

# Feature



## WWII U.S. Army Officers' Uniforms Byron Connell

*U.S. Army officers' uniforms during World War II had a tremendous range of variations, a serious challenge for historical costumers. Here is what you need to know to assemble one from purchased parts or make your own.*

During the Second World War, the U.S. Army wore uniforms that had been introduced in 1926 and that continued to be worn, with some modifications, until 1961, when they were replaced by "Army Green" uniforms -- a total of 35 years. This article describe a male officer's uniforms between 1941 and 1945, with some reference to earlier and post-war changes.

On June 20, 1941, the U.S. Army was divided between the Army and the Army Air Force, which had its own chief of staff. The Army consisted of eight Arms: Armored Force, Coast Artillery, Field Artillery, Cavalry, Engineers, Infantry, Signal Corps, and Tank Destroyer Force. The Army

Air Force did not have separate branches. In addition, there were 18 Services that served both the Army Air Force and the rest of the Army.

Unlike the British Army and other Allied or Axis armies, the U.S. Army did not have only one uniform for its enlisted men and officers. In 1941, it had nine, in an effort to provide appropriate dress for different climates, conditions, and duties:

1. Wool service uniform with "coat" (i.e., jacket) (known as the "Class A" uniform)
2. Wool service uniform with olive-drab shirt and without coat (Class B)
3. Cotton service uniform with cotton or wool olive-drab shirt (Class C)
4. Fatigue uniform of olive-drab herringbone twill
5. Full dress uniform



U.S. Army Uniforms, 1941 (not related to the list above).

6. Blue dress uniform
7. White dress uniform
8. Blue mess uniform
9. White mess uniform

With the U.S. entry into the war, the dress and mess uniforms were discontinued for the duration. This article will not deal with them or the fatigue uniform.

Every officer was expected to have the Class A uniform. Owning the others depended on station and duty. Uniforms were modified for use in the field.

Generally similar in design and cut, uniforms for officers and enlisted men differed markedly in color as well as decoration. The Army described everything simply as "olive-drab" until 1944, when it assigned numbers to the different olive-drab shades. However, the shades varied widely, leaving officers with greener jackets and trousers than enlisted men, or with "light drab" trousers commonly called "pinks" that varied from pinkish tan through mauve to light gray in privately purchased uniforms.

(Cards with the precise colors, including dye information, are available from The Color Association of the

United States, 24 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016, USA.)

The most often depicted Class A uniform combined the olive drab (“dark” i.e., green) coat with the pink drab trousers in a style called “pinks and greens.”

We will look at an officer’s uniform “from the skin out.”

### **Underwear**

Sources tend to be reticent about officers’ underwear. That prescribed for enlisted men, however, was:

With Class A or Class B uniform:

- olive drab wool T-shirt (long-sleeved for winter wear)
- olive drab wool underpants (boxers)
- olive drab light wool socks

With Class C uniform:

- white cotton short-sleeved T-shirt
- white cotton underpants (boxers)
- khaki (i.e., tan) cotton socks

I presume that officers’ underwear was similar.

### **Shirt**

An officer had a choice of three shirts.

1. White cotton, until 1938. Beginning in 1938, a khaki (i. e., light tan) (#1 after March 30, 1944) cotton shirt. Buttoned up rather than the earlier pullover placket-style shirt, it had an attached collar, six or seven buttons (according to length), single buttons at the cuffs,

shoulder straps let in at the shoulder seam and buttoned at the collar end, and two breast patch pockets with buttoned flap. The flaps were straight across with the bottom corners clipped at 45 degree angles.

The shoulder strap was about 2 inches at the shoulder, drawn to a 1¼ inch rounded point at the collar end. The shoulder end was cross-stitched to the shoulder for two inches. All buttons were khaki, in a shade slightly darker than the fabric. Initially, the shirts were made of 8.2 ounce cotton; however, 6-ounce was introduced in 1941 and 5-ounce in early 1945.

This shirt would be worn with either Class A or Class C uniforms. (Stateside in 1941, some officers could be seen still wearing the old white shirt.)

2. Worsted wool, identical in style to the khaki cotton shirt, dark olive drab (#51 after March 30, 1944), the same shade as the coat, drab (light) (#54) (pink), or khaki (#1), worn with either the Class A or Class C uniform.

When worn with the trousers of a class A uniform but without the jacket, this was the Class B uniform.

3. Flannel, olive drab (dark) (#50), identical in style to the wool shirt but made of a 40 percent wool and 60 percent cotton blend.

When worn with the trousers of a Class A uniform but without the jacket, this also was the Class B uniform.

In 1949, the wartime khaki shirt was replaced by a khaki (#1) shirt in 4-ounce cotton broadcloth or a cotton/Dacron blend without shoulder straps and with only one breast pocket, on the left. It was developed specifically to be worn under the service dress uniform coat. It continued in use until Army Green replaced olive drab uniforms.



Two officers of the 86th Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, 8 August 1945. “Pink” or chocolate OD shirt for winter and kaki shirt for summer.

### **Trousers**

Officers were required to possess dark olive drab (#51) wool trousers. These were worn with Class A and Class B uniform and were required to be worn in the field. On other occasions, they could wear drab (#54) (pink) wool trousers. Either was of 18 ounce wool serge. In addition to wool serge, privately purchased trousers could be made of worsted baratheia, elastique, or whipcord, with fabric weights varying from 14½ to 26

ounce. Barathea is a hopsack twill weave that has a lightly ribbed or pebbled weave often used for men's evening wear; elastique is similar to cavalry twill.

The trousers had plain, unpleated fronts and plain cuffs (without turn-ups), two rear hip pockets, two side slash pockets, a watch pocket to the front of the right hip, belt loops, and a buttoned fly. They were lined with white cotton duck. The March 30, 1944, amendment to regulations specified that the trousers had wide belt loops and that the hip pockets had buttoned flaps.



Gen. Montgomery is bid farewell by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. (28 Jul 43). Patton appears to be in Class B uniform with breeches and lace-up-the-front boots replacing trousers and shoes.

For summer, tropical, or garrison wear, an officer could wear khaki (#1) wool gabardine or cotton twill trousers otherwise identical to the olive drab or pink trousers (Class C).

*Breeches.* The March 1944 regulations also addressed breeches, which were worn by mounted officers in the cavalry or field artillery. They were to match the service coat in color (#51) and to be made of 14½ to 26 ounce wool serge, barathea, elastique, or whipcord. They were to be cut,

*“snug at the waist, top about 2 inches above hip bone, full in the seat and loose in the thigh, with sufficient length from waist to knee to permit wearer to assume a squatting position without binding at the seat or knee, breeches to present an appearance of fullness when standing; cut tight for about 3 inches immediately below the knee and easy for the balance of the length so as not to bind the muscles of the calf. To have strapping of the same material or buckskin of similar color on the inside of the leg at the knee, extending to a little below the top of the boot and from 6 to 8 inches above the knee.”*

Breeches also were made in light drab (#54) (pink).

*Belt for Trousers or Breeches.* The belt used with all trousers was made of khaki (#1) or olive drab (#51) webbing, 1¼ inches in width, with a brass tip and a detachable polished brass solid, plain rectangular buckle.

## Footwear

Russet (reddish) brown leather laced, ankle high shoes were worn with all uniforms. Typically, they had seven rows of lacing eyelets. Stateside, the shoes were made smooth side out, with a toe cap and either a black rubber sole and heel or a leather sole and black rubber heel. Overseas, the shoes were made rough side out, lacked a toe cap, and had only the black rubber sole and heel that, for added strength, had thin white cords embedded.



Laced U.S. Army service shoes, 1945.

Breeches called for russet brown tall boots (image far left).

## Necktie

Until 1940, a plain black silk tie, “without stripe or figure” according to regulations, was worn with Class A and Class B uniforms. In 1940, it was changed to black wool, in November 1941 to either black or khaki, and in September 1943, to khaki #5 cotton mohair. The khaki cotton tie was worn with Class C dress beginning in

1939. Older ties continued to be worn until stocks were exhausted, so officers could be seen wearing either black or khaki ties during the War.

In 1948, a dark olive drab (#51) cotton mohair tie replaced the khaki one for Class A and B uniforms. In turn, it was replaced in May 1957 by the return of plain black, in tropical worsted or similar woven fabric. All personnel wore the tie tucked into the shirt, between the third and fourth buttons.



Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., studying a map. Note the method of tucking the tie into the shirt.

## Coat

In the 1920s, the Army Air Corps advocated for replacing the World War I era uniform coat, which had a closed, standing collar, with a less restrictive coat with an open collar. It also sought to replace the leather “Sam Browne” waist- and cross-belt with a fabric waist-belt. These changes were

approved for Air Corps personnel in 1925. The following year, the open-collared coat was approved for the rest of the Army.

*Body of the Coat.* In the November 10, 1941, regulations, an officer’s Class A coat was identical in style and cut to that for enlisted men, with one exception (described below).

The coat was made from 18-ounce wool serge dark olive drab cloth (#51). It was single-breasted with a notched collar and lapel, cut “to fit easy over the chest and shoulder and to be fitted slightly at the waist to conform to the [wearer’s] figure so as to prevent wrinkling or rolling under the leather belt when worn,” according to the regulations. The back was to have two side pleats “not less than 3 inches in depth at shoulder and to extend from shoulder seam where it joins the armhole seam to waistline.” The coat was to be buttoned with four large regulation coat buttons (described below), equally spaced. The lapels were to cross “approximately 1¾ inches above the top button.” The sleeves had plain cuffs, without buttons.

The coat’s skirt was,

*“to be full, with a slight flare, and to extend 1 to 2 inches below the crotch, according to the height of the wearer [i.e., about to the middle of the hand when the arm falls naturally to the side], with a slit in the back extending from the waistline to the bottom of the skirt, following the back seam with an underlap of approximately 2½ inches. The front overlapping left edge*



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek with Gen. I. M. Stilwell. Stilwell is in Class A uniform with cloth belt on the service coat. He is wearing a dark tie.

*of coat to be cut with a pronounced flare to the right from the bottom button to the bottom of the skirt, so as to appear straight from the lapel opening to the bottom of the coat and to remain overlapped not less than 4 inches when in a standing position, without the use of hooks and eyes, the fullness necessary to accomplish this result being over the hips.”*

The lower pockets were slash pockets, “hung inside the body of the skirt” and “to be attached to the body of the skirt only at the mouth.” They were covered by straight flaps, the tops of which were to be slightly below the waistline, buttoned at the center with a small regulation button. This treatment of the lower pockets was the only design difference from the enlisted man’s coat, which had patch pockets on the skirt in place of the officer’s slit pockets.

*Shoulder Straps.* The coat had shoulder straps, of the same material as the body of

the coat, “let in at the sleeve head seam and reaching to approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch beneath the collar, buttoning at the collar edge with a small regulation coat button.” The strap was to be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the shoulder end, tapering to a rounded point about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at the collar. At the shoulder the strap was cross-stitched down for a distance of about two inches.

*Coat Belt.* For all arms and services except the Army Air Force, the coat had a metal hook let in to each side seam at the waistline to support the officer’s leather “Sam Browne” belt. (A “Sam Browne” belt is a leather sword belt with a supporting cross strap.

Named for its inventor, a British general who had lost an arm, it enabled the wearer to draw a sword with only one hand.) The hook was to be of the same metal as the belt hardware. The belt was about two inches wide. It and the cross-belt were of russet leather. The belt closed with a brass rectangular buckle with two tongues. The cross belt was attached to the belt at the left front, crossed over the chest and right shoulder (beneath that shoulder strap) and fastened at the left rear of the belt. The cross-belt had a brass single-tongued buckle at about the center front of the coat to adjust its length (about at the coat’s top button).

Army Air Force officers’ coats replaced the leather belt and cross-belt with a cloth belt made of the same material as the coat, about two inches wide, sewn down along the waistline with the coat’s bottom button



Gen. Douglas MacArthur (1935) wearing a white shirt and black tie (standard for Class A uniforms until 1938). His breast pockets are not pleated. Cross strap of Sam Browne belt is highly polished. Chevrons on sleeve are for service in the Great War.

slightly below the sewn-on belt. The belt closed in front with a smooth brass rectangular tongueless buckle.

In November 1942, the Air Force style cloth belt was authorized for officers of all arms and services. However, an officer could continue to wear the leather belt and cross-belt until June 1943, at which point the cloth belt became mandatory.

*Commissioned Officer’s Braid.* Commissioned officers wore a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide band of drab (#53) braid on each sleeve, three inches from the end of the sleeve on the service coat, “Ike jacket,” flight jacket, and

summer coat (see below). Warrant officers did not wear this braid. However, warrant officers who served in the First World War wore a similar band of forest green braid.

*Buttons.* Except for officers of the Corps of Engineers, buttons were brass, slightly convex, carrying the Army insignia of an eagle with spread wings, with a shield on its chest. The shield has a plain upper quarter; the lower three-quarters have 13 vertical stripes. The eagle holds four arrows in its left talon and a sprig of laurel in its right. The eagle’s head is turned to the right and in its beak it carries a banner that spreads above the wings. A 13-star glory surrounded by a round wreath of clouds is above the eagle’s head. The Engineers Corps had its own buttons, which are not described in this article.

*1944 Modifications.* The March 30, 1944, amendment removed the pleats from the back of the coat, which now was to be plain. It replaced the fourth (bottom) brass button on the front of the coat with a four-hole 36-ligne button of bone, plastic, or other suitable material of a color closely approximating that of the coat,” which was to be hidden by the belt.

It specified the belt as being  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in width with a mitered end. The buckle continued to be a tongueless brass rectangle; however, its corners now were rounded and it had raised polished rims and “horizontally lined background of gold colored metal  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in width.”



In this post-war photo (note the black tie), Gen. Omar Bradley is wearing the dark olive drab service coat as modified by the 1944 regulations.

The belt could be either fully detachable or “sewn down around the waistline to a point approximately 2½ inches from the front edge of the coat on each side.” With a detachable belt, two ¼ inch wide belt loops will be placed in the coat’s side seams:

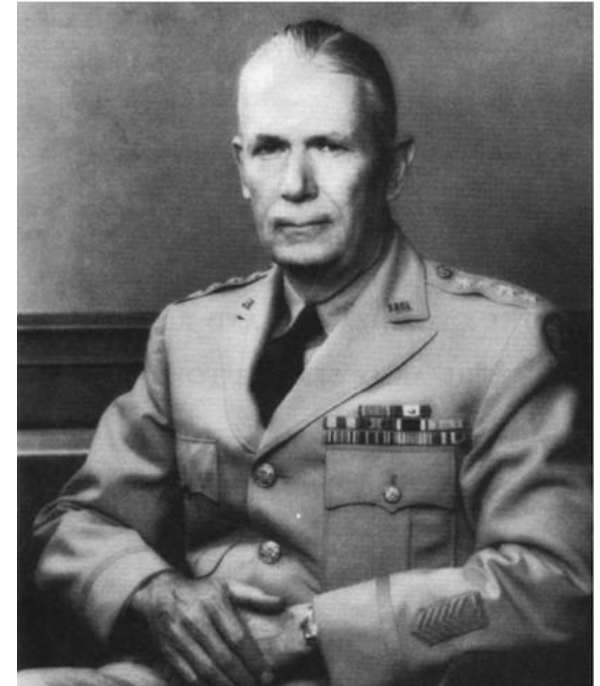
*“The belt will cover the horizontal seam at the waistline and the buckle will be centered over the bottom button of the coat [i.e., the 36-ligne one] when buttoned. The mitered end of the belt will pass through the buckle to the left, extend not more than 3 inches beyond the buckle, and may be held*

*in place by a cloth keeper 9/16-inch in width.”*

**Summer Coat.** The September 4, 1942, amendment to regulations authorized a coat for summer use that was somewhat different in design and cut from the olive drab service coat. It would be worn with the khaki (#1) gabardine trousers. The summer coat was a “single-breasted semiformal-fitting sack coat,” of khaki (#1) gabardine, “extending to the crotch, with no pronounced flare or waistline seams.”

Commissioned officers and qualified warrant officers wore the same braid as on the olive drab coat. The summer coat did not include a belt and the bottom button continued to be brass. Unlike the olive drab coat, all buttons were to be removable.

**M1944 “Ike Jacket.”** The year 1944 also saw introduction of a new waist-length coat. Known as the M1944, it was popularly called the “Eisenhower Jacket” or “Ike Jacket,” because General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the European Theater’s Supreme Allied Commander, admired the British Army’s battledress jacket and, in 1943, pressed for introduction of an improved version for both field and garrison



Gen Brehon Somervell wears the summer uniform in khaki gabardine. Note scalloped flaps and the pleats of the chest pockets and the black tie. Chevrons on sleeve denote World War I service.

use. In practice the Ike jacket was largely reserved for garrison, dress, or walking-out.

### **Headgear**

Headgear included caps, hats, and helmets. Some headgear could be worn by officers either overseas or stateside and either in the garrison or in the field. Other headgear could be worn only in the field, only stateside, or both.

**Service Cap:** Intended to be worn either overseas or stateside, primarily in garrison, the service cap was circular, with a band of dark olive drab (#51) braid, about 1 7/8 inches wide, around the entire cap.

Above that band was a dark olive drab wool serge or elastique crown of about 11¼ inches from front to back by 10½ inches from side to side for a size 7 1/8 cap. The cap had “two eyelets ½ inch from the welt seam and about ¾ inch on each side of side seam of quarters.” The front of the crown was stiffened with springs; the rear was without stiffening. The top was stiffened at its rim with a flat grommet, 3/16 inch wide, leaving the top “to be slack.”



Captain E. H. Lowe (left) in Class A service coat (1943) Service cap has a head strap at the back as well as a chin strap at the front. Photo shows slight bulge in soft top of the cap and the angle of the peak.

The cap had a russet leather visor, about 2 3/16 inches deep, sloped about 55 degrees from the vertical. It was lined with “green hatters’ leather.” Above the peak was a ¾ inch wide russet leather chinstrap, 9½ inches long, fastened to the cap with small regulation cap buttons at the ends of the visor.

A khaki (#1) cap cover could be placed over the olive drab top for wear with the summer or Class C uniforms.

For officers in the Army Air Force, the “front spring stiffening may be omitted and the grommet may be removed.” The purpose was to permit air crew to wear radio or intercom headsets over the cap; however, the style became known as the “50-mission crush.” (An aircrew’s tour of duty was 25 missions, so a 50-mission crush looks like a cap worn by an officer at the end of a second, voluntary, tour. Statistically, a 25-mission tour was estimated as providing a 50 percent chance of survival.)



In 1951, this cap was replaced by a new service cap with a dark brown (#62) fur felt crown, a soft roll grommet, a light drab (#53) basket-weave braid, a russet visor slanted 45 degrees, and matching 5/8 inch wide russet leather chin strap (in front) and buckled head strap (to the rear). Other features of the cap remained unchanged. This cap remained in use until Army Green replaced olive drab.

*Garrison or “Overseas” Cap.*  
Reintroduced in 1925 for use by Army Air Corps pilots and for armored and mechanized cavalry units in 1933, by wartime, the garrison cap was authorized for wear by all officers. It was intended for use in the field (despite its name). The cap was a

flat fore-and-aft envelope with a crown with an indented fore-and-aft fold and a curtain with a diagonal flap on the left, without a visor. It was made in dark olive drab (#51) for use with the service uniform and in khaki (#1) cotton mohair for use with the summer or Class C uniforms.

The corners of the crown were rounded slightly. The folds of the curtain and flap were edged with piping, which was gold for general officers, gold and black intermixed for other commissioned officers, and silver and black intermixed for warrant officers.

Until August 25, 1942, the same regimental badge worn on the shoulder straps was worn on the left front curtain, except by officers in the Army Air Force, who wore a miniature version of the service



Gen. Omar Bradley and parachute officers are in Class A uniforms with pink trousers and garrison caps instead of the service caps.

cap insignia there; on that date, these insignia were replaced by rank insignia.

*Service Hat.* Still in use in 1941 for use in the field, stateside only, was the Model 1911 campaign hat from the First World War uniform. It was a “Montana peak” hat (like Smoky the Bear’s), similar to those used today by male Army drill



instructors. The hat was of “beaver color” felt, with a crown 5¼ inches tall, for a size 7 1/8 hat, and a three-inch brim, with either three or five rows of stitching around the brim. The hat had the peaks facing directly fore-and-aft; each had a grommeted ventilation hole. An officer’s hat had a 5/8 inch russet leather chin strap attached by two grommeted holes toward the bottom of each side peak. Stateside, officers of armored and airborne units wore a garrison cap in the field, not the campaign hat.

### **Outerwear**

An officer’s outerwear included an overcoat, a short overcoat, and a raincoat.

*Overcoat.* The overcoat (greatcoat) was intended for either dress or field wear. In dark olive drab (#51) wool, it was a,

*“double-breasted ulster with convertible style roll collar and notch lapel, lining of same color as ulster; buttoned down the front with a double row of large regulation*

*overcoat buttons [plain bone], three on each side below the roll of the lapel with the top buttons approximately 6½ to 7 inches apart; a button placed under the right collar and a buttonhole at the top of each lapel, one for use when the collar is converted [i.e., closed across] and the other for appearance; the lining slit and fastened to pocket openings to allow the hand to go through to pocket of breeches or trousers; slit closed with a small [plain bone] button and buttonhole. Back to be plaited [pleated] and to have back straps [i.e., cloth belt] let into the side seam at the waistline, fastened together with two large regulation buttons [i.e., like those on the front of the coat] and buttonholes. Skirt not longer than 10 inches or shorter than 3 inches below the knee; slit at the back extending from the bottom of the back strap [i.e., belt] to bottom of skirt and closing with small concealed buttons and buttonholes. The front corners [of the skirt] to be provided with buttons and buttonholes so that the corners may be turned back to facilitate marching [like in the French army].“*

The long overcoat had two “outside welted pockets, one on each side, with vertical openings; the center of pocket about opposite lower button and placed on a line with front seam of sleeve.” It had shoulder straps identical in size and shape to those on the service coat, on which officers wore their rank insignia. Cuffs were plain and did not include the olive drab braid that appeared on the service coat to distinguish commissioned officers. However, general officers had a double row of black braid,

“the lower band to be 1¼ inches in width and about 2½ inches from the lower edge of the sleeve, the other to be ½ inch in width and 1½ inches above the lower band.” As noted above, officers wore their shoulder patch on the left shoulder of this overcoat.

The September 4, 1942, amendment to regulations added “a 36-ligne button placed inside the top left large regulation front button for use in holding right front fly in



Bazooka commander in a overcoat of wool with roll collar and brass buttons, 1945.

place.” In 1946, a new overcoat replaced the one worn during the War.

Use of the long overcoat in the field was unpopular because it became heavy when wet; the March 31, 1944, amendment supplied a long field coat to replace it in the field.

*Short Overcoat.* In dark olive drab (#51) wool, the short overcoat was a “double-breasted coat, lined or unlined, with a shawl roll collar approximately 5 inches in width, buttoned down the front with a double row of large regulation [plain bone] overcoat buttons, three on each side below the roll of collar with additional buttons or



Maj. Thomas M. Williams, Cmdr. 2018th Prisoner of War Detachment, wearing Short Officer's M-1926 overcoat, an uncommon coat. Feb 1945.

loops so that the coat can be buttoned to the neck. A detachable belt of the same material as coat, held in place with loops sewed at side seams.” It had two plain bone buttons, side by side. The skirt extended to “6 inches

above the knee. Slit in the back extending about 15 inches from the bottom.”

The coat had two flapped outside patch pockets, one on each side, with the top of the flap about level with the lowest button. Shoulder straps were of the same shape as those on the service coat; rank insignia were worn on them. Like the overcoat, cuffs were plain. General officers wore the same braid as on the overcoat. Unlike the overcoat, shoulder patches were not worn on this coat.

The short overcoat was authorized for use either in garrison or in the field. However, officers could not wear it in formation with enlisted men wearing the (long) overcoat.

On April 3, 1943, the short overcoat was replaced by a new pattern. Very similar to the original, the new short overcoat had a notched collar and lacked a belt. Shoulder patches were authorized for wear with the April 1943 short overcoat.

*Raincoat.* Described merely as a “waterproof coat of commercial pattern, with shoulder loops [straps], as nearly as possible olive-drab color,” this actually was a belted trench coat that officers had to purchase privately. The March 31, 1944, amendment specified the color as olive drab (#7). Normally, the raincoat was double-breasted, with two rows of three or four buttons each and one just below the collar to close the coat top, and had slit side pockets and a single vent at the back of the skirt. Rank badges were worn on the shoulder straps. No other insignia were worn.

## Gloves

For dress use, officers wore gloves of light tan chamois leather or chamois color material or, for more formal occasions, white cotton or lisle gloves, buttoned at the wrist. For service use they wore light russet leather gloves, lined or unlined, with a snap or buckle fastener at the wrist, or olive drab knit wool gloves.

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LtGen. Omar Bradley and MGen J. Lawton Collins at Cherbourg, June 1944. Note goggles, and M1911 pistol in a shoulder holster worn outside the raincoat.

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U.S. Army Center of Military History: [www.history.army.mil/](http://www.history.army.mil/)

**Byron Connell** a long-time SF fan, is a historian by training. He likes to help at masquerades rather than entering them – entering once a decade is about right! However, since being part of the Torcon best-in-show entry, when he does enter, he does so in the Master division. Byron has run masquerades at several Costume-Cons and Philcons, and directed the Anticipation masquerade. He is a member of the Sick Pups (the New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild), the SLUTs, (St. Louis Ubiquitous Tailoring Society), and the Armed Costumers' Guild; that makes him an Armed SLUT Puppy! Byron is a past President of the International Costumers' Guild, which honored him with its [1996 Lifetime Achievement Award](#). He likes hard SF, alternate history, alternate worlds, and fantasy (not necessarily in that order).

## Editors Note

Byron Connell will continue his coverage of WWII U.S. Army officers' uniforms with articles in upcoming issues of VC on ranks and insignias, and on field uniforms and accessories.