

1953 PJ Headgear Pre-Beret

The 'Class A' uniform shown in atatched '53 phto, was authorized by ARS General DuBose. We all carried a card in our wallets, signed by the general, authoring to airborne cap patch and 'trousers tucked in'. The fatigue caps were the Korean War Ridgeway (blocked) cap with airborne jump wings pinned on it, as well as bloused boots. The APs were extremely jealous and harassed PJs that were alone or when they made their jeep patrols in town. Back then they were not allowed their boots or wear the Ridgeway cap. That's why we had these little cards in our wallets. Chuckle, chuckle... Udo Fischer



Here is a picture of a PJ in March, 1954. The 82nd airborne was worn by most PJs at that time. From Gene Armstrong



Before the beret, the head gear worn by PJs was either the squadron cap or the old green fatigue hat. Bill McDougal wore the round fatigue cap, commonly worn by the army. He also had a side cap with the paraglider patch on it. Frank Adkins said he had one too. Many of the old timers had one, and asked for permission to wear it, but were always turned down. No matter what the cap, PJs always wore a set of Parachute wings on the cap. When the beret was first authorized, PJs often had a run in with the base APs - some going to jail or the station house for a period of time- for wearing unauthorized uniforms. The word was slow in getting out. PJs were advised to carry a set of orders authorizing the beret, to show when necessary. From Harry O'Beirne

I still have my C cap with Para Glider patch on that I wore in '64. We had a copy of authorization that preceded that wear. I do have a picture of myself taken @ Key West in 1965 after completing Scuba. That authorization as I recall indicated also the Blousing of boots with all uniform wear. From Tom Large