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U. S. Department of Labor
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Washington

55638/947-B
A&P

September 10, 1931.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 179

SUBJECT: UNIFORMS - BORDER PATROL.

General Order No. 42 and all supplements and amendments thereto are hereby rescinded.

It is hereby ordered that patrol inspectors of the Immigration Service wear uniforms while on duty, except when otherwise directed by competent authority, said uniforms to conform to the specifications herein prescribed. This order will not be compulsory as to temporary appointees or officers who have not completed their probationary periods of employment.

Uniforms may be purchased from any manufacturer, so long as they are made according to specifications.

Badges, cap insignia, collar discs, shoulder ornaments and buttons will be furnished by the bureau to the various patrol districts upon receipt of requests therefor. The badges and cap insignia will be numbered and all equipment must be strictly accounted for. In case of loss, duplicates will be supplied at the expense of the officer concerned, but no charge will be made for buttons.

Border Patrol officers, upon being transferred from one district to another, will take with them their official badges, uniform insignia, buttons and cap ornaments. When an officer leaves the service such articles, including the buttons, must be surrendered. Each district should arrange to keep a sufficient supply of such articles on hand to equip new appointees.

Rank and service stripes and stars will be furnished by the bureau upon receipt of request therefor.

MATERIAL

Winter uniform: Blouse and breeches, Mountain Clay Whipcord, 16 oz. in weight.
Summer uniform: Wool gabardine cloth, 13 oz. in weight.
Long overcoat: Mountain Clay Melton, 30 oz. in weight.
Short overcoat: Kersay, 26 oz. in weight.

COLOR

All garments to be forestry green.

STYLE OF BLOUSE

Single breasted sack; roll collar, four buttons; form fitting at the waist to accommodate Sam Brown belt; length to end of thumb, arms hanging down; vent in back.

Pockets: Two breast, patch, pointed flap and button; two lower pockets, patch, with pointed flap and button; patch pockets to be lined with government standard Silesia; one inside breast pocket of arill. Pocket buttons to be uniform vest size.

Sleeve facings: Cuff on outside of sleeves only to extend from seam to seam; blue cloth, 220 Warrenton; edges to be let into the seams; bottom edge turned under on top of and even with the edge of the cuff and not rolled under; pointed to center, and six inches deep from point to bottom edge and four inches deep on seams.

Shoulder straps: To be of same material as sleeve facings and to extend to edge of collar and be fastened with uniform vest size button and button hole at edge of collar.

Lining: Body of blouse to be lined with Venetian government standard.

Sleeve lining: To be of superior twill.

Stitching: Pockets and edges to be stitched double 3/8".

Button reinforcing: All buttons to be reinforced with 18-line buttons.

Under collar: Of cloth to match blouse.

STYLE OF BREECHES

United States Army breeches to be laced at the side, with 20 eyelets on each side, six eyelets to be 5/8" apart from tack, balance 1 1/4" apart. Strips on side seam of breeches to be 1" wide, same material as cuff on coat, and breeches to be fitted with 6 belt loops. All pockets to be of heavy drill, suspender buttons sewed inside of waist band. Two side pockets, two hip pockets with flaps and buttons.

STYLE OF LONG OVERCOAT

Double breasted; four leaf collar; four buttons on each side, top button to be under the collar; length of coat to extend to knee; vent in back.

Back belt: To be one piece; 2" wide; same material as coat; belt to be let in side seams without buttons.

Pockets: To be cut through; material of duck; must be finished to permit going through the coat to the blouse.

Sleeve facings: Cuff on outside of sleeves only to extend from seam to seam; blue cloth, 220 Warrenton; edges to be let into the seams; bottom edge turned under on top of and even with the edge of the cuff and not rolled under; pointed to center, and six inches deep from point to bottom edge and four inches deep on seams.

Shoulder straps: To be of same material as cuff and to extend from shoulder seam to collar seam and fasten with 22-line 4-hole button and buttonhole under collar.

Lining: Body of coat to be lined with standard Venetian heavy quilted.

Sleeve lining: To be iron yarn standard sample coat one vertical.

Stitching: All seams to be lapped and double stitched 1/2". Edges to be stitched 1/2".

Button reinforcing: All buttons to be reinforced with 18-line buttons.

Under collar: Of cloth to match coat.

Badge strap: Strap for official badge to be placed on left side, 2" above third button (counting from the bottom) and midway between said button and sleeve seam.

STYLE OF SHORT OVERCOAT

In addition to, or as an alternative to, the long overcoat for patrol officers, a short coat conforming to specifications for long overcoat with the following exceptions is prescribed:

Pockets: Horizontal side pockets, outside patch, with flaps (top level with hip), side pockets to be fitted with a slit to run parallel with flap of pocket and between flap and top of pocket to permit reaching revolver when worn beneath overcoat, this slit to be bound with tailor's tape; also two tabs on the inside of the coat fitted with buttons to fasten inside opening.

Length: Bottom of coat to reach about four inches above top of knee cap.

Lining: Body of coat to be lined with 5-ounce serge.

HEADGEAR

Except as otherwise specified herein, the type of headgear to be worn is within the discretion of the district officer in charge, and may be changed from time to time as weather conditions warrant, but the type of headgear adopted must be uniform throughout each patrol subdistrict.

Cap, winter: Pershing model, cord edge at top and band of cap to be same material and color as coat and sleeve facing. Cap to have two buttons at side; black silk cord; lined with sateen; celluloid tip; leather visor.

Cap, summer: Same as winter cap, except that band may be of open weave straw or cane, same color as blue band on winter cap.

Cap, fur: May be worn when climatic conditions warrant.

Hat: A hat may be worn, of so-called Stetson type but not necessarily Stetson make, approximating as nearly as possible the shade of the uniform, with medium crown indented to a peak with flat stiff rim; crown and rim of dimensions proportioned to the size of the wearer. With plain band, one inch wide, of leather corresponding in color to the belt, fastened by means of metal buckle on left side of the wearer -- gilt or oxidized silver as may be necessary to harmonize in color with other uniform details.

Helmet: A cork or pith helmet (forestry green) is authorized as optional with the wearer in Districts 10, 17, 22, 25 and 31 when weather conditions render it suitable in the discretion of the district officer in charge.

PUTTEES AND FIELD BOOTS

Puttees: To be leather strap leggings, of good quality, cut in one piece and moulded to conform to contour of leg. Color black on Northern border and cordovan on Southern border.

Field boots: In addition to puttees and shoes, field boots are prescribed as a part of the uniform for border patrol officers, color to be the same as puttees. The use of field boots is optional with the wearer.

SHIRT

Uniform shirt: To be of a color approximating as nearly as possible that of the uniform and a weight suitable to climatic conditions. Collars to be stiffened by stitching when desirable to insure a smart appearance. Shoulder straps of same material, with one button at the point of strap at the collar line, the entire strap to extend from the collar line to the sleeve seam. There will be no cuff facings on the shirt. The uniform shirt may be worn during the summer months without the blouse.

Dress shirt: Strictly plain white with white collar. The dress shirt may be worn by officers detailed to office or barracks, upon social occasions and when off duty, but never without the uniform blouse. Dress shirts will have no straps, ornaments or insignia.

Tie: A plain black tie, four-in-hand pattern, will be worn with uniform.

BELT

A leather belt, with cross strap, color black on the Northern border and cordovan on the Southern border, is prescribed as a part of the uniform of Border Patrol officers, said belt to be patterned along the lines of the so-called Sam Brown belt. Cross strap to be worn over left shoulder. The belt must be worn with uniform shirt when no blouse is worn.

Buckles and other metal trimmings of Sam Brown belt shall be finished in gilt or oxidized silver to correspond with the regulation buttons and insignia.

UNIFORM INSIGNIA

Oxidized silver for Patrol Inspectors and Senior Patrol Inspectors; gilt for Chief Patrol Inspectors and Assistant Superintendents.

Badge: Overcoat, to be placed on left side, 2" above third button (counting from the bottom) and midway between said button and sleeve seam; on blouse and uniform shirt, to be placed on left side pocket flap halfway between button and inner edge.

Cap insignia: To be worn on winter and summer cap, but not on fur cap, hat or helmet.

UNIFORM INSIGNIA - Cont'd.

Shoulder ornaments: To be worn 1/4" from bottom of shoulder strap, on blouse, or on shirt when no blouse is worn.

Collar discs: To be worn on blouse, or on shirt when no blouse is worn, placed 1/4" from point of collar, set vertical.

Buttons: Overcoat: Eight large.
Blouse: Four large - six vest size.

INSIGNIA OF RANK ON BLOUSE

Senior Patrol Inspector: One strip of silver bullion or silver braid three inches in length by 3/8 inch in width, to be worn on the blue facing of each sleeve of the uniform blouse, so placed that the ends extend to the edges of the facing, forming with the edges of the facing approximately an equilateral triangle with the point of the facing as the apex and the silver braid as the base.

Chief Patrol Inspector: One strip of gold bullion or gold braid on the blue facing of each sleeve, of the size prescribed for senior patrol inspectors, to be placed as indicated above.

Assistant Superintendent: Two strips of gold bullion or gold braid on the blue facing of each sleeve of the size prescribed for Chief Patrol Inspector, the first to be placed as indicated above, the second to be placed 3/8 inch below and parallel with it.

INSIGNIA OF RANK ON UNIFORM OVERCOATS

Senior Patrol Inspector: One strip or 3/16" black tubular mohair braid, placed 1/2" above and following contour of blue cuff facing on outer sleeve and forming a single loop above point of facing, outside dimensions of loop to be 3" in height and 1 7/8" at widest point.

Chief Patrol Inspector: Two strips of above-described braid, the second to be placed 1/4" above and following the first so as to form a second loop inside of first.

Assistant Superintendent: Three strips of above-described braid, the third to be placed 1/4" above and following the second so as to form a third loop inside of second.

Edges of braid to be let into sleeve seams.

INSIGNIA INDICATING LENGTH OF SERVICE

Two years' service: One bar of bullion or braid one inch in length, 1/4 inch in width, placed horizontally on the left blouse sleeve, centered 1/2 inch above the point of the blue cuff facing.

Four years' service: Two bars of bullion or braid of size indicated above, the second to be placed 1/4 inch above and parallel with the first.

Five years' service: Remove bars, substitute one five-pointed star of bullion, measuring 1/2 inch from point to point, placed center 1 3/4 inches above the point of blue trimming on left blouse sleeve.

Additional service: Will be indicated as outlined above - until ten years' service has been attained, whereupon the bars will be removed and another star added and so on. Stars will be centered and placed horizontally 1/2 inch apart.

Service insignia for Chief Patrol Inspectors and higher grades to be of gold. Service insignia for Senior Patrol Inspectors and lower grades to be of silver.

Service insignia will represent actual service only in the Border Patrol.

Harry E. Hull

HARRY E. HULL,
Commissioner General.

Approved:

Robe Carl White

ROBE CARL WHITE,
The Assistant Secretary.