



Military Corner

The United States Army Military Police

Although soldiers have been delegated to perform police type duties in the military since the beginning of armies, the seed that germinated into the birth of the modern Military Police Corps in 1941 can be traced back to the American Revolutionary War. On 1 June 1778, at Valley Forge, PA, General George Washington formed a special unit—a troop of light dragoons—soldiers on horseback, called the Marechaussee Corps. The Marechaussee Corps was the first MP-like organization in the United States and performed many duties much like the Army Military Police Corps of today. When the Army was encamped, soldiers of the Marechaussee Corps patrolled the camp and surrounding area, checking passes and papers in search of spies. They arrested rioters, spies, drunkards, deserters, and stragglers, while ejecting merchants attempting to cheat the soldiers. The men of this early MP organization also participated in combat.

As a Military collector, myself, I think MP covers have a special attraction, almost like the P.O.W. camp covers. There's a certain exotic ambiance attached to such topics., although, I have to admit, I believe that I went through my entire three years in the army without ever seeing any MP's 'in action... which, come to think of it, was probably a good thing!

There are only eight Military Police covers currently listed.

[<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/mp.htm>]

