

## Officer Ranks

Rank	Description
Cornette, guidon. Enseigne. (abolished by ordonnance of 10 <sup>th</sup> December 1762)	Replaced by sous-lieutenants which already existed.
Sous-lieutenant	
Quartier Maitre (created by ordonnance of 10 <sup>th</sup> December 1762)	They were first of all chefs de fourriers, and then put in charge of the running of the depot or camp. The ordinance of the 10 <sup>th</sup> August gave them the role of treasurers that had been abolished. They were thus then put in charge of the accounts of the corps.
Porte-drapeau (created by ordonnance of 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1776)	The ordinance of the 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1776 gave them the rank of lieutenant.
Lieutenant	There were first and second class lieutenants, artillery had a third (the latter were exclusively recruited from the lower ranks).
Capitaine	There were captains 2nd, and captains which commanded. The first holder was designated by taking the most senior fusilier captain.
Chef de Bataillon (rank created by ministerial decision 11 June 1774, abolished 25 mars 1776)	It was established by taking the first captain of each battalion and exempted from guard duty. He thereby commanded the senior captain, and held the rank of major with an appointment of being the captain of the grenadiers. He is considered the superior officer soon to be promoted.
Chef d'escadron, created in 1788	Not already existed as a function but formalised at this date.
Major en 2e. Rank created 17 June 1788 to replace Colonels en 2e. Abolished by the decree of 1 January 1791	In order to be named major en 2e, you needed to have five years service as captain, you then went directly to colonel, whereas the 'foot' majors went to lieutenant colonel rank.
Major abolished in 1791	This rank allowed officers without personal fortunes to avoid the cost of the purchase of a company. You got there by the role of aide-major, assimilated into the rank of lieutenant. By ordinance of the 10 <sup>th</sup> December 1762, the major had command over the captains.
Lieutenant Colonel	This rank allowed officers without personal fortunes to avoid the purchase of a regiment. The lieutenant colonel could become brigadier or even marechal de camp, without being colonel. It was how it worked in the early revolutionary period.
Colonel en 2e, rank created on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 1775, but replaced by that of major en 2e the 17 <sup>th</sup> March 1788.	This rank commanded the first battalion of each regiment as well as the colonel's company.
Colonel or Mestre du camp, these two terms are interchangeable.	From the ordinance of 26 <sup>th</sup> April 1775, it was necessary, in order to be colonel, to have 23 years and served 7 years as an officer, of which 5 as captain. Saint Germain demanded 29 years of age, 6 years of service in the post of mestre du camp 2eme, in 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1776. From 1788 onwards the colonels were uniquely taken from the majors en 2eme, having 1 year in that rank, and more than 5 years in the rank of captain.
Brigadier des armees du roi (abolished on 17th May 1788)	They created this rank which allowed a person to command a brigade, when campaigning composed of several regiments. It was given to colonels, to lieutenant colonels, to majors, and sometimes simple captains.
Marechal du camp	One became Marechal de Camp being lieutenant colonel, colonel or brigadier. It was a general officer rank.
Lieutenant general	This rank has its equivalence in the French Navy and examples exist where they actually switched !

Marechal de France

You made it !