

Officers' 1936 Dress Blue Uniform Detachable Shoulder Loops

The army suspended use of dress blue uniforms at the start of World War I and it was October 1936 before the War Department reintroduced dress blue uniforms. The 1936 officers' coats were designed to adapt to many circumstances.

For dress wear, the lowest status that rated the new uniform, officers were to have on the shoulder, stiff, detachable branch-colored shoulder loops 2-1/4 inches wide. For full dress and special full dress, the other two uniform categories, gold cord shoulder knots of the 1902 pattern replaced the shoulder loops. The War Department modified the new blue uniform in January 1937, discarding the newly prescribed hard shoulder loops and replacing them with the traditional shoulder straps of the type used before and since.



Since the stiff shoulder loops only lasted for 3 months not many officers ever owned them. An officer would have had to be rather quick to order the new blue uniform with the shoulder loops before they became obsolete. A set of these very short lived stiff shoulder loops is shown.

Each loop is 2-1/4 inches wide at the base, has a screw-back Engineer button, and is made of red wool with a white wool border. The October 1936 prescribing circular calls for rank insignia to

go on the end of the loop. The loops shown, made by N. S. Meyer, do not have any evidence of ever having any insignia attached. Perhaps the officer ordered the new uniform late in the fall of 1936 and the N. S. Myer Company intended for soldiers to add metal rank insignia. By the time the uniform arrived, the army had replaced the loops with shoulder straps.