

Name: _____



Understanding Military Ranks during the Civil War and Indian Wars

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Lieutenant-General | 10) Cadet |
| 2) Major General | 11) Sergeant-Major |
| 3) Brigadier General | 12) Quartermaster Sergeant |
| 4) Colonel | 13) Ordnance Sergeant |
| 5) Lieutenant Colonel | 14) First Sergeant |
| 6) Major | 15) Sergeant |
| 7) Captain | 16) Corporal |
| 8) First Lieutenant | 17) Private |
| 9) Second Lieutenant | |

1-10 are officer ranks and 11-17 are enlisted men ranks

To have an effective military, the Army set up a rank system everyone had to follow. This system is known as the “Chain of Command.” The Chain of Command is still used by the Army, though there are more ranks today. The rule is the higher the rank soldiers have, the more responsibilities and pay they get.

When studying the 19th century, you will occasionally see the term “brevet.” Brevet means they are decorated with the rank above them and have the duties above them without the extra pay. Brevet rank was awarded substantially for bravery in battle. Officers’ carried their rank proudly after the Civil War and while it had no direct bearing/effect on officer-to-officer commands, it did get socially awkward and confusing for some when two captains would greet each other, “Good morning Colonel,” and “Good morning Major.”

Another term is fraternization. Fraternization means to have a personal relationship with anyone who is of a different rank and/or position. An officer being dear friends with a private would not be tolerated. Even if outside of the Army anyone was friends, the relationship had to be dissolved as these friendships could create a conflict of interest. Unfair treatment among the ranks could lead to mutiny and disobedience.

Each rank of an enlisted soldier would be the color of the unit they were in

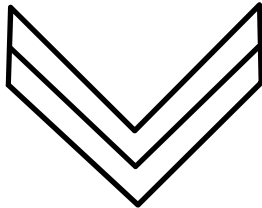
RED = Artillery

BLUE = Infantry (Infantry blue stripes changed to white in the late 1880’s)

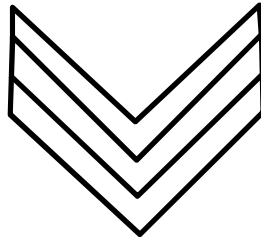
YELLOW = Cavalry

On the page below you can see the ranks each soldier would wear. Enlisted men wore their ranks on their upper arm. Officers wore their ranks on the top of their shoulders

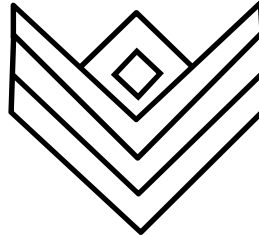
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Corporal



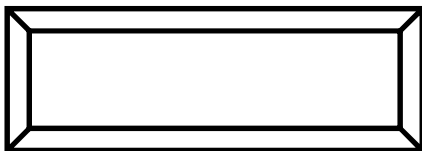
Sergeant



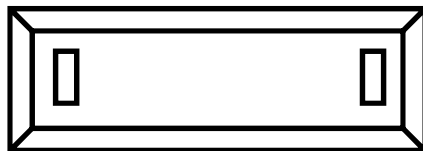
First Sergeant



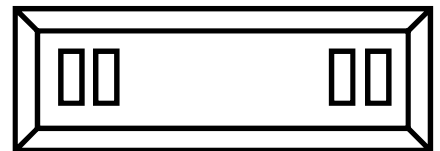
Sergeant Major



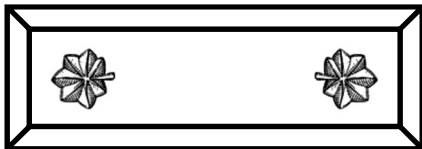
Second Lieutenant



First Lieutenant



Captain



Major (Gold)



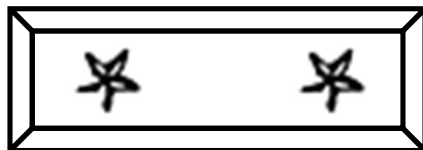
Lieutenant Colonel (Silver)



Colonel



Brigadier General



Major General



Lieutenant General