

LEATHER GOODS
(Especially Belts & Suspenders)

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

A black leather belt for general officers was authorized as an issue item with the promulgation of AR 725-78, "Issue of Supplies and Equipment, General Officers' Belts, Buckles, Holsters and Pistols" (12 April 1956). The russet-colored "Sam Browne" belt was deleted as a uniform item by Change 22, AR 600-35 (7 Jul 1943). MP's also were authorized leather belts in the performance of their duties.

Specification #179 on suspenders (two pages of text and a one- page drawing) is found in the Quartermaster General's Specifications for Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, and Clothing and Equipage Materials (Phila: QMG, 1889; UC463A4-1889). The specification's paragraphs are entitled "Front Straps," "Shoulder-straps," "Back Straps," "Buckle," "Re-inforce Straps," "Button-hole strengthening," "Lengths," "Thread," "Color," and "Packings." It was adopted 25 Feb 1887, replacing the one date 4 Sep 1883. Other than leather spot reinforcements, the suspenders seem to have been made of webbing.

Brief mention of suspenders is also found in Regulations for the Army of the United States 1889, Para 1811 in War Dept General Order 34, (24 Mar 1882), General Order 58 (31 Jul 1883).

Early Sources:

Jarnagin, David, & Knopp, Ken R. "Confederate Leather: Black or Brown? How and Where?" North South Trader's CW 32/5 (2007): pp. 59-65. Per.

_____. _____. Military Collector and Historian (Summer 2009): pp. 111-18. Per.

_____. "Military Leather in the Nineteenth Century: Its Method sand Secrets." Military Collector & Historian (Spring 2009): pp. 56-61. Per.

In the **twentieth century**, the Sam Browne Belt became standard issue. See:

Army-Navy Journal (27 Apr 1946), p. 1041. Per.

Douglas, James S. "The Sam Browne Belt: Discussion by..." Journal of the Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) (Feb 1934): p. 122. Per.

[Invicta]. "Sam Browne-His Cavalry-His Belt." Cavalry Journal [British] (Apr 1939): pp. 261-69. Per.

"The New Sam Browne Belt." Quartermaster Review (Sep/Oct 1921): pp. p. 79. Per.

"Origin of the 'Sam Browne' Belt." Reserve Officer (Jun 1926): p. 44. Per.

"The Sam Browne Belt." Infantry Journal (Apr 1922): pp. 373-75. Per.
Authorization of belt for U.S. Constabulary, Germany.

"Sam Browne Belt of Hindu Origin." US Army Recruiting News (14 Apr 1928): p. 7. Per.

"Side Saddle and Sam Browne Belt." Cavalry Journal (May/Jun 1942): p. 33. Per.