

COLOR ON PARADE!



Left: Army officer's dress cape. Color of cape lining, cap band, and trouser stripe indicates branch of service. Yellow means cavalry.



Left: Special social evening dress of army officer, similar in cut to evening dress of civilian. The black tie is proper.



Left: Army officer's blue mess uniform, which is correct for semi-formal occasions. Red trimmings indicate artillery.



Left: Dress uniform of army officer. Trimmings vary with rank and service branch.



Right: Army officer's service uniform. Only the cavalry officer wears boots and breeches as shown here. Infantry and artillery officers wear trousers.

(Illustrations by courtesy of Robert Meyer, Washington, D. C.)

UNIFORMS OF OFFICERS of the American navy have been toned down a great deal in color and ornamentation since 1776, when the first official order on the subject prescribed that a captain should wear a blue cut-away coat with red lapels, slash cuffs, stand-up collar, and flat gold buttons; blue breeches, and a red vest trimmed with gold lace. Although the present full-dress uniform includes a cocked hat (called the fore-and-aft in the navy) and epaulettes, the service uniform is extremely sedate, as is disclosed by the figures directly below. Seventeen years ago the military or choker collar was discarded for the comfortable roll collar, and since that time there has been virtually no change in the style of naval uniforms. Marines, who are part of the navy, and naval aviators wear olive drab or khaki as service uniforms, but all the others of the navy stick to the two old standby colors—navy blue and white. Uniforms of our navy, both of officers and enlisted men, follow closely in style, color, and cut those worn in the British navy. Even the black neckerchief of the American sailor is linked directly to British tradition. When Lord Nelson was killed at Trafalgar, British seamen dyed their neckerchiefs black—and so today our sailors wear this symbol of grief.

Navy Uniforms Show British Influence

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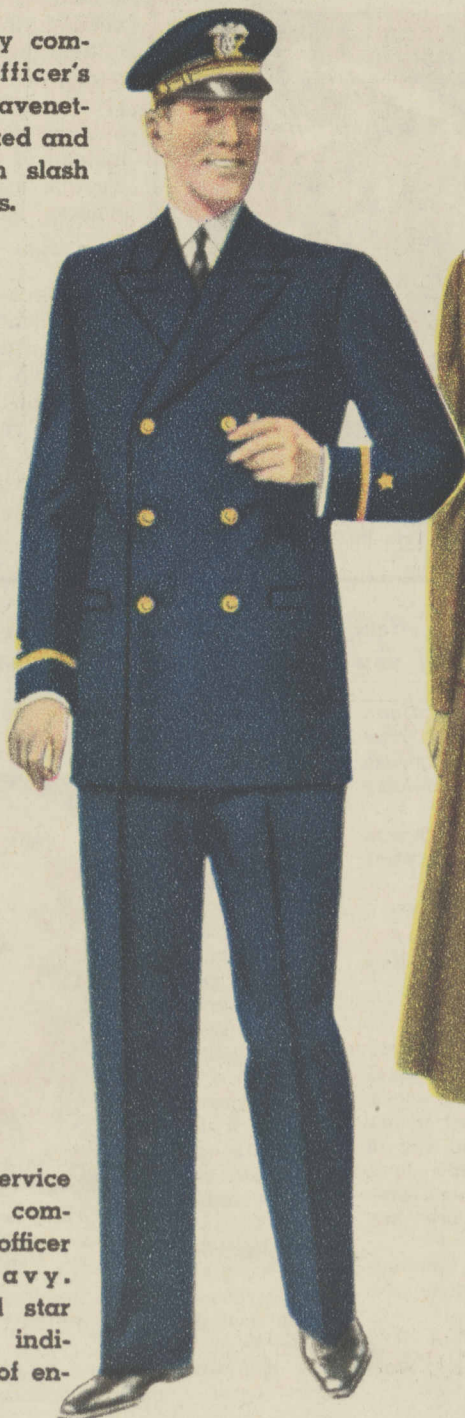
Left: Uniform of aviation officer of the navy. The coat has stitched-down belt.



Right: Overcoat of commissioned officer of the navy.



Left: Navy commissioned officer's raincoat, cravenetted and belted and made with slash pockets.



Right: Service uniform of commissioned officer of the navy. Stripe and star on sleeve indicate rank of ensign.



Left: Olive drab service overcoat of army officer. It's double-breasted.



Right: Army officer's mackinaw. Breeches and boots indicate cavalry as his branch.