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Uniforms

U.S. ARMY UNIFORMS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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See Article 85.

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Also 20-p. General Order 92, 1872 is the same.

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Windrow, Martin, & Embleton, Gerry. Military Dress of North America, 1665-1978. NY: Scribner's, 1973. UC483.W46.
See Chap 6.

-Change from Blue to Khaki, 1898-1912

The Army's uniform changeover from its traditional dark blue to the new khaki and olive drab began during the Span-American War and continued until the eve of WWI. Although certain events and announcements mark the progress of the changeover, at no given time from 1898 to 1912 was the Army outfitted entirely in one uniform or the other. It should not be surprising, then, to find mixtures of old and new uniforms in photos of troops at the same garrison during this transition.

Khaki clothing for field service was first authorized for officers on 9 May 1898, a scant two weeks after war had been declared against Spain. However, troops in tropical areas received no issue of khaki clothing until 1899. For several years following, various khaki materials were issued as tropical and summer uniforms, including expedient khaki-colored woolen shirts. Eventually, a suitable, lightweight material remained part of the uniform.

Meanwhile, adoption of olive drab clothing progressed too. It was one of several major uniform changes decided upon and promulgated in 1902. Officers could purchase olive drab clothing that year, but enlisted personnel received no OD's until the extensive stocks of older blue and experimental khaki-colored clothing were depleted. Although the issue of the new OD's began in 1906 -- four years after official adoption -- dark blue clothing continued to be issued and worn until as late as 1912. Of course, throughout this period, as now, the dress uniforms of both officer and enlisted personnel remained the traditional blue.

See:

Bruun, M.C. "The Evolution of the Olive Drab Service Coat, 1902-1916." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 1981): pp. 148-58. Per.

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U.S. War Dept. General Order No 39, 9 May 1898. 2 p. GO.

_____. Reports of the Quartermaster General to the Secretary of War, 1898-1912. Wash, DC: GPO, 1898-1912. UC30U55.

See Reports of 1899, pp. 6-7; 1904, pp. 5-7; 1906, pp. 35 & 37-38; and 1912, p. 18.

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- Lewis, Kenneth. Doughboy to GI: US Army Clothing and Equipment, 1900-45. England: Landing, 1993. 260 p. UC463.L48.
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- Spicer, Ron, & Gero, Anthony. "78th Division, A.E.F., 1917-19: Plate No. 664." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 1990): pp. 158-59. Per.
- U.S. War Dept. Regulations for the Uniform of the United States Army. Spec Reg #41, Aug 1917. 119 p. MilPub-SR.
And Spec Reg #42, Specifications, 86 p.

NOTE: US soldiers were expected to return their issued uniforms via mail within 4 months to their discharge. **See:**

- WD Circ 105, 2 Dec 1918
- WD Circ 43, 25 Jan 1919
- Army Regulations 1917, Para 1165

-Dress Blue Uniforms, 1936

A search in 1936 numbered War Dept circulars uncovered three with instructions and specifications on the blue uniform. Circular No. 66, (15 Oct 1936, 12 p.), Circular No. 70, (28 Oct 1936, 2 p.), and Circular No. 72, (6 Nov 1936, 2 p.) concern only officers, warrant officers, and contract surgeons. No mention of enlisted men appears therein.

According to War Dept Circular No. 5 (26 Jan 1929, 2 p.), enlisted men could wear the prescribed blue uniform. Circular No. 58 (4 Nov 1929, Sec I, 1 p.) announced that the Philadelphia QM Depot would accept orders for blue uniforms from both officers and enlisted men.

Other pertinent War Dept circulars, include:

- Circ No. 9, 20 Feb 1930, Sections I & II, 2 p.
- Circ No. 7, 21 Jan 1937, 10 p.
- Circ No. 19, 8 Mar 1937, 2 p.
- Circ No. 27, 5 Apr 1937, 12 p.
- Circ No. 4, 22 Jan 1938, Sec I, 1 p.

See also:

Cavanaugh, Philip M., & Kloster, Donald E. "The Forgotten U.S. Army 1936 Officer's Dress Blue Uniform." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 1985): pp. 165-67. Per.

20TH CENTURY-World War II

Morden, Bettie J. The Women's Army Corps, 1945-78. Wash, DC: CMH, 1990. 543 p. UA565.W6.M67.

See App D (53 p), which includes color illus.

Nalty, Bernard C., et al, editors. War in the Pacific: Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay. NY: Salamandar, 1991. 304 p. D767.W33.

Numerous photos of individual clothing & personal equip, all nations.

Redlegs, Captain. "Clothes for Combat." Infantry Journal (Jan 1947): pp. 19-20. Per.

Light but critical commentary on WWII clothing problems; see accompanying editorial comments.

Rosignoli, Guido. The Allied Forces in Italy, 1943-45. England: David & Charles, 1989. 160 p. D763.I8.R67.

Data on units & uniforms.

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Stanton, Shelby. U.S. Army Uniforms of World War II. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1991. 277 p. UC483.S722.

Sylvia, Stephen W., & O'Donnell, Michael J. Uniforms, Weapons and Equipment of the World War II G.I. Orange, VA: Moss, 1982. 223 p. UC483.S97.

U.S. War Dept. Personnel: Wearing of the Service Uniform: Army Regulations 600-40, dated Aug 1941. 36 p. MilPub-Regs.
And Mar 1944 edition (40 p.)

_____. Personnel: Prescribed Service Uniform: AR 600-35, dated Nov 1941. 31 p. MilPub-Reg.
And Mar 1944 edition (68 p.)

-1943 Combat/Field Uniform

Garside, Charles. "Investigation of Supply of Clothing in ETO during World War II." In Chap 28 of Passing in Review, a collection of material by Robert M. Littlejohn. Secs C & D (9 p.). D769.75.L55.

Richardson, Eudora R., & Allan, Sherman. Quartermaster Supply in the Fifth Army in World War II. Fort Lee, VA: QM School, 1950. 181 p. #03-5.1950/2.

Risch, Erna. The Quartermaster Corps: Organization, Supply, and Services. Vol. I. In the USAWWII series. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1953. 418 p. D769.A533v6pt2v1.

_____, & Pitkin, Thomas M. Clothing the Soldier of World War II. QMC Hist Study No 16, Sep 1946. pp. 47-65. UC34A2.

Ross, William F., & Romanus, Charles F. The Quartermaster Corps: Operations in the War against Germany. In the USAWWII series. Wash, DC: 1965. 798 p. D769A533v6pt2v3.

"Warm Clothes for Winter Warfare." Quartermaster Review (Jan/Feb 1945): pp. 61, 87-88 & 91. Per.

-Quartermaster Laundry Mark

The laundry mark used by the US Army Quartermaster Corps laundry service during WWII consisted of the first initial of a soldier's last name followed by the last four digits of his serial number. See:

Filler, Louis. Laundry and Related Activities of the Quartermaster General. QMC Historical Study No 13. Wash, DC: GPO, 1946. pp. 88-89. UC34A2no13.

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Breckenridge, John R. [and] R. L. Pratt. Effect of Clothing Color on Solar Heat Load. Natick, MA: HQs, Quartermaster Research & Engineer Command, US Army, Quartermaster Research & Engineer Center, 1961. 11 p. U394.N363.T43EP-155.

Breckenridge, John R. Effective Area of Clothed Man for Solar Radiation. Natick, MA: HQ, Quartermaster Research & Engineer Command, 1961. 11 p. U394.N363.T43EP-157.

Laible, R. C., L. I. Weiner, [and] E. Stone. Soviet-Bloc Development of Synthetic Fibers. Natick, MA: Quartermaster Research & Engineer Center, Textile, Clothing & Footwear Division, 1961. 24 p. UC463.T49.No.117.

Procurement of Textiles and Clothing. Survey Team Report. Washington, DC: Munitions Board, 1949. 27 p. UC263.P767.

Sprague, Merle E. & Ross, Carl W. World Guide to Field Clothing Requirements. Natick, MA: Headquarters, Quartermaster Research & Engineering Command, US Army, Quartermaster Research & Engineering Center, 1959. 40 p. U394.N363.T43EP-115.

Weiner, Louis I. A Survey of 18-Ounce Blended Serge Fabrics: Wear Resistance. Natick, MA: Quartermaster Research & Engineer Center, Textile, Clothing & Footwear Division, 1962. 36 p. UC463.T49.No.123.

_____. Wear Resistance of Military Textiles. Natick, MA: Quartermaster Research & Engineer Center, Textile, Clothing & Footwear Division, 1963. 54 p. UC463.T49.No.125.

United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Government Operations. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Textile Procurement in the Military Services: Hearings Before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, US Senate. Wash, DC: US GPO, 1955. Part 1. 1169 p. UC463.U557.

U.S. General Accounting Office. Review of Materiel Standardization Activities of the Military Clothing and Textile Supply Agency, Department of Defense, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. By the Comptroller General of the United States. [Wash, D.C.: Comptroller General of the US], 1961. 50 p. UC463.U558.

SINCE 1945-Korean War

Stanton, Shelby. U.S. Army Uniforms of the Korean War. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1992. 245 p. UC483.S619.

U.S. Dept of Army. Personnel: Articles and Types of Uniforms for Male Personnel: Special Regulations 600-31-1, dated 1 Apr 1951. 38 p. MilPub-SR.

_____. Personnel: Uniforms: SR 600-40-1, dated 22 Jun 1949. 24 p. MilPub-SR.

-Changeover to "Greens"

U.S. Dept of Army. Uniform and Insignia: Male Personnel: AR 670-5, dated Sep 1956. 84 p. MilPub-Reg.
And succeeding eds.

Wise, William D., Jr. "Introducing Army Green." Army Information Digest (Jan 1955): pp. 10-16. Per.
Describes new style and its lengthy selection process.

-End of the "Brown Shoe" Army

To some old soldiers, the color of regulation footwear symbolized two different armies. During the mid-1950s, the US Army radically restructured into a pentomic configuration while modernizing its uniforms. The official transition from the old brown to the new green (AG-44) service uniform began in Sep 1956. Although appropriate regulations were promulgated that month, an earlier directive specifically authorized wear of black low quarter shoes beginning on Sep 1st. Authorized wear of the old olive drab (OD-33) uniform continued the transition period, but with black shoes and boots, not the former russet or "brown" footwear. See:

U.S. Dept of Army. Clothing and Equipage; Wearing of Black Shoes and Socks: Circular 670-5, dated Jul 1956. 1 p. MilPub-Circ.

_____. Logistics (General); Wool, OD-33 Clothing: Circ 700-12, dated Mar 1956. 4 p. MilPub-Circ.

_____. Uniform and Insignia: Dyeing of Boots, Combat, Russet Color: Circ 670-22, dated Jan 1958. MilPub-Circ.

_____. Uniform and Insignia, Male Personnel: AR 670-5, dated Sep 1956. Paras 27, 38, 43, 55 & 77-78. MilPub-Reg.

The transition period ended as existing stocks of olive drab clothing were depleted. AR 670-5 (Sep 1959) authorized no olive drab uniform for active Army enlisted personnel after Oct 1960, although a few later editions of the regulation continued to authorize the OD's for various reserve personnel.

A more-or-less official explanation of why the Army changed to the green service uniform appears in Army Information Digest (Jan 1955), pp. 10-16. A definition of the term "brown-shoe Army" appears in Dictionary of Soldier Talk by John Elting et al (NY: Scribner's, 1984; Ref).

SINCE 1945-Vietnam

Miraldi, Paul W. Uniforms and Equipment of U.S. Military Advisors in Vietnam, 1957-1972.
Atglen, PA: Schiffer, 2000. 248 p. UC483.M572.

Stanton, Shelby. U.S. Army Uniforms of the Vietnam War. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1989. 246 p.
UC483.S72.

US MACV. Uniform and Insignia, Male Personnel: MACV Directive 670-1, dated 12 Apr 1972. 18 p.
MACV Command Historian's Collection-Arch.

Warsinske, John. Company Command in Vietnam...Oral History Collections. Special Bib 26, Nov 1990.
ca 250 p. Z6724.H6.U55no26.
See pp. 66 of Sec II.

SINCE 1945-Since Vietnam

McHugh, Jane. "BDUs and You: Army Times Readers Weigh in with their Favorite Designs for a New Army Camouflage Pattern." Army Times (3 Mar 2003): pp. 14-16. Per.
Vote tallies with images of fabric swatches under current consideration.

See also:

-Section on Camouflage Uniforms in Camouflage bibliography.