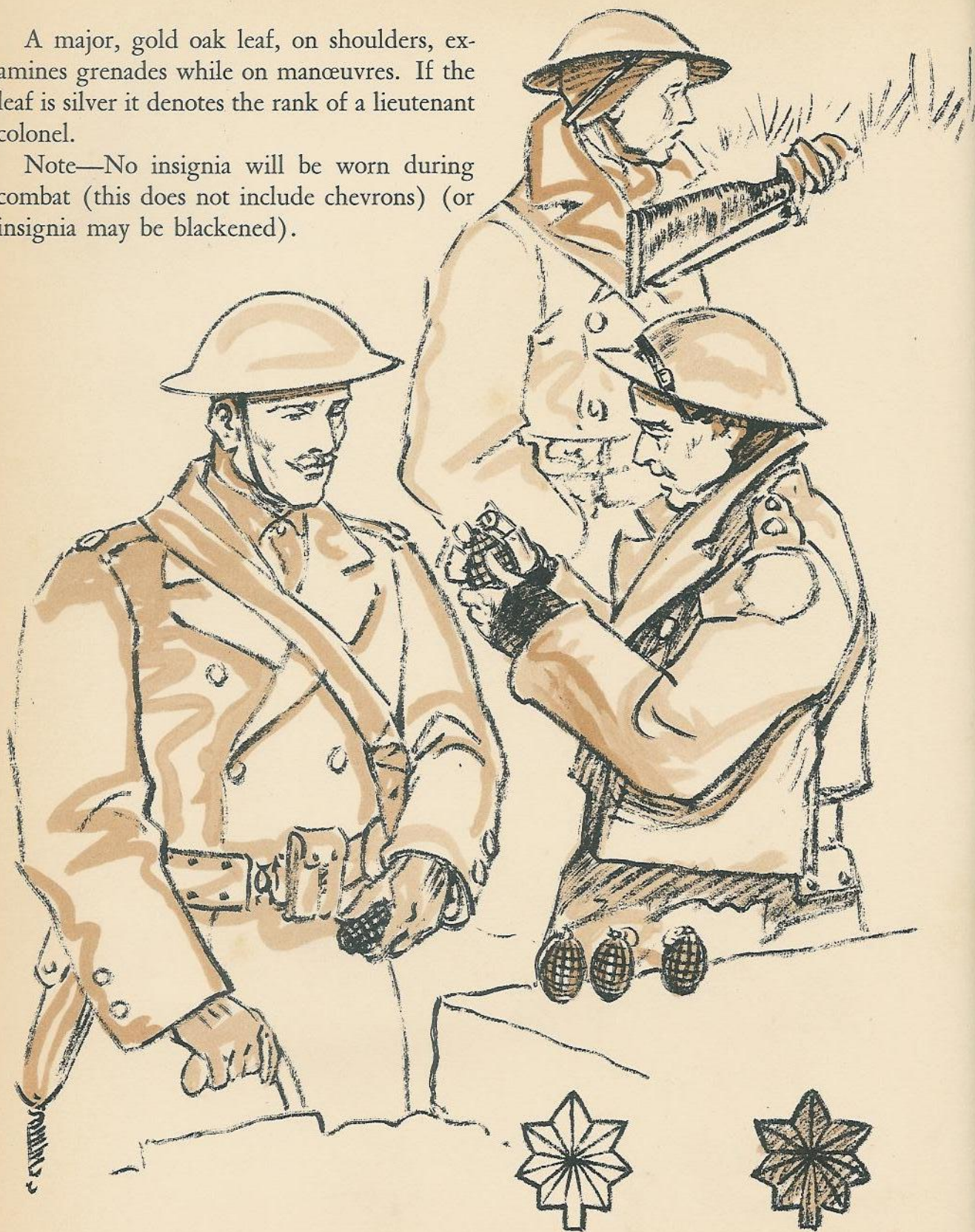
A 1st lieutenant with silver bars explains "dry firing." The caps pictured are "overseas" or field caps.



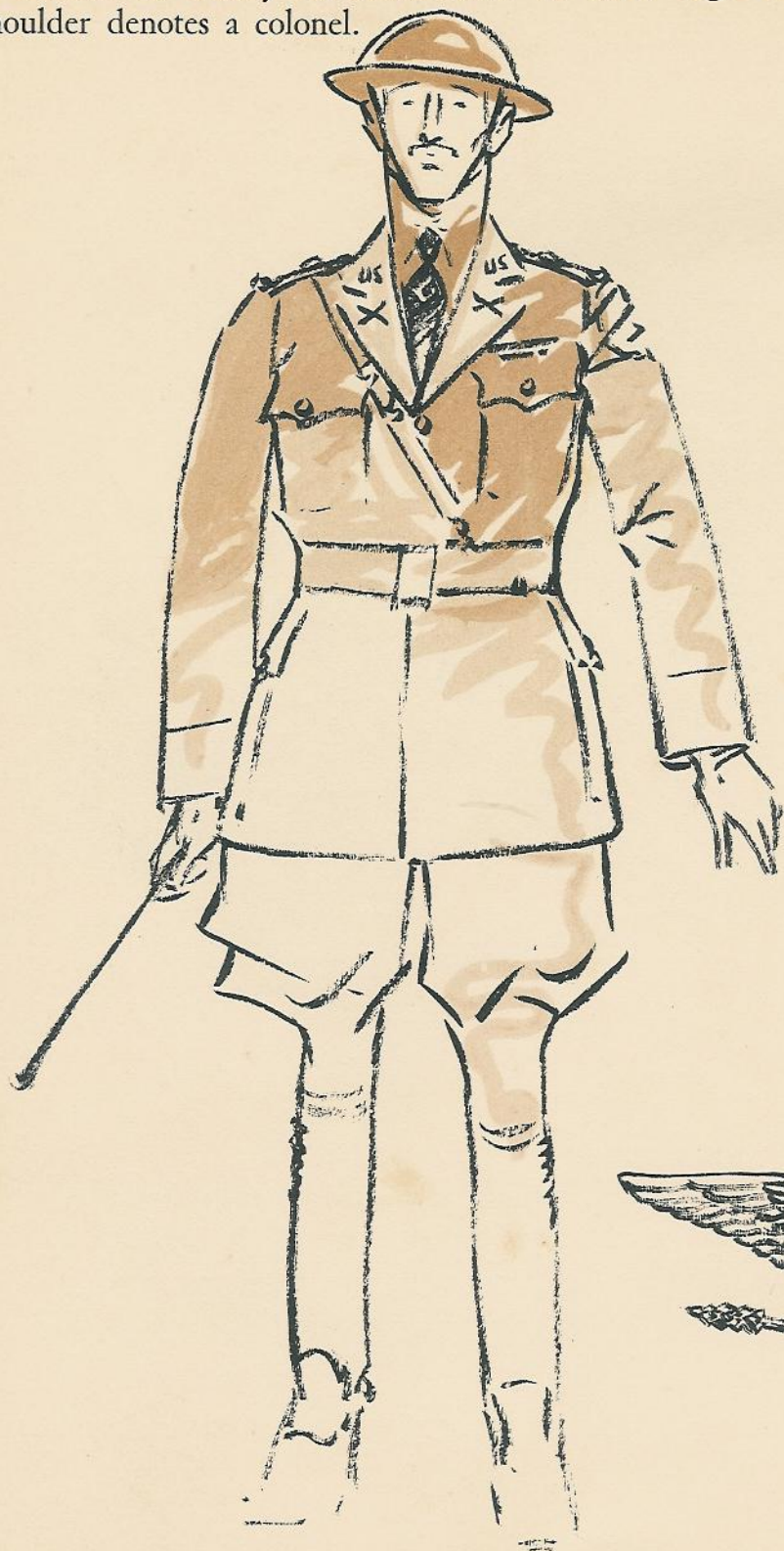
Company officers. A captain with two silver bars, 1st lieutenant with one silver bar and a 2nd lieutenant with one gold bar on each shoulder.

A major, gold oak leaf, on shoulders, examines grenades while on manœuvres. If the leaf is silver it denotes the rank of a lieutenant colonel.

Note—No insignia will be worn during combat (this does not include chevrons) (or insignia may be blackened).



Colonel of cavalry on manœuvres. A silver eagle on each shoulder denotes a colonel.





A lieutenant general and a military policeman usually called an M.P. Other brassards that may be worn are O.D., officer of the day; O.G., for officer of the guard; and P.M., for provost marshal. For some manœuvres colored brassards may be adopted for runners, gas sentries, etc.

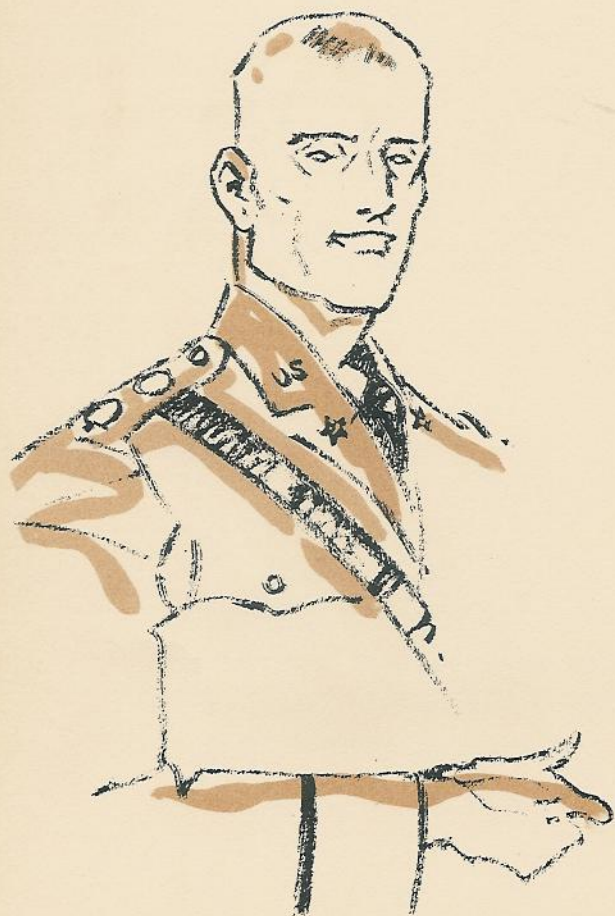


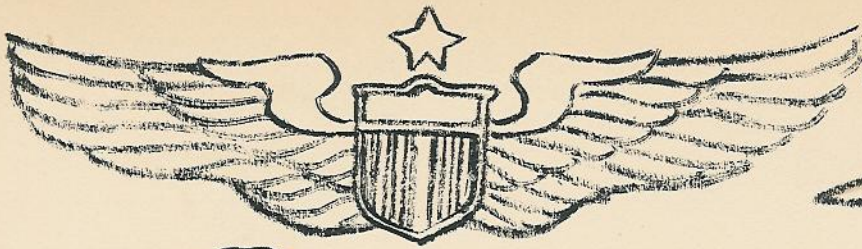


A General

Braid on general's overcoat. This will also appear on a mackinaw.

General staff officer wears a black braid on each sleeve of blouse.

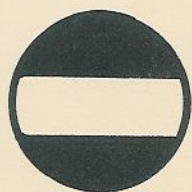




Parachutist. He would most likely be wearing the infantry insignia.

## Army, Corps and Divisional Insignia

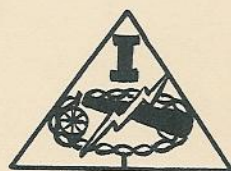
These are sketches of the only World War I insignia now in use. Many new designs are being created for corps, divisions, groups, etc.



G. H. Q.



G. H. Q. Air Force



1st Armored Corps  
*(If Arabic numeral is used it is a divisional insignia)*

### Army Insignia



1st army



2nd army



3rd army



4th army

### Corps Insignia



1st corps



2nd corps



3rd corps



4th corps



5th corps



6th corps



7th corps



8th corps



9th corps

Regular Army Divisions



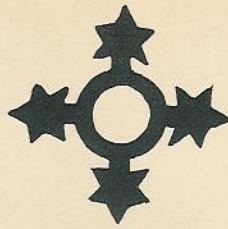
1st Division



2nd Division



3rd Division



4th Division



5th Division



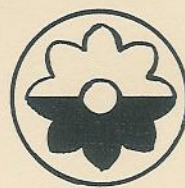
6th Division



7th Division



8th Division



9th Division



1st Cavalry Division

Guard Divisions



26th Division



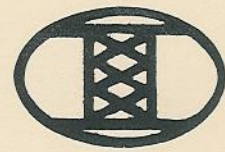
27th Division



28th Division



29th Division



30th Division



31st Division



32nd Division



33rd Division



34th Division



35th Division



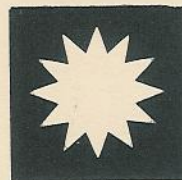
36th Division



37th Division



38th Division



40th Division



41st Division



43rd Division



44th Division



45th Division

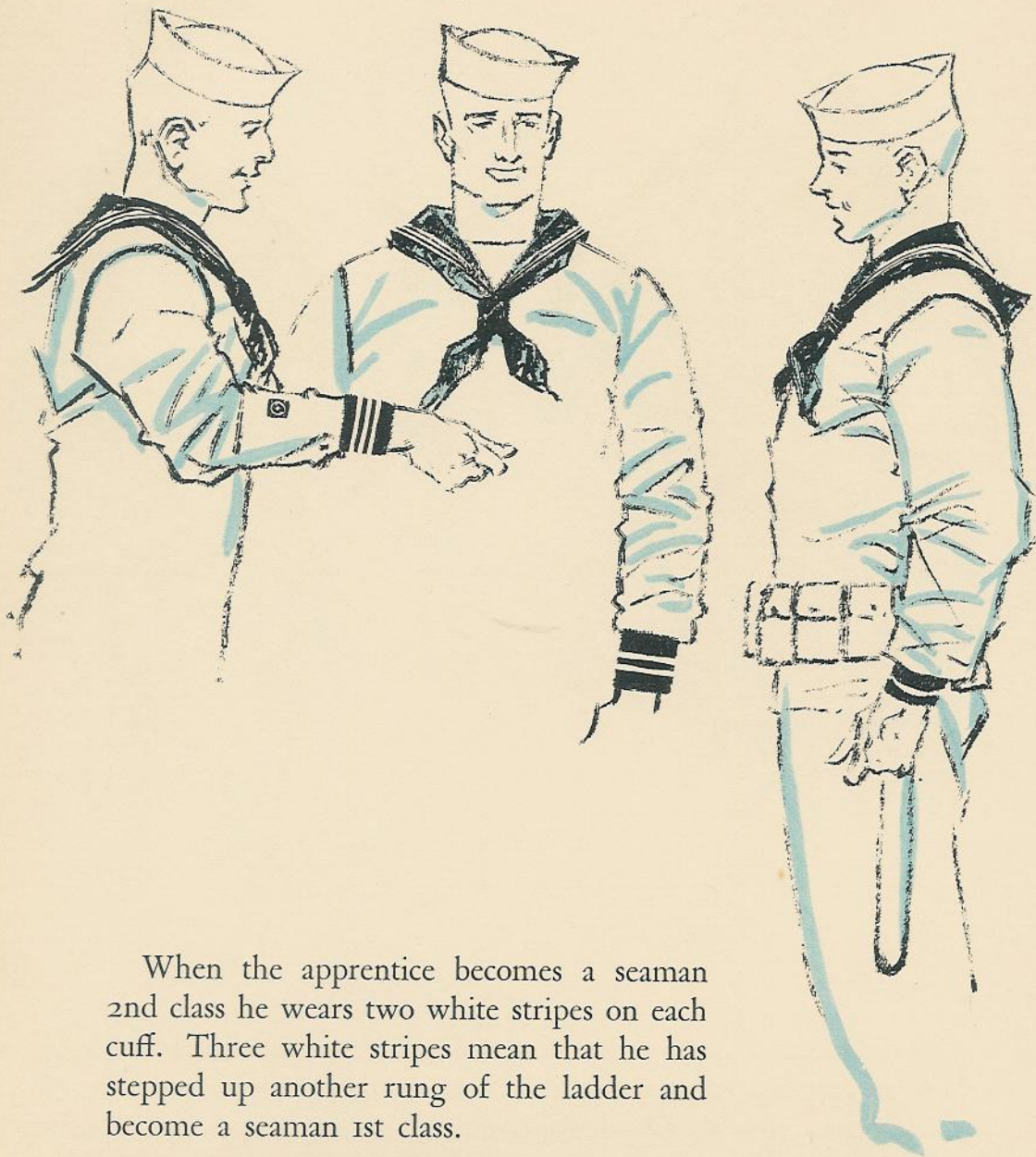


Gob  
S.S. Mongolia 1918  
Paul Brown



## U. S. NAVY

When a man enlists he is known as an apprentice seaman. This is denoted by a single white stripe on each cuff. A red band around the left shoulder means that the man is of the force below decks. A white or blue band on the right shoulder means seaman branch. No marks of status appear on pea jackets, dungarees, etc.



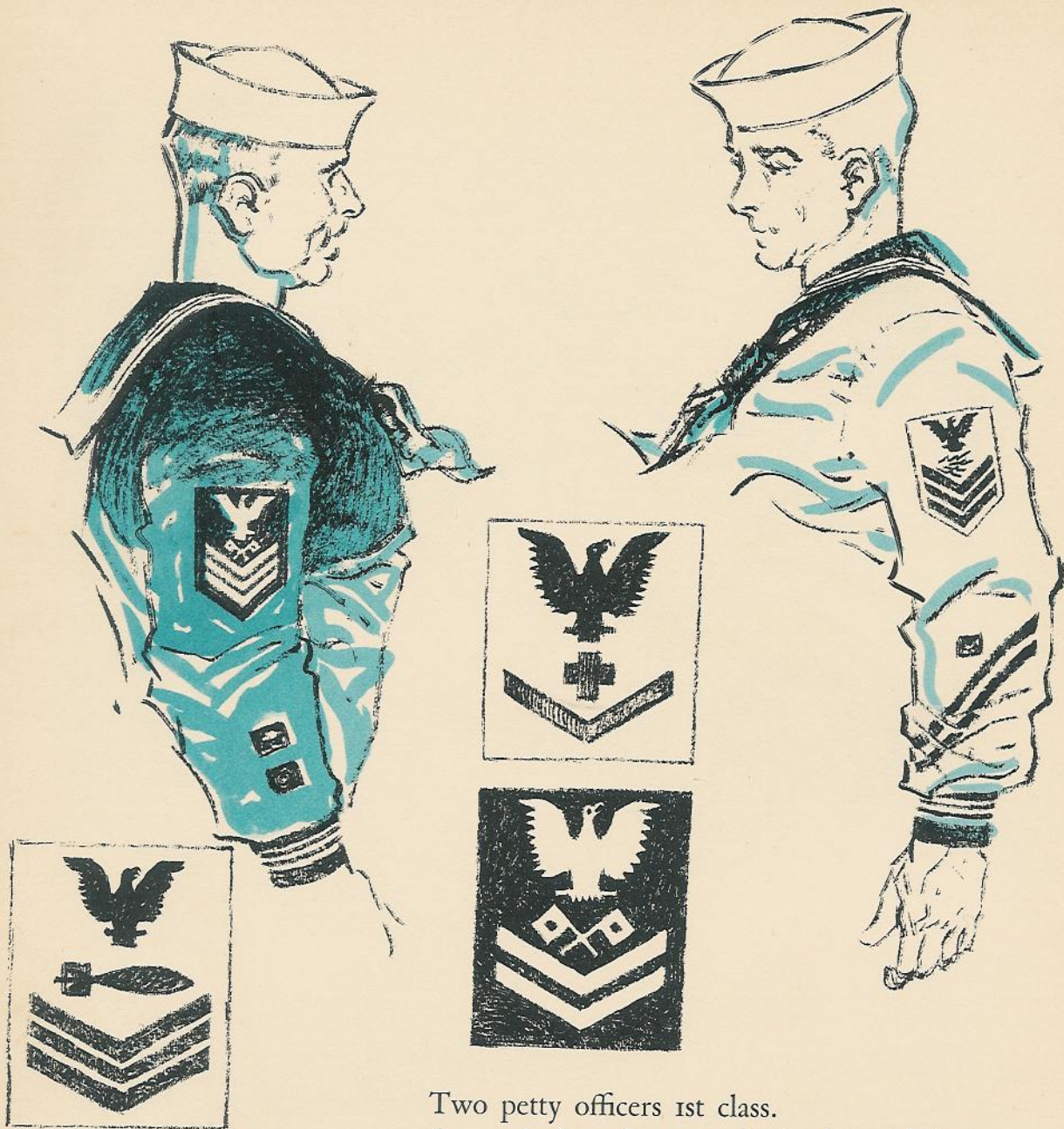
When the apprentice becomes a seaman 2nd class he wears two white stripes on each cuff. Three white stripes mean that he has stepped up another rung of the ladder and become a seaman 1st class.





The next grade entitles a man to wear a rating badge. These badges are worn on the left sleeve if he is of the artificer or specialty branch and on the right if he is of the seaman branch.

He is now a petty officer. One chevron means petty officer 3rd class; two chevrons, petty officer 2nd class; and three chevrons mean petty officer 1st class. The colored bands on the shoulders are not worn by petty officers.



Two petty officers 1st class.

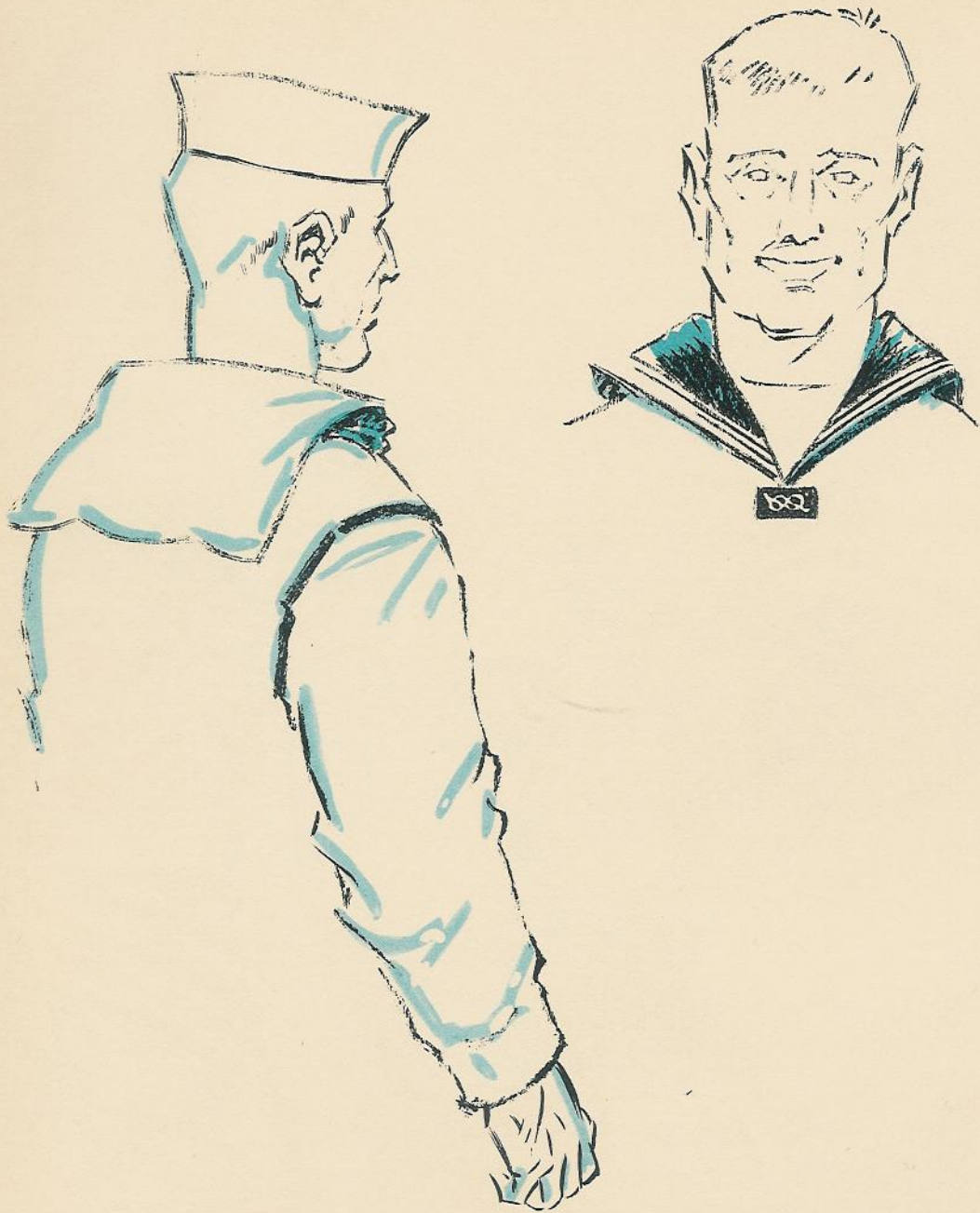
A man's branch or trade is denoted by the mark shown between the eagle and the chevrons.

The marks on the three large badges pictured denote torpedoman, pharmacist mate, and signalman. These marks on the rating badges and sleeves will be explained fully further on in this book.



If a man's rating badge appears on his right sleeve his specialty badges will be worn on his left sleeve to counterbalance the rating badge. A man with several specialties may distribute them to both sleeves.





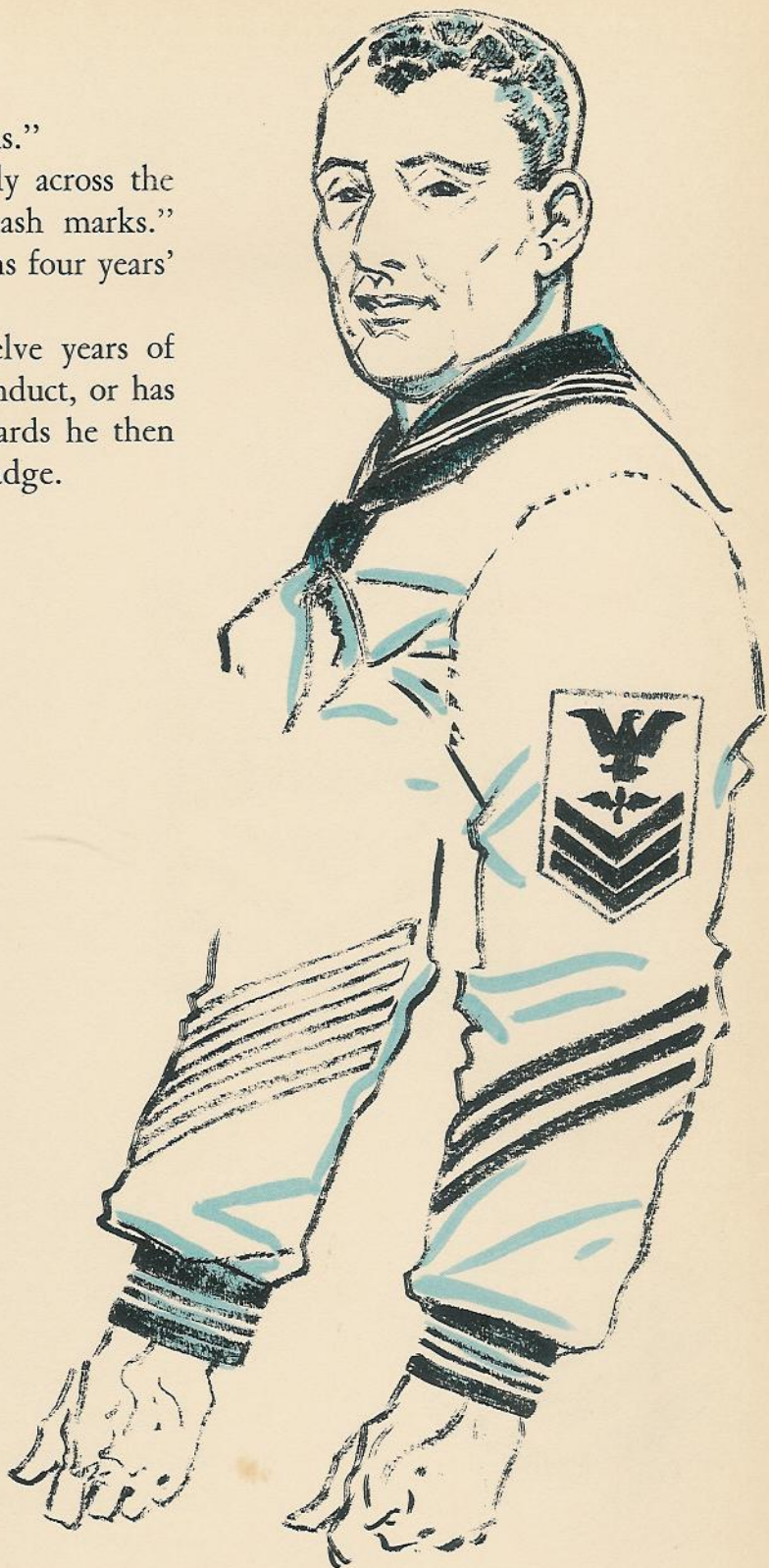
Ex-apprentice specialty mark, worn at V of jumper.

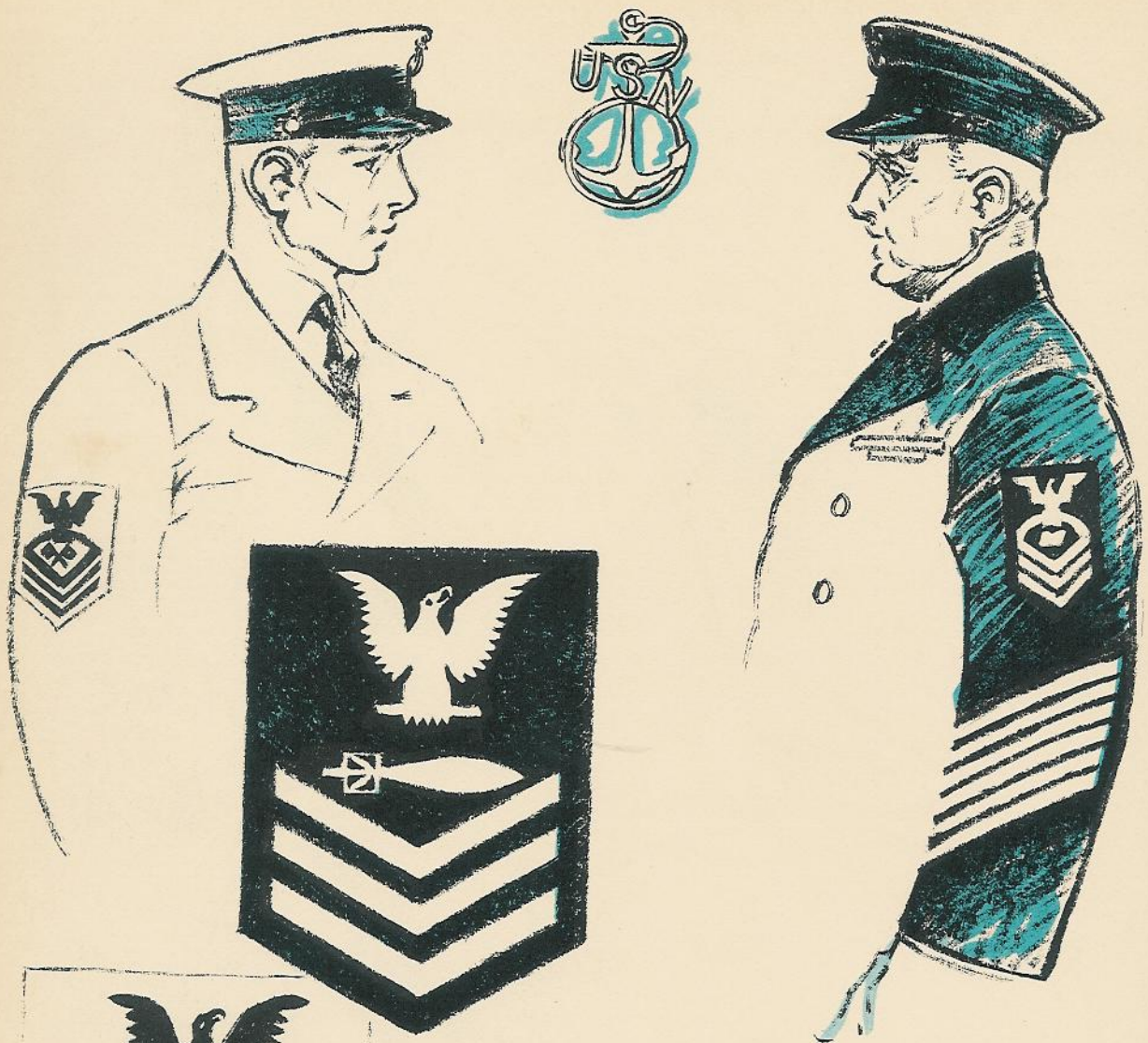
Undress whites. Only the shoulder bands and rating badges appear on these, the cuffs and collars are white.

Service stripes or "hash marks."

The stripes running diagonally across the sleeve are service stripes or "hash marks." These are red and each one means four years' service.

When a man has served twelve years of continuous service with good conduct, or has received three good conduct awards he then wears gold stripes and rating badge.





The next grade is that of chief petty officer. The older man has six service stripes meaning twenty-four years of service.

The device at the top of the page is the cap insignia.

Dark blue caps are worn only in severe cold weather.

Marks over breast pocket are service badges denoting campaigns or service medals.

No marks appear on overcoats.



- 1 Stripe on cuff, apprentice seaman
- 2 Stripes on cuff, seaman 2nd class
- 3 Stripes on cuff, seaman 1st class
- 1a. Chevron, petty officer 3rd class
- 2a. Chevrons, petty officer 2nd class
- 3a. Chevrons, petty officer 1st class

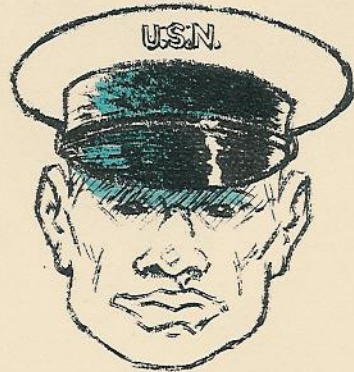
Rating badge of chief petty officer



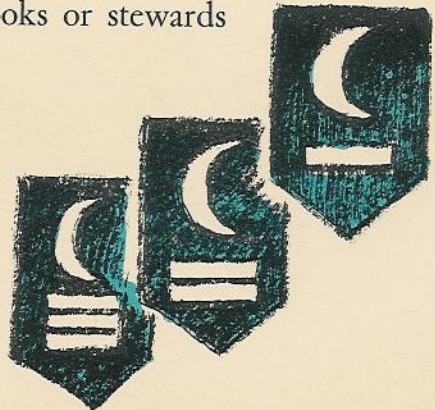
Headdress of enlisted men

Top row, headdresses up to grade of chief petty officer

Cap of chief petty officer



Cap of officers' cooks or stewards





# Specialty marks that appear on rating badges

## Right sleeve



Signalman



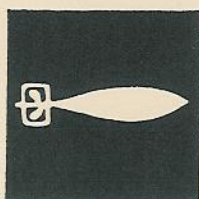
Boatswain's Mate  
Coxswain



Fire Controlman



Gunner's Mate



Torpedoman



Quartermaster



Turret Captain

## Left sleeve



Painter  
Patternmaker  
Carpenter's Mate



Storekeeper



Shipfitter  
Molder  
Metalsmith

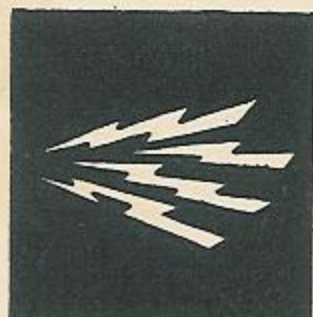


Yeoman

Left sleeve



Machinist's Mate  
Boilermaker  
Watertender



Radioman



Electrician's Mate



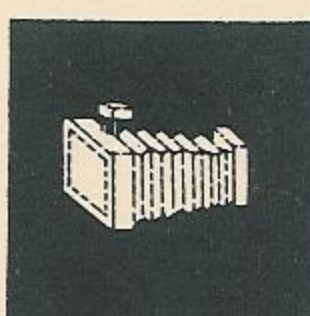
Bugler  
Bugle Master



Chief Commissary  
Steward



Printer



Photographer



Pharmacist's Mate  
(Hospital Apprentice)



Cooks, Bakers, Stewards



Aviation  
Machinist's Mate



Musician, Bandmaster



Aviation Ordnanceman



Aviation Metalsmith



Aerographer

Specialty marks that appear on rating badges

1. Sharpshooter—without the bullseye—  
Marksman

2. Ex-Apprentice

3. Expert Rifleman

4. Gun Captain

5. Rigid Airship

6. Navy E—efficiency in gunnery  
if a red E—efficiency in engineering

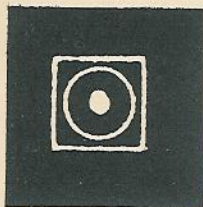
7. Gun Pointer 1st Class

8. Master Horizontal Bomber

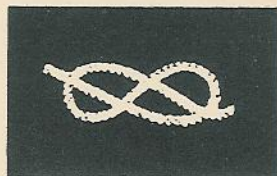
9. Bomber Mechanic

10. Gun Pointer 2nd class

1.



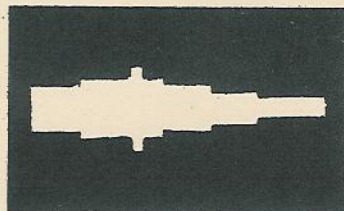
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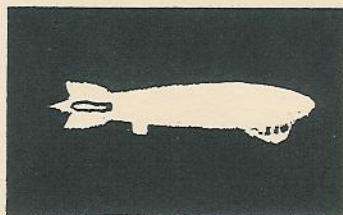
3.



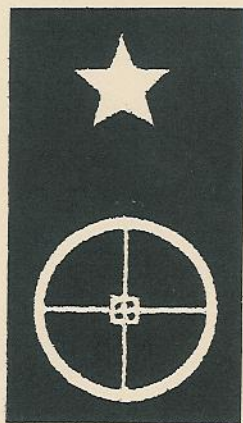
4.



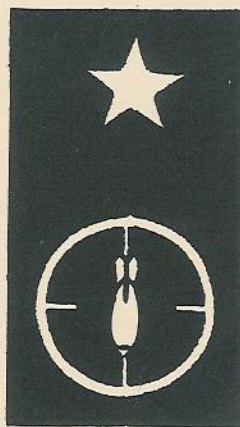
5.



7.



8.



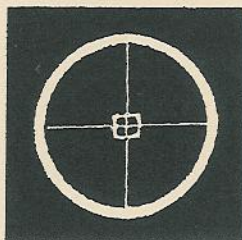
6.



9.



10.

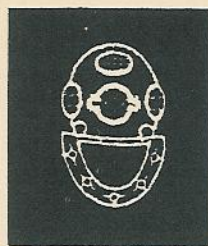




11. Master Diver



12. Submarine Insignia



13. Diver



14. Seaman Gunner



15. Buglemaster—Bugler



18. 2 stripes 3rd Award  
*(Stripes used with Navy E—figure No. 6)*



16. Parachute Man



17. Aerographer



21. 1 stripe 2nd Award  
*(Stripes used with Navy E—figure No. 6)*



19. General  
Utility Aviation



20. Metalsmith Aviation



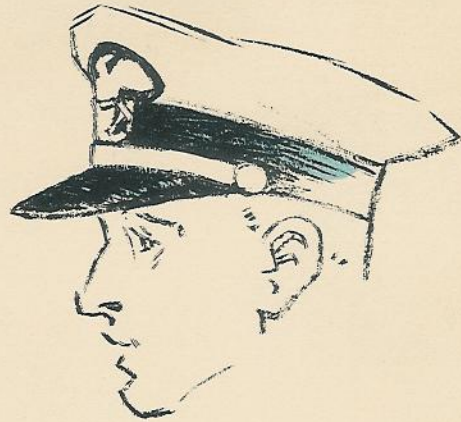
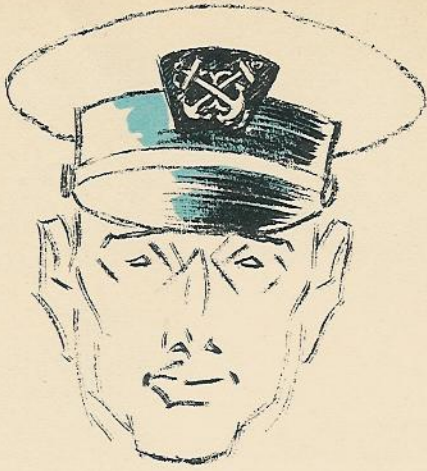
23. Officers, Cooks and  
Stewards 1st Class



22. Ordnanceman Aviation



24. Machinist's Mate Aviation



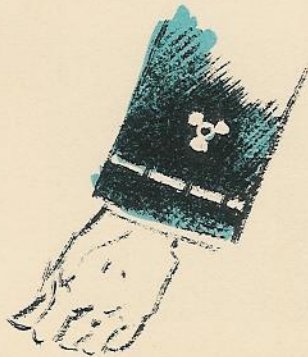
### Warrant Officers

A warrant officer wears crossed anchors on his cap and a narrow gold chin strap. A thin broken gold line appears on each cuff with the insignia of the officer's branch above it.

Chief warrant officers wear a regular officer's cap insignia and the broad gold chin strap. The sleeve stripe is broken but broader than that of the warrant officer.

If wearing white the stripes and branch insignia appear on the shoulder straps.

On overcoats the shoulder straps are worn and black braid is on each sleeve.

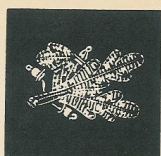




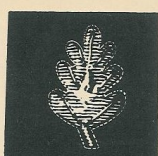
Line



Civil Engineer



Supply



Medical



Dental

## Corps Insignia worn by Officers



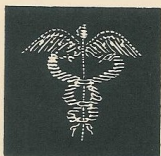
Chaplain

The corps insignia of an officer appear on his sleeves and shoulder straps.

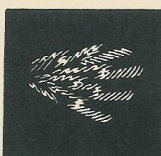
Corps insignia worn by warrant officers



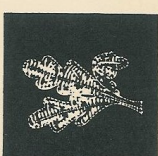
Gunner



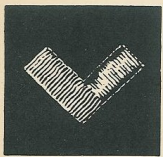
Pharmacist



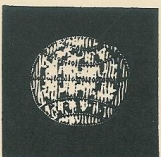
Radio Electrician



Pay Clerk



Carpenter



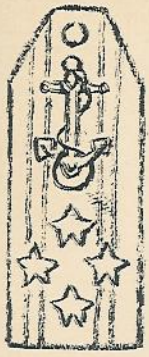
Electrician



Boatswain



Machinist



Admiral



Vice-Admiral



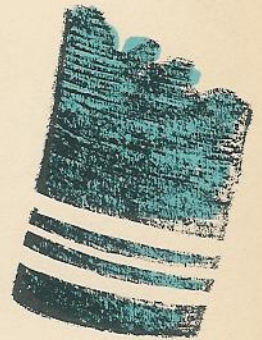
Rear Admiral



Captain



Commander



Lieutenant Commander



Lieutenant

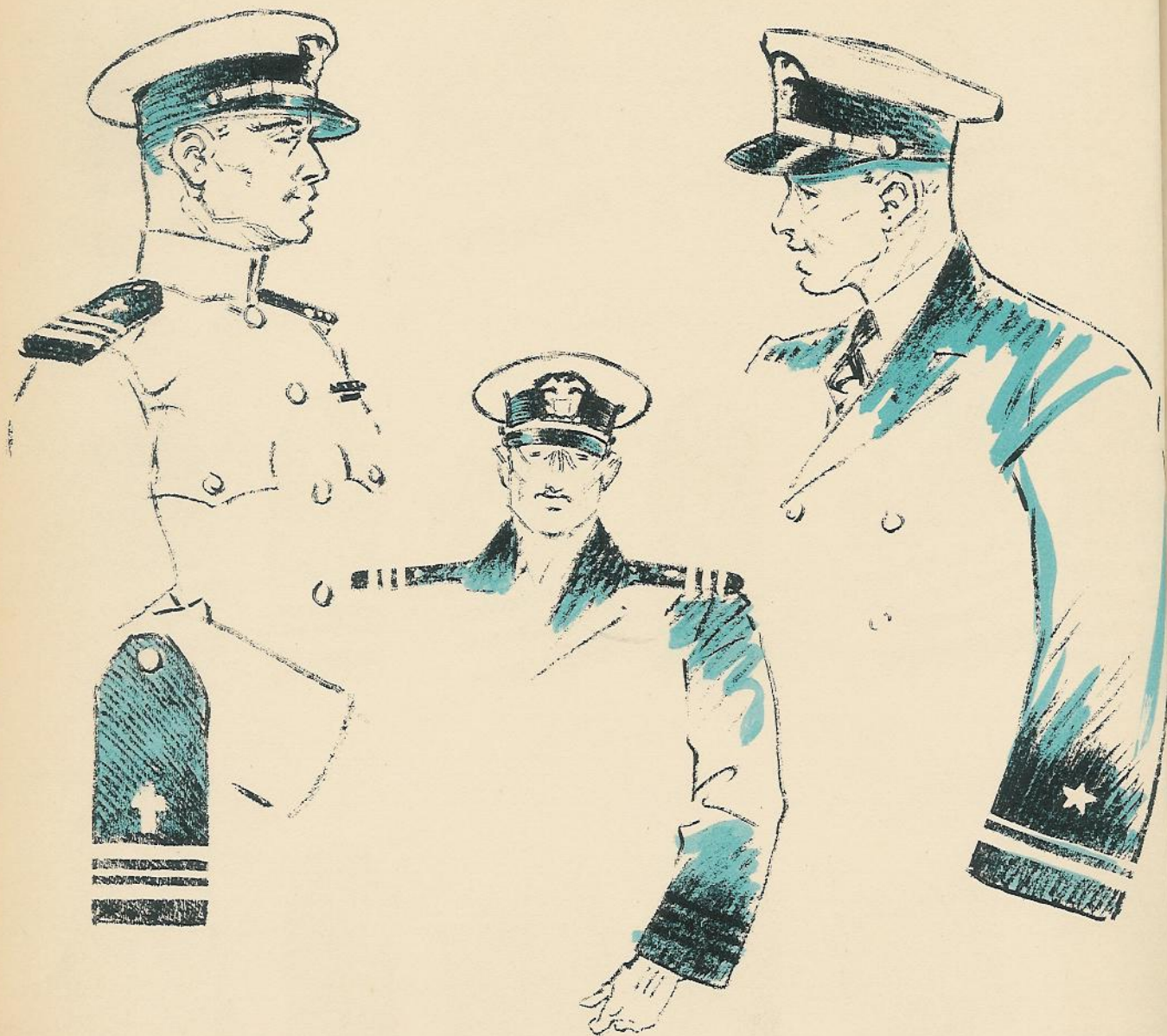


Lieutenant Junior Grade



Ensign

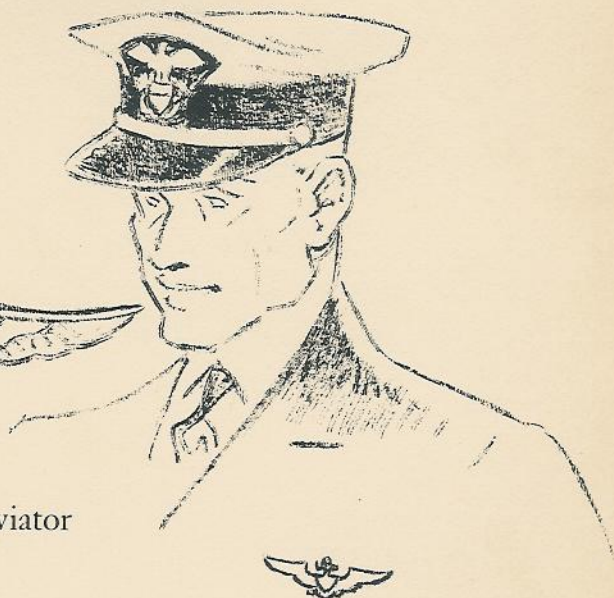
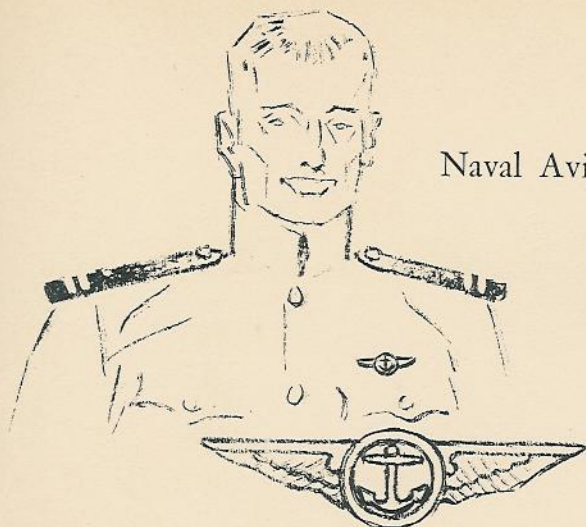
In the case of a shoulder strap of an admiral other than of the line, the insignia of branch is on the anchor that appears above the star or stars. It will be above the stripes on his sleeves.



Position of Officer's Insignia



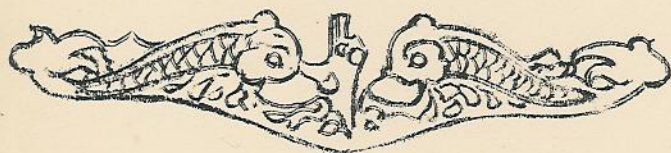
Naval Aviation Observer



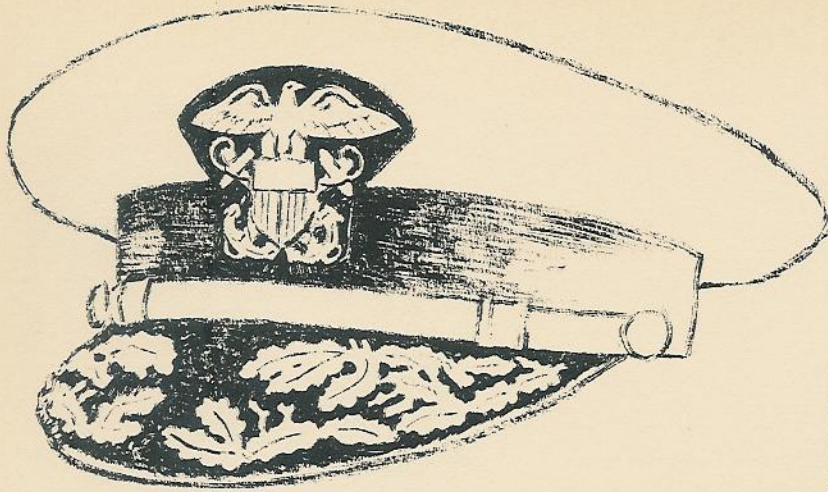
Naval Aviator



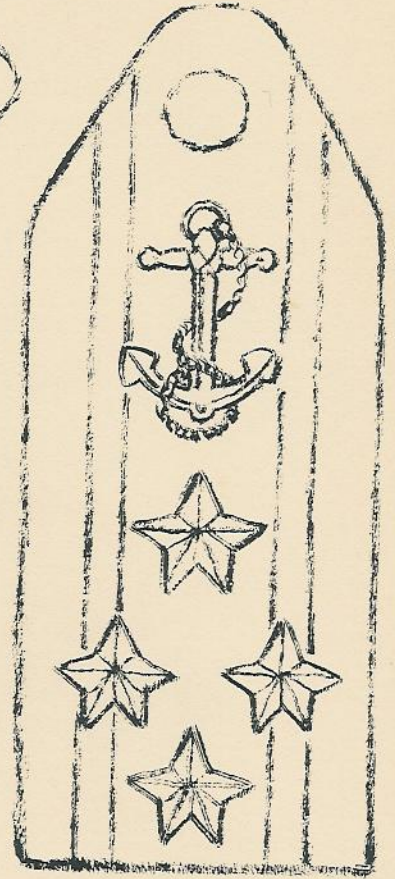
Aviation and submarine badges are worn over left breast pocket.



Qualified Submarine Officer

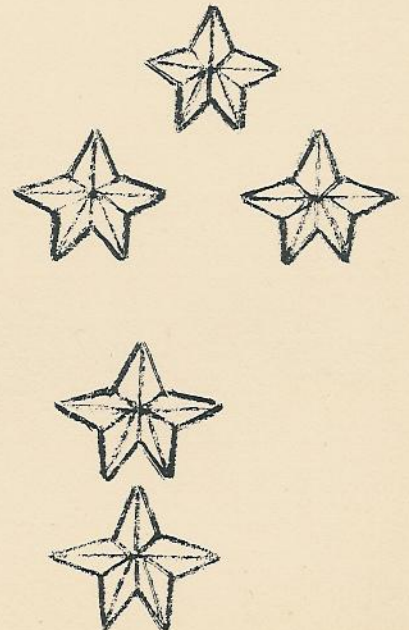
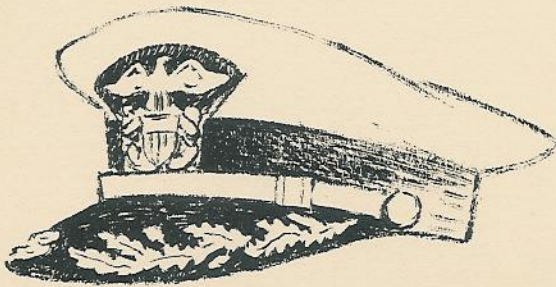


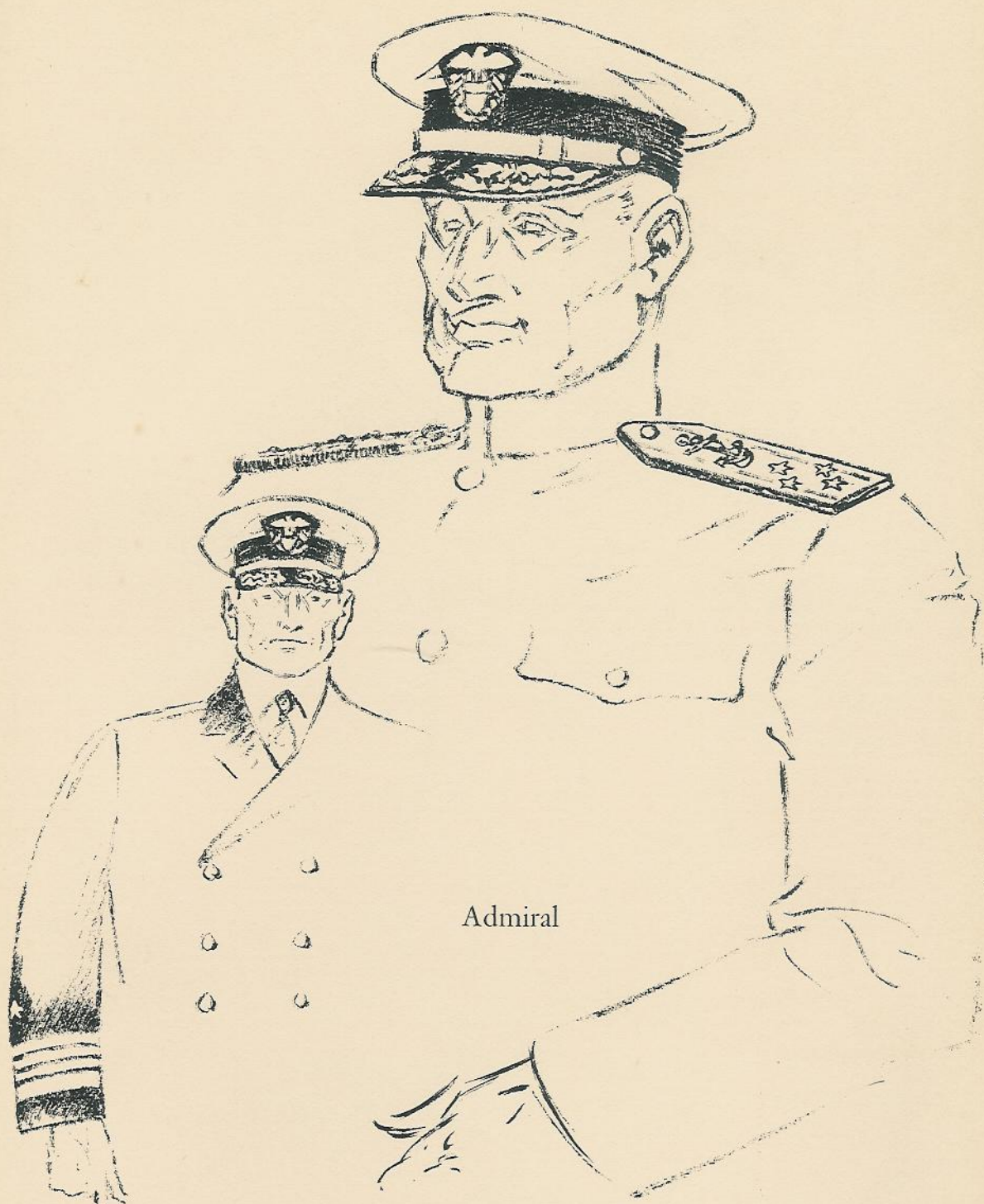
An admiral's cap and shoulder strap. Anchor and stars on shoulder straps are silver on a gold background—buttons are gold.



Other stars show the arrangement for a vice-admiral and a rear admiral.

Below—Headdress of a captain





Admiral



Leatherneck  
5th Marines 1918  
Paul Brown



## U. S. MARINES

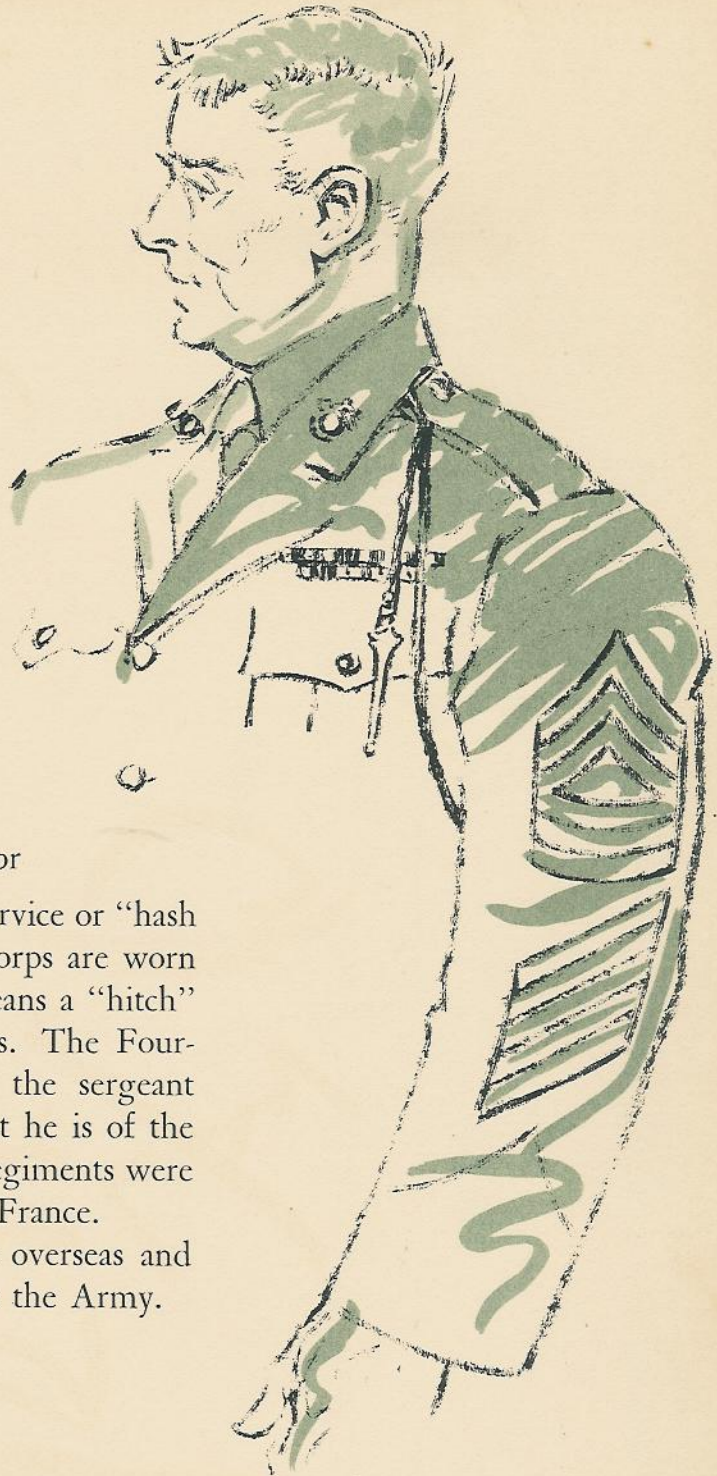
A man's climb through the ranks of the Marine Corps is very much like that of a man in the army. His first advancement makes him a first class private and entitles him to wear one chevron. Next comes his corporal's warrant with two chevrons and then the three chevrons of a sergeant. These chevrons appear on both sleeves of shirts, coats and overcoats.



### Headdress of enlisted men

The Marine Corps insignia are worn on all headdress except steel helmets and caps worn where the cold is extreme.

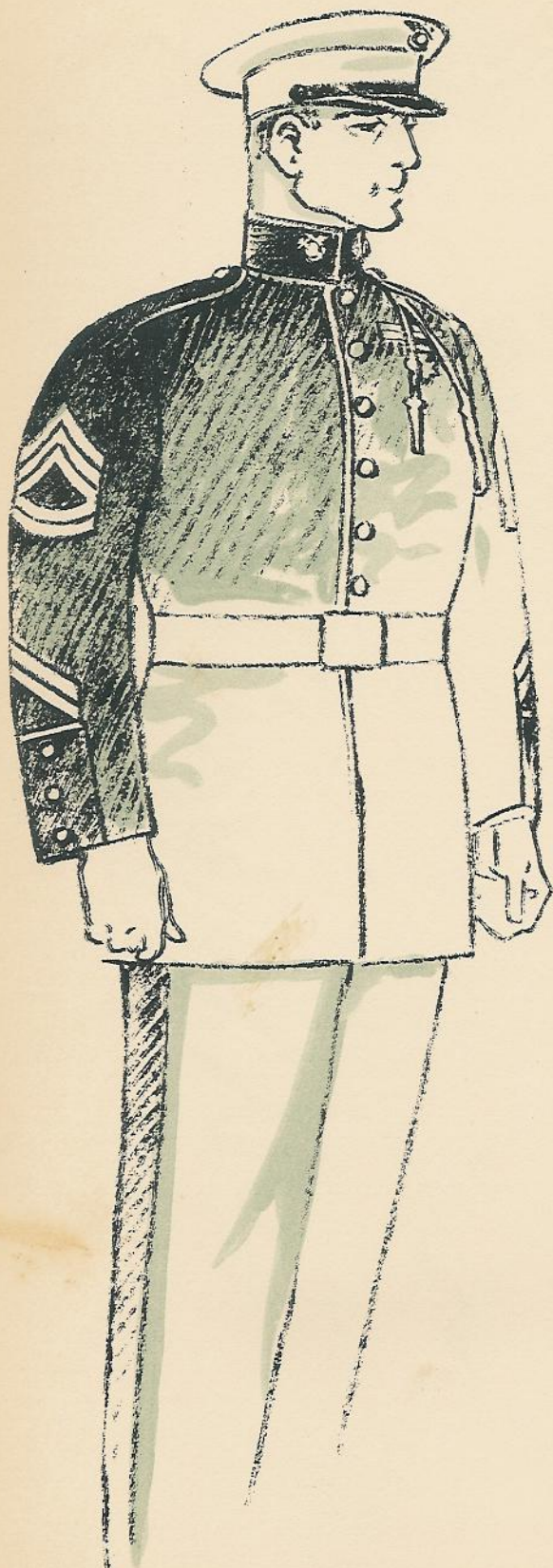




### The Sergeant Major

A sergeant major with five service or "hash marks," which in the marine corps are worn on both sleeves. Each stripe means a "hitch" in the Army, Navy or Marines. The Fourragere or "fire hose" around the sergeant major's left shoulder means that he is of the Fifth or Sixth Marines, which regiments were decorated for their fighting in France.

Marines may wear the same overseas and wound chevrons as are worn in the Army.



Chevrons and service stripes on blue uniforms are yellow on a scarlet background. The buttons and insignia are of brass. The cap cover and belt are white with a brass waist plate. Scarlet stripes on the trousers are worn by noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and officers.

The seven buttons on the front of the coat represent the seven great battles fought by the Corps. The scarlet stripe stands for the blood shed in the Mexican War.





Sergeants 1st grade are sergeant majors, master technical sergeants, quartermaster sergeants, master gunnery sergeants and paymaster sergeants.

Sergeants 2nd grade are technical sergeants, supply sergeants, first sergeants, gunnery sergeants and drum majors.

Sergeants 3rd grade are staff and platoon sergeants.

Sergeants 4th grade are field music sergeants, sergeants and mess sergeants or chief cooks.

Corporals, 5th grade, are field music corporals, corporals and mess corporal or field cook.

Privates, 6th grade, are field music 1st class, private 1st class and assistant cooks.

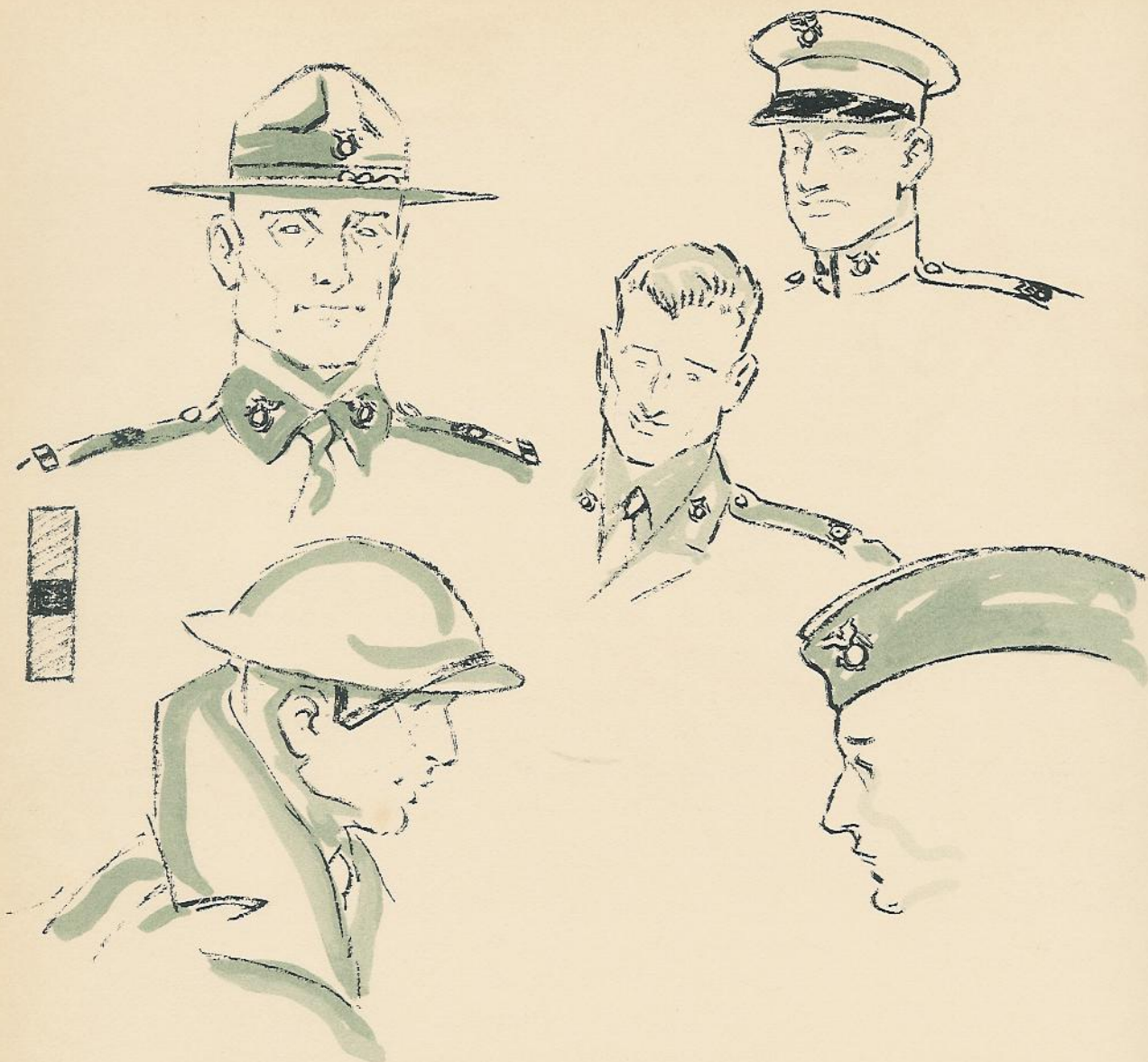
Men who have just enlisted wear no chevrons.



Second leader,  
marine band.



Musician, marine band.



Warrant officers are of two grades, warrant officers and chief warrant officers. A warrant officer wears his branch insignia on his shoulder while a chief warrant officer wears a gold bar with a blue center on the end of each shoulder strap with his branch insignia between the bar and the button. These insignia appear on shirts (if no outer garment is worn), coats, overcoats and raincoats. The rank of a warrant officer is denoted by the insignia on the right side of the garrison cap. He does not wear the shoulder strap of a commissioned officer's belt.



### Officers

The Marine insignia appear on all the headdress of officers excepting that worn where winter weather becomes extreme and steel helmets. The design shown is on the top of all officers' caps.

Officers and warrant officers wear gold and scarlet cords on their campaign hats.

The rank insignia for commissioned officers are the same as that in the Army. Gold bar, 2nd lieutenant; silver bar, 1st lieutenant; two silver bars, captain; gold oak leaf, major; silver oak leaf, lieutenant colonel; while a full colonel wears an eagle.

The insignia of rank are worn on the shoulder straps of shirts, coats, overcoats and raincoats. It also appears on the right side of the garrison cap.

Line officers wear no insignia of branch. Branch insignia are worn only by officers in the quartermaster's department, paymaster's department and the adjutant's and inspector's department.



### General Officers

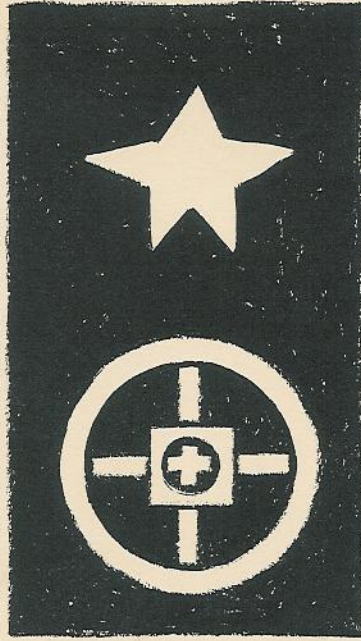
In the Marine Corps there are brigadier generals and major generals. One star for the brigadier and two for the major general. These stars are worn on the shoulder straps in such a manner as to divide the straps into equal parts. Hat cords are of gold.



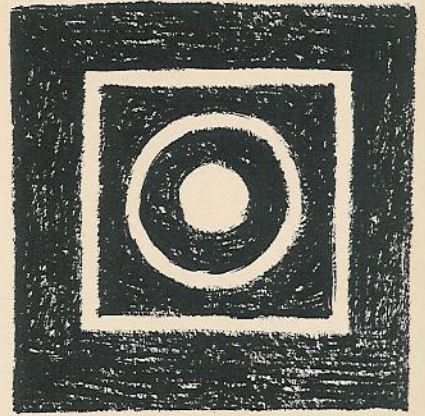
Major General Commandant



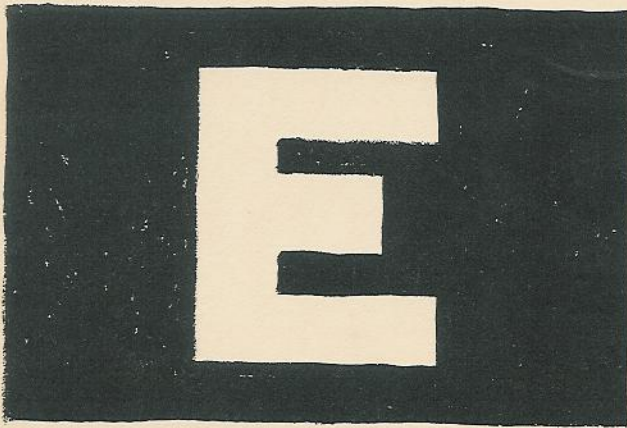
Gun Pointer, 2nd class



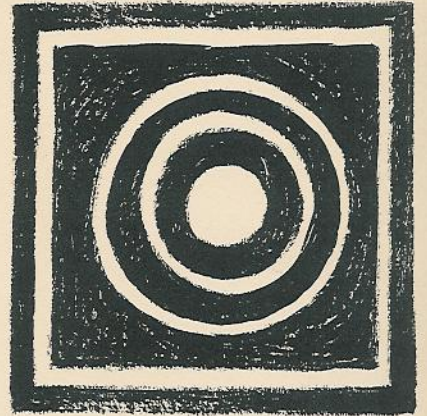
Gun Pointer, 1st class



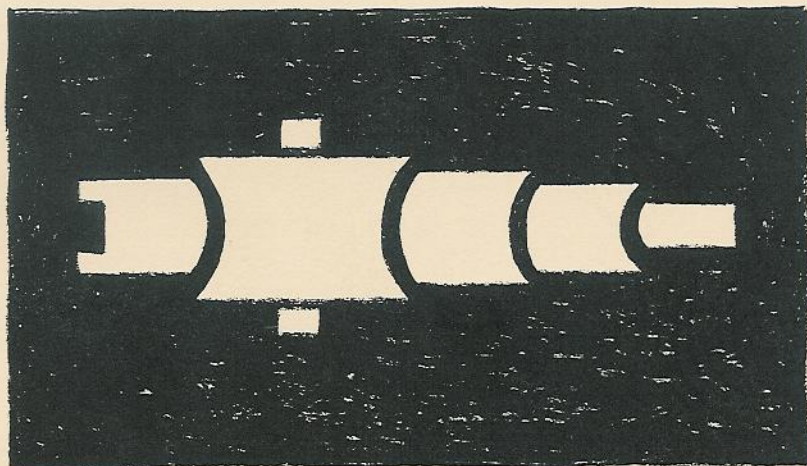
Rifle Sharpshooter



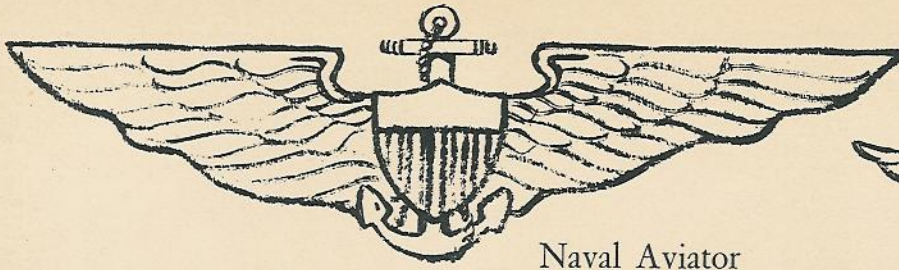
Navy E



Expert Rifleman and  
Expert Pistol Shot



Gun Captain



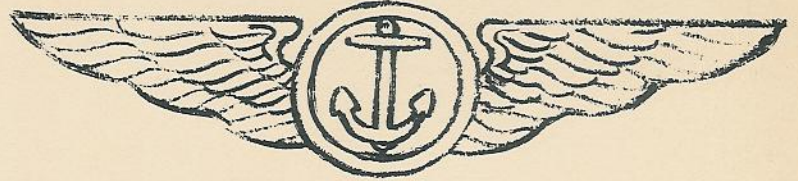
Naval Aviator



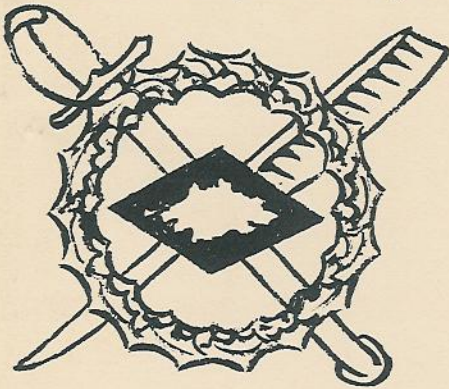
Aviation Cadet



Adjutant and Inspector's Department



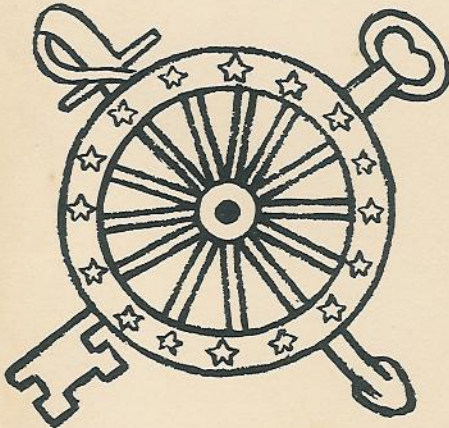
Naval Aviation Observer



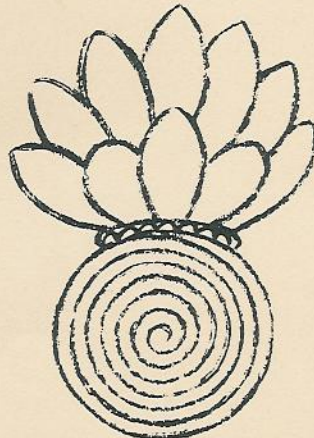
Paymaster's Department



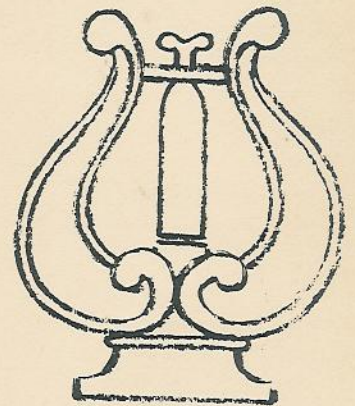
Aide-de-camp to brigadier general (one star)  
Aide-de-camp to major general (two stars)



Quartermaster's Department



Chief Marine Gunner  
Marine Gunner



Leader marine band

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