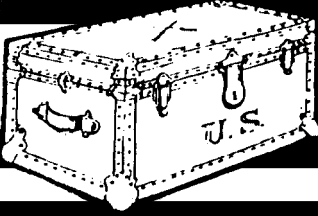


AAMUC

Quarterly Newsletter of The Association of American Military Uniform Collectors



FOOTLOCKER

Volume XXVII, Number 4, 1 December 2003

RUNNING AAMUC

We were rather surprised that no member mentioned the new less glossy paper we used for the last issue. Our printer suggested it be less expensive and also allow the same high quality photos we have become used to. Since there should be the same or better quality when it comes to the color shots (done on a digital color copier) with less waste and smearing, we decided to go ahead with his idea. We are trying yet another paper with this issue. It is glossy again, but it is made for color copiers. Please let the Editor know which you prefer.

We understand that Richard "Russ" Wilson has taken over the job of AAMUC Adjutant from David Bridges. Please note his new address on page 16 and use that for all correspondence concerning membership status.

Russ has been collecting for almost 15 years and focuses his collection on uniforms, but as most collectors has a variety of other items. He is a pretty young collector since he's only 30 years old and really enjoys the hobby because most of the older and more advanced collectors are really enjoyable to talk to and readily share advice and knowledge. He has almost 1000 uniforms which are from all countries and all periods but concentrate on WWII and before. He graduated from the University of Utah (anthropology/archeology) and worked as a state trooper. He now works for the US government. He has a wonderful wife and three kids (two girls, one boy). His address is:

Russ Wilson
A.A.M.U.C. Adjutant
6021 45th Ave. Ct. E. Tacoma WA 98443
You can call him at 253 922 0747
or E mail him at Russmilitaria@juno.com.D

David and Russ have worked out the transition very nicely, and we are looking forward to working with Russ. We know he will do the same great job that David has done for the past several years.

TAPS

We understand that former **FOOTLOCKER** Ad Editor Bill Rabel passed away in September, leaving a wife and several daughters. Bill was a late WW2 USN vet and collected mostly WW1 uniforms when he was still actively collecting.. AAMUC extends its condolences to the Rabel family.

AAMUC Auction Results

We were rather surprised also to receive NO bids on any of the items we offered for auction in the last issue of **FOOTLOCKER**. We knew that there were relatively fewer collectors of newer uniforms, but we did expect some bids. We are re running the notice with the suggestion that they ought to be at least worth \$5.00 each for the shirts and \$1.00 for the insignias and dogtag, (plus postage, of course).

The following are available:

1. Gulf War I 6 color desert camo shirt VG+ with subdued (black/OG) SSIs for 3rd Army and 22nd Theater Area Support Command and brown on tan US Army and name tapes. No rank.
2. As above, but black/OG 32nd ADA Bde patches on BOTH sleeves and colored US flag on right. Again, VG+
3. Early greenish 3 color desert camo shirt with subdued 32nd ADA Bde patches on both sleeves, brown on tan US Army and name tapes, color US flag on right sleeve. No rank. Unusual to find this early a 3 color in Gulf War 1. VG+
4. Army OG 108 wool fatigue shirt with color SFC chevrons and 172nd Infantry Bde patch and printed subdued US Army and name tapes. BOTH SLEEVES need to be re sewn to shirt body.
5. '50's color embroidered Army Medical Corps officer collar insignia on OG cotton with letter W superimposed. Even insignia. Even insignia guru Bill Emerson had never seen this one!
6. WW1 dog tag named to Bloomsburg, PA PVT from Co. I, 18th Infantry

Bids must be received by the Editor by January 1, 2004, either by mail or e mail. In case of tie, the one with the earliest postmark wins. Shipping will be extra, of course. Winners will be informed by January 15.

WMCA Flyer

The Editor ran into former AAMUCer Paul Vondrak at an August show. Paul spoke glowingly about a new internet venture he's involved with. The Editor joined up shortly thereafter and spread the word to AAMUCers whose e mail addresses he has. We do not know how many have joined up as a result, but webmaster Bob Rodgers has been pleased by our input.

If readers do follow up, go to the site shown, then click on the AAMUC patch. When the AAMUC page comes up, scroll down and click on [AAMUC Forum](#). Please do consider joining. There is NO COST at this time and it is easy to do. See you in cyberspace!

(Craig Pickrall reports that he's shut down the AAMUC site at Yahoo Groups. It came to have fewer and fewer participants. Certainly Yahoo's constant pop ups and difficulty of access limited participants. Craig can be found now at the WMCA site.)

Interesting Photos

M1910 US Army Officers Drab Cotton Service Coat and Cap

From the collection of Bill Emerson

Photo 1: A photo taken in the late 1930's of Major John C. Macdonald. He was born in Nova Scotia in 1895, obtained a temporary infantry commission during World War I, rising to captain. In 1920 accepted a 1st lieutenant's commission in the Regular Army infantry. He transferred to the cavalry in September 1923 and served as a major between October 1935 and August 1940.

Photo 2: Some members of the YMCA at St. Garvais Le Bains, France, during the winter of 1918-19. The one man wearing the campaign hat this late has a YMCA insignia on the front. All men have an apparent metal YMCA insignia on their caps.

Women have cloth YMCA insignia on their hats, collars, and apparently on their right sleeves. The lady on the steps who is second highest among the females wears 3 shoulder patches on her left shoulder and arm: 33d Division, 7th Division, and 88th Division. In the front row on the left the end two ladies also wear shoulder patches on their left sleeve, but the design is not clear enough for identification.



Photo 1.



Photo 2.

★★★

FROM MY COLLECTION

M1910 U.S. Army Officers Drab Cotton Service Coat and Cap

By Gil Sanow II



Most collectors of U.S. Army uniforms will know that the 1898 Spanish American War was a watershed event when it came to field uniform colors. Khaki cotton, long worn by the British in India, became the standard for American troops in the newly acquired tropical colonies. In 1902, new regulations called for more covert drab wool for colder climates.

Khaki continued in use in hot climates though it did not provide the protection from long range observation that the more drab shades did. Given that the opposition in our new colonies were more likely possess bolo knives than long range small caliber rifles firing smokeless powder, this was probably not an issue until later. But there was the possibility we might have to face well equipped European armies who wanted our colonies in hot temperatures, more covert yet cooler cotton uniforms became more important.

In 1909 the U.S. Army adopted a new service uniform for enlisted men in hot climates. Quartermaster Specification Number 1038 described a drab cotton coat with a standing/falling collar which would display a pair of blackened bronze open U.S.'s and branch insignia. The shoulder loops had an "X" stitched pattern at the sleeve end for reinforcement, and the sleeves had pointed cuffs. The four pockets were described as "choke bellows", in other words the widened at the bottom and had expandable sides. This was virtually the same as the previous version adopted in 1907, except for the color. Breeches were described in another specification and matched the coat in shade. But no matching visor cap was specified. (Either the drab wool cap or the drab campaign hat was to be worn.)

Uniform regulations have always stated that officers were to wear the same uniform as the troops, so a similar outfit was adopted for them, and that is the uniform shown here. (All insignia was added by the previous owner and is correct as to period.) There are differences though from the EM's version. The collar appears to be a bit higher and the X stitching on the shoulder loops is missing—probably to better show off the collar insignia and to ease the attachment of shoulder insignia. The cuffs feature matching mohair braid bands, though staff officers wore black. As on the enlisted coat, the buttons are the rimless eagle style adopted in the 1902 regulations.

What makes this coat interesting is the material. It is "thread dyed." This means that it is woven with brown and green thread rather than being woven and then dyed. One cannot really observe this phenomenon from the outside, but close observation of the inside will reveal it.



The cap, equally rare, matches the coat. The cover is removable for washing and the black leather visor is quite steep. The eagle and buttons are blackened bronze to match the collar insignia and coat buttons.

Having collected U.S. Army uniforms for over 30 years, this writer has never encountered another such example. Why is this? Well, the "new" uniform adopted in 1911, featuring a straight standing collar and flat pockets, was probably adopted before the wear out period of the pre 1910 uniform expired, so it seems unlikely that all officers purchased the short lived version. This, plus the fact that the M1910 version was probably easily converted to the M1911 by either sewing down the collar and pocket sides or by retailoring what was already there, would seem to account for the rarity. (EM's, of course, wore what they were issued.)

★★★

Revised Helmet Patch Immortalizes World War II Troops

By Pfc. Chris Jones, USA American Forces Press Service, October 6, 2003

MOSUL, Iraq Clad in desert camouflage uniforms and modern battle gear, soldiers today look nothing like they did in World War II. But the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is slowly reviving the spirit of its lineage with the reinstatement of unit distinctive helmet emblems similar to those worn 60 years ago in Europe.

The 501st Signal Battalion joined the 101st's three infantry brigades in the resurrection of its World War II unit helmet patch in a late September ceremony at the division's main command post in Mosul.

From the invasion of Normandy to the end of the war in Europe, soldiers of the 501st wore helmets with a box and a small tick mark on each side. The same emblem will now be worn, but with a lightning bolt in the center of the box, symbolizing the technological advancements that have made the unit more efficient, said 501st commander Lt. Col. Welton Chase Jr.

The designs for the 101st's helmet patches in World War II were based on a deck of cards. The 502nd Airborne Infantry Regiment wore a heart; the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment wore a club, and the 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment wore a spade. After World War II, the three regiments abandoned the patches. However, the 187th Infantry Regiment "Rakkasans," which used the Japanese Torii, continued to use the symbol, and it has since become the defining mark of the Rakkasans. Before leaving Fort Campbell, Ky., the home of the 101st, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 502nd and the 327th joined the 187th in reinstating their World War II symbols.

To prepare for the invasion of Normandy, soldiers sewed their unit emblems on their helmets so they could find members of their unit after the invasion left them inevitably scattered across the French shoreline and in the woods, Chase said. "Wherever they went in combat, the helmet was always the defining mark," Chase said. "Normandy left many soldiers scattered, so the symbols on their helmet helped them trace down other guys from their unit. On the battlefield, you can look and see immediately where a soldier is from. The same idea from World War II applies today. Everything that's done in the field goes faster if you can identify a soldier's unit just by looking at their helmet."

Reinstating a unit's helmet patch remains a commander's decision, and Chase said he doesn't feel it's unlikely other units will come around to sewing their legacies on their helmets as well. "It wouldn't surprise me to see others resurrect their patches, too," he said.

The ceremony marked the first time 501st soldiers have worn the symbol since World War II. "We use this distinct patch to link our past to our present, and it offers a bridge to the future of the 101st Airborne," Chase said. "Wherever we go in Iraq, our soldiers will remember with honor who fought and died before us."

Maj. Gen. William Lee, the first commander of the 101st, said before the division's entry into World War II, "The 101st has no history, but it does have a rendezvous with destiny."

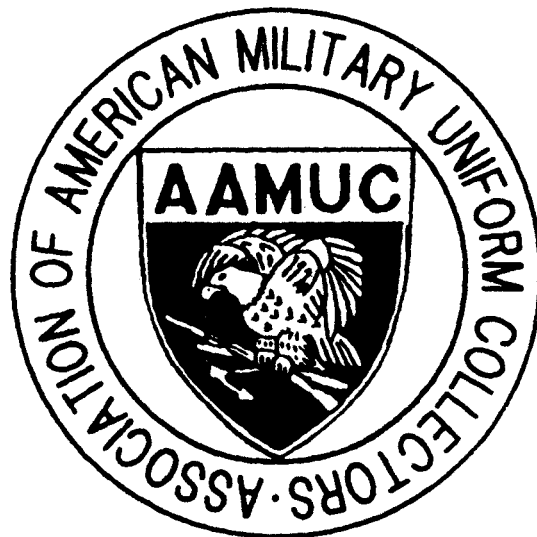
After World War II, the 101st had rung his words true, becoming the first and only division to be awarded the Presidential

Unit Citation. Command Sgt. Maj. Linza Chapman, 501st command sergeant major, said this history should not only be known, but shown.

"We've got a history," Chapman said. "We might as well tell it ... might as well show it."

Editor's Note: Video from Iraq shows several other units using patched on helmets, most notably the 3rd and 4th Infantry Divisions however we have only observed the 101st wearing such insignia on the battalion level.

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FROM MY COLLECTION

Uniform of Rear Admiral Elliott Bowman Strauss, USN

By Bruce Shealy

Elliott Bowman Strauss was born on March 15, 1903 in Washington D.C. His father was Admiral Joseph Strauss, an 1885 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Elliott Strauss himself entered the Naval Academy in June 1919 and graduated in June 1923, becoming an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. Most of his service until the mid 1930's was at sea, but from November 1935 to September 1937 he served as Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché at the American Embassy in London. From October 1939 to December 1940 Strauss commanded the destroyer USS BROOKS. While navigator of the light cruiser USS NASHVILLE, he took part in delivering the first Marines to Iceland in July 1941.

Strauss was again in London in December 1941. This time he was U.S. Naval Observer and was soon serving on the staff of Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, who was at the time Chief of Combined Operations. He participated in the planning of the August 1942 Allied raid on Dieppe, France. On May 1, 1943 he was promoted to Captain and served until August 1944 on the staff of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey, Allied Naval Commander in Chief.

Elliott Strauss earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the citation reading:

"For meritorious achievement as the United States Naval Representative on the Staff of the Chief of Combined Operations in the Dieppe Raid, and while serving on the Staff of the Allied Naval Commander in Chief during the Invasion of Normandy. Embarked as an observer in a British destroyer which rendered close fire support during the Allied raid on Dieppe on August 19, 1942, Captain (then Commander) Strauss obtained information of great value to the United States and Great Britain in the planning and execution of subsequent operations. Ordered to the Normandy beaches on D plus 2 Day, he applied his comprehensive knowledge of the build up procedure in solving far shore shipping problems which threatened to delay the operations. Serving with distinction, skill and courage despite enemy air and ground attack throughout these missions to halt German aggression, Captain Strauss upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

In October 1944 Captain Strauss took command of the attack transport USS CHARLES CARROLL. By January 1945 he was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and began the trip to Guadalcanal, Manus and Bougainville carrying men and supplies. On April 1, 1945, he participated in the landing of assault troops on Okinawa.

Captain Strauss returned to the United States in August 1945 to serve in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington D.C.

From November 1946 to December 1947 he commanded the light cruiser USS FRESNO. Returning once again to England, he spent most of 1948 as a student at the Imperial Defense College in London.

Later Captain Strauss organized and took command of Destroyer Flotilla Six. In March 1952 he became Head of the Long Range Plans Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Captain Strauss retired on July 1, 1953 and was advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral.



Evening Dress Coat

The coat has a double breasted front to be worn open, with two rows of three gilt eagle buttons. Material is "Dark blue cloth, broadcloth or Kersey finish". On the shoulders are cloth loops for attaching epaulets. Both sleeves show the gold lace rank of a lieutenant commander: two 1/2 inch stripes with one 1/4 inch stripe between the other two. Above the stripes is the five pointed star of a line officer. The coat is named to E. B. Strauss and dated Feb 7, 1923, tailored by Rice & Duval of 509 Fifth Ave. New York City.



Full Dress Trousers

Same material as the evening dress coat. The outside seams of each leg are covered by a one inch wide stripe of gold lace for "officers of and below the rank of lieutenant commander". The trousers have no belt loops, but are to be worn with suspenders. They are also named to E. B. Strauss and dated Feb 7. 1923 by Rice & Duval

It is probable that these dress uniform items were seldom worn after the 1930's, so Elliott Strauss had no reason to 'promote' them beyond the rank of Lieutenant Commander.



Epaulets

The body is covered with gold lace, the outer edges trimmed in gold bullion. A gold cord in the shape of a crescent binds the ends. From these hang two rows of bullion, three inches in length for a lieutenant commander. Mounted on the epaulets are a silver fouled anchor and a lieutenant commander's gold leaf. This pair of epaulets was made in France.



Cocked Hat

Constructed of black silk beaver with gold tassels at each end. Over the black silk cockade is a loop formed of two parts of one inch wide gold lace correct for a lieutenant commander. The outer rim of the hat is bound with a stripe of black silk lace. The hat was purchased from Meyer of New York.



The Strauss epaulets and hat in their carrying case.

Reference:

All biographical information on Elliott Strauss is from a fact sheet dated 30 January 1966 from the Navy Office of Information with a copy obtained by this author from the archives of the U.S. Naval Academy.

- U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations 1922 with changes to 1934

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U.S.N. Officer Uniform Costs

Submitted by Vincent P. Parzyck

AAMUCer Vincent P. Parzyck thought we might be interested in the costs of naval officer uniforms. This came from papers belonging to A/C (Aviation Cadet?, Aviator Candidate?) Charles A. Bloom while he was enrolled at the U.S. Navy Pre Flight School in Athens, GA, 1942 3. Note that Bloom apparently totaled the cost of each group.

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Raincoat	22.50
Wings for Greens	2.50
Tropical Dress Khaki	47.50
2nd. Lt. Collar Ornament Sterling	1.00
Officers work Frame and Green Cover (Shell Cordovan Visor)	11.25
Khaki Cover	3.25
Green Overseas Cap	3.50
Khaki Overseas Cap	1.75
Cloth Belts (Green Tropical, and Cotton Khaki)	7.50
TOTAL	278²⁵

Sam Brown Belt (Genuine Shell Cordovan)	\$ 18.50
Stock Khaki	18.50
Blues Dress	67.50

NAVY

Blue Elastique Uniform 19 oz. Complete Star, Stripes and Wings	68.50
Green Uniform 19 oz. Elastique	65.00
Extra Green Trousers	20.00
Wings on Greens	7.50
Work Khaki or Slate Grey	22.50
Tropical Worsted Dress (Slate Grey or Khaki)	47.50
Gold Wings	2.50
Ensign Collar Ornament Sterling	1.00
Shoulder Marks	5.00
Officers Green Cap Cover	3.50
Officers White Cap Complete	15.50
Green Overseas Cap	3.50
Slate Grey Overseas Cap	1.50
Device for Overseas Cap	2.75
TOTAL	266²⁵

Stock Slate Grey	\$ 17.50
Beige Gabardine Combination Coat, Tailor Made	65.00
Garbardine Slate Grey Tailor Made	57.50

★★★

2003 ASMIC Tri Convention Report

Photos and info from Chuck Samuel

The 2003 ASMIC (American Society of Military Insignia Collectors) held its annual Tri Convention at Holiday Inn International Airport in Denver, CO on Labor Day weekend. The Editor was unable to attend due to other commitments previous and subsequent weekends, so we asked Chuck Samuel to take some photos and put together a report.

We know the following AAMUCers attended. There may have been others, but we did not have a sign in sheet this year.

Anthony Bestwick
Bob Boyd
Scott Dantonio
Dan Emich
Dallas Freeborn
William C. McLeod III
Chuck Samuel
Don Sexton (ASMIC President)
Leigh E. Smith Jr.
Stan Wolcott



The best uniform display was won by Sylvia and Elden Leasure of Colorado Springs. They are not AAMUC members, but we have mailed them the appropriate plaque to commemorate their victory. They exhibited a nice grouping of WW2 Army WAAC uniforms.

Unfortunately we were unable to provide the names of the other exhibitors and how they placed. Still, we do have some photos of the exhibits which are shown here.





★★★

FROM MY COLLECTION

Experimental Army Blue EM Coat, Ca. 1953?

By Gil Sanow II



I have always made it a point to add what appear to be regulation U.S. Army uniforms to my collection whenever previously unknown patterns are available. Sometimes it takes years before I can positively ID them, but I have found that I get some really rare things this way. Such is the reason that the coat shown below has been hiding in the back of my collection closet for at least ten years. Obviously it is "dress blue" and was made for an artilleryman with its red piping on its pointed cuffs and shoulder loops. The gilt U.S. Army buttons identify the service, to be sure. Still it has the tailor's label from a Bala Cynwyd, PA maker, and no QM tags. It looks somewhat like the blues adopted in 1956, but for the pointed cuffs and the red piping. (The '56 regs called for "old gold" piping which would go straight around the cuffs, for all branches.) So, what the heck is it?

When Alan Bogan sent the pix of the 3rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer in the early '50's awhile back, he included another photo that may have solved the problem. (Bogan is curator of the 3rd Infantry Museum.) The photo, shown below, has a caption that reads:



C 7938 FORT MYER, VIRGINIA
FOUR VERSIONS OF PROPOSED ARMY DRESS
UNIFORM FOR ENLISTED MEN SHOWN.

The Army today exhibits four versions of a proposed optional dress blue uniform for enlisted men similar to that now authorized for officers. Modeled by soldiers, the coat and cap are Army blue, the trousers sky blue. The four versions differ only in the color of chevrons, service stripes and trouser and cap piping. The uniforms now exist in one set only of each version. If finally approved, the dress blue uniforms will be optional, for off duty dress wear, and will be available for purchase by Army enlisted men.

(The rest of the caption names the soldiers shown and lists their hometowns. All were probably actually members of the 3rd Infantry who often posed for similar photos.)

Mr. Bogan's photo is in color, but some of the trim colors have perhaps faded. Left to right they appear to be golden yellow (Cavalry) or (Infantry) white on the first two men, third seems to be Infantry blue and the fourth is definitely Artillery red. Noting the second man's pointed cuff piping, one wonders if I have the artillery version.

The late AAMUC member Fred Schuhle once related to this writer of having seen a Quartermaster Corps trailer going around and visiting Army posts and National Guard armories in the '50's to show off proposed new uniforms, just before Army greens were adopted. He specifically mentioned that there were blue uniforms among those shown. Could my example be one of these? Did someone have a "new" blue uniform tailored only to discover that the version he had made was never adopted? Perhaps I will never know.

★★★

From the *Infantry Journal*, November-December 1940

Submitted by Bill Emerson

Editor's Note: Military publications like the *Infantry Journal* often published letters from soldiers offering suggestions on a variety of subjects including uniforms. This one, published a year before Pearl Harbor, certainly shows that some were looking to have more practical field uniforms. Needless to say, today's soldier who spends most of his/her time in BDU's would probably not understand the sentiments expressed here.

A Practical Field Uniform

Today, as never before, there is a definite and urgent need for a comfortable and practical field uniform. John Soldier needs field clothes in which he can crawl on his belly, string wire, fire his weapons, drive a truck, and perform any of the other duties incident to maneuvers and the field, and worry little if he tears, burns, or stains a garment. With his present barracks uniform John has to be mighty careful, for the Old Man simply won't stand for patched clothing at inspection.

No matter what uniform our troops have worn down through the years, one thing was certain: it "looked military." It had to, or the powers promptly took steps to banish it. And it was certainly not tailored for comfort. Witness the choker collar blouse and the stock collar—remember? John Soldier shouted when those discomforts were removed from his American neck. More recently he has rejoiced at the passing of "riding" breeches, the English wrap leggin, and the khaki blouse. The cravat still harasses him. He prays for a change in his shirt for summer wear something loose fitting, perhaps with sleeves short and collar open and no cravat. So much for the garrison uniform.

Today John Soldier wants no gaudy dress uniform that has to do duty as a field outfit. He wants, in fact, three uniforms: (1) the garrison uniform, as is, except for the change in the cotton shirt mentioned above; (2) a fatigue uniform; and (3) a practical field uniform.

The field uniform should be a simple, one piece garment similar to that now issued to the air corps and tank troops. The color should lend itself to camouflage. In addition he might well get a combination raincoat and overcoat with removable lining like the old trench coat, leaving the current model raincoat and overcoat for garrison wear. Add a waterproofed cap, preferably one with a visor, in lieu of the present field cappie, and our soldier is set for extended field duty.

Here are some of the advantages of this strictly utilitarian fighting garb:

(1) It is not difficult to design. It can be manufactured cheaply and readily from inexpensive yet durable material. Four sizes are enough: small, medium, large, and extra large.

(2) Field duty is extremely hard on garrison uniform material. This new field uniform would result in a considerable saving to both the government and the soldier.

(3) Such a uniform can be easily laundered in the field by the soldier himself wherever water is available. But he can't wash elastique slacks and woolen shirts while

4) Dressed in this field uniform the soldier would not hesitate to get into the game and rough it. In his present get up he is inclined to take it easy, for he is thinking about next Saturday's inspection or a forthcoming review at which he must look his best.

(5) The soldier will relax; he will have more freedom of limb because such a uniform is loose fitting. In warm or hot weather his body will breathe and his blood will circulate. --- 9TH FIELD ARTILLERY.

★★★

WW1 Era Cartoon

from Matt Jacobsen



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FROM MY COLLECTION

The White Uniform of Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons Ca. 1944

By Gil Sanow II

In the last issue of **FOOTLOCKER** I wrote of finding and researching the uniform of Maj. Gen. Ralph Smith. Well, there is more to the story! At the same show (Great Lakes Military Collectors Show in Toledo, OH) and on the same dealers' table was another interesting uniform. Thrilled with the Smith acquisition and not quite sure about the second, I held off a couple of months til the next show. Luckily it was still there.



What was offered was a white uniform (coat, trousers and visor) custom made for Col. W. B. Persons and dated June 1, 1942. Knowing that white uniforms were rarely if ever worn during World War II, I was interested. I was even more fascinated by the ribbon set sewn above the left breast pocket. It included the ribbons for the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit, along with three foreign decorations, I recognized at least two of them as being from South America. Was this fellow perhaps a military attache to a South American government during the war? Did he in fact ever get promoted to general officer? Given the uniform date, it seemed possible.

I jotted down the name and went home and did some research. According to my 1949 *Army Officers Register* Persons had in fact gotten his first star the same month as the coat was dated, and he got a second one in 1944! Needless to say, I called the vendor and was pleased to learn that the uniform was still available and the purchase was made.

Just for the heck of it, I ran the name Willis B. Persons through an internet search engine and discovered references to him in relation to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Person's papers are at the Eisenhower Library in Kansas. A quick message to the fine folks at the library at the U. S. Army War College at Carlisle, PA brought a copy of Person's official service bio.



Persons had been born in Alabama and had graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1916 and was commissioned in the Coast Artillery Reserve. He went on active duty with the Regular Army the next year. He initially served with a provisional training regiment at Ft. McPherson, then with the coastal defenses at Baltimore and finally with the 58th Coast Artillery, part of 2nd Army. (WW1 Coast Artillery units in the A.E.F. manned heavy guns like the 8" howitzer.)

After the war he was assigned to the 31st Artillery Brigade in California and later in 1919 to the 8th Field Signal Battalion at Ft. Dodge, IA. The next year he was reassigned to the 4th Signal Company and then to maintenance of the Alaskan Military Submarine Cable, serving in Seattle. In 1923 he transferred to the Signal Corps. In 1924 he was assigned as PMS&T at University of Minnesota. In 1931 he graduated from Harvard Graduate School with an MBA.

He was then assigned to the Office of the Chief Signal Officer in D.C. and, in 1933, transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War working on procurement, and at the same time he was liaison with the House of Representatives Military Affairs Committee until 1937 when he entered the Army Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth. Following this he graduated from the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, AL. (Photos indicate he earned some sort of wings [observer?] and did wear them at times, though apparently not on this uniform.)

He then went to 1st Division at Ft. Hamilton, NY and Signal Officer in 1939 and later back to D.C., ultimately as Chief of the Legislative and Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Staff.

He retired from the Army in 1949, but was called back to active duty two years later as special assistant to General Eisenhower when he took command of NATO forces in Europe. He again retired from the Army and was an advisor to the Eisenhower campaign in 1952. When there was a scandal in the Eisenhower White House involving Chief of Staff Sherman Adams, Persons replaced him.

Persons left government service in 1961 and became director of a Florida prep school. He died in Ft. Lauderdale in 1977.

The uniform is rather interesting in itself, even without knowing much about the original owner. When first acquired it did not have any branch insignia and never seems to have had any. That too had prompted my initial research into Persons since generals usually don't wear branch insignia. It had no stars either, but that was quickly remedied. We know from photos that Persons did wear wings, but there is no sign that he wore them here. Perhaps he was no longer qualified when this uniform was last worn.

Interestingly, the ribbons are out of order. The WW1 Victory and Occupation Medal ribbons should be on the second and not the third row, and the WW2 era ribbons on the third, not the second. How could this happen? The ribbons are sewn on but not all that tightly. One might assume they were removed for dry cleaning, but the cleaner failed to return them to their proper place.

And what are those foreign ribbons? Bottom row left is the Abdon Calderon Cruz de Guerre (Cross of War) from Ecuador.

The other two are the Brazilian National Order of the Southern Cross, Commander, and the Army Medal for WW2 service. The Ecuadorian medal was awarded in 1939, the others later, but there is no way of knowing the reasons. Perhaps Persons visited those nations on an official basis.

The visor hat may well be older than the coat and trousers. Persons made major in 1935, so it may date from then. The wicker frame is more likely earlier than WW2.

★★★

Yet Another 9th Infantry Regiment Belt Buckle

By Gil Sanow

Several times in the past two years or so we've shown interesting variations of the belt buckles worn by the 9th Infantry Regiment in lieu of a DI (Distinguishing Unit Insignia). Anyhow, here is another.



This one is rather different than the others. It appears to be U.S. made and the front plate is attached to the buckle body by two hex nuts. The buckle body is made by HARRY SUGARMAN INC./SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. Since the halves of the buckle are soldered together, one must assume it was disassembled so the front plate could be attached. Did Sugarman make the front plate? Who knows?

Still, the front plate seems to have been die stamped, not unlike a coin. This is really high quality work! One can only wonder how many more variations we will find if we keep at it!

Does anyone else have other versions to share?

★★★



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PO BOX 1115 • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1115
or CALL 513-245-9540 • Fax 513-245-9541
E-Mail OVMSHQ@aol.com

FROM MY COLLECTION

Captain Walter S. Fant, USMC, 1917 1919

By W. Emmett Fox III

This grouping should go under the heading, *it's a small world*. I was fortunate to meet a gentleman who told me his uncle served in the Marines during World War I. He told me all about his uncle's history and that he was in possession of his uniform, equipment, weapon, photographs, paperwork and souvenirs. These uniforms belonged to Walter S. Fant, Captain, USMC. He served in the 76th Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. What really got my attention was, according to my grandfather's diary, he too served in the 76th Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment. Although my grandfather did not arrive in France until November 3, 1918, I was intrigued by the thought of my grandfather having probably saluted Lt Fant at one time or another.



The story of Lt Fant is very interesting. He was born March 9, 1897. He attended Kemper Military School and then took a commission in the Marines in 1917. He was assigned to the 76th

Company sometime before leaving for France. He saw considerable action and was awarded two Croix de Guerre, and a Silver Star, on the Victory Medal, for heroic action. On July 19, 1918, near Vierzy, France, he led a 58 man patrol to knock out two advancing German tanks. Nearly two thirds of the patrol became casualties. The newspaper story goes, Lt Fant was found, wounded, inside the last tank. Out of ammunition he gained entry into the tank and using his trench knife killed the three man crew. On July 23, 1918, 1st Lt Macon C. Overton, Commanding Officer 76th Company, recommended Lt Fant and four enlisted men for the Medal of Honor. I have seen a copy of the recommendation. According to what I have read and heard, General Pershing said no Marine Officer under his command was going to be awarded the Medal of Honor. The recommendation was not approved.

There is so much, I cannot do it justice in the space allowed. I will concentrate on the uniforms. All of these items came out of one trunk.



The first uniform is an Officers 1912 winter service coat. It is heavily damaged by moths. There was a label in the left interior pocket, but it is long gone. I assume he wore this uniform in France. I have seen some photos of him in a uniform jacket similar to this one with and without a 2nd Division patch. I cannot tell if this coat ever had a patch on it.



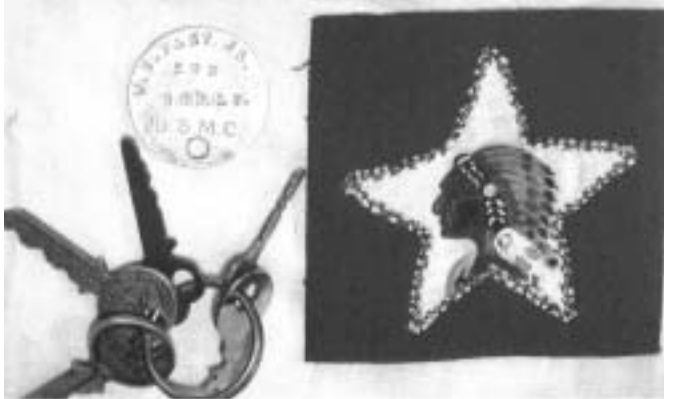
The second uniform is a tailor made winter service coat and breeches. It was ordered from Maison Modele of Saint Nazaire on December 22, 1917. I will explain later how I know that bit of information. It was received on January 6, 1918 according to the tailors tag on the left inside pocket. The color is the Army brown the Marines were forced to wear while serving in France. The buttons on the trousers are made of a light color Bakelite material with Maison Modele of Saint Nazaire on them. The buttons on the coat are subdued bronze. The collar is fastened by three hooks. He also sports four bullion overseas chevrons. The bronze collar EGAs were made by Bailey, Banks and Biddle and are marked B.B.&B. BRONZE. The captain bars are of the coffin style, sterling silver. I cannot ascertain the maker of the bars. All the bars including the small ones on the overseas caps have the same makers mark on them. Although, I have photos of Fant wearing a 2nd Division patch, this coat shows no evidence of ever having a patch on it. The uniform is in very good shape with minimal moth damage.

The third uniform is another tailor made coat and breeches set. This set is made in the more traditional Marine forest green color. According to the tag, this set was made by Macdougall & Co., 1 Rue Auber, Paris. The uniform was received February 4, 1919. When I got these uniforms home, I went through the pockets. In the pocket of this uniform I found the receipt from Maison. I assume Fant took the receipt, which has all the measurements on it, to Macdougall and had them duplicate the uniform in a different color material. He wears the bullion Army overseas chevrons on his left sleeve, and a bullion wound



chevron is worn on his right sleeve. The collar is fastened by two hooks. The collar EGAs are of a glossy dark brown color. I have not been able to remove the EGAs from the collar for closer inspection, but they appear to be unmarked. The hook for the pin has been closed. The WWI Victory Ribbon is adorned with four bronze (battle) stars. If I had his Victory Medal he would have had four battle clasps and one Silver Star for gallantry. The Croix de Guerre has a palm leaf and a gold star indicating a second award. The patch is very interesting. It is a white silk star crossed stitched on a red felt star. The Indian head was hand painted with oil paints. Why a red star? Well, when I found the receipt in the pocket I also pulled out another patch. This one is absolutely mint, a white silk star on a red felt rectangle with a beautiful painted Indian head. I assume he would have never put a red rectangle on his uniform. A red rectangle indicates the 5th Regiment while a red diamond represents the 6th Regiment. Since there is not enough material to make an alteration to the patch, he just cut it down and sewed it on. There is another possibility. There was a unit called the "Composite Group", made up of soldiers and Marines who distinguished themselves to serve as an honor guard for General Pershing. I was told that they only wore the white star with an Indian Head on their shoulder, no background color. Even the helmet would have painted with the white star and Indian head only. If there is a list of the "Composite Group", I will find it and check for his name. Obviously, the patch on the uniform is not in good shape, but since there is a second patch, you can see how good it did look. The captain bars are Army style silver bullion. The Sam Browne is his and is marked with a large, 1 3/4 X 4 3/4 inch, black, H. C. Mills stamp. It is undated.

continued next page



I received two overseas caps to go with both uniforms. Both are French style garrison caps. Note the different piping. On the Army brown one, the piping appears to be a forest green and red barber pole style. On the forest green cap, the piping appears to be a gold bullion background with thin red chevrons 3/16 of an inch apart. The brown cap has a snap at the crown to keep the top from spreading apart. The forest green one is sewn in the same spot, but 9/16 of an inch from the top. This allows the top to spread apart about an inch. I took an EGA from the Maison Modele uniform and attached it to both overseas caps for the photo. In photographs, Fant wore his lieutenant bar and EGA on the same side. I have seen a photo of a Marine captain wearing his cap in a similar fashion, so I assume, this is how Fant would have worn it.

I have included a photo of his sea bag, shelter half, puttees, trouser belt and officers musette bag. The shelter half is stamped Lt W. S. Fant U.S.M.C., while the sea bag is marked CAPT. W.S. Fant U.S.M.C. 76Co 6th REG. The musette bag is marked both Lt and Capt W.S. Fant 76 Co 6 Marines. On top of the sea bag is a key ring with one of his dog tags and five keys attached. Two of the keys are made by Corbin marked USMC.

His leggings are English made. The tag reads FOX, Wellington Somerset, Patent Reg 342 186 7 1899.

I have included a photo that shows my grandfathers' dog tag along with Fant's for a comparison between the enlisted mans and the officer type. Note the three digit serial number. My grandfathers' seven digit serial number is stamped on the back. Also shown is the front page of my grandfathers' diary. The patch is the one I found in Fant's pocket. Note it is on a rectangular piece of felt, not a diamond. It measures approximately 3.5" X 3.5". There were no 6th Marine patches found in his effects.

continued next page

AAMUC AADS

The following advertisements were submitted by the deadline. Later arrivals may not appear, depending on the available space, but will appear in the next issue. Most specific non-U.S. items were deleted as this is our method of keeping the AMERICAN in AAMUC.

Don't forget to include funds for shipping.

AAMUC AAD CHARGES

As of 1 March 1986, members may place ads under the following conditions:

• "For Sale/Trade" ads will be free, up to the amount which can be typed on a standard postcard with items listed separately. Excess amounts will be billed a \$1.00 per column inch.

• "Wanted" ads will be charged at the old rate of \$2.00 for the first column inch, with a \$1.00 charge for each additional inch.

Place all ads with

FOOTLOCKER Ads

P.O. Box 1876
Elyria, OH 44036

no later than 30 days before the issue is due. Late arrivals may be held until the next issue.

For your convenience, **FOOTLOCKER** ads may also be e-mailed to AAMUCFL@aol.com or faxed to (440) 323-8692 no later than 20 days before the next issue is due. Faxed ads must be typed.

SUBMARINER RESEARCH AVAILABLE

Might you have an old submarine uniform with the "dolphins" sewn on the right lower sleeve? If so, and the man's name is available, I have a list of nearly 22,000 pre 1947 names which might help you identify him, FREE OF CHARGE!

Bob Neff
(931) 277 3565
880 Randolph Road
Crossville, TN 38555

AIR CAVALRY Material Wanted. I'm looking for patches, uniforms, flight gear, personal groups, plaques, or? Vietnam time frame is preferred, Does not need to be 1st Cav Division to be of interest to me.

John Conway
4143 Holly,
K.C., MO 64111
jpcconway@planetkc.com

DO YOU LIKE WW1?

Join the Doughboy Historical Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of our World War One heritage. Now in our 22nd year! You receive a membership card and quarterly publication **The Doughboy** offering free exchange of information and free buy, sell and trade column. \$15.00 per year. Join Now!

Doughboy Historical Society
Box 8423
Missoula, MT 59807

WANTED:

- Original WW2 and Korean War USAAF, USN and USMC Night Fighter Squadron patches
- A-2 and G-1 flight jackets with Night Fighter patches.
- Original wartime snapshots of the P-61 Black Widow aircraft
- Bullion (cloth with metallic thread) Combat Artillery Badge (unauthorized) from Korea

Bob Borrell
301-868-1481
9607 Wagner Trail
Clinton, MD 20735-3014

WANTED:

Uniforms or any memorabilia attributed to flag rank officers, any period.

John D. Smarsh
555 Herr's Ridge Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

WWI/WWII Militaria For Sale.

I have an extensive list of WWI/WWII militaria posted to my webpage at www.chgww2.com/class/stan.htm. If you're not online, however, please request a hard copy of the list by writing me at the following address:

Stan Wolcott,
P.O. Box 1950,
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1950.

I can also be reached for questions at luckyforward@earthlink.net

WANTED

Any information, uniform items or photos of the FULL DRESS worn by the New Jersey ESSEX TROOP, 1890 1941: and other New Jersey Militia and National Guard units. Also distinctive items of special full dress or parade uniforms worn by bands and bugle corps, 1902 1976

Ron DaSilva
973 661 4420

WANTED :

Help with pictures for new book. Am starting a new series of books with the **Medals and Badges of World War II**. Need pictures of World War II Army, Navy, AAF, Marines and Coast Guard in uniform with ribbons and badges. Hi res tiff files or will return photos within one week. Acknowledgement and credit for each picture plus signed first edition.

Visit our web sites www.usmedals.com, www.moapress.com and www.tiesofhonor.com

Col. Frank Foster
Ffoster@usmedals.com.
114 Southchase Blvd
Fountain Inn, SC 29644

WANTED:

General's uniforms, groupings and items for Officer's who served in any Tank, Armored, or Cavalry units. Also looking for any items for females in uniform, both civilian and military types.

AAF Tank Museum
434 836 5323
www.aaftankmuseum.com
aaftank@gamewood.net
3401 US Hwy 29
Danville, Virginia 24540

FOR SALE OR TRADE:

111th Infantry Regiment insignia and 3d Cavalry Regiment (3rd ACR) all periods. Am looking for small size WWII U. S. Army Service Forces insignia. Please send SASE for list or telephone.

Don Brett
(941)807 3176.
1687 Floyd Street
Sarasota, FL 34239.

NOTE: This is a new address and telephone number

WANTED:

Any information on **Sgt. Robert John Kowall**, Company F, 101st, US Engineers of Roxbury/ Allston, Mass. Info on his role (beyond his stint in the French Air Corps) in World War One, any photos, uniforms, when and where he died, etc.

I am still actively seeking state of **Georgia related military items**, photographs, uniforms, insignia, and paper ephemera 1895 1920 era. I have already had several good leads, so thanks to those of you who have helped!

Todd Womack
(912)383 6470
twomack@coffee.k12.ga.us
314 East Leon St.
Douglas, GA. 31533



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Bob Rodgers @ Robert@worlddaggers.com

WANTED:

WW1 Officers collar brass from 353rd Infantry, either a single to match the one shown below, or a matching pair.



FOR SALE:

Thinning my collection of post WW2 Army general's fatigues, mostly BGs and MGs, but with a few LTGs (Sorry, no VN stuff.). All come with bio and photo, most with trousers, some with caps. Reasonable prices. Scans available.

Ca. 1980 Army flight suit attributed to MG John K. Singlaub. He was WW2 OSS operative and heavily involved in Spec Ops in VN. Fired by Jimmy Carter for outspoken remarks on Korean defense. Bestselling author who has frequently been interviewed on History Channel. Comes with bio and copy of autographed photo. EXC. \$250.00

RESEARCH SERVICE AVAILABLE

I will still research the Regular Army officer owners of uniforms in your collection. I also recently added the 1939 and 1957 National Guard Officers Registers to my resources. (Sorry, still can't do reservists.) I have had many satisfied customers in the past. If I am not successful, there is no charge!

Gil Sanow II
(440)365 5321
gasanowii@aol.com
P.O. Box 1876
Elyria, OH 44036 1876

WANTED:

ID tags worn in Gulf War II. Also want small New Testament currently used by the military.

Paul F. Braddock
108 Callender Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Winter Special:

- WW1 Matched pair of 2nd Pattern Tank Officer's Collar Insignia, Exc, the pair \$225.
- 1903 Rimless Eagle Snap Cavalry Cartridge belt. VG Condition. \$175. Vietnam War Rubberized Canvas Body Bag, Mint Cond, Rare, \$125.
- Civil War US Cavalry Shell Jacket with markings, Exc Cond. \$3250.
- M1890 US Indian Scout Dress Helmet with red/white plume and cord set. Exc. \$3500.
- M1907 Original "USS" collar disc, Exc, Xmas Special. \$225.
- A 2 Jacket, plain, no insignia removed. Nice Cond. \$850.
- Siberian issue Muskrat Cap with unit markings within from 31st Infantry. VG \$125
- Repro Normandy Combat Invasion Vest. Exact Copy \$325.
- WW2 M 1 helmet Liner with khaki HBT suspension. Exc. \$45.00

We have 1000 of items. Please send \$5.00 for our catalog No. 71. Visa/MC Accepted. Please add for shipping. Thanks.

Hayes Otoupalik
406 549 4817
FAX 406 543 0040
hayesotoupalik@aol.com
14000 Hwy 93 North Missoula,
Montana 59808

WANTED:

Purple Hearts for WW1 vets and a documented U.S. Boxer Rebellion Medal

Richard A. Buehner
(440) 835 0983

WANTED:

Am looking for a nice example of a Pennsylvania volunteer Infantry or Artillery Spanish American War uniform — the khaki one with branch colored epaulets and cuffs. Also officer's M 1892 coat.

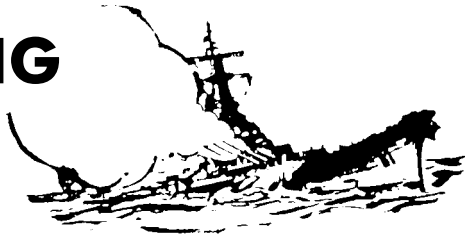
Charles Oellig
6227 Elmer Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17112

FOR SALE:

WW2 collector is selling large collection of US military hats & uniforms from WW1 thru to Korea, officer & EM, male & female. Send for list(one stamp).

Jerry Keohane
716 877 1439
16 St.Margarets Ct.
Buffalo, NY 14216

PARTING SHOTS



Well, there we go. A bit of this and a bit of that. Unfortunately it looks like we may have a bit of nothing if we don't get some articles in. What a shame! Our next issue marks the beginning of our 28th year! The Editor is working on a short article (IF he can get the uniform restored) and Emmett Fox has another interesting uniform to show off, but beyond that we do not have much in the new article hopper.

The ad deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2007 by US Mule, the 10th by e mail. We are ready for articles ANY TIME! Do you have an idea? Let's talk!

There are always several AAMUCers who send us Christmas cards and we want to say thanx in advance. **MERRRRRRY CHRISTMAS! and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

RE-UP!

??

If the number at the left corresponds to the number on your address label, you're due to renew your AAMUC membership NOW.

Please send \$20.00 (U.S./Canada) or \$25.00 (overseas) to the Adjutant to renew your membership. Do it now so you don't forget.

Russ Wilson
A.A.M.U.C. Adjutant
6021 45th Ave. Ct. E.
Tacoma WA 98443

You can call him at 253 922 0747
or E-mail him at Russmilitaria@juno.com



This organization is dedicated to the study and preservation of military history in the Americas. Its objectives are to promote and advance the research of military history and traditions through publications, exhibits and meetings. Members include anyone interested in military history and others such as historians, collectors, writers, artists, and those involved in living history.

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Phone: 508-845-9229

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His helmet is in pretty good shape for what it has been through. It is a standard model 1917, and appears to have been repainted. Much of the rough finish has been worn off and the pattern 1916 enlisted mans EGA was obviously on the helmet when it was repainted. His name appears in two places, on the inside of the strap and on the leather side of the liner.



I have also included a shot of his Model 1917 Smith & Wesson revolver, holster and clip pouch. He also had a Model 1911 Colt Automatic, serial number 210252. This serial number appears on a "memorandum receipt" dated October 16, 1917, of equipment issued to 2d Lt WS Fant. This pistol was taken by a relative and sold. We are now actively searching for this .45. It is thought by the family that he wore both the pistol and revolver while in the field.



A war trophy sent home during the war. This German helmet has the address postcard on the top and inside of the helmet, including the stamp. The way he sent it to his parents.

Walter S. Fant came home to Texas and worked in a bank. He was killed in an automobile accident.

Editor's Note: Mr. Fox also sent along .jpgs of many of the documents he mentions above and some interesting photostoo. However it does not appear that we can reproduce them all that well , so we have not attempted to do so.

★★★

"The Little Tramp" (Charlie Chaplin) Goes to War

Someone sent the Editor the postcard copied here long ago. Clearly it is a gag shot, perhaps from an old silent movie. Some of the items he wears/carried are certainly not GI issue, but some is, though it appears to be obsolete. Would anyone care to analyze these items and report which is what?



★★★