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.

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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.
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. 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 VOLUNTEER RESERVE

- Lieutenant
- Paymaster-Lieutenant
- Midshipman

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

- Lieutenant
- 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
CANS & CAP BADGES OF PETTY OFFICERS, ETC.

CAP & BADGE

PETTY OFFICERS & MEN AND BOYS DRESSED AS SEAMEN

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

PETTY OFFICER

ENGINEER P.O.*

ENGINE-ROOM ARTIFICER, WRITERS, ETC.

LEADING SEAMAN

FLEET AIR ARM

ROYAL NAVY YOUTH ENTRIES

OBSERVERS

AIR GUNNERS

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-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

L

GUNNERY RATING
SEAMAN GUNNER
TORPEDO GUNNER'S MATE

3RD CLASS LAYER

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."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Badge</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photographer</td>
<td>Phys. Trainer Inst. 1st Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Fitter (Air Frame)</td>
<td>Phys. Trainer Inst. 2nd Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Sailmaker</td>
<td>Leading Telegraphist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bugler</td>
<td>Telegraphist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Gunner 3rd Class</td>
<td>Engine Section Leading Rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Officer Telegraphist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Telegraphist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Rating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographeur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Training Instructor, 1st Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Training Instructor, 2nd Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulating P.O.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Notes on page 11. 1 Applies to members of the Air Branch (R.N. & R.N.V.R.)

*In full, "Physical and Recreational Training Instructor."
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 and 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASTER-AT-ARMS</th>
<th>RANGETAKER</th>
<th>SURVEYING RECORDER</th>
<th>CHIEF MOTOR MECHANIC (R.N.V.R.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Master-at-Arms Badge" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Rangetaker Badge" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Surveying Recorder Badge" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Chief Motor Mechanic Badge" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBMARINE DETECTOR INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>HIGHER SUBMARINE DETECTOR</th>
<th>SUBMARINE DETECTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Submarine Instructor Badge" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Higher Submarine Badge" /></td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Submarine Badge" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT STRIPES

Worn on the LEFT arm.
Cap badge, etc., are those of the official Merchant Navy uniforms. Many Companies still retain their own distinctive badges and uniforms, which are optional.
H.M. COASTGUARD

1. CAP BADGES
   - Inspectors and Higher Grades: Badge as 1
   - District Officers: Badge as 1
   - Station Officers and Coastguardsmen: Badge as 2

2. Buttons
   - District Officers and Higher Grades
   - Station Officers
   - Coastguardsmen wear no braid on the sleeves of their reefer jackets.
OFFICERS' BADGES OF RANK

THE BRITISH ARMY

FIELD-Marshal

General

Lieut-General

Major-General

Brigadier

Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

Cap, Badge and Gorged Patch as a, b & c.

Cap, Badge and Gorged Patch as a, b & c.

Cap, Badge and Gorged Patch as a, b & c.
Cup and Badges of Substantive Colonel
Worn on Service with a plain khaki cloth peak.

Cap and Badge of Substantive Colonel

Gorget Patch of Substantive Colonel.
Gorget patches are worn in different colours according to the Branch as under:
- BLUE (bright) Royal Engineers
- (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 in gilt for greater clearness.

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

LIEUT.-COLONEL

MAJOR

CAPTAIN

LIEUTENANT

2ND LIEUT.

SOME DISTINCTIVE "STARS"

ARMY
DISTINGUISHING BADGES OF VARIOUS CORPS

ARMY DENTAL CORPS
RECONNAISSANCE CORPS
PIONEER CORPS

ROYAL ENGINEERS
ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
ARMY CATERING CORPS

ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
ROYAL ARMoured CORPS
ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

ARMY AIR CORPS
PARACHUTE REGIMENT
ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS
# Army Rank & Appointment Badges: W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s & Men

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<tr>
<th>Rank/Position</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Conductor and Staff Sergeant-Major, 1st Class</td>
<td>1st Class Master Gunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Class Master Gunner</td>
<td>2nd Class Master Gunner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandmaster</td>
<td>R.S.M. &amp; Other W.O.'s 1st Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.S.M. &amp; Other W.O.'s 1st Class</td>
<td>Master Gunner, 3rd Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.O. 2nd Class</td>
<td>W.O. 3rd Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.O. 3rd Class</td>
<td>Squadron Q.M.S. &amp; Company Q.M.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squadron Quartermaster Corporal (Household Cavalry)</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal (Household Cavalry)</td>
<td>1st Sergeant, 2nd Corporal or Bombardier, 3rd Lance-Corporal or Lance-Bombardier.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* 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. 2nd Class Orderly

- Tradesman or Fitter
- Farrier & Shoeing Smith
- Saddler (Except in Cavalry)
- Wheeler & Carpenter
### Army Skill-at-Arms & Proficiency Badges

#### Marksman and Gunner Badges

- **Class 2**
  - **Best Shot of W.O.'s**
  - **Best Shot of Corporals**
  - **Section Commanders**

#### Swordsmanship in Cavalry P.T. Instructors

- **Best Swordsmen in Regiment**
- **Best Swordsmen in Troop**
- **Best Swordsmen in Every 20 Men**

#### Driver in Royal Tank Regt.

- **Driver**

#### Prize Gunner and Driver Badges

- **1st Prize Gunner**
- **2nd Prize Gunner**
- **Gun Layer**
- **1st Prize Driver**

Additional Details:

- **G**
- **L**
- **18th Prize Gunner**
- **2nd Prize Gunner**
- **Gun Layer**
- **1st Prize Driver**

*The ornamental L is replaced by R.C. for Bren Gunner; L.C. for Lewis Gunner; M.C. for Machine Gunner; R. for Rangemeter; S. for Surveyor and T.P. for Special Proficiency.*

---

- Also with Grenade for Grenadier Guards and Fusilier Regiments; Star for Scots & Irish Guards.
- Rose for Coldstream Guards; Bugle for Rifle Regiments and Light Infantry.
- Also Scout-Sergeants and Regimental Scouts in Cavalry of the Line; Scout-Sergeants and 1st Class Scouts in Foot Guards and Infantry.
- Also with Two Stripes for 1st Class Orderly.
- Also Machinery Artificer and Smith.
- Also Lance-Corporals and Privates of a Battalion.
- Also Lance-Corporals and Private of a Battalion.
- Of best shooting Squadron or Company in a unit; with Star instead of Crown for best shot in each Squadron, Company or Band; and Rifles only, Marksmen & Musketry meet.
- Also Sergeants and Lance-Sergeants of a Battalion.
ARMY
PROFICIENCY BADGES, DISTINGUISHING
FLASHES, &c.

DRIVER
(MECHANISED UNIT)

DRIVER MECHANIC

DRIVER INSTRUCTOR

DESPATCH RIDER

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT

SIGNALLER

OPERATOR
FIRE CONTROL

FLASH
WORN BY
ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS

HOME GUARD
Worn just below shoulder of uniform

HOME GUARD
Badge for use with plain clothes

*Units wear the cap badges of their county regiments.
ROYAL AIR FORCE
OFFICERS' BADGES OF RANK

Marshall 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
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.
**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

**W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, Etc.**

- **Warrant Officer**
- **Flight-Sergeant**
- **Cap Badge**
- **Good Conduct Stripe**
- **1st Sergeant**
- **2nd 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 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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<td><strong>Women's Transport Service (F.A.N.Y.)</strong></td>
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# Auxiliary & Miscellaneous

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<th>Badge</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="R.N.L.I. Badge" /></td>
<td>Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Coxswain’s Badge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="R.N.L.I. Badge" /></td>
<td>Royal National Lifeboat Institution (Other Ratings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="British Legion Badge" /></td>
<td>British Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Women’s Legion Badge" /></td>
<td>The Women’s Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Army &amp; Air Force Institutes Badge" /></td>
<td>Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Special Constabulary Badge" /></td>
<td>Special Constabulary (Metropolitan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Discharged Unfit Badge" /></td>
<td>Discharged Unfit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image8" alt="ARP Badge" /></td>
<td>Air Raid Precautions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Front Line Duty Badge" /></td>
<td>Workers in Royal Ordnance Factories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 92.
AUXILIARY & MISCELLANEOUS

- W.V.S (WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES) CIVIL DEFENCE
- WOMEN'S LAND ARMY
- CIVIL NURSING RESERVE
- TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE
- QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE (RESERVE)
- BOY SCOUTS
- BOYS' BRIGADE (OFFICER)
- GIRL GUIDES
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
CAP BADGES, SHOULDER STRAPS, CUFFS, &c.

SECTION LEADER (Worn on right & sleeve)
OTHER RANKS
STARS ON SHOULDER STRAPS

PATIENT COMMANDANT
COUNTY & PROVINCE DIRECTOR

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL
NAVAL NURSING SERVICE

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT
MOBILE BADGE
IMMOBILE BADGE

*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

CAP (OFFICERS)

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

* Corps Sergeant-Major similar, but with only one circle.
WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE
CUFFS & BADGES

- Officers' hat
- Hat badge
- Director
- Deputy Director & Superintendent
- Chief Officer
- Medical Superintendent
- First Officer
- Second Officer
- Third Officer
- Uniform
A.T.S. Officers wear gold embroidered badges.

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 OFFICER

SENIOR COMPANY OFFICER

COMPANY OFFICER

SECTION LEADER

LEADING FIREMAN

CIVIL DEFENCE GENERAL SERVICES

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.O.O.s.

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")
- "G.I.O." (Gas Identification Service)

- Decontamination
- Messenger
- Report and Control

- HEAD WARDEN
- 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.