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

More than 300,000 copies sold

Edited by

E. C. TALBOT-BOOTH
Paymr. Lieut.-Commandr. R.N.R.

LONDON

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Grateful acknowledgement is made to the various Government Departments and other bodies, also to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., for assistance in the compilation of this book.
White cap-covers for Officers and white caps for ratings are worn on Foreign Stations.

Admiral of the Fleet

1. Admiral
   - Cap & Badge as 1 & 2
2. Vice-Admiral
   - Cap & Badge as 1 & 2
3. Rear-Admiral & Commodore 1st Cl.
   - Cap & Badge as 1 & 2
4. Commodore, 2nd Class
   - Badge as 2
5. Captain
   - Cap & Badge as 7 & 2
6. Commander
   - Cap & Badge as 7 & 2
7. Lieutenant-Commander
   - Badge as 2

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).
ROYAL NAVY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH—OFFICERS

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.

*Also Commissioned Officer from Warrant rank.*
ROYAL NAVY
OFFICERS OF OTHER BRANCHES

AIR BRANCH
ENGINEER
SURGEON
DENTAL
ACCOUNTANT (PAYMASTER)
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.
The coloured cloth between the gold is velvet.

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.
ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

- Lieutenant 1
- Paymaster-Lieutenant 1
- Midshipman

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

- Lieutenant 1
- Surgeon-Lieutenant
- Midshipman

ROYAL MARINES

- Cap Badge
- Field Officer
- Other Officers

* Cap and Badge as R.N. Highest rank, R.N.R. and R.N.V.R., Commodore, 2nd Class.
1. Half-stripe of Lieutenant-Commander is a wavy gold one, and that of Paymaster Lieutenant-Commander has a narrow white edge.

The Special Branch R.N.V.R. wear emerald green between gold.

Officers attached to Sea Cadet Corps wear letters S.C.C. in gold above the curl.
ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES
CAPS & CAP BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS, ETC.

CAP & BADGE
H.M.S. LONDON
PETTY OFFICERS & MEN AND BOYS
DRESSED AS SEAMEN
CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER
PETTY OFFICER

ENGINEER P.O.*
ARTIFICER, WRITERS, Etc.
LEADING SEAMAN

FLEET AIR ARM

OBSERVERS
AIR GUNNERS

OFFICERS’ BUTTONS

OF FLAG RANK
UNDER FLAG RANK

ROYAL NAVY YOUTH ENTRIES

Designed for young men aged 17 years, accepted for the Navy, and awaiting call-up at 18. Worn at the top of the sleeve on Home Guard, Sea Cadet or Air Training Corps uniforms.

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-substantive badges on their lapels.

*Although it is not worn nowadays, this badge still officially exists.
ROYAL NAVY & RESERVES
BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS & RATINGS

GUNNER'S MATE
GUNLAYER, 1ST CLASS
GUNLAYER, 2ND CLASS

GUNNERY RATING 3RD CLASS LAYER
SEAMAN GUNNER
TORPEDO GUNNER'S MATE

TORPEDO COXSWAIN
LEADING TORPEDOMAN
SEAMAN TORPEDOMAN

DIVER
GOOD SHOOTING BADGE
CHIEF YEOMAN OF SIGNALS

See Notes on page 11.
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

- PHOTOGRAPHER
- AIR FITTER (AIR FRAME)
- CHIEF SAILMAKER
- BUGLER
- AIR GUNNER 3RD CLASS
- PETTY OFFICER TELEGRAPHIST
- LEADING TELEGRAPHIST
- TELEGRAPHIST
- ENGINE SECTION LEADING RATING
- REGULATING P.O.
- 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. & R.N.V.R.)
* In full, "Physical and Recreational Training Instructor."
<table>
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<th>Badge Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
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<td>Mechanician</td>
<td>![Mechanician Badge]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Stoker and Stoker Petty Officer</td>
<td>![Chief Stoker and Stoker Petty Officer Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Stoker and Stoker, 1st Class</td>
<td>![Leading Stoker and Stoker, 1st Class Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sick Berth Rating</td>
<td>![Sick Berth Rating Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Armourer</td>
<td>![Chief Armourer Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Shipwright</td>
<td>![Chief Shipwright Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief P.O. Artisan</td>
<td>![Chief P.O. Artisan Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Artisans</td>
<td>![All Other Artisans Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writer</td>
<td>![Writer Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers' Cook</td>
<td>![Officers' Cook Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>![Cook Badge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers' Steward</td>
<td>![Officers' Steward Badge]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Notes on page 11*

† Supply rating is the same but with letter "S."
The badges shown on pages 8, 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 blue 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.
Distributed to Officers and Men of the Merchant Service and Deep-Sea Fishing Fleets, 1940.

Cap badge, etc., are those of the official Merchant Navy uniforms. Many Companies still retain their own distinctive badges and uniforms, which are optional.
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<th>Inspectors and Higher Grades</th>
<th>District Officers</th>
<th>Station Officers and Coastguardsmen</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badge as 1</td>
<td>Badge as 1</td>
<td>Badge as 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Chief Inspector**
- **Deputy Chief Inspector**
- **Inspectors**
- **District Officers**
- **Station Officers**
- **Buttons**

**COASTGUARDSMEN** wear no braid on the sleeves of their service jackets.
THE BRITISH ARMY

FIELD-MARSHAL

- Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

GENERAL

- Cap as A

LIEUT-GENERAL

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

MAJOR-GENERAL

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

BRIGADIER

- As for Colonel on next page.
Cup and Badge of Substantive Colonel
Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

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

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

Gorget Patch
Gorget Patch of Substantive Colonel.

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

Metal Rank Distinctions worn by Officers are sometimes of a dull bronze colour, but are here shown as gilt for greater clearness.

LIEUT.-COLONEL

LIEUTENANT

MAJOR

CAPTAIN

SOME DISTINCTIVE "STARS"

ARMY
RANK & APPOINTMENT BADGES: W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s & MEN

Conductor and Staff
Sergt.-Major, 1st Class

1st Class Master Gunner

2nd Class Master Gunner

Bandmaster

R.S.M. & Other W.O.'s 1st Class

Master Gunner, 3rd Class

W.O. 2nd Class

W.O. 3rd Class

Squadron Q.M.S. & Company Q.M.S.

Squadron Quartermaster Corporal (Household Cavalry)

Corporal (Household Cavalry)

1st Sergeant, 2nd Corporal or Bombardier, 3rd Lance-Corporal or Lance-Bombardier.

See Notes on page 18
ARMY
REGIMENTAL & CORPS BADGES
WORN ON AND ABOVE CHEVRONS

CAVALRY
Circles contain Special Badges

ROYAL ARTILLERY

ROYAL ENGINEERS

FOOT GUARDS
Special badges on Flag

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

MUSKETRY STAFF

GYMNASTIC STAFF

ASSIST. INSTRUCTOR OF SIGNALLING

PARATROOPS

GLIDER PILOT

a Also Conductor (Royal Army Ordnance Corps); 1st Class Staff Sergeant-Major.
b Except Sergeant-Major of Foot Guards who wears special badge.
c Also School-master, Quartermaster-Corporal (Household Cavalry).
d Including Squadron Corporal-Major (Household Cavalry); Platoon and Section and Troop Sergeant-Major.
e Staff-Sergeant.
f Wear aiguillettes in full dress. Four chevrons with drum in place of crown worn by Drum-Major; Bugle, Bugle-Major; crossed Trumpets, Trumpet-Major; and Bagpipes, Pipe-Major.
g Wear aiguillettes in full dress.
h Trained Signallers (Privates) wear flags only.

* Also Musketry Instructors, without crown.
ARMY

RANK & APPOINTMENT BADGES: N.C.O.'s & MEN

- Infantry Pioneer
- Riding Instructor
- Scout-Corporal (Household Cav.)
- Trained Squadron-Scout

- Bugler
- Bugler (Rifle Regiments)
- Sergt.-Trumpeter (R.E. & R.A.)
- Trumpeter

- Drummer (Except in Foot Guards)
- Bandsman (Except in Cavalry)
- Bomb Disposal Squad
- R.A.M.C.

- Trademan or Fitter
- Farrier & Shoeing Smith
- Saddler (Except in Cavalry)
- Wheeler & Carpenter

See Notes on page 20
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<th>Army Proficiency Badges, Distinguishing Flash, &amp; Co.</th>
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</thead>
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<td><strong>Driver</strong> (Mechanised Unit)</td>
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<td><strong>Driver Mechanic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Driver Instructor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Despatch Rider</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanical Transport</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signaller</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flash</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home Guard</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Units wear the cap badges of their county regiments.*

- Worn just below shoulder of uniform
- Badge for use with plain clothes
Royal Air Force
Officers' Badges of Rank

- Marshal of the Royal Air Force
- Air Chief Marshal
- Air Marshal
- Air Vice-Marshal
- Air Commodore
- Group Captain
- Wing Commander and Other Commissioned Officers

Note: - In Full Dress all Officers' sleeve 'rings' are in gold.

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

Cap and Badge also apply to Officers in the second row.
+ Badge is also worn by Commissioned Officers of lower rank.
Brass (or gilt) letters (V.R.) are worn on lapels of Officers of R.A.F.V.R.
ROYAL AIR FORCE
OFFICERS' RANK BADGES; "WINGS," ETC.

SQUADRON LEADER  FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT  FLYING OFFICER  PILOT OFFICER

These badges are worn on the left breast.

QUALIFIED PILOT'S "WINGS" •

OBSERVER & NAVIGATOR
A Radio Operator has the letters R.O. instead of A.G.

AIR-GUNNER

CHAPLAIN—CAP BADGE
Collar badge is similar, but without the Imperial Crown

DENTAL COLLAR BADGE

MEDICAL OFFICER COLLAR BADGE

*Note.—Pilot's "wings" are worn by Army Officers attached to the Army Co-operation Squadrons who have obtained their certificates, also by all Officers now serving in any Service, who won the "wings" during the Great War.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warrant Officer</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/warrant-officer.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight-Sergeant</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/flight-sergeant.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap Badge</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/cap-badge.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Conduct Stripe</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/good-conduct-stripe.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Aircraftman</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/leading-aircraftman.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum-Major</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/drum-major.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sergeant</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/1st-sergeant.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Corporal</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/2nd-corporal.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Substantive Badges</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/non-substantive-badges.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Training Instructor</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/physical-training-instructor.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Bandsman</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/central-bandsman.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomb Disposal Squad</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/bomb-disposal-squad.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Operator</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/wireless-operator.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunner (Ground)</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/gunner-ground.png" alt="Image" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Worn by N.C.O.'s and men on caps similar in shape to those on page 22, 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 ‘A’ below the albatross.*

R.A.F. Regiment. Words in pale blue on dark blue background worn just below shoulder.
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<tr>
<th>Royal Observer Corps</th>
<th>Air Transport Auxiliary</th>
<th>Air Training Corps</th>
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<td>Air-Sea Rescue Service</td>
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<td>Entertainments National Service Assoc. (ENSA)</td>
<td>Mechanised Transport Corps</td>
<td>Women's Transport Service (F.A.N.Y.)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Navy League Sea Cadet Corps</td>
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**AUXILIARY & MISCELLANEOUS**

<p>| | | |</p>
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<td>[Image]</td>
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<td><strong>ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION</strong></td>
<td><strong>ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION</strong> (Coxswain’s Badge)</td>
<td><strong>BRITISH LEGION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THE WOMEN’S LEGION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DISCHARGED UNFIT</strong></td>
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* The Mechanic’s Badge is similar with a Propellor instead of an Anchor.
* Worn with civilian clothes. For details of badges worn on Civil Defence uniforms see page 92.
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BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
CAP BADGES, SHOULDER STRAPS, CUFFS, &c.

SECTION LEADER
SECTION LEADER (Worn on right sleeve)

STARS ON SHOULDER STRAPS

OTHER RANKS
This device in various sizes

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT

† The Matron's badge is as 'A,' but with only one surrounding band of gold; the Superintending Sister's badge has one band of red; the Nursing Sister's, no band.
ST. JOHN
AMBULANCE BRIGADE

CHIEF
CAP BADGE

CAP (OFFICERS)

CAP (N.C.O.'s & PRIVATES)

DISTRICT OR COUNTY
SERGEANT-MAJOR

NURSING BADGE

CADET'S PROFICIENCY BADGE

SURGEON-IN-CHIEF

ASSISTANT
SURGEON-IN-CHIEF

DISTRICT OR
COUNTY OFFICER

DIVISIONAL SURGEON
& SUPERINTENDENT

AMBULANCE OFFICER

BADGE OF THE
RED CROSS & ST. JOHN
WAR ORGANISATION

ST. ANDREW'S
AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

* Corpo Sergeant-Major similar, but with only one circle.
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

CAP BADGE
A.T.S. Officers wear gold embroidered badges.

CHIEF COMMANDER
SENIOR COMMANDER
JUNIOR SUBALTERN
2ND SUBALTERN

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

CAP (OFFICERS)
SQUADRON OFFICER
FLIGHT OFFICER

CAP (OTHER RANKS)
SECTION OFFICER
ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICER

Cap Badges are as in the R.A.F., and the above and all other Sleeve Ranks agree with corresponding Ranks in the R.A.F.

*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.*
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE

CAP BADGE
CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER
FIRE FORCE COMMANDER
ASSISTANT FIRE FORCE COMMANDER
DIVISIONAL OFFICER
COLUMN SENIOR OFFICER
COMPANY OFFICER
FIREFORCE
A88TAK
DIVISIONAL
OFFICER
ODMARDER
FIREFORCE
ODMAIANDER
OOIIPARY SECTION LEAOIIIAOFFICER LEADER FIREMAN

CIVIL DEFENCE GENERAL SERVICES

CIVIL DEFENCE

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.

RESERVE
SHOULDER TITLE FOR C.O.D. RESCUE SERVICE
Similar titles are issued for the following Services:
"Warden" "Ambulance" "First Aid Post" "First Aid Party" (in London, "Stretcher Party") "G.I.O." (Gas Identification Service)
"Decontamination" "Messenger" "Report and Control"

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.