



A GUIDE TO



U.S.

# ARMY INSIGNIA

AND DECORATIONS



WITH OVER 140 ILLUSTRATIONS  
IN COLOR



*A Guide to*

## U. S. ARMY INSIGNIA and DECORATIONS

*By* GORDON A. J. PETERSEN

*With over 140 illustrations in color*

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## What This Book Contains

THE PURPOSE of this book is to explain quickly and simply the meaning of the wide variety of U. S. Army insignia, to enable people to identify a soldier or officer by his grade, organization and branch; that is, his rank, the Army, Corps, Division or Regiment to which he belongs, and the Arm or Service with which he is affiliated. Army insignia owe their origin to the rules of heraldry that developed during the Middle Ages, and to elements in the history of localities in which some Army units were first formed, and, sometimes, to expediency. As an example of heraldry, the most important insignia must be worn on the right side, because in the days of knighthood the right side was the "strong" side, since the sword was wielded by the

right arm. In the Army, the "U. S." is the most important insignia of all, so it is always worn on the "strong" side. The insignia of the Fourteenth Division shows the importance played by locale, since it consists of the profile of a wolverine. This Division was formed at Camp Custer, Michigan, the "Wolverine State." The Second Lieutenant's gold bar on the shoulder is the result of expediency. Since First Lieutenants and Captains wear silver bars, gold was adopted for the Second Lieutenant rather than to compel the other officers to buy new insignia. Also included are pictures of some of the important medals and ribbons awarded to and authorized to be worn by members of the Army.

## The U. S. Army

ALTHOUGH the U. S. Army has come a long way from the ragged Continentals who won the Revolution, this country's military system is still unique among those of the world's great nations. It is based on the principle of civilian control of military policies and finances, exercised through Congress, the President and the War Department. Actual command and operation of the Army is entrusted to military men who have made the profession of arms their life work. These commanders won their commissions by graduation from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, by coming from civilian life as members of the National Guard or the Organized Reserves, or by enlisting and rising from the ranks. Their position in civilian life has

had no bearing on the granting of their commissions.

The Army's chief function is the land defense of the United States and such other territory as the government considers vital to this country's safety. The wars in Europe, Asia and Africa during the last 10 years have shown that a nation fully equipped for war is much more likely to continue as a free and independent state than one which neglects national defense. This has been the thought behind the two major laws under which the Army and its Reserve forces have been developed since the World War—the National Defense Act of 1916, as amended in 1920, and the Selective Service Act of 1940 as amended in 1941.

## The U. S. Army (Continued)

Under these laws, the Army consists of three parts—the Regular Army or permanent military force, the National Guard or state militia, and the Organized Reserves or civilians who have had military training. The last two bodies may be called (as they were in 1940) into Federal service. Under the Selective Service Act, civilians are drafted and trained as they are needed by the Army in order to bring all units to full strength.

The United States has never maintained a huge Army, as has been done by European powers since the time of Napoleon. However, as the present war grew in scope and fury, it was realized that the small military force which had charge of National Defense from 1919 to 1940 would not



Cap Insignia, Commissioned Officer



Cap Insignia, Non-commissioned Officer, or Private



"U.S." worn on coat lapel or right side of shirt collar by all members of the Army. (Officer's "U.S." is shown here.)



Insignia worn on coat lapels and cap by Warrant Officer

## The U. S. Army (Continued)

be adequate. Since 1940 the Government's policy has been to create and maintain an Army of at least 1,400,000 officers and men, to be expanded if conditions demand it.

The Army personnel will be kept at full strength by induction of new men from time to time, to assure the maintenance of a well-trained force.

## Army Organization

MODERN military organizations are run along the lines of a large industrial concern—a Chain of Command from the high executives down to the workmen, with expert assistants and counselors to help. The only real difference is in the names and titles. Since the Army is a big business, it has to have many "departments," "executives" and "employees." Because the clothing worn by Army members is so much alike, various ornaments, or *insignia*, have been devised to distinguish men in one group from those in another. Although based on tradition, insignia have a modern purpose.

Higher commanders have the aid of staff officers, each of whom is qualified in some phase of the Army's operation. They are

known as G-1 (personnel), G-2 (intelligence), G-3 (operations and training), G-4 (supply), and the War Plans Division. For staff officers attached to units commanded by lower officers, the letter S is substituted. For a small unit, these expert and special troops will include only a few persons; for a large body the staff and special personnel may number several hundred.

Officers of special troops and staff officers do not participate directly in the Chain of Command, which extends figuratively from the President, who is Commander-in-Chief, to each soldier. Staff and special officers merely advise and assist their respective commanders; the latter must make the decisions.

## The Army's Chain of Command

### THESE ARE COMMANDERS

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	President (commander-in-chief) . . . . .
	General of the Armies* . . . . .
	General (commanding a field army)** . . . . .
	Lieutenant general (commanding a corps) . . . . .
	Major general (commanding a division)*** . . . . .
	Brigadier general (commanding a brigade or wing) . . . . .
	Colonel (commanding a regiment, or Air Forces group) . . . . .
	Lieutenant colonel (assisting colonel) . . . . .
	Major (commanding battalion, squadron or Air Forces squadron) . . . . .
	Captain (commanding company, troop, battery or flight)**** . . . . .
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	First lieutenant (commanding platoon or sub-flight) . . . . .
	Second lieutenant (commanding platoon) . . . . .
	Warrant officer . . . . .
	Sergeant (assisting commissioned officers, or commanding section) . . . . .
	Corporal (commanding squad) . . . . .

M E N

## The Army's Chain of Command

### THESE ADVISE AND ASSIST COMMANDERS

Secretary of War . . . . .	Secretary of War
Chief of Staff***** . . . . .	Chief of Staff*****
Staff and Special Troops . . . . .	Staff and Special Troops
Staff and Special Troops . . . . .	Staff and Special Troops
Staff and Special Troops . . . . .	Staff and Special Troops
Special Troops . . . . .	Special Troops
Special Troops . . . . .	Special Troops

- \* If a supreme commander of land forces is desired.
- \*\* A force capable of completely independent operations.
- \*\*\* Smallest force containing all Arms and Services.
- \*\*\*\* Smallest unit having technical and administrative functions.
- \*\*\*\*\* In peace, acts as commander of the field forces also, with General's rank.

## Arms and Services

### Insignia and Functions

BECAUSE a modern army embraces almost every activity of man, it requires the services of thousands of officers and men who have specialized training. Thus, certain experience and skill may mean higher grade and pay for soldiers having them, the same as in civilian life, where special qualifications mean advancement. The Army provides education and training for men wishing to qualify for specialists' ratings.

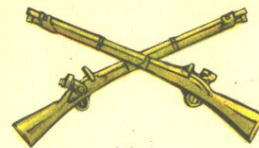
The Army divides its branches into the *Arms*, or combat units and the *Services*, which are the administrative, technical and supply units. However, the distinctions between them are often sketchy, since in

modern warfare, because of the speed, distance and mobility featuring military operations, all units are actually front line troops. Services are attached to the units of the Arms as conditions require.

Insignia for the Arms and Services are usually obvious in their meaning, such as the crossed rifles of the Infantry, the crossed sabers of the Cavalry, the flaming shell of the Ordnance Department, or the sword, key and wheel of the Quartermaster Corps. Enlisted men's branch insignia resemble those worn by officers. Each Arm and Service has colors, worn in the cord of the field hat. The gold and silver insignia shown on the following pages

(Continued on page 14)

## Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate I



Infantry



Field Artillery



Chemical Warfare



Inspector General

## Arms and Services (Continued)

are worn either on the coat lapels or the left side of the shirt collar, when the coat is not worn.

### ARMS

**Infantry**—Basic unit of the Army; mission is to win and keep ground. *Weapons*: Rifle, bayonet, machine gun. *Color*: Light blue. *Insignia*: Crossed rifles (p. 13).

**Cavalry**—Combat unit possessing range and power; moving by horse or motor vehicle, according to the terrain. Seizes territory for the Infantry, or raids enemy territory. *Weapons*: Pistol, rifle, machine gun, anti-tank gun. *Color*: Yellow. *Insignia*: Crossed sabers (p. 15).

**Field Artillery**—Function is to clear the way for Infantry or Cavalry, or to defend

ground, by shelling the enemy. *Weapon*: Cannon. *Color*: Scarlet. *Insignia*: Crossed cannon (p. 13).

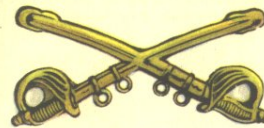
**Coast Artillery Corps**—Function is defense against enemy warships and aircraft. *Weapons*: Anti-aircraft guns, cannon, controlled mines. *Color*: Scarlet. *Insignia*: Crossed cannon, with shell in center (p. 19).

**Army Air Forces (Air Corps)**—Actually, a long-distance projection of the functions of Cavalry and Artillery—shelling (bombing), scouting and raiding. *Weapons*: Bomb, machine gun, light cannon. *Color*: Ultramarine blue and golden orange. *Insignia*: Wings and propeller (p. 17).

**Corps of Engineers**—Mission is to aid movement of other units by building and

(Continued on page 16)

## Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate II



Cavalry



Tank Corps Insignia



Military Intelligence



Medical Department



Quartermaster Corps

## Arms and Services (Continued)

repairing engineering works. *Weapon*: Pistol. *Color*: Scarlet and white. *Insignia*: A castle (p. 21).

**Signal Corps**—Mission is to construct and operate all forms of communication systems for other units. *Weapon*: Pistol. *Color*: Orange and white. *Insignia*: Crossed signal flags on either side of a torch (p. 19).

**Armored Corps or Division**—Combat unit containing men from several Arms. Has great speed, striking- and fire-power. Mission is to break up enemy forces and seize territory. *Weapon*: Tank, armed with machine guns and cannon. *Insignia*: It is possible that the tank, resting on crossed rifles, which was used by the Tank Corps, will be adopted. *Color*: Red, yellow and blue (p. 15).

**Parachute Corps**—A combat unit whose mission, after its members are dropped in enemy territory by parachute, is to destroy or seize vital buildings and strategic locations, in order to hamper the enemy's defense and pave the way for the arrival of other U. S. troops. *Weapons*: Rifle, pistol, machine gun. *Insignia*: Silver parachute and wings worn on left breast (p. 31).

### SERVICES

**Adjutant General**—Administrative and "paper work" unit of the Army. *Color*: Dark blue. *Insignia*: Shield in the national colors (p. 21).

**Corps of Chaplains**—Christian and Jewish clergymen attached to Army units to minister to the spiritual and morale needs

(Continued on page 18)

## Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate III



Judge Advocate General



Band Officer



Army Air Forces (Air Corps)



Corps of Chaplains, Christian and Jewish



General's Aide

## Arms and Services (Continued)

of men. *Color:* Black. *Insignia (Christian):* Silver cross; (*Jewish*): Mosaic tablets and the star of David (p. 17).

**Chemical Warfare**—Has charge of preparation for defense against enemy gas and smoke screens, and the development of chemicals for the U. S. Army's use. The Army's policy has been not to use poisonous chemicals as long as the enemy refrains from doing so. *Color:* Cobalt blue and golden yellow. *Insignia:* Crossed retorts (p. 13).

**Finance Department**—Has charge of all Army finances, including pay. *Color:* Silver gray and golden yellow. *Insignia:* Diamond (p. 21).

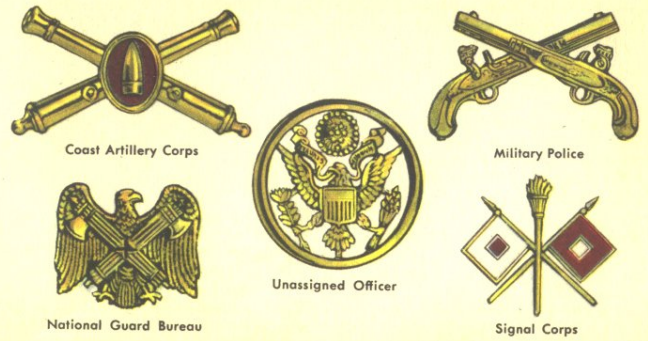
**Judge Advocate General**—Acts as the Army's legal department. *Color:* Dark blue and light blue. *Insignia:* Pen and sword crossed on a wreath (p. 17).

**Medical Department**—Has charge of the Army's health and the care of the sick and injured. *Color:* Maroon and white. *Insignia:* A caduceus, or Mercury's staff. Members of this unit other than medical men add the following letters to the insignia: D (Dental), V (Veterinary), A (Administrative), N (Nursing), S (Sanitary Corps) (p. 15).

**Military Intelligence**—Mission is to secure information about the enemy, and to be of help in Army public relations. *Color:* Golden yellow and violet. *Insignia:* A sphinx (p. 15).

**Ordnance Department**—Has charge of manufacture and maintenance of firearms (Continued on page 20)

## Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate IV



[ 19 ]

## Arms and Services (Continued)

and ammunition. *Color:* Crimson and yellow. *Insignia:* A flaming shell (p. 21).

**Quartermaster Corps**—Has charge of supply, transportation and construction. *Color:* Buff. *Insignia:* Wheel and eagle, crossed with sword and key (p. 15).

**General Staff Officer**—Wears a silver star, with the national coat-of-arms (p. 21).

**General's Aide**—Wears a small shield and eagle, in the national colors (p. 17).

**Unassigned Officer**—Wears the national coat-of-arms inside a ring (p. 19).

**National Guard Instructor**—Wears an eagle, crossed with fasces (p. 19).

**Military Police**—Wears crossed pistols (p. 19).

**Band Officer**—Wears lyre or harp (p. 17).

**Inspector General's Department**—Mission

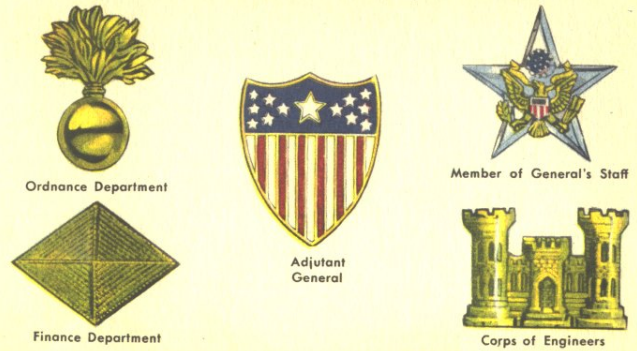
is to visit and inspect Army units for efficiency and discipline. *Insignia:* Crossed sword and fasces, over which is a wreath (p. 13).

### OTHER INSIGNIA

Soldiers are entitled to wear a service stripe of olive drab, for each three years served. It is worn on the lower left sleeve. Officers and men wounded during the World War of 1914-18 may wear gold stripes on the lower right sleeve. Those who served overseas in that war may wear gold stripes on the lower left sleeve.

Aviators, members of the Army Air Forces, wear silver wings on the left breast. Wings with a circle indicate an aviation observer; with the shield and star, a senior pilot; shield, star and wreath, a command pilot.

## Insignia of Arms and Services—Plate V



[ 21 ]

## Insignia of Titles and Rank

Most military titles are derived from Latin, the language of ancient Rome. For instance, the word "captain" comes from "caput," or the "head" of a body of men. A "lieutenant" held, "tenant," the authority in place, "lieu," of the "captain." Insignia accompanying these titles are of much more recent origin.

In earlier days officers were distinguished by the gold braid and other showiness of their clothes. Epaulettes, three or four colors, ribbons and brass buttons were the fashion. With the coming of long-distance firearms, these brilliant outfits made excellent targets, so they were soon discarded for less conspicuous markings.

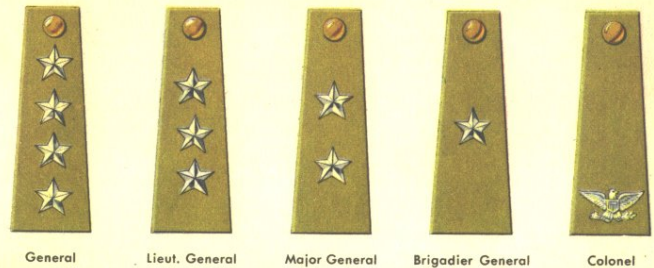
The stars worn by General officers of the U. S. Army date from 1780. The eagle worn by a Colonel and the oak leaves worn by a Lieutenant Colonel and Major have been in use over 100 years. The bars used by Captains and Lieutenants have been customary since the Mexican War. The chevrons worn by non-commissioned officers were adopted shortly after the War of 1812.

Commissioned officers' insignia of rank are worn on the shoulders. Non-commissioned officers wear their insignia on the upper sleeves. Warrant officers wear their insignia on the coat lapels, and a similar insignia on the cap.

(Shoulder insignia and chevrons are shown on pages 23-25.)

22 ]

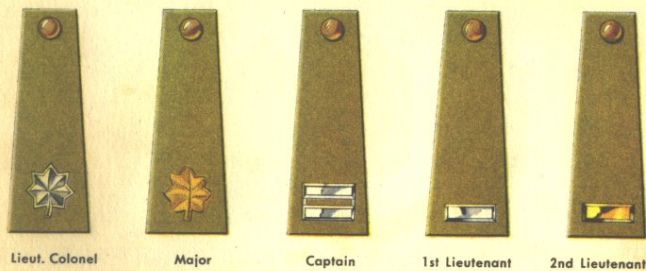
## Officers' Shoulder Insignia—Plate I



Shoulder insignia of rank, worn by Commissioned Officers, higher rank to the left.

[ 23 ]

## Officers' Shoulder Insignia—Plate II



Shoulder insignia of rank, worn by Commissioned Officers, higher rank to the left.

24 ]

## Chevrons of Non-Commissioned Officers



Chevrons are worn on the upper sleeves by Non-commissioned Officers and by Privates, First Class.

[ 25 ]

## Insignia, Functions of Armies,

The U. S. Army, as shown on pages 10-11, is divided into various tactical units, starting with the Squad, and growing progressively larger until the biggest unit, the Field Army, is reached. Many of these larger forces have crests and shields, made of cloth and worn at the left shoulder, or of enameled metal, worn on the coat lapels or shoulder straps. As the Army expands and new units are created, new insignia are designed.

Several of the units have acquired insignia of a humorous character, some of them de-

signed by the Walt Disney Studios, at the special request of the units desiring them. Examples of a few of these are shown on pages 30, 31, 32, all of which may not yet have been officially adopted.

On pages 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 are shown representative examples of regimental insignia. There are several hundreds of these crests in use. New regimental and divisional insignia are being adopted as new units are formed.

The General Headquarters insignia on page 30 indicates the headquarters of the commanding general and his staff. It is the same as the "GHQ" insignia used during the World War, in France. The American Expeditionary Force in Europe had several other distinctive insignia, such as the



Fourth Cavalry

26 ]

## Corps, Divisions and Regiments

coursing greyhound, for its postal service, and the polar bear for the expedition to northern Russia. The Camouflage Corps had a chameleon for its crest.

THERE are Army Departments at Puerto Rico, Canal Zone, Hawaii and the Philippines.

An Army Corps includes between 65,000 and 90,000 men, and is commanded by a Lieutenant General or a Major General. The country is divided into nine Corps

Areas, as follow: I Corps, at Boston (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island); II Corps, at New York (New York, New Jersey, Delaware); III Corps, at Baltimore (Pennsylvania, Mary-

### UNITS OF THE ARMY

The largest unit of the Army of the United States, the Field Army, consists of between 200,000 and 400,000 men, and is commanded by a General or a Lieutenant General. Present Army plans call for four Field Armies.



Eleventh Quartermaster Corps



Fifty-first Signal Corps

[ 27 ]

### Army, Corps, Division, Regiment Insignia (Continued)

land, Virginia, District of Columbia); IV Corps, at Atlanta (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana); V Corps, at Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio (West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana); VI Corps, at Chicago (Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan); VII Corps, at Omaha (Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas); VIII Corps, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona); IX

Corps, at San Francisco (California, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). Alaska, garrisoned by the Alaska Defense Force, has been attached to the IX Corps Area.

General Headquarters Air Force, combat and tactical unit of the Army Air Forces (Air Corps) provides an aviation unit which can be dispatched to aid various ground forces of the Army as the situation requires. Its commandant is usually a Lieutenant General or a Major General.

A Division consists of from 10,000 to 22,000 men, according to the Arm it represents, and is commanded by a Major General. The Infantry Division is the basic fighting unit of any army. The new "triangle" Infantry Division contains three Infantry and two Field Artillery Regi-



Sixteenth Infantry

28 ]

### Army, Corps, Division, Regiment Insignia (Continued)

ments, as well as Battalions and Companies of special troops, such as Quartermaster, Medical and Ordnance. The "Square" Division contained four Infantry Regiments, formed into two Brigades, a Field Artillery Brigade of three Regiments, as well as Regiments and smaller units of special troops. Cavalry Divisions have troops of that Arm as their basic units.

A Brigade contains from 5,000 to 6,500 men, and is commanded by a Brigadier General, and is used by the Infantry, Cavalry, Field Artillery and Coast Artillery. The corresponding

Army Air Forces unit is the Wing.

A Regiment, consisting of between 800 and 3,000 men, is commanded by a Colonel, and is found in all the Arms and many of the Services. The corresponding air unit is the Group.

A Battalion consists of from 300 to 800 men, and is commanded by a Major or Lieutenant Colonel. In the Cavalry and Army Air Forces Battalions are called Squadrons.

A Company contains from 80 to 200 men, is commanded by a Captain, and is the smallest unit capable of independent operations. It contains 40 to 60 men. The corresponding air term is Sub-flight.



Fourth Engineers

[ 29 ]

### Special Unit Insignia—Plate I



Fifty-ninth Coast Artillery



General Headquarters



Twelfth Field Artillery



Ninety-sixth Bombardment Squadron



Ninety-seventh Observation Squadron

30 ]

### Army, Corps, Division, Regiment Insignia (Continued)

ment operations. In the Field Artillery and Coast Artillery the corresponding unit is the Battery; in the Cavalry, the Troop; and in the air, the Flight.

The Platoon, commanded by a First Lieutenant or a Second Lieutenant, is the smallest unit to be headed by a commis-

sioned officer. It contains 40 to 60 men.

The corresponding air term is Sub-flight. The Section, up to 25 men, is commanded by a Sergeant.

The Squad, the smallest unit of an army, consists of 12 men or less, and is commanded by a Corporal.



Twentieth Bombardment Squadron



Parachute Corps (Silver)



Twenty-fifth Bombardment Squadron

[ 31 ]

### Special Unit Insignia—Plate II



Anti-aircraft unit, Battery B, Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Bliss, Texas.



Twenty-eighth Air Base Group, Forty-sixth Bombardment Group, Sixteenth Bombardment Wing, Bowman Field, Louisville, Ky.



Anti-tank Company, Sixteenth Infantry, Fort Devens, Mass.

These are three of the many special insignia designed by the Walt Disney Studios.

32 ]

### Insignia of the Armies



(Above) General Headquarters Air Force



(Above) Third Army



(Above) Fourth Army



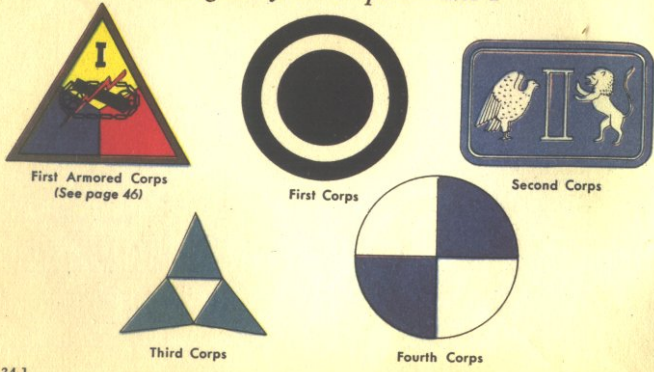
(Right) First Army



(Right) Second Army

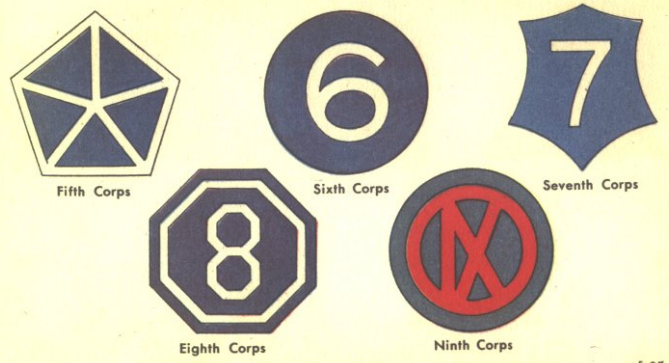
[ 33 ]

*Insignia of the Corps—Plate I*



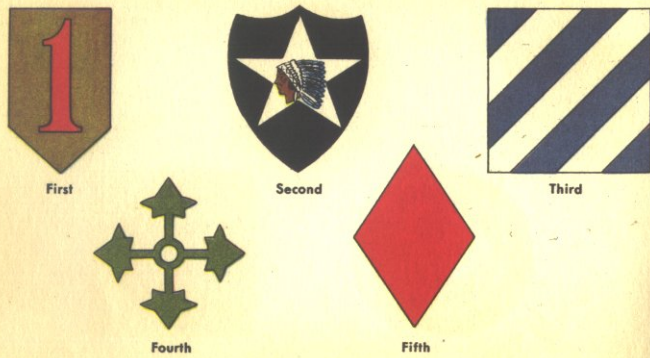
34 ]

*Insignia of the Corps—Plate II*



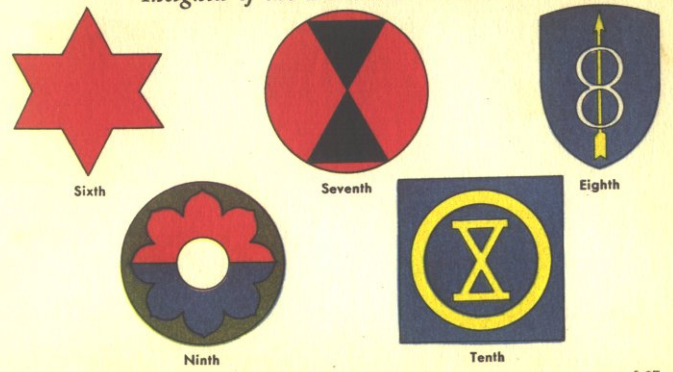
[ 35

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate I*



36 ]

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate II*



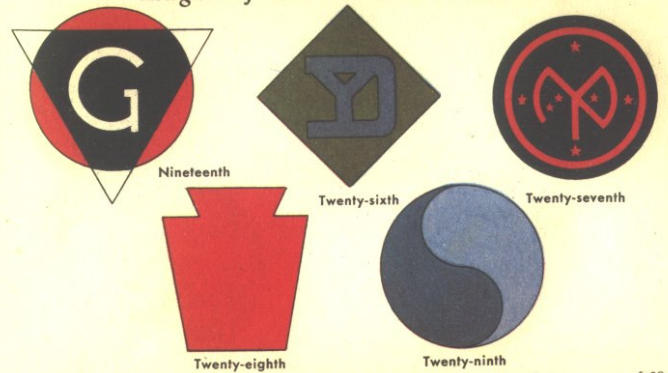
[ 37

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate III*



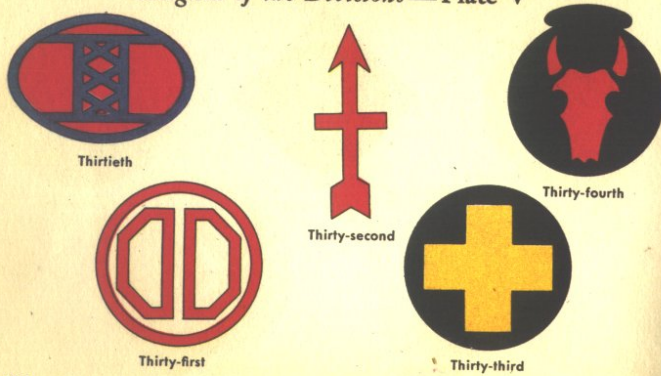
38 ]

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate IV*



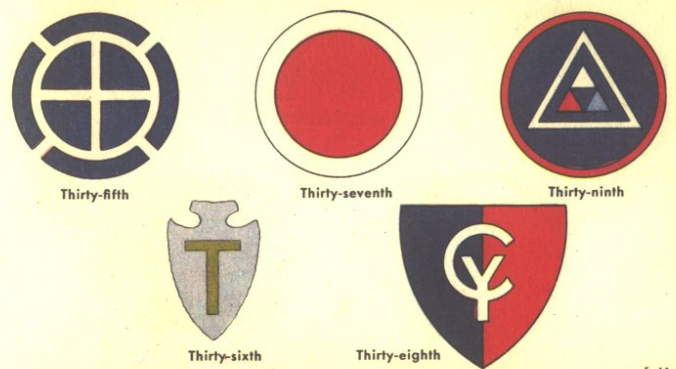
[ 39

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate V*



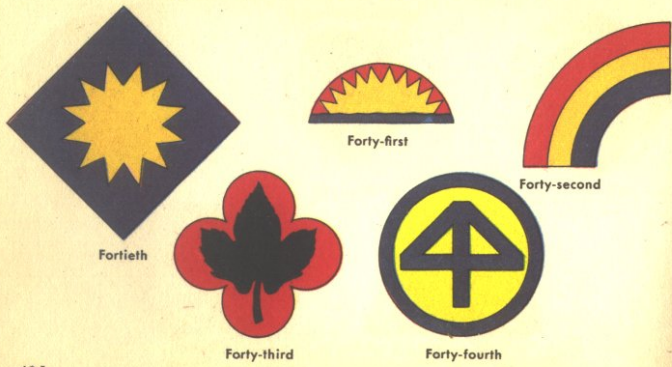
40 ]

*Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VI*



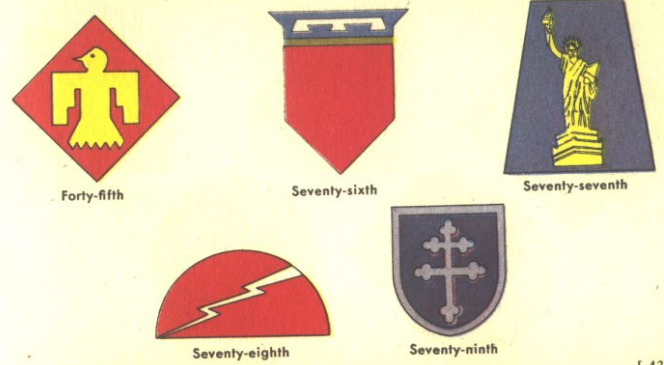
[ 41

### Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VII



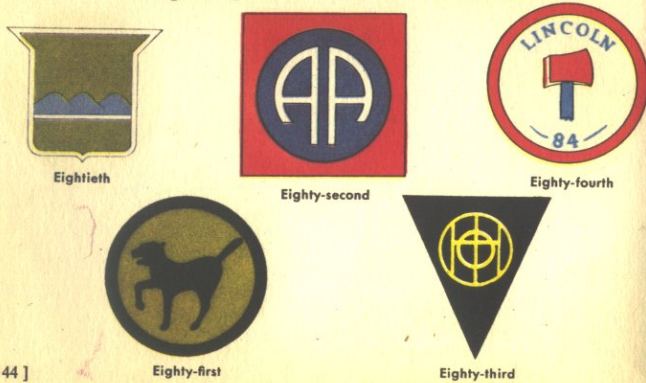
42 ]

### Insignia of the Divisions—Plate VIII



[ 43

### Insignia of the Divisions—Plate IX



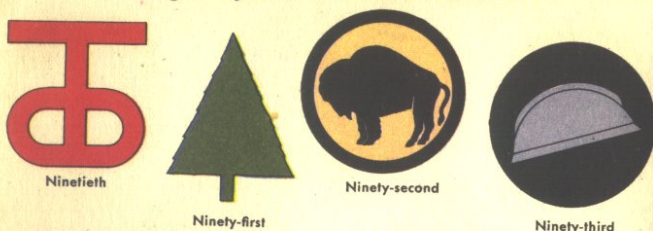
44 ]

### Insignia of the Divisions—Plate X



[ 45

### Insignia of the Divisions—Plate XI



**ARMORED Divisions** have insignia similar to that of the First Armored Corps (see page 34), except that the Division Arabic numeral replaces the Corps Roman numeral. The First Cavalry Division insignia consists of a yellow shield, with a black

diagonal bar and a black profile of a horse's head. The Second Cavalry Division insignia also consists of a yellow shield, but with two diagonal blue bars, forming an arch, and above them, two blue marks, circular in shape.

#### Other Division Insignia

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### Military Terms

THE Army uses hundreds of terms, as well as numerous slang phrases that have grown up during the years. Since it would be impossible to list all of them, the terms explained here are those frequently used in daily newspapers, and some that have two or three different meanings.

**ADJUTANT**—a staff officer who acts as assistant to the commanding officer of a unit.

**AIDE**—a member of the Army who is a member of the personal staff of a commanding officer.

**BATTERY**—an Artillery unit, commanded by a Captain.

**CALIBER**—inside diameter of the barrel of a firearm, measured in hundredths of an

inch, or in millimeters (about 1/25th of an inch), or in inches. Thus: .30 rifle, 75 mm. gun, 16-inch gun.

**CMTC**—Citizens Military Training Camps—federally operated summer camps where a young man can obtain basic military training, to prepare himself for an officer's commission in the Organized Reserves.

**COMBAT CAR**—a Cavalry armed vehicle, running on caterpillar treads, armored against enemy fire. Called *Tank* in the Infantry.

**COMBAT ZONE**—in war, that part of the theater of operations directly facing the enemy.

**COMMUNICATIONS ZONE**—the area imme-

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### Military Terms (Continued)

diately behind the combat zone, containing all agencies needed for immediate support and maintenance of the soldiers in the combat zone.

**COMPANY FUND**—that portion of the Company's money that may be spent for general items, such as amusements, furnishings, etc.

**CORPS**—generally, certain bodies or groups of soldiers; specifically, a unit commanded by a Lieutenant General or a Major General.

**ECHOLON**—a part of a military unit, or several units moving in a formation.

**FLIGHT**—a unit of the Army Air Forces, usually commanded by a Captain.

**GROUP**—a unit of the Army Air Forces, usually commanded by a Colonel.

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**LIAISON OFFICER**—an officer whose job is to keep two or more commanders in close touch and working co-operatively with each other.

**MESS FUND**—that portion of a Company's money which may be spent only for food.

**O.D.**—olive drab, the field and service color of the United States Army.

**O.R.**—Organized Reserves, composed at present chiefly of men who have had ROTC or CMTC training and are Reserve officers.

**R.O.T.C.**—Reserve Officers Training Corps, units of military instruction in colleges and secondary schools to give students basic and advanced training.

**SALIENT**—A wedge of territory in the

theater of operations, occupied by the opposing force.

**SCOUT CAR**—a light military vehicle, with some armor, and carrying guns, used for reconnaissance, or sizing up, of the enemy's position.

**SECTOR**—a geographical area occupied by one unit.

**SQUADRON**—an air or a Cavalry unit, commanded by a Major.

**SUB-FLIGHT**—an air unit, commanded by a Lieutenant.

**THEATER OF OPERATIONS**—that portion of territory, both own and enemy, in which combat is expected to take place, including areas to be invaded or defended, and areas for communications and supply establishments.

**THEATER OF WAR**—the entire land and sea area which may become involved in operations of war.

**TROOP**—generally, any body of soldiers; specifically, a Cavalry unit, commanded by a Captain.

**UNIT**—a military organization or formation, operating under a commander.

**WARRANT OFFICER**—an officer, often performing office administrative work, whose status is between that of the highest non-commissioned and the lowest commissioned officer.

**WING**—an air unit, usually commanded by a Brigadier General.

**ZONE OF INTERIOR**—that portion of the theater of war outside, and usually behind the theater of operations.

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## Army Decorations and Medals

A U. S. ARMY decoration, that is, a medal and its ribbon, is worn only on dress occasions. When the service uniform is worn, a ribbon, with the same color arrangement as that of the medal, is used. When civilian clothing is worn, a miniature of the ribbon is pinned in the left lapel of the coat.

If a member of the Army deserves the decoration or medal more than once, he adds a cluster of bronze oak leaves to the medal's ribbon. When one has two medals of different kinds, the "senior," or highest-ranking medal, is worn to the right. Medals are worn on the left breast.

Silver medals are awarded officers and men for skill and proficiency in the use of various weapons, such as the rifle, pistol and automatic rifle. They are divided into

three grades, Marksman, Sharpshooter and Expert, with Expert ranking the highest. For each year that the soldier again qualifies for the medal, he is entitled to add a bar below the medal, on which is engraved the name of the weapon in which it was earned. The three grades, awarded for skill with the pistol, are shown on page 55.

The following decorations are shown on pages 52 and 53:

*Congressional Medal of Honor.* The United States's highest decoration. Granted to persons who, while in the Army, distinguish themselves at the risk of life, by gallantry and courage, above and beyond the call of duty, in an action involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. Ap-

## Army Decorations and Medals (Continued)

proved by Congress and presented by the President. First awarded in 1862.

*Distinguished Service Medal.* Awarded to persons in the Army who distinguish themselves by highly meritorious service to the government in a position involving great responsibility.

*Distinguished Service Cross.* Awarded persons serving in the Army who distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.* Awarded to persons who, while engaging in flight in a military aircraft, distinguish themselves by courage and heroism.

*Silver Star.* Awarded persons who have been cited for gallantry in action, when the conduct cited is not sufficient to justify

the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

*Order of the Purple Heart.* Awarded to persons who perform an exceptionally meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service. First instituted by George Washington in 1782, and revived in 1932.

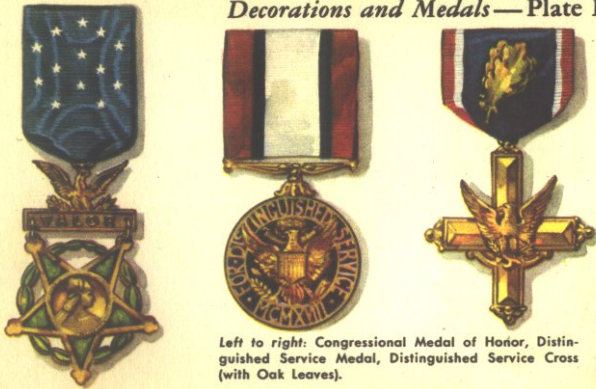
The Soldier's Medal is awarded Army members for heroic action in peace time. The medal is bronze, on which is an eagle, with stars to the eagle's left and right. The ribbon has two broad blue outer stripes, and a center of narrow red and white stripes.

The pictures shown on page 54 are the service ribbons of medals awarded for services in wars in which the United States has participated during the last 50 years.

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### Decorations and Medals—Plate I



Left to right: Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Cross (with Oak Leaves).

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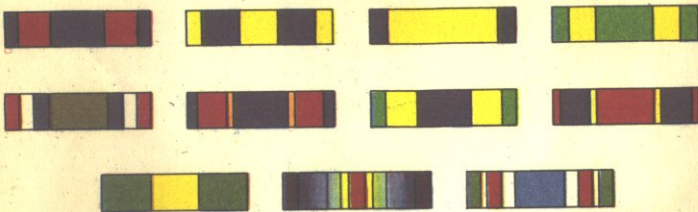
### Decorations and Medals—Plate II



Left to right: Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, Order of the Purple Heart.

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### Decorations and Medals—Plate III SERVICE RIBBONS



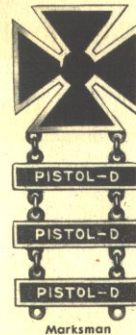
Top row, left to right: Philippine Campaign, Spanish Campaign, China Campaign, Spanish War Service.

Center row, left to right: Cuban Pacification, Cuban Occupation, Mexican Campaign, Puerto Rican Occupation.

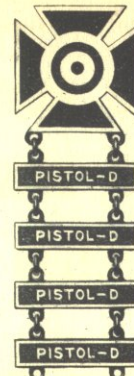
Bottom row, left to right: Mexican Border Service, Victory Ribbon (World War), Philippine (Congressional) Ribbon.

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### Decorations and



Marksman



Sharpshooter

### Medals—Plate IV



Expert

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## Army Uniforms

ARMED forces of nations have always worn distinctive clothing, first, because of the necessity of telling one's fellow soldiers from those of the enemy; second, because the uniform helps build the spirit or morale of an army. Early modern uniforms, even for the enlisted men, were elaborate affairs, reflecting the more stately manner in

which warfare was conducted.

As military operations have become more strenuous and more mechanized, the trend in military tailoring has been toward greater simplicity. Officers pay for their uniforms; enlisted men's clothing is furnished.

U. S. Army uniforms are divided into three classes: dress, service and field. The dress uniform is worn by members of the Army on occasions of ceremony, as may be prescribed by the unit's commandant, and on occasions where civilian evening clothes would be worn. Its base color is dark blue. Colors of the Arm or Service are worn, and gold braid, varying according to rank. The service uniform, of olive drab, is the one most commonly seen. Its buttons are of gold or brass, with the American emblem. It is now correct for occasions where the dress uniform was formerly worn. Uniforms of officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men and warrant officers look much alike, except for the



Wing Insignia, U.S. Army Planes

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## Army Uniforms (Continued)

shoulder insignia of rank worn by officers. Use of Sam Browne belts developed from the days when all officers wore swords.

The field uniform is a modification of the service uniform, usually with leggings. It is designed for comfortable wear while on duty in maneuvers or combat.

For summer wear the Army prescribes uniforms of khaki or of white, according to the geographical location, white being worn in the tropics. For winter wear, various types of fur-lined headgear are approved. Ski togs are issued for maneuvers in northern areas. There are other variations of the uniform, such as breeches, boots and spurs for the Cavalry, flying outfits for the aviators, special padded helmets and jackets for members of the Armored Divisions, and fatigue uniforms, of

blue denim or olive drab, for enlisted men, worn while working out in the open. Other modifications and additions, such as pith helmets, are provided for service in the tropics.

Members of the Nurse Corps of the Army rank as commissioned officers, from Second Lieutenant to Major. The latter rank is that held by the Chief of the Corps. Nurses wear their insignia of rank and the insignia of their service, the Medical Department badge, with an "N," on the white collar of their white uniforms.

Outer coats are blue or olive drab.



Tail Insignia, U.S. Army Planes

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# The Soldier's Oath

Each person entering the Army takes an oath. Below is that which the enlisted man swears if he volunteers. A similar oath is taken by drafted men.

I, a citizen of the United States, do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted this ..... day of ....., as a soldier in the Regular Army of the United States of America for the period of ..... years under the conditions prescribed by law, unless sooner discharged by proper authority; and do also agree to accept from the United States such bounty, pay, rations and clothing as are or may be prescribed by law. And I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

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