

## World War I Armbands Used by Enlisted Men

On November 11, 1917, well before the United States had significant forces in France, General Pershing had the AEF establish several 1-1/2 inches wide armband. These were made from a heavy canvas like material that fastened with a distinctive two-prong metal buckle. Differentiation among these armbands was, with one exception, made solely on color. A set of these armbands is shown.



Soldiers wore these on the left forearm, except for headquarters orderlies who had their on the left upper arm. The purpose was to allow these soldiers to move around on the battlefield and not be mistaken for deserters or malingerers.

Color	Duty
Green	Guides and Scouts
Red	Orderlies and Messengers (Runners)
Blue	Agents and Signalmen
Yellow	Carrying Parties (munitions, material, food, water)
White	Trench Cleaners
Khaki with SALVAGE in red letters	Salvage Party members

In addition to the above armbands, the same order directed that men carrying wire cutters wear a piece of white tape tied to the right shoulder.

The armband for Military Police at this time was of blue denim with the MP letters outlined in white.

