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War Department Bulletin 43, 22 July 1918

In addition to the Act by Congress of July 1918, War Department Bulletin Number 43, dated 22 July 1918, documented the founding of the Warrant Officer Corps in the Army. Part II, Chapter IX, page 51 is quoted below. Editorial notes and paragraph formatting added for clarity. *Many thanks to Mr. Dave Johnson, Casemate Museum, Fort Monroe, VA, who provided information for this article. Compiled by Donald W. Woodruff, CW5, US Army (Retired), January 22, 2003*

"ARMY MINE PLANTER SERVICE: That hereafter there shall be in the Coast Artillery Corps of the Regular Army a service to be known as the Army Mine Planter Service, which shall consist, for each mine planter in the service of the United States, of one master one first mate, one second mate, one chief engineer, and one assistant engineer, who shall be warrant officers appointed by and holding their offices at the discretion of the Secretary of War, and two oilers, four firemen, four deck hands, one cook, one steward, and one assistant steward, who shall be appointed from enlisted men of the Coast Artillery Corps, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe:

(Ed. Note 1, - In this instance, the term "mine planter" refers to a boat or ship, used to place or "plant" anti-submarine mines. One such vessel was the US Army Mine Planter Ship, "US MP-15 Bundy".)

Provided, That the Coast Artillery Corps is hereby increased by such numbers of warrant officers and enlisted men as may be necessary to constitute the force provided by this chapter:

Provided further, That the annual pay of the warrant officers and enlisted men in the various grades established by this chapter shall be as follows:"

(Ed. Note 2 - Each mine planter boat had 5 positions in the grade of Warrant Officer)

Masters, \$1,800; first mates, \$1,320; second mates, \$972; chief engineers, \$1,700; assistant engineers, \$1,200;

(Ed. Note 3 - Each boat had 6 positions authorized for up to 13 enlisted men)

oilers, \$432; firemen, \$396; deck hands, \$216; cooks, \$360; steward, \$540; assistant stewards, \$288:

And provided further, That warrant officers shall have such allowances as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and shall be retired, and shall receive longevity pay, as now provided by law for officers of the Army, and that the enlisted force herein provided for shall receive the allowances and continuous-service pay now provided by law for the enlisted men of the Army;

And provided further, That in computing length of service for retirement, and in computing longevity pay for warrant officers and continuous-service pay for enlisted men authorized by this chapter, service on boats in the service of the Quartermaster Department of the Quartermaster Corps prior to the passage of this act shall be counted:

And provided further, That during the continuation of the present emergency all enlisted men of the Mine Planter Service of the Army of the United States in active service whose base pay does not exceed \$21 per month shall receive an increase of \$15 per month; those whose base pay is \$24, an increase of \$12 per month; those whose base pay is \$30, \$33, \$36, or \$40, an increase of \$8 per month; and those whose base pay is \$45 or more, an increase of \$6 per month:

And provided further, That the increases of pay herein authorized shall not enter into the computation of continuous-service pay."

(Ed. Note 4 - End of Chapter IX)