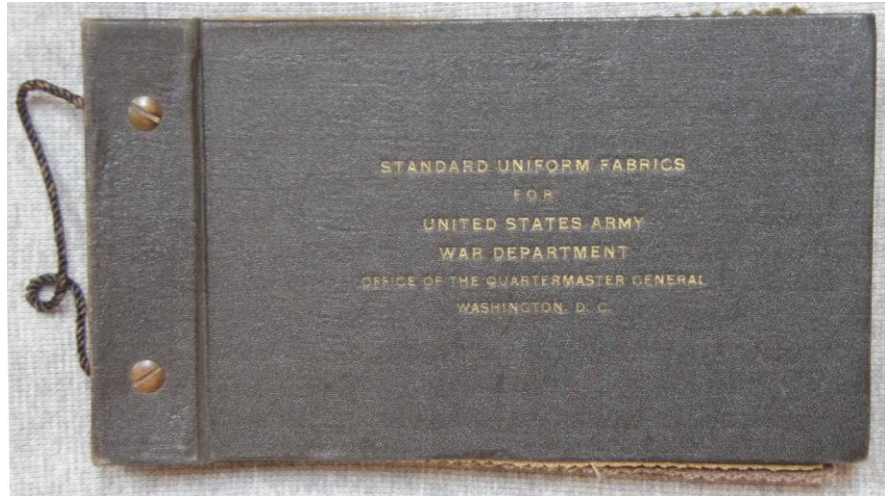


Army Swatch Books or Standard Uniform Fabrics Books

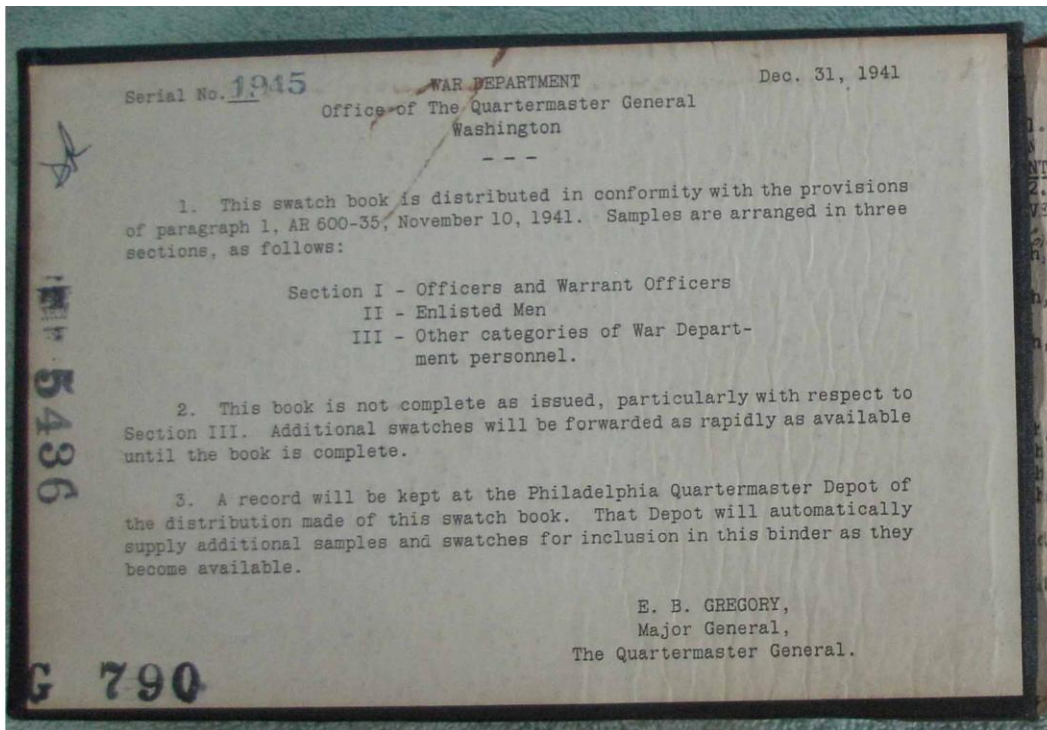
Evidently the Office of the Quartermaster General started to issue books that contained samples of uniform cloth near the start of the 20th century. Most were small books, typically between 5-1/4 and 6 inches high, and approximately 9-1/2 inches long, with a dark blue cover bearing gold embossed titles, and with a dark blue string down the spine to aid in the book's removal from a bookshelf.

The books contain cloth samples used to make army uniforms, with the samples divided into sections. Cloth samples themselves were usually cut with pinking shears to prevent fraying and were held in a book with two screw posts. A 1941 book is shown.

Shown are three of the small Standard Uniform Fabrics books from 1941 (updated in 1943), 1948, and 1960, and a successor book made from a standard loose-leaf notebook that shows only officer uniforms and was apparently made about 1960. The contents of these books will be covered in sequence.



1941 Book

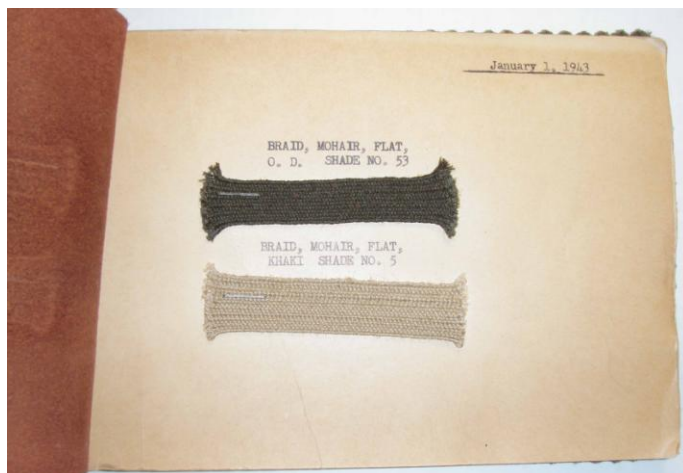


Pasted to the inside the cover of the first book is a notice dated December 31, 1941, for book serial number 1945, outlining the general contents as three sections: Section I for officers and warrant officers, Section II for enlisted men (it would be 1942 before Congress authorized women for the WAAC and 1943 before the WACs), and Section III for "Other categories of War Department personnel." Paragraph 2 noted the book was incomplete for this last section – subsequent swatches would be sent when available.

SECTION I		January 1, 1943	
OFFICERS, CONTRACT SURGEONS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND FLIGHT OFFICERS			
1. THE SWATCHES IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR SHADE ONLY, FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SERVICE UNIFORMS FOR OFFICERS, CONTRACT SURGEONS, WARRANT OFFICERS and FLIGHT OFFICERS.			
2. SEE PARAGRAPH 2, ARMY REGULATION 600-35, NOVEMBER 10, 1941, FOR APPROVED WEIGHTS AND FABRICS (WEAVES)			
ITEM	SHADE NOS.	PRINCIPAL USES	
<i>Cotton/Mohair</i> Cotton, Uniform Twill, 8.2 oz. Type (I to V)	Khaki 1.	<i>Neckties</i> Summer uniforms, shirts and other designated items.	
Cotton, Wind-Resistant Poplin, 5 oz. Water Repellent	O.D. 2.	Field jackets and other designated items.	
Cotton, Uniform Twill, 8.2 oz. Type (I to V)	O.D. 3.	The swatch indicates shade of material to be used in designated items, including leggings, field bags, belts, other web equipment, etc., except jungle equip.	
Wool, Elastique, 18 oz.	O.D. 51.	Coats, trousers, breeches, caps.	
Wool, Elastique, 18 oz.	Drab 54.	Trousers and breeches (light shade)	
Wool, Doeskin, 26 oz.	O.D. 52.	Overcoats and short overcoats.	
Cowhide	Russet 90.	Leather belts, cap visors, shoes, boots, etc.	
Mohair, Flat	O.D. 53.	Cap braid on Service Cap; Sleeve braid, etc.	
Mohair, Flat	Khaki 5.	Cap braid on Service Cap; Sleeve braid, etc.	

*Other fabrics of khaki color should be the shade of this swatch.
 **Melton cloth used in short overcoats should be, as nearly as practicable, the same shade as Cloth, Wool, Doeskin, 26 oz., O.D.

Opposite the cover is a tag board page (shown above) listing in order the swatch contents. This page is dated January 1, 1943, and has a pen and ink entry inserting khaki cotton mohair #5 for neckties. The last two entries are for OD shade 53 and khaki shade 5 mohair braid. These two pieces of braid are stapled to the last page in Section I, and shown next. Preceding this is a piece of russet cowhide used for "belts cap visors, shoes, boots etc."



Following the page with the two mohair braid samples is the index for Section II on enlisted clothing and dated January 1, 1943. This is illustrated next. For those five material samples included in Section I, they are simply listed here and noted by an asterisk that the actual materials are previously included.

SECTION II
ENLISTED MEN

January 1, 1943

SECTION 11

1. THE SWATCHES IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR SHADE, WEIGHT, AND WEAVE, FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SERVICE UNIFORMS FOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL.

ITEM	SHADE NOS.	PRINCIPAL USE
Cotton, Mohair	Khaki 5	Neckties
Cotton, Uniform Twill, 8.2 oz. Type (I to V)	Khaki 1.	Summer uniforms of Khaki shade.
Cotton, Poplin, Wind Resistant 5 oz. Water Repellent	O.D. 2.	Field Jackets.
Cotton, Uniform Twill, 8.2 oz., Type (I to V)	O.D. 3.	The swatch indicates shade of designated items, including leggings, field bags, waist, and other web equipment, except jungle equipment.
Wool, Flannel, 10-1/2 oz.	O.D. 31.	Shirts, flannel.
Worsted, Tropical, 10-1/2 oz.	O.D. 50.	Shirts, worsted.
Wool, Serge, 18 oz.	O.D. 33.	Coats, and caps.
Wool, Serge, 18 oz.	O.D. 32.	Trousers
Wool, Elastique, 18 oz.	O.D. 32.	Breeches
Wool, Melton, 32 oz.	O.D. 34.	Overcoats
her, Cowhide	Russet 90.	Shoes, leather belts, boots, etc.

*See Swatch in Section I.

SECTION III

January 1, 1943

SECTION 111

1. THE SWATCHES IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR SHADE, WEIGHT AND WEAVE, FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF UNIFORMS FOR WAR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL OTHER THAN OFFICERS, CONTRACT SURGEONS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND FLIGHT OFFICERS, AND ENLISTED MEN.

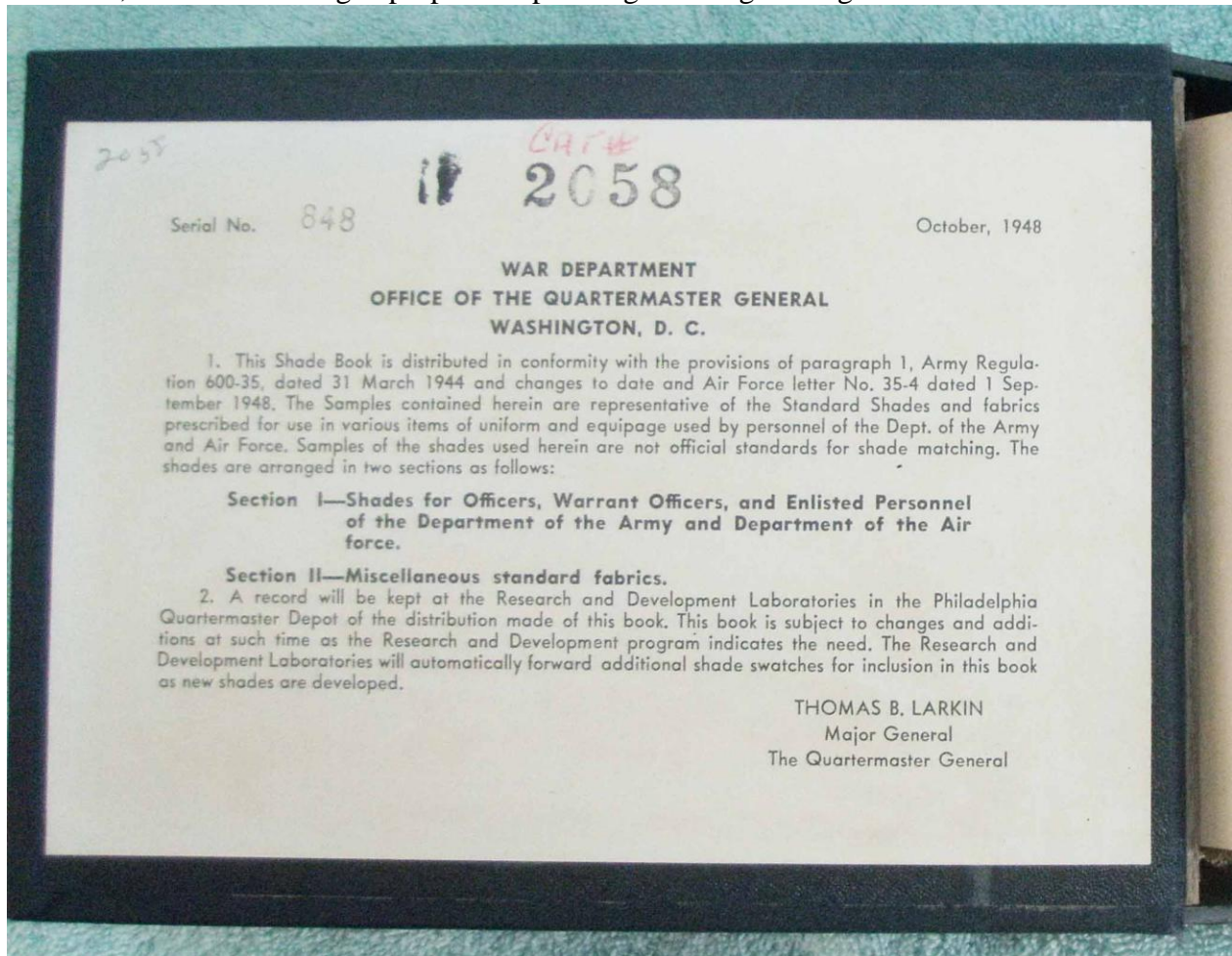
ITEM	SHADE NOS.	PRINCIPAL USES
Cloth, Wool, Covert, 12-1/2 oz.,	drk. Blue 38	Nurses' coats, caps, capes and overcoats.
Cloth, Wool, Covert, 12-1/2 oz.,	Med. Blue 39	Nurses' skirts

The third and last section (shown left) contains only two samples: dark blue 12-1/2 oz. wool used for nurses' uniforms. The first swatch, dark blue shade 38, was for nurses' coats, caps, capes, and overcoats. The other sample, medium blue shade 39, was for nurse skirts.

1948 Book

The most apparent change in the cover of this book is that rather than state it was from the War Department, it has "U. S. ARMY" on the front. This book has serial number 848. The page pasted to the inside cover states that the book contains samples for members of the army and for

the air force, and references Army Regulation 600-35 and Air Force letter No. 35-4 dated 1 September 1948. AF Letter 35-4 basically stated air force personnel would continue to wear army uniforms but with gold colored USAF buttons and for enlisted personnel, also new chevrons, and US and winged propeller lapel insignia in a gold ring.

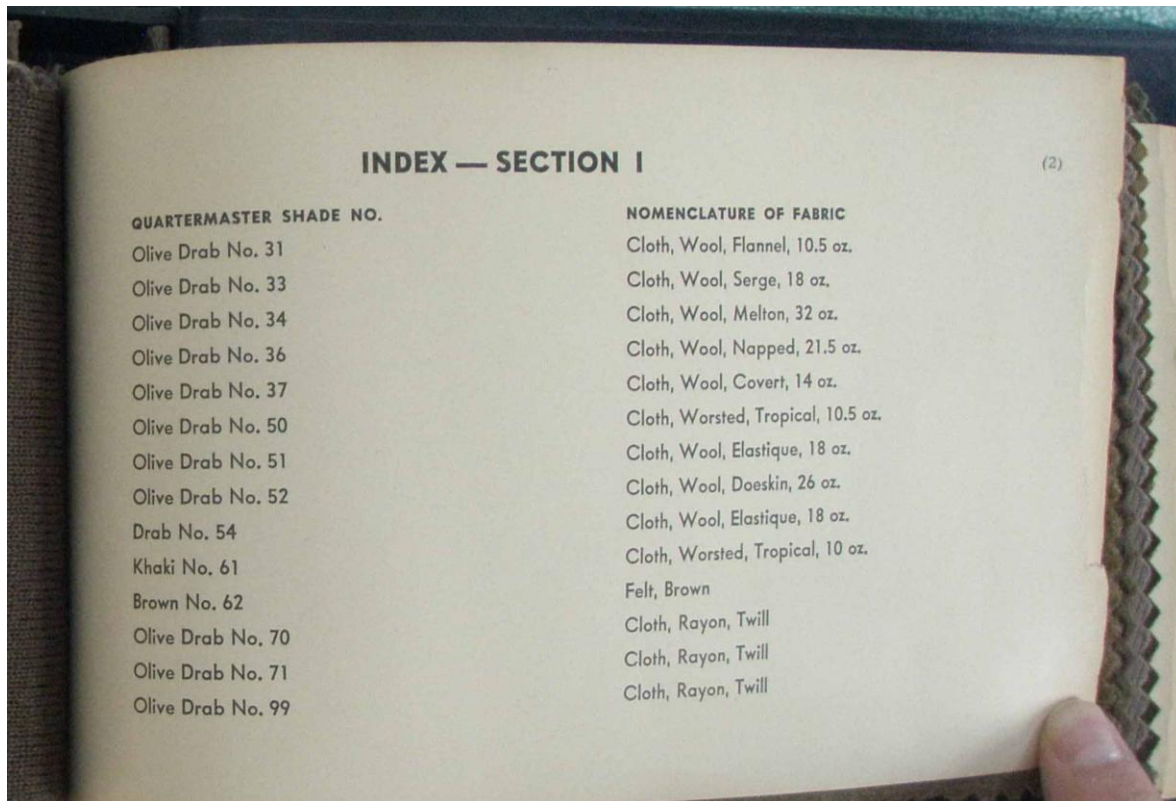


INDEX — SECTION I

1. THE SWATCHES IN THIS SECTION ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VARIOUS SHADES FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SERVICE, SEMIDRESS, AND DRESS UNIFORMS FOR OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND OF THE AIR FORCE AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

QUARTERMASTER SHADE NO.	NOMENCLATURE OF FABRIC
Khaki No. 1	Cloth, Cotton, Uniform Twill, 8.2 oz.
Olive Drab No. 3	Cloth, Cotton, Silesia, 5 oz.
Khaki No. 5	Cloth, Cotton, Mohair, 5 oz.
Olive Drab No. 7	Cloth, Cotton, Wind-Resistant Poplin, 5 oz.
Olive Drab No. 9	Cloth, Cotton, Tubular Knit
Brown No. 11	Cloth, Cotton, Seersucker, Brown and White Stripe
Tan No. 13	Cloth, Cotton, Knit
Olive Drab No. 20	Cloth, Cotton, Albert Twill, 5 oz.
Russet No. 23	Cloth, Cotton, Uniform Twill
Olive Drab No. 30A	Cloth, Wool, Tubular Knit, 13.5 oz.

Section I contains material samples for uniforms and is further subdivided into two parts since the tag board section header page could not list all of the cloth samples. The two section headers are shown to the left and on the next page.



Among the samples behind the initial page of section I is a swatch of “Brown No. 11,” a brown and white seersucker used to make women’s medical uniforms designed to worn in field hospitals and washed under harsh conditions. This page is shown below.



Shown next is the index page for Section II of the 1948 swatch book.

INDEX — SECTION II

1. THE SWATCHES IN THIS SECTION ARE REPRESENTATIVE STANDARD MISCELLANEOUS FABRICS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SERVICE, SEMIDRESS, AND DRESS UNIFORMS FOR OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND OF THE AIR FORCE AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

QUARTERMASTER SHADE NO.

Khaki No. 1
Olive Drab No. 7
Olive Drab No. 7
Olive Drab No. 7

NOMENCLATURE OF FABRIC

Cloth, Cotton, Broadcloth, 3.2 oz.
Cloth, Cotton, Wind-Resistant, Oxford, 9 oz.
Cloth, Cotton, Wind-Resistant, Sateen, 9 oz.
Cloth, Cotton, Herringbone Twill, 8.5 oz.

1960 Book

Serial No. 1 July 1960

HEADQUARTERS QUARTERMASTER RESEARCH & ENGINEERING COMMAND
NATICK, MASS.

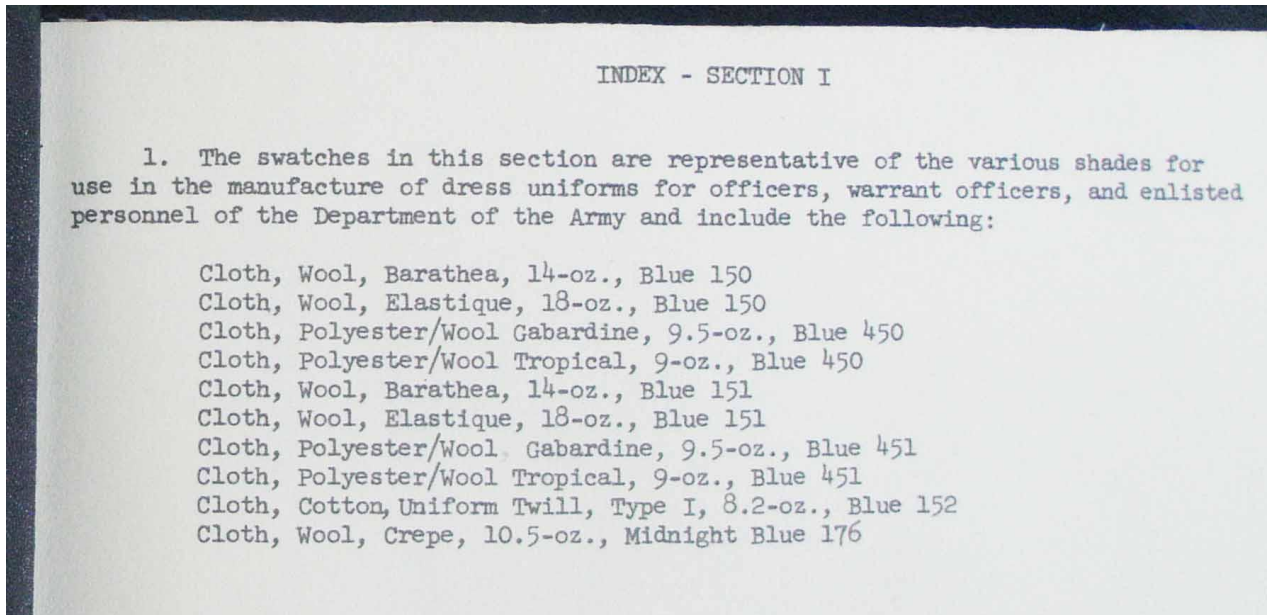
1. The fabrics contained in this book have been approved by the Uniform Board of the Army and the Office of The Quartermaster General as standards for uniforms for officers and enlisted men of the Army. The samples contained herein are representative of the standard shades and fabrics prescribed for use in various items of uniform and equipage used by personnel of the Department of the Army. The shades used herein are not official standards for shade matching. Such can be obtained either from the Military Clothing & Textile Supply Agency, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot or from the USA Quality Control Office, Natick, Mass.

2. A record will be maintained at the QMR&E Command, Natick, Mass. of the distribution made of this book. This book is subject to changes and additions at such time as the research and engineering program indicates the need and the approval of the Uniform Board of the Army and The Quartermaster General is obtained. Additional shade swatches for inclusion in this book, as new shades are developed, will be forwarded by the QMR&E Command.

MERRILL L. TRIBE
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

The 1960 book was issued by the Quartermaster Research & Engineering Command, Natick, MA. Dated 1 July 1960, it has no serial number and evidently was never issued. Folded inside is a tissue paper copy of a 1st indorsement to a disposition form (DF) addressed to the general equipment test activity, Fort Lee,

Virginia. The 1968 1st Ind requested the organization develop "appropriate test techniques" as mentioned in the basic DF that is not present. The inside of the book cover is shown above left.



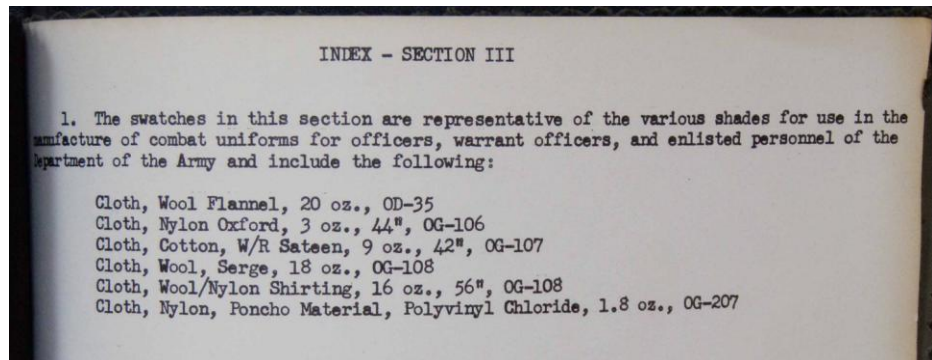
Above is the index page for Section I that lists the swatches for dress uniforms.



Section II for service uniforms has part of the index on the reverse of the initial page. For the first time the sequence is not determined by the number of the cloth shade. Like the previous books, behind each section index page is a sample of each cloth, and each sample is labeled as shown to the left. Cloth

samples include the gold colored rayon lining used to make the Army Green bill caps.

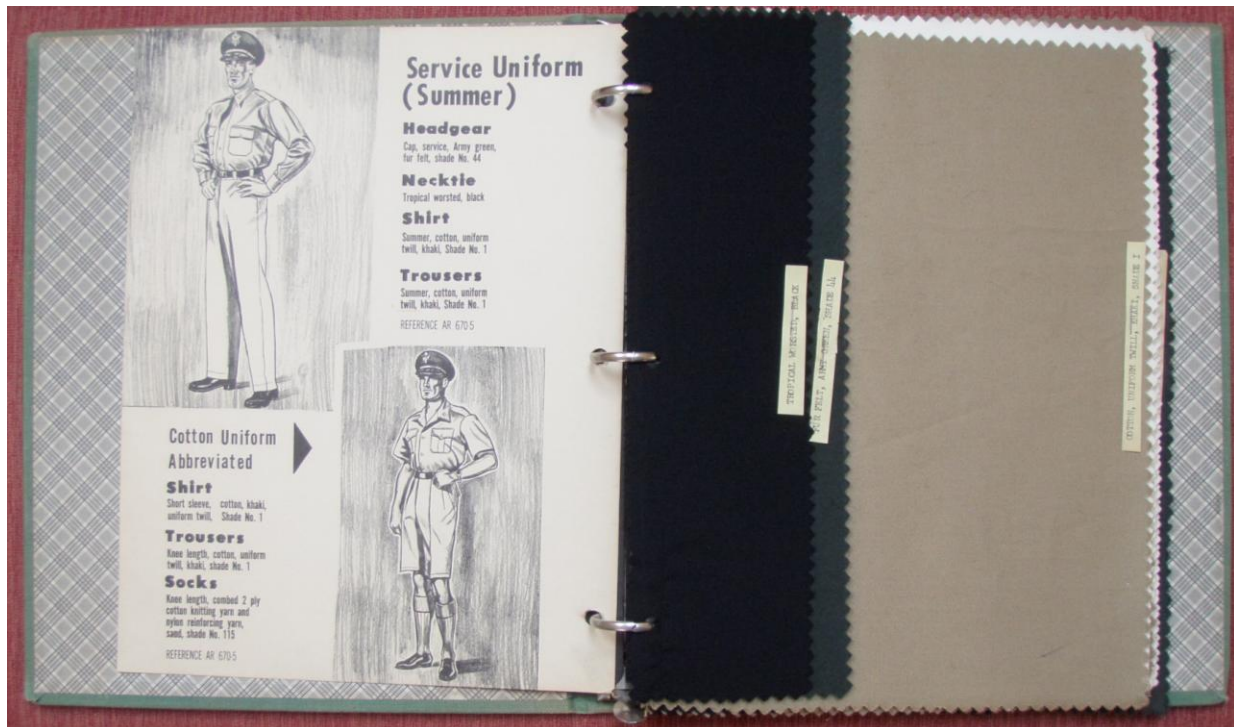
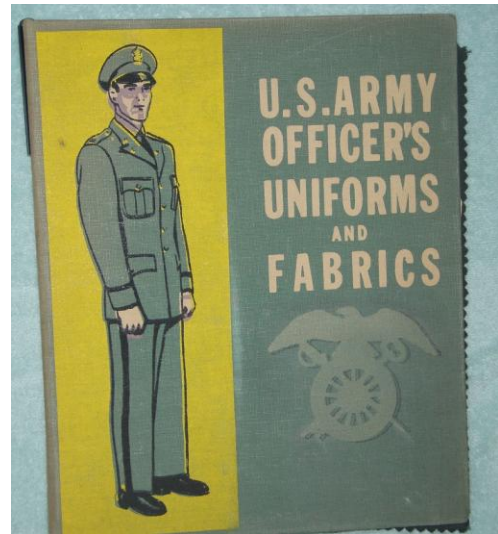
Section III for combat uniforms (the index is at the right), includes a sample for 1.8 oz nylon used to make ponchos.

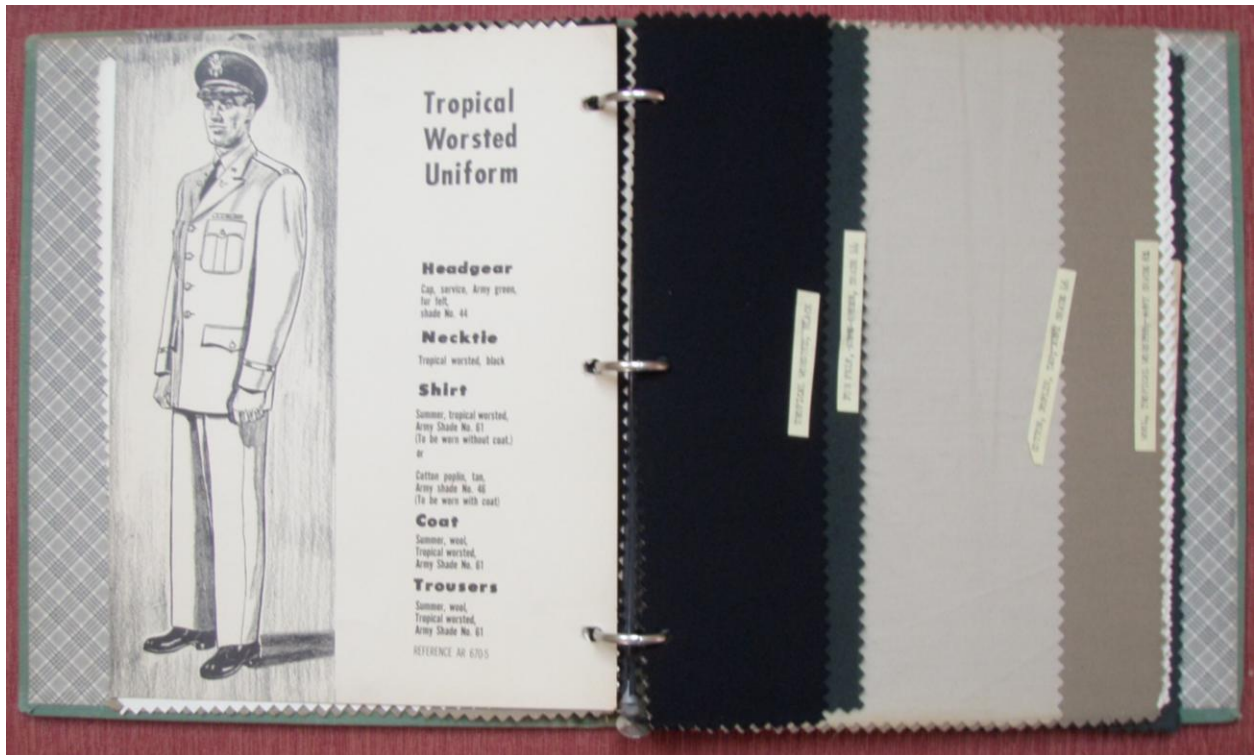


Notebook Sample book

A standard 1-1/2 inch green cloth covered notebook, with a silkscreened cover of approximately 9-1/2 by 11-1/2 inches, is the last sample book discussed. The contents were samples of officer uniform cloths. There is no self-contained memo, directive, or content list, nor is any date mentioned. In all cases the Army Green service cap is shown in sketches. The uniforms covered included the long sleeved and short sleeved khaki shirts along with trousers and khaki shorts; Tropical Worsted uniforms, and others. These indicate the approximate issue date of the book was about 1960.

The layout of each section and the swatches is different from the smaller, older standard books. On the left of the notebook is a sketch of the appropriate uniform and a list of the uses for the materials. The right side contains cloth samples 11 inches high with the width varying so that all cloth samples in a section are visible. Each individual cloth sample has a narrow paper strip, typed with the cloth's name. The various sections are shown.





Tropical Worsted Uniform

Headgear

Cap, service, Army green, for left, shade No. 44

Necktie

Tropical worsted, black

Shirt

Summer, tropical worsted, Army Shade No. 61 (To be worn without coat.) or

Cotton poplin, tan, Army shade No. 48 (To be worn with coat)

Coat

Summer, wool, Tropical worsted, Army Shade No. 61

Trousers

Summer, wool, Tropical worsted, Army Shade No. 61

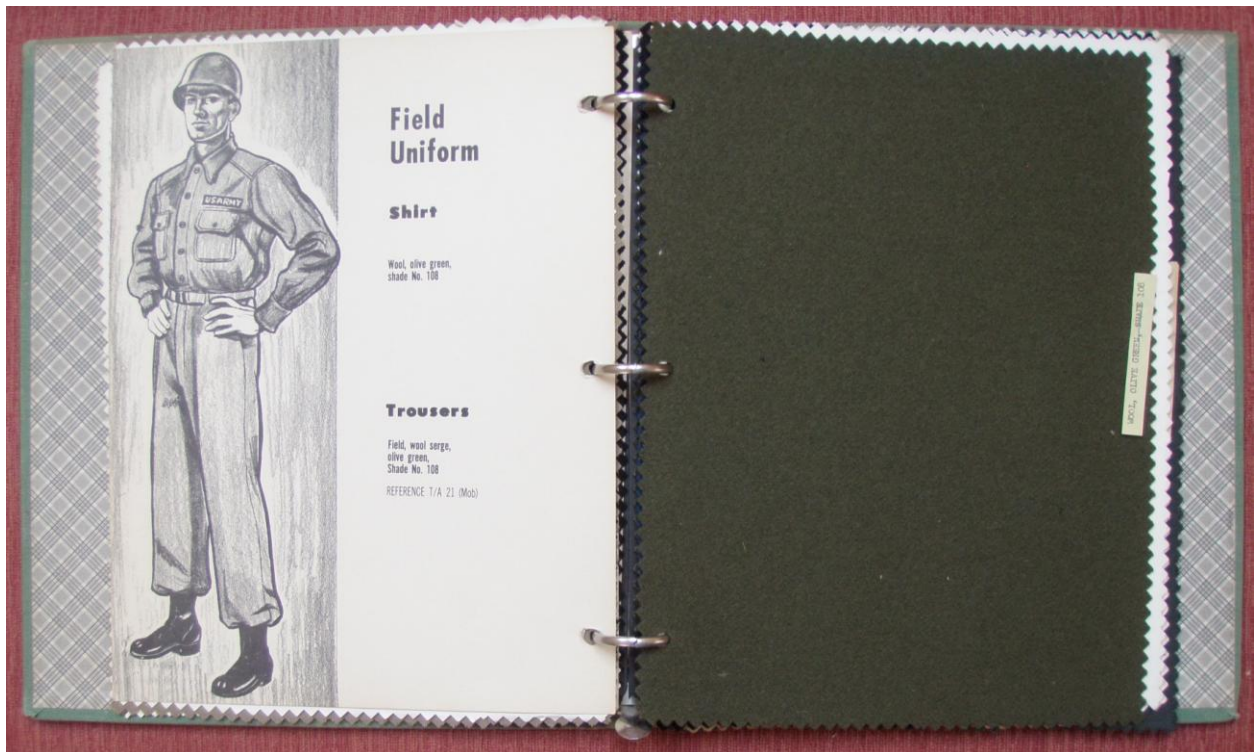
REFERENCE: AR 6705

TROPICAL WORSTED, BLACK

WOOL, TROPICAL WORSTED, ARMY SHADE NO. 61

COTTON POPLIN, TAN, ARMY SHADE NO. 48

WOOL, TROPICAL WORSTED, ARMY SHADE NO. 61



Field Uniform

Shirt

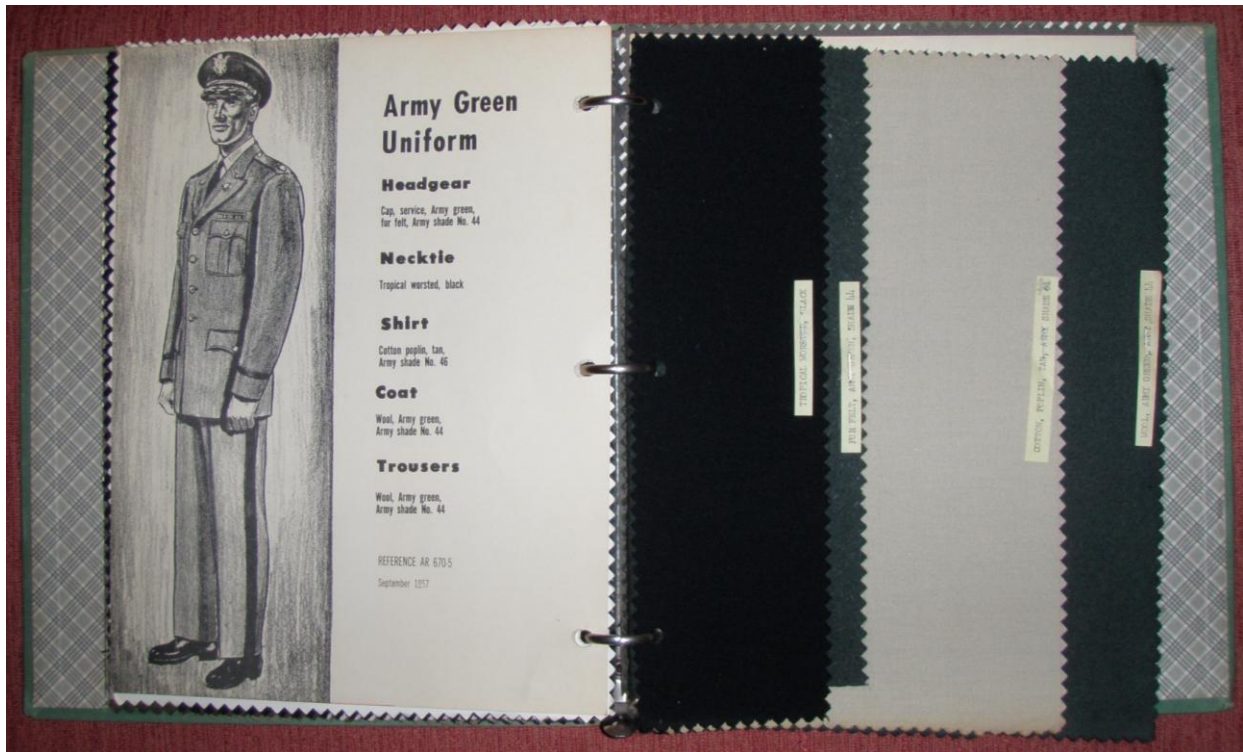
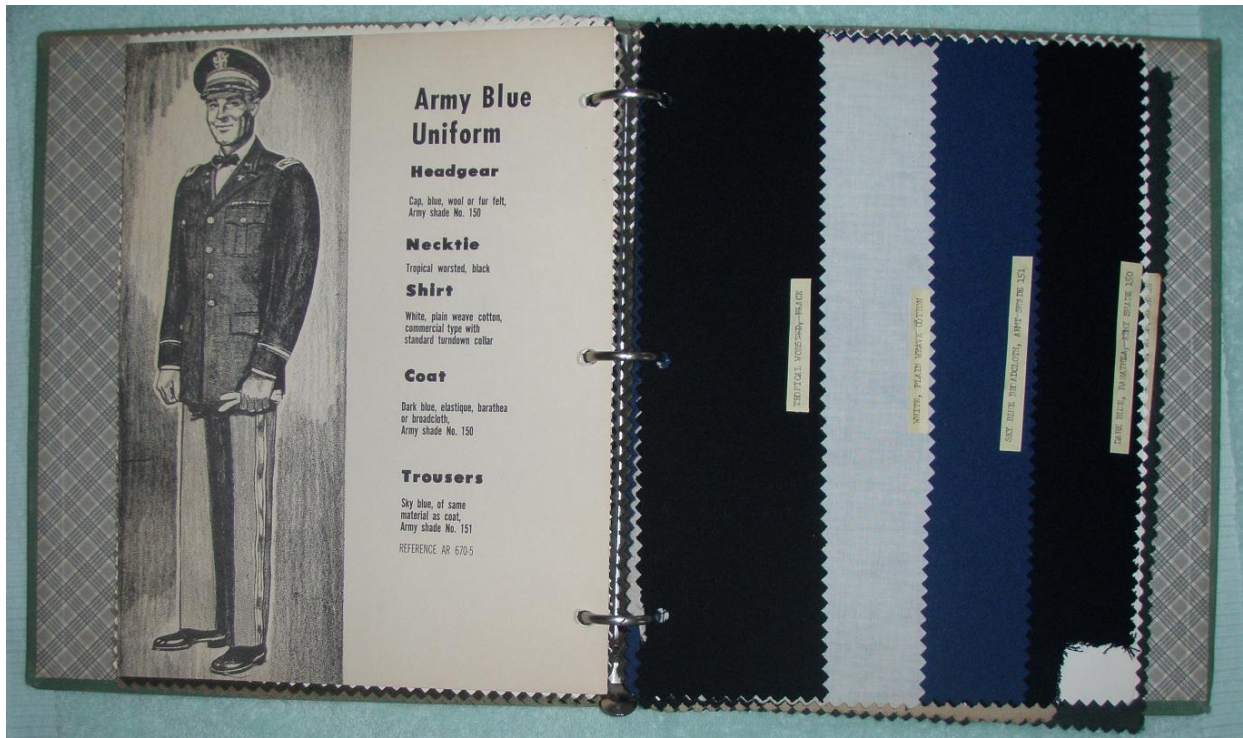
Wool, olive green, shade No. 108

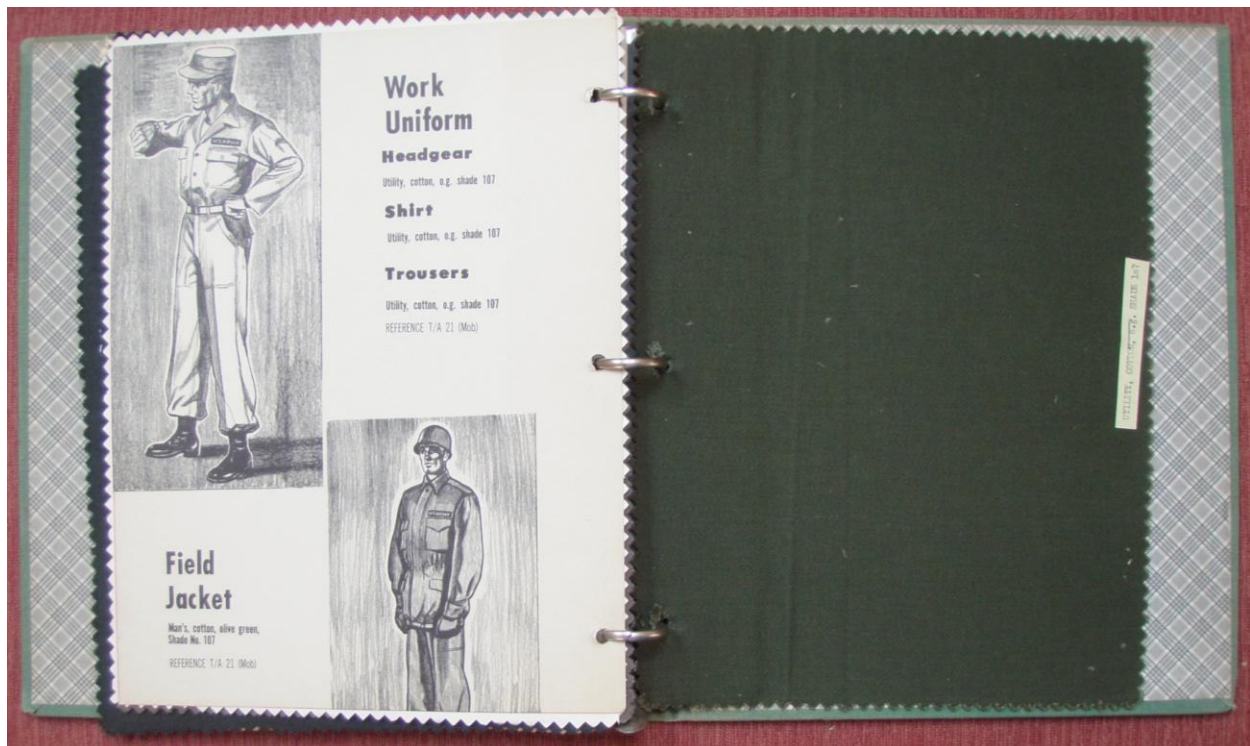
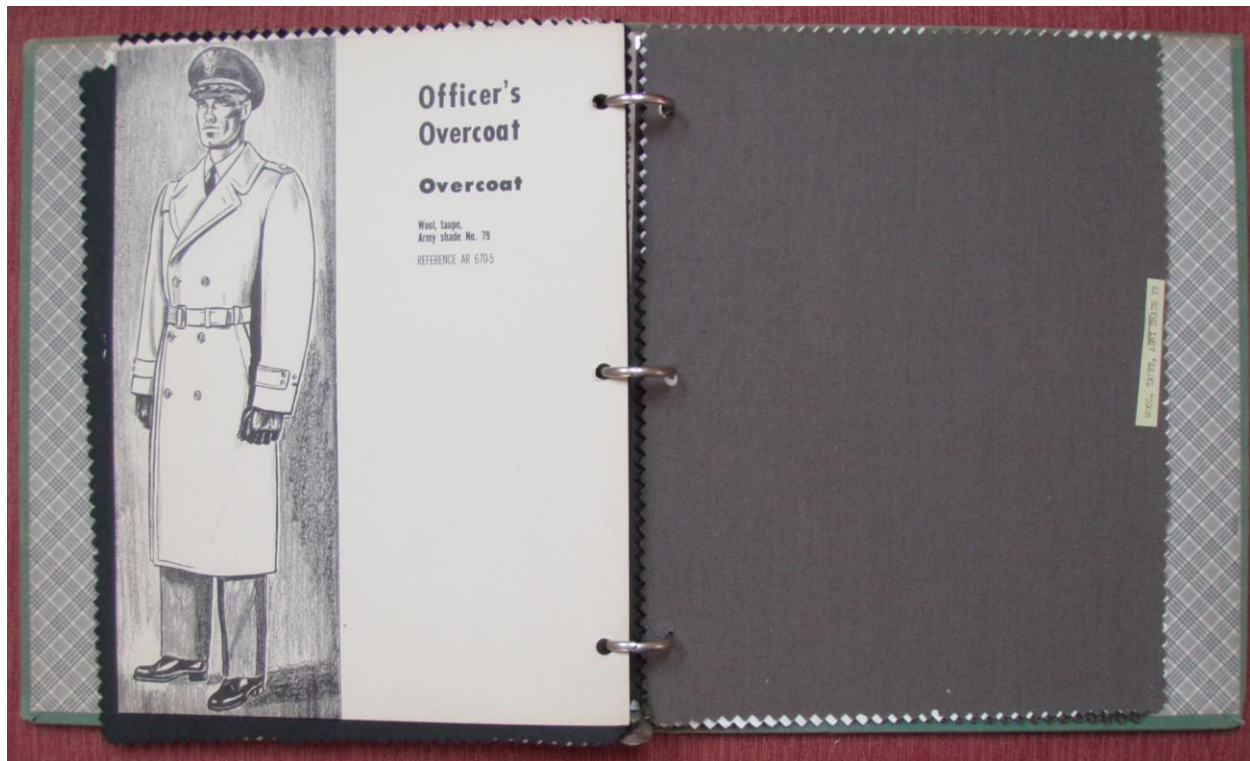
Trousers

Field, wool serge, olive green, Shade No. 108

REFERENCE: T/A 21 (M&B)

WOOL, OLIVE GREEN, ARMY SHADE NO. 108





Examples of other U.S. Army swatch book are sought.