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SECTION I

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GERMAN DIVISIONAL EMBLEMS

1. General

So far as is known almost every German division has or has had its own distinctive emblem, regardless of whether or not it is displayed in the combat zone. Prior to 1942, emblem designs and allocations were rather closely controlled by the OKW but it is presently evident that their choice and application depend almost entirely on the decision of divisional commanders, subject to approval by the OKW in order to avoid duplications.

Emblems form a practical method of marking divisional equipment, and are often used to deny numerical identification of units. Another important reason for the widespread use of emblems by German divisions is their value as an element of morale since they often take on the importance of citations, and are frequently selected with regards to the tradition, exploits or home station of the unit. They are proudly displayed, and divisional names, which are permitted to pass the censorship imposed on German newspapers, have often been derived from particularly characteristic designs.

2. Appearance

a) Design

Emblems, in contrast to tactical symbols, are individual designs allotted to specific units, and represent almost anything that can be encountered in the way of pictorial representation. Although it was a pre-1943 rule that panzer divisions carried emblems based on variations of simple geometrical designs or runic symbols, while infantry and other divisions

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showed a more representative type, it is no longer possible to classify a division solely by the appearance of its emblem. In case of highly specialized divisions, such as parachute or mountain divisions, the emblem is likely to contain certain "trade" characteristics, but even in these instances a general rule cannot be established.

Although all emblems are distinctly different, certain similarities between designs are unavoidable, e.g. "a windmill" has been identified for three different divisions: 9 SS Pz, 198 Inf and 437 Inf. The same applies to a number of divisions using "crossed swords". As a result, reports on designs which are not accurately drawn or specifically described should be treated with caution.

It would serve no practical purpose to present a long list of reasons underlying the various designs or design types, therefore, with a few exceptions, such explanations have been omitted from section II. In view of rather frequent changes of emblem designs (see paragraph 4) it must be emphasized that only documentary evidence furnishes positive proof of an emblem identification, and that the date of the information is of more than the usual importance for evaluation purposes.

b) Color

The original conception of many German divisional emblems called for the use of specific shades or the combination of various colors, and this idea is still carried out in certain cases. Generally, however, the shortage of paint has reduced practical application to a single color within the range of the six basic colors.

Yellow is the color of most panzer division emblems,

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green seems a favorite with parachute divisions, while white, red or black are predominantly in use with SS, infantry and all other types of divisions. (See also paragraph 4).

3. Display

Emblems are not arbitrarily used, specific orders being issued from division headquarters concerning their size, colors, placing (see Appendix A) etc.. They are usually displayed in the following places:

- a) On tanks, all types of motor vehicles, horse-drawn vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles,
- b) On directional signs leading to headquarters, billets, bivouac areas or designating march routes, often in conjunction with the sub-unit commander's initial,
- c) On divisional newspapers, official correspondence of an unusual character, certificates etc. Social correspondence, unit folders, note books and other documents are often found (unofficially) decorated with the divisional emblem.

It should be noted that contrary to the practice in the U.S and British Armies divisional emblems are not worn on the uniform. The few exceptions to this rule are specifically noted in section II.

Another deviation of a more interesting nature is the recent introduction of divisional emblems in form of cap badges by a limited number of divisions. This new practice is illustrated by a document of the 3 Para Div, dated 24 May 44 and signed by the divisional commander, in which the following statement appears:

"... I intend to have this emblem made of metal as a cap badge, and to keep its size within such dimensions as to make it suitable as a lapel decoration in civilian life. It is also planned to use this emblem in enlarged size as decoration

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for gatherings ... As soon as available the badges will be for sale in post exchanges, and it is intended to have a limited number of such badges in silver for distinguished services within the division ..."

Although this plan is based on ly on the decision of this particular commander, it is quite likely that other divisions with a distinguished combat record will have similar plans. As the creation of cap badges by a number of divisions (marked specifically in section II) furnishes supporting evidence for this tendency, it deserves particular attention in the light of post-war use of divisional emblems.

4. Changes and Variations

The identification of emblems has been rendered somewhat difficult by the fact that they have been changed from time to time with the object of confusing Allied Intelligence. A wide-spread change of this kind was made at the end of 1942. Although it would, therefore, seem that pre-1943 identifications (as marked in section II) would serve little more than historical interests, it is by no means certain that some of these emblems have not been reintroduced, particularly in the case of divisions of famous standing. In other instances the change of emblem has coincided with the transfer of a division from one theatre to another, and, more recently, with its conversion or change of commander. Adaptation of new emblem designs are still frequent but not as wide-spread as they were prior to 1944.

A rather elaborate and varying system of color and design application to denote different divisional sub-units by arm or branch of service or numerical progression has been

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found to be in use, particularly by highly mobile divisions. (See: MIRS booklet EMBLEMS AND VEHICLE MARKINGS OF THE GERMAN ARMY, August 1944). These practices will in most cases consist of minor additions to the original color scheme and can, although they are of tactical value, be disregarded from a divisional point of view since they are usually not of a permanent character, and will not change the basic elements of an individual emblem.

3. Security Measures

Prior to March 1943 the German Army used emblems without any but local restrictions. An OKW order of that time directed the painting out of emblems, either generally or in specific areas, but this order found only limited compliance by the individual divisions, particularly on the Eastern front. Apparently motivated by the consideration that the elements of morale and divisional control over its equipment outweighed that of security, the display of emblems was reinstated by an order of the Chief of the General Staff, dated March 1944. This order directed the display of emblems as outlined in paragraph 3, and divisional emblems (Divisionskennzeichen) are again in full use since summer 1944. During large-scale movements emblems as well as unit numbers (Truppenteilbezeichnung) are temporarily obliterated. Some divisions have also carried out similar security measures in combat zones, but all divisions, according to the order, are required to mark their vehicles with emblems in the communication zones and rear areas.

It is doubtful that large-scale deceptions, using a fictitious emblem or that of another division, were ever carried out. Possibly, such disguises may have been used locally by

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smaller units, but it is not known if intelligence stunts of that type have been employed on a divisional scale.

6. Emblems and Tactical Symbols

The most frequently encountered types of vehicle or sign post markings aside from divisional or other unit emblems are tactical symbols to designate the arm or branch of service (see: GERMAN MILITARY SYMBOLS, 1 April 1944). In contrast to emblems, tactical symbols do not furnish clues towards divisional identifications as all units in the German Army employ uniform tactical symbols. If used in conjunction with a divisional emblem, the tactical symbol is always distinctly separated from it, and does not form part of its design. Only the color of the symbol may, under certain conditions (see paragraph 4) furnish information towards the numerical designation of divisional sub-units.

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF GERMAN DIVISIONAL EMBLEMS

Introduction

The attached list of illustrations has been prepared in accordance with the following principles:

1. All German divisions are listed, and grouped in numerical order within each category. Divisions whose status or existence is uncertain are marked with *. Only positive or reasonably certain emblem identifications are given, but spaces for all divisions are provided to permit inclusions of newly identified designs.

2. Column "a" contains reproductions of emblems currently in use, or identified with certainty as of the date given. Where precise drawings could not be made with any degree of accuracy, verbal descriptions are included.

3. Column "b" serves several purposes, and gives the following:

1. The old emblem alongside the current design, particularly if the change took place in 1944, or if it is still in occasional use.

2. Additional identified designs, not yet fully confirmed but possibly indicating a change.

3. The pre-1943 emblem, particularly if it is believed to have been superseded by a new one.

4. All spaces have been kept equal as far as practicable so that future amendments can be superimposed over existing entries.

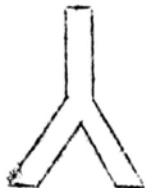
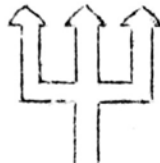
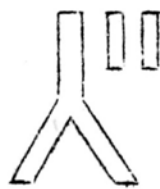



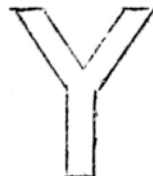
5. The "Remarks" column contains, in all cases, the latest date on which each design had been identified, and information concerning colors. If evidence was not complete, the emblem is marked "Unconfirmed". Additional relevant explanations, as well as divisional names, are also given here.

6. The following abbreviations are used:

- DU .. Design unidentified
- CU .. Color(s) unidentified
- B .. Cap badge issued or contemplated
- S .. Worn on shoulder straps

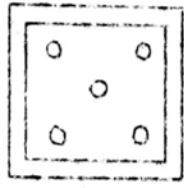

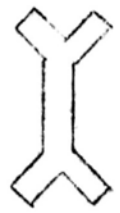


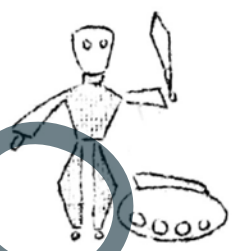





7. For the convenience of the user, blank spaces have been inserted between each category of divisions, at the end of each 100 series of infantry divisions, and at the end of this section.

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Division	Designs		Remarks
	a) Current	b) Alternate	
1. Panzer Divisions			UNCLASSIFIED
<u>1 Pz Div</u>		Vertical Oak Leaf, DU	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow b) <u>Jun 44</u> Unconfirmed
<u>2 Pz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Nov 44</u> Yellow, white or black depending on background
<u>3 Pz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>4 Pz Div</u>		Letter Y in a circle over 2 crossed swords in black shield, DU	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow. Known as "Baren Div" because of bear painted on tank turrets in add. to div emblem. b) <u>Apr 44</u> : Unconfirmed
<u>5 Pz Div</u>		X	a) <u>1943</u> Yellow b) <u>pre-1943</u> Yellow
<u>6 Pz Div</u>			a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>7 Pz Div</u>			a) <u>Jun 44</u> Yellow

[REDACTED]

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Division	Designs		Remarks
	a) Current	b) Alternate	
<u>8 Fz Div</u>			a) <u>Jun 44</u> Dets in various colors, probably colors of sub-units b) <u>pre-Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>9 Fz Div</u>			a) <u>Oct 44</u> Yellow. Known as "Runsh Division" b) <u>pre-1943</u> Yellow
<u>10 Fz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Dec 43</u> Yellow
<u>11 Fz Div</u>		1)  2) 	a) <u>Jun 44</u> White and black "ghost", known as "Geister Division" b-1) <u>pre-Jul 43</u> Yellow b-2) <u>Jul 43 - Jun 44</u> Varying colors
<u>12 Fz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Sep 43</u> Yellow
<u>13 Fz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Oct 43</u> Yellow
<u>14 Fz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow

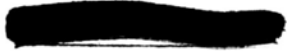
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Division	Emblems		Remarks
	a) Current	b) Alternate	
<u>16 Iz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Sep 43</u> Yellow
<u>17 Iz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Jul 44</u> Yellow
<u>18 Iz Div *</u>		—	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>19 Iz Div</u>		—	a) <u>Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>20 Iz Div</u>		1) White Elephant with raised trunk, DU 2) Charging Cavalryman with raised sword, DU	a) <u>Oct 43</u> Yellow b) <u>May 44</u> 1) and 2): Unconfirmed
<u>21 Iz Div</u>	—		a) Results of divl. contest of Apr 44 for new emblem unknown b) <u>pre-Jul 43</u> Yellow
<u>22 Iz Div</u> (Disbanded)		—	a) <u>1942</u> Yellow

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APPENDIX -A-

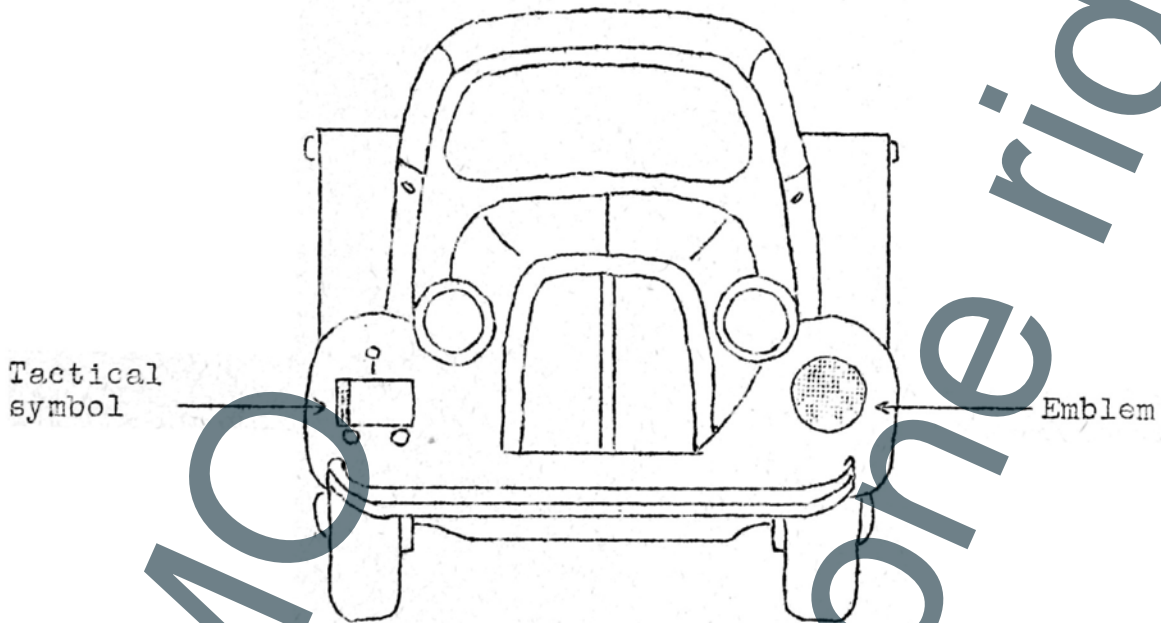
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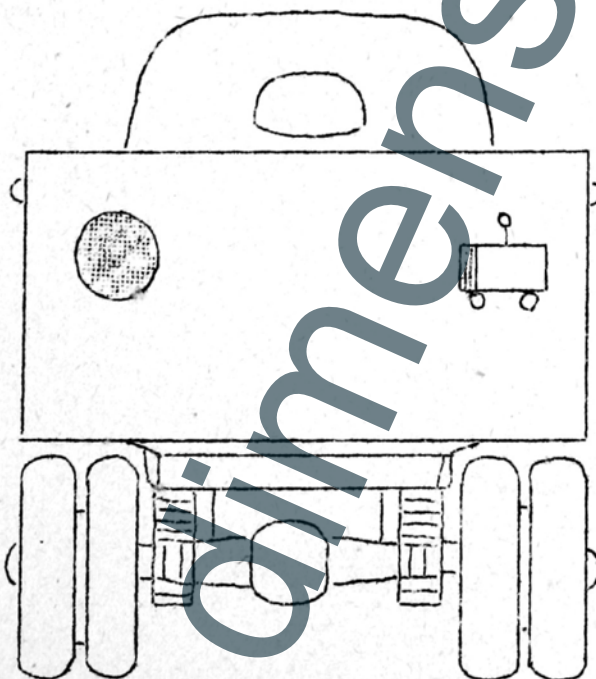
The following drawings purport to illustrate the usual application of divisional emblems and tactical symbols on motor and horse-drawn vehicles. In many instances the order of placement may be found reversed. In addition, some divisions also apply their markings on motor vehicle doors or other prominent places on the sides.

Motor Vehicles

Front view



Rear view

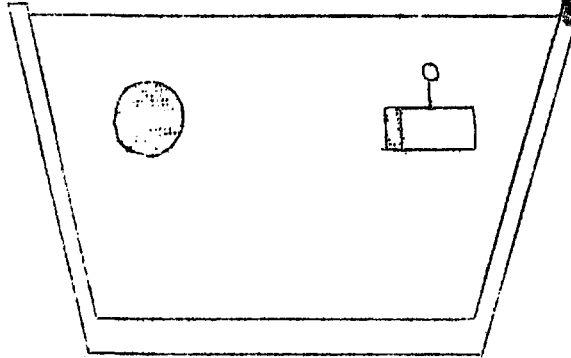


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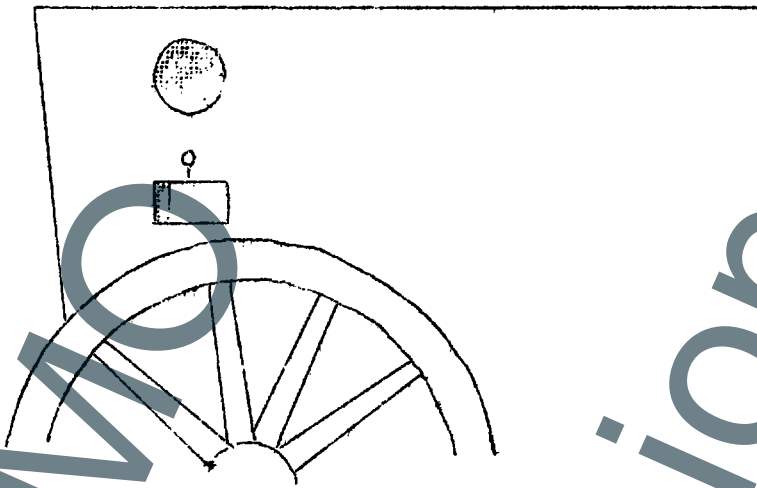
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Horse-drawn vehicles

Rear view



Side view



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