RANK AND BADGES
IN THE
NAVY, ARMY, R.A.F.
AND AUXILIARIES

A fully coloured guide to
the badges worn by
members of
His Majesty’s Forces

Edited by

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Flag Officers are those of Rear-Admiral's rank and above, and who fly a distinguishing flag. A Commodore flies a broad Pennant (or Pendant).
**Examples of Full-Dress Cuffs.**

The foregoing cuffs, and the remainder given on pages 3 & 5, are those worn with the undress uniform. The three examples below, viz., Admiral, Commodore 2nd Class, and Warrant Officer, show the three styles of full-dress cuff with "slash" as worn by all commissioned Officers. The rows of "distinction lace" vary in number and style for the different ranks and branches, exactly as on the cuffs of undress uniform.

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**Flag Officers & Commodores 1st Class**

**Commodores (2nd Class) Captains & Commanders To Sub-Lieutenant**

**Commissioned Warrant & Warrant Officers Only**

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**Royal Navy Officers of Other Branches**

- **Air Branch**
- **Engineer**
- **Surgeon**
- **Dental**
- **Accountant**
- **Instructor**
- **Shipwright & Constructors**
- **Ordnance**
- **Electrical**

*Note.*—The ranks for all these Officers are the same as for Executive Officers, with the prefix of "Surgeon" for "Surgeon so and so." (D) added for Dental Officers, "Paymaster so and so" for Accountant, and others as named above. In the case of the Engineer Officers, most are called by Executive ranks, but with "E" in brackets afterwards; for instance, Commander (E). A few Captains and upwards, however, still retain the former titles of Engineer Captain, Engineer Rear-Admiral, etc.

The rank shown in all the above drawings is that of Commander.

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**Shoulder Straps on Great-Coats**

- **Admiral of the Fleet**
- **Admiral**
- **Vice-Admiral**
- **Rear-Admiral**
- **Commodore 1st Class**

*Officers of lower rank have the same design upon their shoulder straps as upon their sleeves. Engineer and Surgeon Vice and Rear-Admirals and Paymaster and Instructor Rear-Admirals have suitably coloured edging—purple, red, white and light blue respectively.*

*Also Commissioned Officer from Warrant rank.*
**R.N.R., R.N.V.R. & R.M.**

**ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE**
- Lieutenant
- Paymaster
- Midshipman

**ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE**
- Lieutenant
- Surgeon
- Midshipman

**ROYAL MARINES**
- Cap Badge
- Field Officer
- Other Officers

**ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES**

**CAPS & CAP BADGES of PETTY OFFICERS, Etc.**

**Cap & Badge**
- Chief Petty Officer
- Petty Officer
- Petty Officer (Both worn on left arm)
- Engineer P.O.
- Engine-Room Artificer, Writers, Etc.
- Leading Seaman

**ROYAL NAVY YOUTH ENTRIES**
- Petty Officers & Men and Boys Dressed as Seamen
  - Including Beamen, Artificers, Stokers, and all other Ratings Not Specially Provided For

**Officers' Buttons**
- Of Flag Rank
- Under Flag Rank

Note: Lettering R.N.R. or R.N.V.R. is on right cuff of Seamen in these Reserves. Petty Officers wear a single-breasted jacket for working rig, and a double-breasted otherwise.

C.P.O.'s wear three large buttons on sleeves and non-sustained badges on their epaulets.

*Although it is not worn nowadays, this badge still officially exists.*

*Note.—Cap and Badge as for Royal Navy.
The highest rank in the R.N.R. and R.N.V.R. is Commodore, 2nd Class.
1. The half-stripe of a Lieutenant-Commander is a straight gold one, and in the case of Paymaster Lieutenant-Commander has a narrow white edging.*
ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES
BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS & RATINGS

Gunner's Mate
Gunlayer, 1st Class
Gunlayer, 2nd Class

Photographer
Air Fitter
Chief Sailmaker

Gunnery Rating
3rd Class Layer
Seaman Gunner
Torpedo Gunner's Mate

Bugler
Air Gunner
Petty Officer
Telegraphist

Torpedo Coxswain
Leading Torpedoman
Seaman Torpedoman

Leading Telegraphist
Telegraphist
Engine Section
Leading Rating

Diver
Good Shooting Badge
Chief Yeoman of Signals

Physical Training
Instructor, 1st Class
Physical Training
Instructor, 2nd Class
Regulating P.O.

See Notes on page 11.
* Applies to members of the Air Branch (R.N.V.R.)
* in full, "Physical and Recreational Training Instructor."

Has an "L" below it, and a "Q" for Quarter Rating.
"C" for Control and "A" for Anti-Aircraft.
ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES
BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS & RATINGS

MECHANICIAN

CHIEF STOKER AND STOKER PETTY OFFICER

LEADING STOKER AND STOKER, 1ST CLASS

SICK BERTH RATING

CHIEF ARMOURER

CHIEF SHIPWRIGHT

CHIEF P.O. ARTISAN

ALL OTHER ARTISANS

WRITER

OFFICERS' COOK

COOK

OFFICERS' STEWARD

ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES
BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS & RATINGS

MASTER-AT-ARMS

RANGETAKER

SURVEYING RECORDER

CHIEF MOTOR MECHANIC (R.N.V.R.)

SUBMARINE DETECTOR INSTRUCTOR

SUBMARINE DETECTOR OPERATOR, 1ST CLASS

SUBMARINE DETECTOR OPERATOR, 2ND CLASS

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT STRIPES

Worn on the LEFT arm

NOTES

The badges shown on pages 9, 10 and 11 are, with the exception of the last three, worn on the RIGHT arm, and in the case of Chief Petty Officers on the front of the collar lapel. They are, as shown in the drawings, RED on white serge or working rig, but are in BLUE on white uniforms, also in GOLD when worn on cloth or full dress. The bottom row illustrates LONG SERVICE and GOOD CONDUCT STRIPES: three stripes denoting at least thirteen years, two denoting at least eight years, and one at least five years. These stripes are worn upon the LEFT arm.

! Supply rating is the same but with letter "S."
MERCHANT NAVY
OFFICERS

- CAPTAIN (CERTIFICATED MASTER)
- CAP BADGE
- CHIEF OFFICER (CERTIFICATED)
- 1ST OFFICER (CERTIFICATED)
- 2ND OFFICER (CERTIFICATED)
- 3RD & JUNIOR OFFICER (CERTIFICATED)
- CHIEF ENGINEER (CERTIFICATED)
- SENIOR SURGEON
- PURSER (SENIOR)
- RADIO OFFICER

H.M. COASTGUARD

- CAP BADGES
- INSPECTORS AND HIGHER GRADES
  - Badge as 1
- DISTRICT OFFICERS
  - Badge as 1
- STATION OFFICERS AND COASTGUARDSMEN
  - Badge as 2
- CHIEF INSPECTOR
- DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR
- INSPECTORS

- DISTRICT OFFICERS
- STATION OFFICERS

* Distributed to Officers and Men of the Merchant Service and Deep-Sea Fishing Fleets, 1940.

Cap badges, etc., are those of the official Merchant Navy uniforms. Many Companies still retain their own distinctive badges and uniforms, which are optional.

COASTGUARDSMEN wear no braid on the sleeves of their reefer jackets.
ARMY
OFFICERS' BADGES OF RANK

THE BRITISH ARMY

Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

FIELD-MARSHAL

Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

GENERAL
Cap as a

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
Cap, Badge and Gorget Patch as a, b & c.

MAJOR-GENERAL
Cap, Badge and Gorget Patch as a, b & c.

BRIGADIER
Cap, Badge and Gorget Patch as for Colonel on next page.

GORGET PATCH

Gorset Patch of Substantive Colonel.

Cap and Badge of Substantive Colonel
Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

Col. G. Patch

Gorset patches are worn in different colours according to the Branch as under:—
BLUE (right) Royal Engineer Services; (pink) Education; RED (secret) General Staff and Ordnance; (cherry) Medical; (maroon) Veterinary; PURPLE; Chaplain; GREEN; Dental; YELLOW; Pay.

LIEUT.-COLONEL

Cap for Officers of rank below Colonel. Regimental or other badge being worn at A.

MAJOR

### ARMY REGIMENTAL & CORPS BADGES WORN ON AND ABOVE CHEVRONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cavalry</th>
<th>Royal Artillery</th>
<th>Royal Engineers</th>
<th>Foot Guards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circular crown with spikes</td>
<td>Cannon-shaped badge</td>
<td>Spade-shaped badge</td>
<td>Flag with a crown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Cavalry**: Circular crown containing a special badge.
- **Royal Artillery**: Cannon-shaped badge.
- **Royal Engineers**: Spade-shaped badge.
- **Foot Guards**: Special badges on flags.

### ARMY RANK & APPOINTMENT BADGES: N.C.O.'S & MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infantry Pioneer</th>
<th>Riding Instructor</th>
<th>Scout-Corporal (Household Cav.)</th>
<th>Trained Squad-Scout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crossed axes</td>
<td>Double-reins</td>
<td>Single-reins</td>
<td>Single-reins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Infantry Pioneer**: Crossed axes.
- **Riding Instructor**: Double-reins.
- **Scout-Corporal (Household Cav.)**: Single-reins.
- **Trained Squad-Scout**: Single-reins.

### Royal Army Medical Corps | Musketry Staff | Gymnastic Staff | Assist. Instructor of Signalling |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical cross</td>
<td>Musket rifle</td>
<td>Treadmill</td>
<td>Staff Sergeant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Royal Army Medical Corps**: Medical cross.
- **Musketry Staff**: Musket rifle.
- **Gymnastic Staff**: Treadmill.
- **Assist. Instructor of Signalling**: Staff Sergeant.

### ParaTroops

- **Paratroops**: Parachute badge.

- **Staff Sergeant**: (Staff Sergeant).

- **Wear aliguillettes in full dress**: Aliguillettes in full dress.

- **Four chevrons with drum in place of crown worn by Drum-Major**: Drum-Major.

- **Bugle-Major**: Crossed Trumpets, Trumpet-Major.

- **Bagnolese**: Pipe-Major.

- **Wear aliguillettes in full dress**: Aliguillettes in full dress.

- **Trained Signallers (Private) wear flags only**: Flags only.

* Also Musketry Instructors, without crown.
ROYAL AIR FORCE
OFFICERS' BADGES OF RANK

Marshals of the Royal Air Force

In full dress, all Officers' sleeve 'rings' are in gold.

Chief Marshal

Air-Marshals

Air-Vice-Marshals

Air-Commodores

Air

Group Captain

Wing-Commander and other commissioned officers

Note: On great-coat rank distinctions are worn on shoulder-straps.

Squadron Leader

Flight-Lieutenant

Flying Officer

Pilot Officer

Qualified Pilot's "Wings"

Observer

Air-Gunner

Chaplain—Cap Badge

Dental Collar Badge

Medical Officer Collar Badge

Note: Pilot's "wings" are worn by Army Officers attached to the Army cooperation squadrons who have obtained their certificates, also by all Officers now serving in any Service, who won the "wings" during the Great War.
ROYAL AIR FORCE
W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, Etc.

WARRANT OFFICER

SHOULDER BADGE

FLIGHT-SERGEANT

CAP BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT STRIPE

1. SERGEANT 2. CORPORAL

DRUM-MAJOR

LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN

NON-SUBSTANTIVE BADGES

PHYSICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTOR

CENTRAL BANDSMAN

BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD

WIRELESS OPERATOR

GUNNER (GROUND)

† Worn by N.C.O.'s and men on caps similar in shape to those on page 21, bottom row, but in the case of the first with a black shiny peak.

*Worn by all non-commissioned ranks. Members of the Auxiliary Air Force wear the letter ‘N’ below the albatross.

AUXILIARY & MISCELLANEOUS

ROYAL OBSERVER CORPS

AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY

AIR TRAINING CORPS

FRONT LINE DUTY

WORKERS IN ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORIES

THE WOMEN'S LEGION

NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE INSTITUTES

ENTERTAINMENTS NATIONAL SERVICE ASSOC. (E.N.S.A)

MECHANISED TRANSPORT CORPS

WOMEN'S TRANSPORT SERVICE (F.A.M.I.)

NAVY LEAGUE SEE CADET CORPS
### AUXILIARY & MISCELLANEOUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Coxswain's Badge)</th>
<th>Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Other Ratings)</th>
<th>British Legion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFS</td>
<td>AFS</td>
<td>Metropolitan Constabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Fire Service Badge</td>
<td>Auxiliary Fire Service Cap Badge</td>
<td>Special Constabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCHARGED UNFIT (1914-18 War)</td>
<td>DISCHARGED UNFIT (1914-18 War)</td>
<td>DISCHARGED UNFIT (1914-18 War)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARP</td>
<td>Royal Army Reserve</td>
<td>Royal Army Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Raid Precautions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Air Raid Precautions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A new badge, with the inscription "For Loyalty: Service," is now being issued to men disabled in the present war.

* The Mechanic's Badge is similar with a Propeller instead of an Anchor.

† Worn with civilian clothes. For details of badges worn on Civil Defence uniforms see page 82.
WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE

CUFFS & BADGES

OFFICER'S HAT

HAT BADGE

DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR & SUPERINTENDENT

CHIEF OFFICER

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

FIRST OFFICER

SECOND OFFICER

THIRD OFFICER

UNIFORM

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

CAP (OFFICERS)

SQUADRON OFFICER

FLIGHT OFFICER

CAP (OTHER RANKS)

SECTION OFFICER

ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICER

UNIFORM

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

CAP BADGE

CHIEF COMMANDER

SENIOR COMMANDER

CAP

JUNIOR COMMANDER

SUBALTERN

2ND SUBALTERN

UNIFORM

*The shoulder badges of the two highest ranks, that of Chief Controller and Controller, correspond with those worn by Major-Generals and Colonels in the Army.*
CIVIL DEFENCE GENERAL SERVICES

RESCUE

SHOULDER TITLE FOR C.D. RESCUE SERVICE

Similar titles are issued for the following Services:

- "Warden"
- "Ambulance"
- "First Aid Post"
- "First Aid Party" (in London, Stretcher Party)
- "Decontamination"
- "Messenger"
- "Report and Control"
- "G.I.O." (Gas Identification Service)

BREAST BADGE

A local marking (e.g. the name of the town) in gold colour can be worn below the breast badge if desired by the local authority.

HEAD WARDEN
(IN LONDON, POST WARDEN)

Chevrons; two or more in number, worn above the elbow, are issued to all junior supervisory grades, sometimes popularly described as N.C.O.'s.

CONTROLLER

Similar bars, worn below shoulder titles, and varying in number and thickness, are worn by all Senior Officers.

C.D. Steel Helmets.—The helmets of both junior and senior supervisory officers are painted white, with the exception of those worn by Gas Identification Officers, which are yellow.