

Author/Research verifications unknown

SERIES 1 badges date probably from June of 1917 until just after January 1, 1927 when the name of the NYSP was changed. Series 1 had two distinctly different badges, a wallet badge for commissioned officers and a badge for non-commissioned sworn personnel.

The Series 1 wallet badge for commissioned officers was a very small octagon, having purple enamel and granite grey metal finish. They bore the title: "DEPT. OF STATE POLICE". Each had not only the letter of the assigned Troop, but also the rank, and at the bottom had the initials of the officer. These wallet badges were not issued, but presented to the officer and were his to keep. (I understand the NYSP has at least one as it was reported to me as being in the museum display about a year ago. However, the man who saw it did not write down the imprinted identifiers.)

The Series 1 badge is a larger octagon easily noticed by the very tiny letters "DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE". The imprinted identifiers: Troop Letter, ID number, and rank are in purple soft enamel (paint) and the badge is nickel plated. Unlike the above commissioned officers wallet badge, this second of the Series 1 badges is not a just wallet badge even though they were mainly carried in a wallet. This badge for non-commissioned sworn Sergeants-Corporals-Troopers was at times worn on the uniform shirt (See the photo in GREY RIDERS opposite page 58, "TROOPER, SUMMER UNIFORM".)

SERIES 2 badges date probably from just after January 1, 1927 to late 1961. They can easily be spotted by the raised words "STATE POLICE". Badges for commissioned officers and some special appointments such as Chaplains were gold plated. Those for non-commissioned sworn personnel were nickel plated.

SERIES 3 shields (note: not badge but shield) were first issued about late 1961. Having a serial number on them eliminated having Troop letter, ID number and rank variables. These shields could be issued and remain with the trooper through their career and he/she went up in rank. Out of date reports show that the NYSP administration as late as 1977 referred to these as a shield and not as a badge.

COLLAR INSIGNIA FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Similar to rank insignia of the U.S. Military, but I am guessing that older examples may have been darker granite grey in color.

COLLAR INSIGNIA FOR NON-COMMISSIONED SWORN PERSONNEL (Sergeant – Corporal – Trooper)

STYLE 1

As early as 1917, Style 1 Collars were in use. They were originally, at least, granite grey washed with hard blue enamel background. The right collar insignia had only the letters "NY" with the left collar insignia having the Troop letter over the ID number. (The left collar insignia would better be called a badge because it bore the serial number of the Trooper – the individual identifier – as the (wallet) badge was not always worn on the uniform.)

STYLE 2

Possibly when the new uniforms were put in service, the first week of April 1956. Style 2 collar insignia were issued. The right collar insignia had the letters "NY", but the left collar insignia had the Troop letter set in reversed hard enamel at the top, with the ID number imprinted (stamped) into a domed metal appearing surface at the bottom. Except for B & W photos, I have never seen a set of these so I don't know the colors.

STYLE 3

The present Style 3 collar insignia were in use as early as December of 1965. They are rhodium plated with hard royal blue enamel. The right collar insignia has the letter "NY" and the left collar insignia has the Troop letter.