



THE “DIXIE CUP”

A U.S. NAVY TRADITION

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EARLY DAYS OF AN ICON



Navy Uniform Regulation 3501.27

In 1886, a “low rolled brim, high-domed item constructed of canvas” is written into regulations.

Since then, it has been affectionately referred to as the “Dixie Cup.” In the early days, the brim was worn much lower, as seen here by Sailors aboard USS Washington.

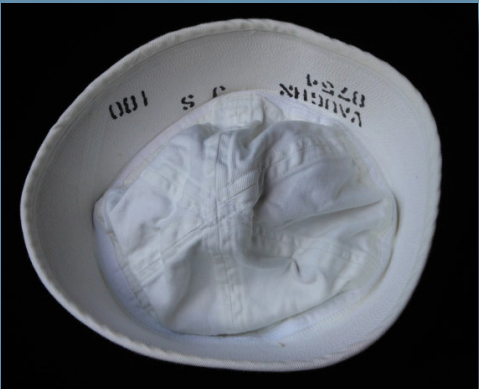
KEEPING IT SQUARE



Despite regulations saying the cover is not to be “crushed, bent or rolled,” Sailors have been personalizing their hats by stylistically reshaping them since its inception.

“To Cap it All Off...”, Mark A. Hensgen

PROPER WEAR AND MARKING



Navy Uniform Regulation 3501.27

The hat “must be made of white cotton twill with a rounded crown and full stitch brim.”

It must be worn “squarely on the head with the lower front edge approximately 1 ½ inch above the eyebrows and not crushed, bent or rolled.”

Ownership markings should be on the back of the brim, between the crown so marking will not show when turned up.

ICONIC



The Dixie Cup came to symbolize the Navy and became an iconic symbol amongst Sailors and civilians alike.

Featured prominently in popular culture, it was in one of the most recognizable photographs of the Second World War when a Sailor was seen kissing a nurse on Victory over Japan Day in Times Square in New York City.

“To Cap it All Off...”, Mark A. Hensgen

A NEW ERA

In 2016, the Navy expanded the wear of the Dixie Cups to female enlisted Sailors, ushering in a new era for the cap.

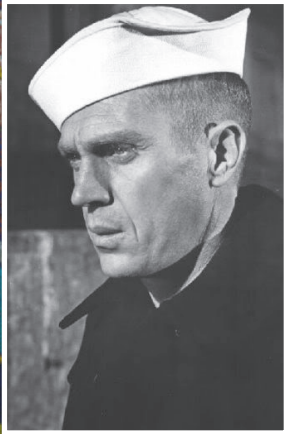


139,392

The number of Dixie Cups ordered by Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support in 2014. The hat is currently made by ORC Industries, a non-profit manufacturing, logistics and assembly company in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support

HOLLYWOOD AND THE DIXIE CUP



For years, Hollywood has used the Dixie Cup to symbolize the Navy. It’s been featured in movies such as “The Last Detail,” “Anchors Aweigh,” “Cinderella Leave,” “The Sand Pebbles,” “Flags of Our Fathers” and many more.

“To Cap it All Off...”, Mark A. Hensgen