

U.S. Army Military History Institute
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Officers

US ARMY OFFICERS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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GENERAL SOURCES

Coffman, Edward M. "The Army Officer and the Constitution." Parameters (Sep 1987): pp. 2-12. Per.

Gravlin, Steven C. "West Point's Role in Winning Victory in World War II." Assembly
(Nov/Dec 1995): pp. 18-19. Per.
Founders Day speech by History Dept faculty.

Kemble, C. Robert. The Image of the Army Officer in America: Background for Current Views.
Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1973. 289 p. UB413.K45.
Historical study of American conceptions and attitudes.

Pierce, James G. "Organizational Culture and Professionalism: An Assessment of the Professional
Culture of the U.S. Army Senior Level Officer Corps." PhD dss, Penn State, 2004. 231 p.
UB413.P54.

Severus, Alexander. "The Fetish of Military Rank." Military Affairs (Fall 1941): pp. 171-76. Per.

See also:

-Bibliographies on Officer Training in Training Education; US Military Academy-West Point; and Professionalism.

GENERAL SOURCES-Appointment, Promotion, Demotion

Glover, Michael. "The Purchase of Commissions: A Reappraisal." Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research (Winter 1980): pp. 223-35. Per.

Gonzalez, Aristides. "A Critical Analysis of the Relationship Between Race, Ethnic Origin and Promotion of U.S. Army Officers to the Rank of Major." PhD dss, U San Francisco, 1991. 110 p. UB413.2.G66.
Finds institutional racism based on survey & statistics covering 1979-91.

Hargreaves, Reginald. "Ladder to the Stars." Army (Sep 1970): pp. 42-48. Per.
Historical review of officer commissions and promotions.

Karsten, Peter. "Ritual and Rank: Religious Affiliation, Father's 'Calling, and Successful Advancement in the U.S. Officer Corps of the Twentieth Century." Armed Forces & Society (Spring 1983): pp. 427-40. Per.

Kester, John G. "Politics and Promotions." Parameters (Dec 1982): pp. 2-13. Per.
Analysis and advice concerning top-level civilian involvement in military appointments & promotions.

Lenney, John J. Rankers: The Odyssey of the Enlisted Regular Soldier of America and Britain. NY: Greenberg, 1950. 215 p. UB413.2.L4.
A history of promotion from enlisted ranks to officer grade.

Perrine, David P. "The Benzine Board: The United States Army Officer Reduction of 1870." MA Thesis, OK State, 1976. 100 p. UB413.3.P4.

U.S. Dept of Army. Promotion of Officers on Active Duty: Army Regulations 624-100, dated 29 Jul 1966. MilPub-AR.
And subsequent editions.

U.S. Forces, European Theater. General Board. "Reclassification and Demotion of Officers in the European Theater of Operations." Study No. 7, Bad Nauheim, Germany: 1945-46. 45 p. D769.A2no7.
Includes stats pp. 6-7, on officers below grade of general.

Wiskoff, Martin F., & Rampton, Glenn M., editors. Military Personnel Measurement: Testing, Assignment, Evaluation. NY: Praeger, 1989. 207 p. UB337.M55.
See Chap. 4.

GENERAL SOURCES-Frocking

Frocking, an old naval custom, is a current US Army procedure for temporarily promoting officers and noncommissioned officers to higher rank without commensurate pay. Frocking reportedly began after repeal of the legal basis of brevetting (q.v.) in 1956. Many officers, especially general officers, have been frocked, notably in early 1970s. See:

"Army Considers Major Changes in Officer Frocking Procedure," Army Times (1 Apr 1985): p. 3. Per.

Elting, John R., Cragg, Dan J., & Deal, Ernest L. Dictionary of Soldier Talk. NY: Scribner, 1984. p. 119. U24.E38.

U.S. Dept of Army. Promotion of Officers on Active Duty: Army Regulations 624-100, dated May 1979. Para 2-13. MilPub-Reg.

No mention of frocking in same regulation, Oct 75, with 4 changes (to Apr 77).

_____. Message: Frocking of Senior NCOs, 27 Sep 1984. 3 p. Photocopy, BibFile(Officers).

See also:

-AR 614-200; Bibliography on Brevets in Officers.

GENERAL SOURCES-Commission Certificates

A commission awarded to Lieutenant Henry C. Corbin, 1866, is included in his personal papers, Arch, along with several other commissions of the late 19th century. Present-day officer's commissions are substantially the same in form and content. A small-scale illustration of one appears on p. 3, 39th ed, The Officer's Guide.

Incidentally, Art II, Para 8, of Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861 specifies that "An officer not having orders from competent authority cannot put himself on duty by virtue of his commission alone." Departmental seals appeared on tendered commissions, and an 1896 law required that the seal not be affixed until after the President had signed the commission. See:

Birkhimer, William E. The Law of Appointment and Promotion in the Regular Army of the United States. West Point, NY: Sherwood, 1880. UB413.B57.

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Burnham, W.P. Three Roads to a Commission in the United States Army. NY: Appleton, 1893. 160 p. UB413.B86.

Burt, Ernest H. "The Applicability of the Executive Power of Removal from the Office to Commissioned Officers of the Regular Army." Mimeo, n.d. pp. 8-11. UB412.B95.

Military Laws of the United States. Wash, DC: GPO, 1901. p. 480. UB500.1901.A11.

U.S. Dept of Army. Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers in the Regular Army: AR 601-100, dated, Nov 1971, with changes. pp. 5-2 to 5-3. MilPub-Reg.

_____. Reserve Components, Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Army: AR 135-100, dated Jan 1968, with changes. pp. 2-7. MilPub-Reg.

YOUNGEST OFFICERS-(candidates for)

Hamilton, Alexander - b. 1757, appointed captain, Continental Army, 14 Mar 1776 - age 19.

MacArthur, Arthur - b. 2 Jun 1845, appointed lieutenant, 4 Aug 1862 - age 18.

Murphy, Audie - b. 1924, field commission 1944 - age 20.

Sabin, Albert - b. 1843, appointed lieutenant 19 Feb 1862 - age 19.

Wilkinson, James - b. 1757, appointed captain, Continental Army, Mar 1776 - age 19.

PRE-20TH CENTURY

Allardice, Bruce. "West Points of the Confederacy: Southern Military Schools and the Confederate Army." Civil War History (Sec 1997): pp. 310-331. Per.
Between 1827-60, 96 military schools in the south produced an estimated 6-12,000 "trained" officers.

Army & Navy Journal (3 Oct 1868): p. 102. Per.

Discussion on how to attract US wealthy aristocrats into officer corps, including lowering pay to eliminate the middle classes with whom the aristocracy preferred not to associate. Related articles fore & aft.

Berkebile, Don H. "An Officer's Manual of 1775." Military Collector & Historian (Summer 1987): pp. 86-88. Per.

Stevenson's Military Instruction for Officers Detached in the Field..., 1775.

Frazier, Patrick. "The Society of the Cincinnati." Army (Jul 1973): pp. 37-40. Per.

Gates, John M. "The Alleged Isolation of US Army Officers in the Late 19th Century." Parameters (Sep 1980): pp. 32-45. Per.
Refutes argument of physical, social, and cultural isolation.

Henry, Guy V. Military Record of Civilian Appointments in the United States Army. 2 vols. NY: Nostrand, 1873. E467.H46.

Kemble, Charles R. "The Image of the Army Officer: The Nineteenth Century Background." PhD dss, George Washington, 1969. 248 p. UB413.K452.

Myers, Minor, Jr. Liberty Without Anarchy: A History of the Society of the Cincinnati. Charlottesville: U VA, 1983. 280 p. E202.1.A7.M93.

Patterson, Gerard A. Rebels from West Point. NY: Doubleday, 1987. 194 p. E545.P38.
USMA graduates who served the Confederate cause.

Skelton, Wm B. An American Profession of Arms: The Army Officer Corps, 1784-1861. Lawrence, KS: U KS, 1992. 476 p. UB413.S54.

_____. "Social Roots of the American Military Profession: The Officer Corps of America's First Peacetime Army, 1784-89." Journal of Military History (Oct 1990): pp. 435-52. Per.

Spiller, Ronald L.. "Animo et Fide: The Enlisted Response to Officer Resignations in Regular Army Mounted Units, 1861." MA thesis, Stephen F. Austin, 1986. 162 p. E492.5.S65.

U.S. War Dept. Courts-Martial [on officers]. Letter transmitted to US House of Representatives, 26 Jan 1884. House Exec Doc 1944, 48th Congress, 1st session. 185 p. UB856.U5.
General stats and general courts-martial orders relating to officers, 1857-61 & 1877-81.

Virginia. General Assembly. House of Delegates. Committee on Confederate Relations. Report of the Committee on Confederate Relations: Relative to Officers Resigning Out of the U.S. Service, and Entering the Service of Virginia, &c. &c. &c. [Richmond, VA: s.n., 1864]. 8 p. UB414.5.V8.

See also:

-Bibliography on the Society of Cincinnati in Veterans.

1900-1945

Army Officer's Guide. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1930-. ca 500 p. U133.A603.

Birtle, Andrew, & Condon-Rall, Mary-Ellen. "History of Officer and NCO Evaluation Reports Since WWI." Info paper, CMH, 3 Feb 1988. 6 p. UB413.1.B57.

Coffman, Edward M., & Herrly, Peter F. "The American Regular Army Officer Corps Between the World Wars." Armed Forces & Society (Nov 1977): pp. 55-73. Per.

Muth, Jörg. Command Culture: Officer Education in the U.S. Army and the German Armed Forces, 1901-1940, and the Consequences for World War II. Denton, TX: U No TX, 2011. 366 p. U408.M87.

Seidule, James T. "Morale in the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I." PhD dss, OH State, 1997. 273 p. D570.S45.
See Chaps 3-4.

U.S. Army. Service Forces. Officer Procurement Service. "Officer Procurement during World War II." Photostat of report, 30 Apr 1945. 107 p. UB413.O35.
Appointing the professional, administrative specialists from civil occupation.

1900-1945-Promotion Policy, World War II

The Officer's Guide. Harrisburg, PA: Military Service Publishing, 1944. pp. 377-82. U133.A603.
And 1945 edition, p. 28.

U.S. Army Field Forces. "Report of Army Ground Forces Study on Comparisons of General Officers and Colonels (Infantry)." Photostat, n.d. 67 p. UB413.A3.

U.S. War Dept. Commissioned Officers, Promotion in the Regular Army, Except in Medical, Dental and Veterinary Corps: AR 605-40, dated Mar 1942. 4 p. MilPub-Reg.

_____. Commissioned Officers, Temporary Promotions in the Army of the United States: AR 605-12, dated Feb 1944. 6 p. With Change No 1. 2 p. MilPub-Reg.
Also 17 Aug 1944 edition (6 p.) w/ Changed No. 2 & 3 (5 p.) & AR 605-10, 10 Dec 1941.

_____. Medical Department, Standards of Miscellaneous Physical Examination: AR 40-100, Change No. 1, dated 5 Mar 1943. 2 p. MilPub-Reg.

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Examples: *Omar N. Bradley* was promoted to full general (temporary) on 12 Mar 1945. His permanent grade at the time was major general, dating from 8 Sep 1944.

George S. Patton, Jr. was promoted to the temporary grade of full general on 14 Apr 1945, while his permanent grade was major general, as of 2 Sep 1943.

Walton H. Walker was promoted lieutenant general (temporary) on 14 Apr 1945, while his permanent grade was colonel, from 1 May 1942.

The following individuals held the permanent rank indicated when promoted to the new temporary (5-Star) grade of general of the army:

Arnold, Henry H. - major general, since 31 May 1941.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. - major general (2 Star), since 30 Aug. 1943.

MacArthur, Douglas - general, since 21 Nov 1930.

Marshall, George C. - general (4-Star), since 1 Sep 1939.

Reference:

U.S. War Dept. AGO. Official Army Register, 1 January 1945. Wash, DC: GPO, 1945. U11.U5.O22.
Also 1946 edition, pp. 76 & 713

1900-1945-Flight Officers, World War II

On the origin of flight officer grade during World War II, see:

U.S. War Dept. Bulletin 34, dated Jul 1942. 2 p. MilPub-Bulletins.

_____. Flight Officers: AR 610-50, dated Nov 1942. 3 p. With 3 changes. Milpub-Reg.
And ed of 1946, 2 p.

See also Army Regulation 600-35, Change 2, 19 Sep 1942, and page 53 of AR 600-35, 31 Mar 1944, which describe and depict pertinent insignia of flight officers.

SINCE 1945

Army Officer's Guide. 44th ed. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1988. 615 p. U133.A603.

Bassford, Christopher. The Spit-Shine Syndrome: Organizational Irrationality in the American Field Army. NY: Greenwood, 1988. 171 p. UA25.5.B37.
See index.

Birtle & Condon-Rall, cited above. UB413.1.B57.

Coffman, Edward M. "The Long Shadow of The Soldier and the State." Journal of Military History (Jan 1991): pp. 69-82. Per.
Assessment of military history since the mid-50s.

Defense magazine, almanac issue (Sep), Per.
Includes table showing number and grade of all officers, all services.

Diehl, Richard P. "Military Professionalism in the U.S. Army Corps." Military Review (Mar 1974): pp. 60-71. Per.

DiGuglielmo, Tina. "Reaching for the Stars: A Comparison of Female and Male Army Officers' Career Progression." PhD dss, U KY, 2000. 226 p. UB417.D54.

Edwards, Spencer P., Jr. "Social Class Origins of Regular Army Officers as Related to Their Career Success." Masters thesis, U Chicago, 1956. 22 p. UB413.E39.
Analysis of 102 questionnaires.

Holt, Thaddeus. Papers. 1 Box. Arch.
Report on Army officers corps & Pentagon, 1965-67, by Deputy Under Sec of Army.

Kitfield, James. Prodigal Soldiers. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 470 p. UA23.K524.
Transformation of the armed services from defeat in Vietnam to triumph in the Gulf, viewed from the perspective of the careers of various top generals.

Medlock, Kathleen Van Trees. "A Critical Analysis of the Impact of the DOD Reorganization Act on American Officership." PhD dss, George Mason, 1993. 170 p. UB413.M44.
Finds data indicating a shift toward technical-oriented senior officers because of joint provisions in 1986 Goldwater-Nicols Action.

Milam, John R. "Not a Gentleman's War: Junior Officers in the Vietnam War." PhD dss, U Houston, 2004. 303 p. DS558.M55.

Peck, B. Mitchell. "Assessing the Career Mobility of U.S. Army Officers: 1950-74." Armed Forces & Society (Winter 1994): pp. 217-37. Per.

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Stringer, Kevin D. The War on Terror and the War for Officer Talent: Linked Challenges for the U.S. Army. Arlington, VA: Institute of Land Warfare, AUSA, 2008. 14 p. U15.L36no.67.

Turner, David R. To Become an Officer: Practice for Officer Candidate Tests. NY: Arco, 1947 & 1966. ca 250 p. U408.5.T87.

U.S. Dept of Defense. The Armed Forces Officer. Wash, DC: GPO, 1950. 267 p. U133.A5.
Manual on leadership and values.

U.S. War Dept. Bureau of Public Relations. Press Branch. "Report of the Secretary of War's Board on Officer-Enlisted Man Relationships to Honorable Robert P. Patterson, the Secretary of War, May 1946." Press release mimeo. 23 p. UB147.A26.
Doolittle Board Report.