



CROW'S NEST



UNDERWATER MECHANIC

Dave Sullivan sent us this CPO rate for an underwater mechanic in bullion. U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALITY MARKS-DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885-1982 by John A. Stacey said:

"Established from diving details of WW2 and deleted soon afterward in favor of the Exclusive Emergency Service Rating ESM (Underwater Mechanic). It is doubtful, due to its short duration that any assignments were made to this rating while the mark was active."

Examples of this 1948 rate are available to collectors from John C. Melvey, a/k/a The Storekeeper, POB 117, Lee's Summit-MO 64063-0117

Sarge

Crow's Nest is free, and hopefully published four times a year, or more!!! Photocopies of any rates or other insignia in use by sea services past and present.

Upon request, velumpaper drawings of your patches that are used in Crow's Nest will be sent free & postage to send them is also paid by Crow's Nest too, those unclaimed to go to the first who asks for them. Describe those you are interested in.

No guarantees, but I am sure some will be around for the asking. Sarge

HAND MADE QUARTERMASTER 3RD

Larry Karadin of Norton, Ohio sent us a 3rd class Quartermaster rate which was entirely made by hand by the petty officer who used this badge.

Many petty officers rating badges were made by hand as early as 1841 and this continued through to 1866.



ALL HANDS
OCT. 1965



Admiral Russell R. Waesche,
U.S. Coast Guard,
Commandant of the United States
Coast Guard.

SLATE GRAY RANK MARKS

Washington, June 28, 1943 Wails were being heard today at the Navy Department Building from officers informed of the latest midwar sartorial changes in officers' uniforms, recommended by the uniform board, approved by Admiral Ernest J. King and "promulgated" by Secretary of the Navy Knox.

Shown to the left is an example of rank marks worn by the Commandant of the U.S.C.G. Below illustrations of slate gray rank marks. These were worn by ALL sea services, i.e., USPTS



NAVAL APPRENTICES (1869)

Badges for proficiency and good conduct were given to any boy who has served six months with general good conduct, neatness, and having made satisfactory progress in his drills can wear a badge of gold lace upon their sleeve.

Distinguishing marks of Captains of Guns will be silken or cloth.

Badges of Merit, the cable to be worked in gold thread, the device in the center worked in silver thread.

When worn on frocks the whole will worked in silk of the proper color - yellow and white instead of gold and silver.

Special thanks to John Stacey & Les Tucker for their assistance in this project. Sarge



DISTINGUISHING MARK
1st CAPTAINS OF GUNS



DISTINGUISHING MARK
2nd CAPTAINS OF GUNS



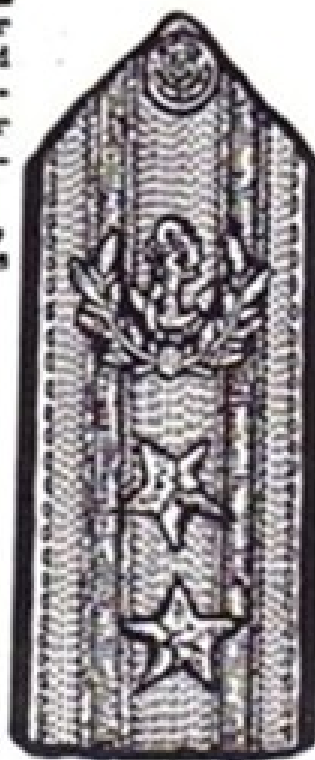
1st BADGE OF MERIT



2nd BADGE OF MERIT

VICE-ADMIRAL RICHARD ROBERT McNULTY, U.S.N.S.

Leader in developing federal training for merchant marine officers, McNulty graduated in 1919 from the wartime Massachusetts Nautical School and its schoolship, Ranger, later Nantucket (PG-23). He spent two years (1920-22) in the Navy's Hydrographic Office. Appointed commodore in July 1945 in the USMS, and three months later a rear admiral. He was promoted to vice admiral in March 1975.



BULLION EAGLE RATING BADGES

U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS,
DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885-1982 by John A.

Stacey on page 14 of his book talks about these badges. He says: From early samples known to be of World War I period: A coil of bullion forms the upper edge of the wings, with a twist of two threads forming the division between the wing shoulder and the feathers.

The shoulder portion of the wing is of diagonal stitches. The body is formed by twists of threads in a vertical pattern, with a knot of red thread for the mouth & a black knot for the eye. The perch is of single diagonal stitches and the twill is formed by five straight vertical stitches of the same length.

This is known as TYPE I.

Sarge



STOREKEEPER TECHNICAL

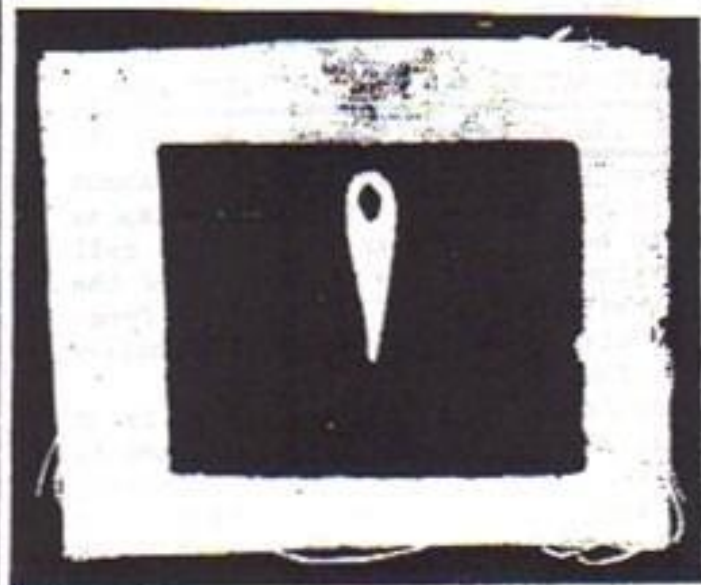


WHAT IS IT?

Light blue fatigue cloth. It was sent in by LTC Sheldon W. Kirsner of St. Louis, Mo.



Dave Sullivan



SAILMAKER'S MATE

Above, a cloth pattern, sailmaker's mate for post-Civil War period. WW2 sailmaker's Mate 2nd Class. Rate on right courtesy of Larry Karadin, and above rate courtesy of Les Tucker, & John A. Stacey.

POST SCRIPT: Eagle normally faced in opposite direction, could be pre-WW Two?



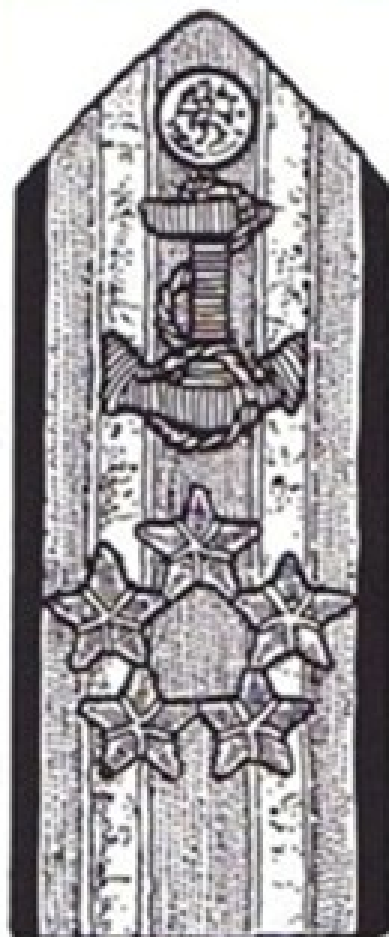
ASSAULT BOAT COXSWAIN

AMPHIBIOUS DSIGNIA (Part II)

According to John A. Stacey, the badge on the left was submitted for approval, it is a winged ship's steeringwheel with an LST, and a Thompson sub-machinegun. See U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885-1982.



FLEET ADMIRAL



The rank of Fleet Admiral, created in 1944 was given first to Ernest J. King, William D. Leahy, & Chester W. Nimitz in that same year, it was given in 1945, to William F. Halsey as well. The last to hold that rank was Fleet Admiral C.W. Nimitz, who died in 1966 even though he retired in 1951. Rank marks shown here are slightly smaller than they actually are!



Due to demand by collectors, these rank marks (a/k/a shoulder boards) are made to meet that demand by manufacturers. On official rank charts, Fleet Admiral is still shown even though only authorized, and given during wartime. Sarge



During WW2 Rear Admiral J.W. Bunkley produced many insignia books and the insignia to your right appeared. The books are long since out-of-print of course and many collectors would not otherwise get to see some of the art from that book, so it is here we're presenting it for your eyes!!! Above the coat-of-arms of the USMS academy at King's Point (NY). Unfortunately we don't have a lot of material on Merchant Marine.

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE CADET CORPS



1940-1942



1942-1944



1944-1946



1946-1948



1948-1950



1950-1952



1940-1942



1942-1944



1944-1946



1946-1948



1948-1950



1950-1952



1952-1954



1954-1956



1956-1958



1958-1960

MASTER-AT-ARMS

Larry Karadin sent this rate in to us, but it's star is pointing upwards, the other Master-At-Arms rates show their stars pointing downwards, explanation anyone?

Sarge



WHAT IS IT?

Does anyone out there know when this was worn? Answers welcomed to what and when this was used.



AVIATION RIGGER CIRCA 1930's

Larry sent us this great looking rate which we share with you here. Whitish edging on chevrons is a reflection.



UNKNOWN???

Larry Karadin of Norton, Ohio sent in this most unusual rate which is similiar to that of those used for apprentice rates, but they aren't as large as this, this being same size as regular rates.

It is pre-WW2 as the eagle is not in the upright position and leans. This type eagle came into being in 1905 and lasted until 1941.

If anyone out there knows what the badge on the left is, please write to us and tell us what you believe it is and when issued?

Sarge



AVIATION PILOT CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

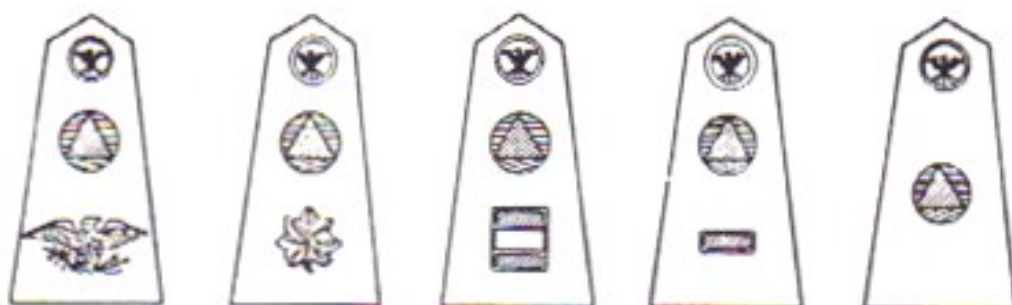
Larry Karadin sent in this rate which is on a white background with blue eagle, & sew-on chevrons and yellow winged shield and anchor. (1924-1933)





CAP INSIGNIA

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS



GRADE 1

GRADE 2-SILVER
GRADE 3-GOLD

GRADE 4

GRADE 5

GRADE 6

OTHER OFFICERS

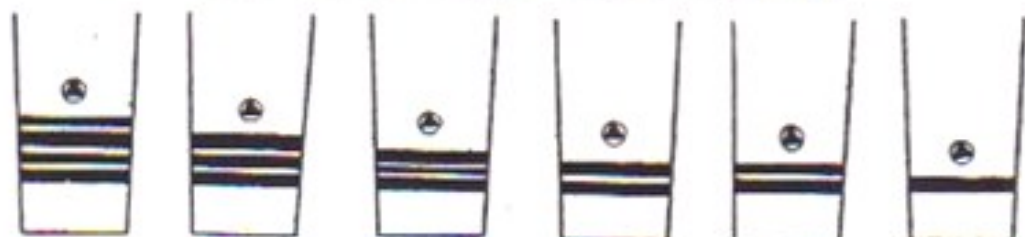


GOLD LACE

STRIPES WITH COLORED
VELVET PIPING.

DECK
OFFICERS

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SLEEVE STRIPES



GRADE 1

GRADE 2

GRADE 3

GRADE 4

GRADE 5

GRADE 6

ANTI-AIRCRAFT MACHINE GUNNER

These badges were used in 1949 and discontinued in 1970. U.S. NAVY RATING BADGES, SPECIALTY MARKS, DISTINGUISHING MARKS 1885 - 1982 by John A. Stacey has this badge on page 59 with an illustration and gives the date of its issue, etc. Sarge



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RATING BADGES (Part II)



Aviation Structural Mechanic



Aviation Survivalman



Boatswain's Mate



Damage Controlman



Data Processing Technician



Dental Technician



Electrician's Mate



Electronics Technician

BULLION EAGLE RATING BADGES (Part I)

In the last issue we presented fifteen varied bullion eagles, presented here are fifteen more vastly different eagles. Most of them were silver bullion with eyes sewn in black thread and usually a red tongue. Sometimes dead and bright threads of silver were used. If you have an unusual bullion eagle that you'd like to see shown here, send a photocopy of your rate. Also we can use other non-bullion as well. Some even look like penguins, believe it or not?

Sarge

