

## CHAPTER 2

# Orders, Decorations, Medals and Medal Ribbons

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### GENERAL

**0201.** *Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions* require all personnel to wear the proper ribbons for the medals which have been awarded to them and to comply with the instructions respecting the manner of wearing Orders, decorations and medals and the order in which they are to be worn, as laid down in these Uniform Regulations.

**0202.** It is forbidden to wear any Orders, decorations or medals without authority. Foreign Orders, decorations and medals may be worn only when the Sovereign's permission has been given.

**0203.** The insignia of Orders, decorations and medals, and the ribands to which they are attached, are issued gratuitously on presentation. Miniatures, medal bars and ribbons for sewing onto garments are provided privately at the individual's expense.

**0204.** Orders, decorations, medals and medal ribbons are to be worn arranged in the order of sequence (or 'seniority') shown in Appendix 1. The number of each type of insignia of Orders which may be worn with various Dresses is shown in the Table of Dresses (Art. 0301(R.N.) and 0501(R.M.)). When the insignia of more than one Order are worn, the one occupying the first position should be the most senior, unless for any reason a junior or foreign Order is more appropriate to the occasion.

**MANNER OF WEARING**

**0205. INSIGNIA OF ORDERS.** The insignia of the various Orders are as follows:

*First Class.* Knights of the Garter, Thistle and St. Patrick and Knights and Dames Grand Cross and Grand Commander.—Broad riband (with badge attached). Collar when ordered.

*Second Class.* Knight and Dame Commander.—Star. Neck decoration (i.e. badge suspended on narrower riband, normally worn round neck).

*Third Class.* Companion and Commander.—Neck decoration (but the badges of Companions of the Distinguished Service Order and Imperial Service Order are worn as medals only).

*Fourth and Fifth Classes.* Officers and Members.—Badge worn as medal.

**0206. BROAD RIBAND.** The broad riband of Knights of the Garter and Thistle is worn over the left shoulder, the bow from which the badge is suspended resting on the right hip. The broad riband of other Orders is worn over the right shoulder, with the badge on the left hip.

2. With Ball Dress the broad riband is worn under the mess jacket (or woman's bolero or cape) and over the waistcoat (or dress).

3. With Full Dress the broad riband is required to pass under the shoulder strap, and in Dresses which do not include shoulder straps the procedure is as follows:

*a.* If an aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder the broad riband, other than that of the Garter and Thistle, is worn under the aiguillette shoulder strap. For the Garter or Thistle an additional aiguillette shoulder strap is worn on the left shoulder.

*b.* If an aiguillette is not worn on the right shoulder the broad riband is worn under a blue cloth shoulder strap ornamented with gold and blue cord, of the pattern worn with 'Staff' type aiguillettes (Art. 0317.1.d.(iv)).

**0207. COLLAR.** The Collar of an Order is worn on certain special occasions as ordered, instead of the broad riband, with Full Dress only (Nos. 1 and 1W Dresses). The Collar is worn over the shoulder straps or epaulettes of the coat and also over aiguillettes, and should be fastened by white satin bow  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, the collar hanging at an equal distance back and front, with the badge suspended below the front centre. Collar Days, in accordance with instructions of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood are Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, Whit Sunday, Trinity Sunday, January 1st, January 6th Epiphany, February 6th The Queen's Accession, March 1st St. David, March 17th St. Patrick, March 25th Lady Day, April 21st The Queen's Birthday, April 23rd St. George, May 1st St. Philip and St. James, May 29th Restoration of the Royal Family, June 2nd the Queen's Coronation, June 10th The Duke of Edinburgh's Birthday, June 24th St. John Baptist, June 29th St. Peter, August 4th Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Birthday, September 29th St. Michael and All Angels, November 1st All Saints, November 30th St. Andrew, December 25th Christmas Day, when her Majesty opens or prorogues Parliament and by those taking part in the Ceremony of an Introduction of a Peer in the House of Lords. In Dresses which do not include shoulder straps the procedure is as follows:

*a.* If an aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder an additional aiguillette shoulder strap is worn on the left shoulder.

*b.* If an aiguillette is not worn on the right shoulder a pair of blue cloth shoulder straps as described in Art. 0206.3.b. is worn.

2. The holder of more than one First Class Order, when wearing the Collar of one Order also wears the broad riband of the next Order in sequence. Only one Collar may be worn.

**0208. STARS** of Orders are worn on the left side.

2. When only one star is worn it should be in the centre line of the breast pocket with the upper point not less than 1 in. below the lip of the pocket, or in the corresponding position on garments without a breast pocket.

3. When two stars are worn the second star is placed directly below the first, with its upper point not less than 1 in. below the lower point of the star above.
4. When three stars are worn the second and third stars are normally worn below the first, in horizontal line, with the second towards the wearer's right, but if in this position the stars interfere with the broad riband, the first and second stars may be worn in line, senior star to the right, with the third star beneath.
5. When four stars are worn the first is worn above, the second and third in line below, senior star to the right, and the fourth below again, in vertical line with the first.
6. When either three or four stars are worn on the undress coat it is necessary to position the first so that the second is clear of the top left-hand button of the coat, for which purpose it is permissible for the top star to be worn with its upper point up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. above the lip of the breast pocket.