

e. National Insignia of the Armed Forces (Hoheitsabzeichen der Wehrmacht).



Mützen-Hoheitsabzeichen Luftwaffe (cap national insignia of air force)



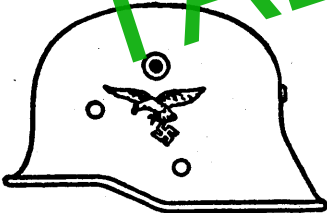
Mützen-Hoheitsabzeichen, Heer silbern, Kriegsmarine golden (cap national insignia, Army silver, Navy gold)



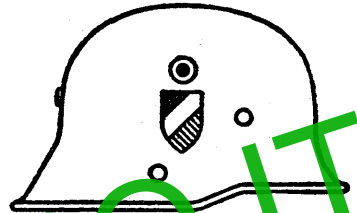
Hoheitsabzeichen für Rock u. Feldbluse Luftwaffe (national insignia for coat and field blouse of the air force)



Hoheitsabzeichen für Rock u. Feldbluse, Heer silbern, Kriegsmarine golden (national insignia for coat and field blouse; Army silver, Navy gold)

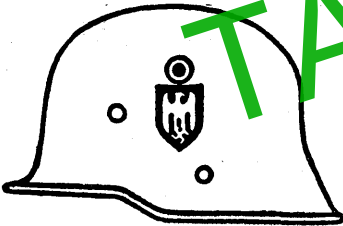


Left side

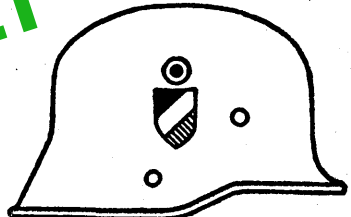


Right side

Stahlhelm Luftwaffe (steel helmet, air force)

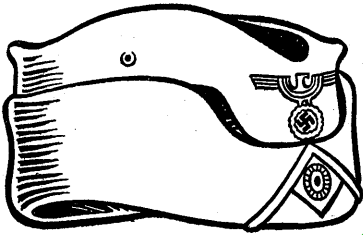


Left side



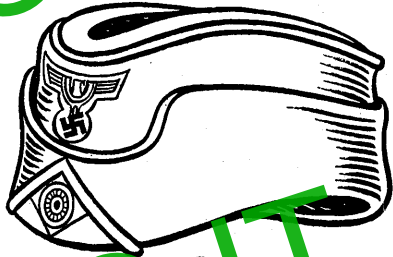
Right side

Stahlhelm für Heer und Kriegsmarine (steel helmet for Army and Navy)



1

1. Field cap, enlisted men
2. Field cap, officers, turn-up, badge, crown piped with silver



2



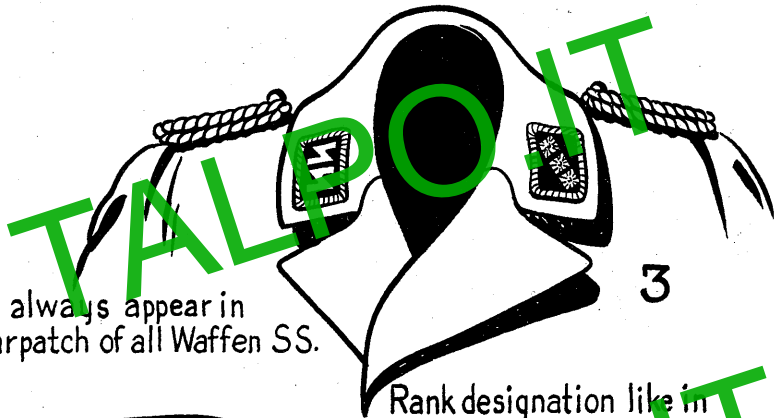
3

3. Mountain cap, officers and enlisted men
4. Parachutists helmet (air force); can also show Hoheitsabzeichen (infantry)



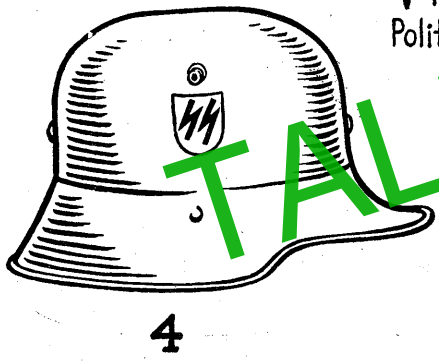
4

pink piping

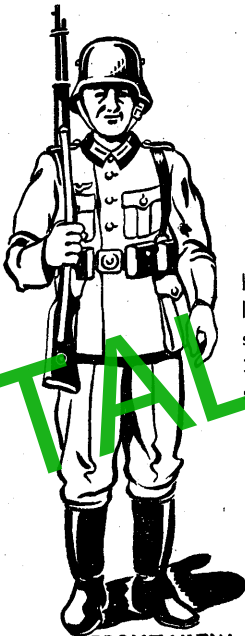


will always appear in collarpatch of all Waffen SS.

Rank designation like in Political SS (not like Wehrmacht)



- 1. Beret
- 2. Collar patch, tank personnel (black uniform only)
- 3. Militarized SS (Waffen SS)
- 4. Militarized SS, helmet



FRONT VIEW

German Rifleman
Deutscher Schütze

Helmet, M1 type, belt (Koppel),
leather, buckles showing (Koppel-
schloß). Ammunition pouches,
3 each side, bayonet, short,
sharp spade.



LEFT SIDE



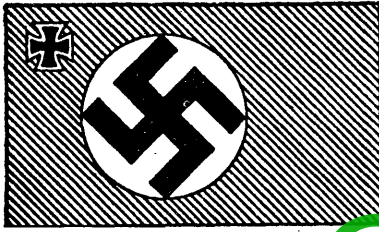
BACK VIEW

Gas mask over right hip, can-
teen (Feldflasche) and rations
bag (Brotbeutel). Long trousers
tucked into half-length boots

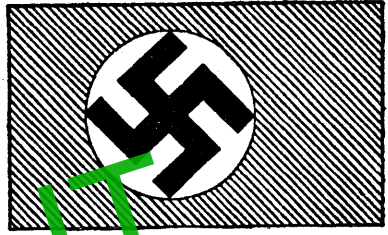


RIGHT SIDE

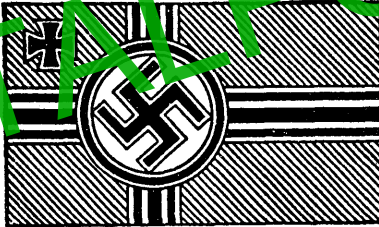
f. *Flaggen (flags).*



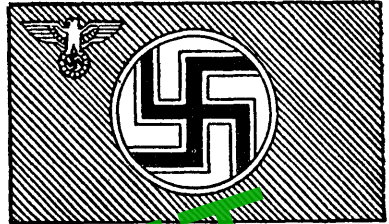
Handelsflagge m. d. Eisernen Kreuz
(flag of the Merchant Marine with Iron Cross)



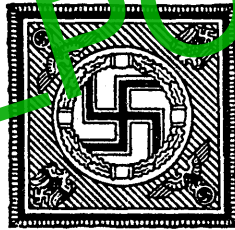
Gösch der Kriegsschiffe
(Navy flag)



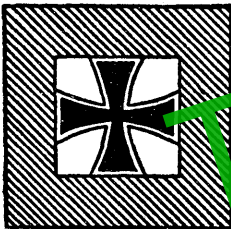
Reichsdienstflagge
("Reich" service flag)



Reichskriegsflagge
("Reich" war flag)



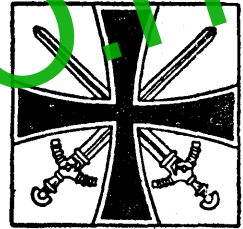
Standarte d. Führers u. Obersten Befehlshabers der Wehrmacht
(standard of the leader and supreme commander of the armed forces)



Standarte des Oberbefehlshabers
des Heeres
(standard of the commander in
chief of the Army)



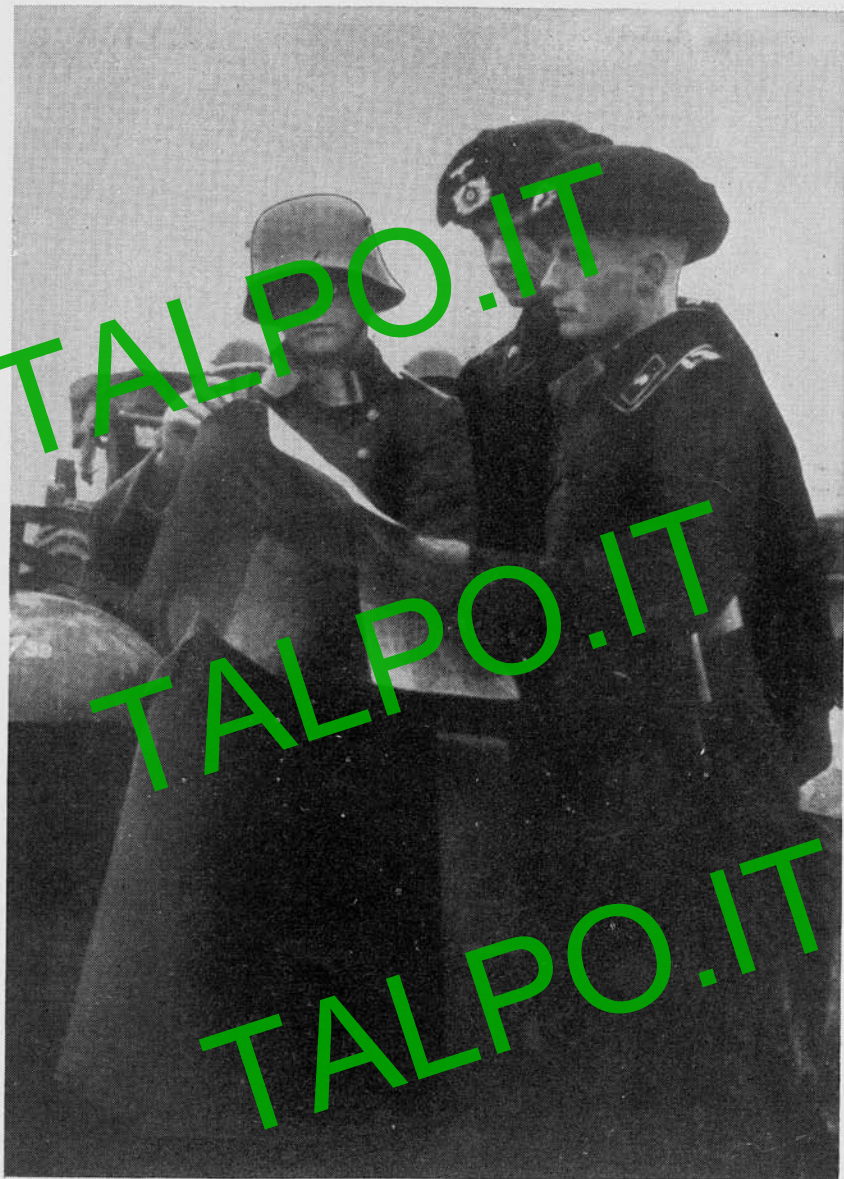
Kommandozeichen des Reichs-
ministers d. Luftf. u. Ober-
befehlsh. der Luftwaffe
(standard of the Air Minister
and commander in chief of
the air force)



Flagge des Oberbefehlshabers
der Kriegsmarine
(flag of the commander in chief
of the navy)



German soldier in winter uniform (white hood)



Armored fighting troops

5. German Army identifications of specialists.—Specialists (technicians) are mostly noncommissioned officers (from Unteroffizier to Oberfeldwebel). Specialists' insignia are worn on the *right lower sleeve*, except where otherwise noted. Worked in yellow wool on dark blue-green cloth background.



Medical personnel
(Sanitätsunterpersonal)



Saddler candidate
(Gerätsensattlermeister-Anwärter)



Paymaster candidate
(Anwärter für die Heeres-Zahlmeisterlaufbahn)



Motor maintenance sergeant (harness
sergeant if horse outfit)
(Schirrmeister)



Fortification maintenance sergeant
(Wallmeister)



Pigeoneer (sergeant)
(Brieffaubenmeister)



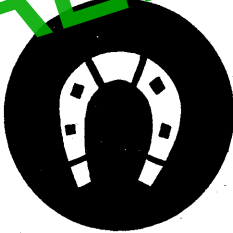
Pyrotechnician
(Feuerwerker)



Fortification construction sergeant
(Festungspionier-Feldwebel)



Horseshoeing instructor
(Hufbeschlaglehrmeister)



Horseshoers (personnel)
(Hufbeschlagpersonal)



Radio sergeant
(Funkmeister)



Ordnance sergeant
(Waffenmeister)



Helmsman (Steuermann). This insignia is worn on the *left upper sleeve*. (Anchor in silver embroidery)



Operator smoke troops (Bedienungspersonal Nebelabteilung). This insignia is worn on the *left lower arm*. Worked in white rayon on dark green background



Communication personnel (other than Signal Corps) (Nachrichtenspersonal). This insignia is worn on the *left upper sleeve*. (Flash in "Waffenfarben")



Army mountain guide (Heeresbergführer). This insignia is worn on the *left breast*



Gunner (Richtkanonier). This insignia is worn on *left lower arm*

6. Colors of arms of service (Waffenfarbe).—To be found on shoulder strap piping and field cap at all times and may be found on the collar patch.

Arm of service	Colors	Shoulder straps
Generals (Generale)-----	Bright red (hochrot).	No numbers.
General headquarters of armed forces (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht).	Carmine red (karmesin rot).	No numbers.
General headquarters of army (Oberkommando des Heeres).	Carmine red (karmesin rot).	No numbers.
War Department and General Staff (Reichskriegsministerium und Generalstab).	Carmine red (karmesin rot).	No numbers.
Army group headquarters (Heeresgruppenkommando).	White (weiss)---	"G" and Arabic (1) number.
Army corps headquarters (Generalkommando).	White (weiss)---	Roman number of corps. (2)
Infantry division headquarters (Infanterie-Divisionsstab).	White (weiss)---	"D" and number of division. (3)
Armored division headquarters (Panzer-Divisionsstab).	Pink (rosa)	"D" and number of division. (4)
Antitank battalions of armored division (Panzerjäger-Abteilungen der Panzer-Division).	Pink (rosa)-----	"P" and number of battalion. (5)
Armored train (Eisenbahn-Panzerzug).	Pink (rosa)-----	"E." (6)
Infantry regiments (Infanterie-Regimenter).	White (weiss)---	Number of regiment. (7)
Mountain Jäger Regiments and Jäger Battalions, Infantry (Gebirgsjägerregimenter und Jägerbataillone).	Light green (hellgrün).	Number of regiment. (8)
Infantry Regiment "Greater Germany" (Infanterieregiment "Gross-Deutschland").	White (weiss)---	"GD." (9)
Guard Battalion "Vienna" (Wachbataillon "Wien").	White (weiss)---	"W." (10)
Machine-gun battalion (Maschinengewehrbataillon).	White (weiss)---	"M" and number of battalion. (11)
Parachute units, infantry (Fallschirmjäger-Einheiten).	White (weiss)---	"FJ." (12)
Reconnaissance regiments or battalions, Infantry (Aufklärungsregimenter und -abteilungen).	Golden yellow (goldgelb).	"A" and number of regiment or battalion. (13)
Cavalry and horse regiments (Kavallerie- und Reiterregimenter).	Golden yellow (goldgelb).	Number of regiment. (14)
Bicycle battalions (Radfahrer-Abteilungen).	Golden yellow (goldgelb).	"R" and number of battalion. (15)

Arm of service	Colors	Shoulder straps
Artillery regiments (Artillerieregimenter).	Bright red (hochrot).	Number of regiment. (16)
Horse-drawn artillery regiments (Berittene Artillerieregimenter).	Bright red (hochrot).	"R" and number of unit. (17)
Observation battalions (Beobachtungsabteilungen).	Bright red (hochrot).	"B" and number of unit. (18)
Smoke units (Nebelabteilungen) -----	Violet (violet).	"N" and number of battalion. (19)
Panzer reconnaissance units of Panzer or motorized division (Panzer-Aufklärungs Abteilungen) and motorized units of Panzer division (Motorisierter Panzerdivision).	Copper brown (Kupferbraun).	"A" and number of unit. (20)
Motorcycle battalion in armored division (Kraftschützenbattalion)	Grass green (grasgrün).	"K" and number of unit. (21)
Engineer battalions (Pionierbattalion).	Black (schwarz).	Number of battalion. (22)
Fortress engineers (Festungspioniere).	Black (schwarz).	Gothic "Fp" if unit existed in peacetime. Latin "F" if formed on or after mobilization. (23)
Fortress engineer commander (Festungspionierkommandeur). Rank of regimental commander.	Black (schwarz).	Gothic "Fp." Roman numeral in Wehrkreis.
Fortress engineer headquarters (Festungspionierstab).	Black (schwarz).	Gothic "Fp" or Latin "F" plus Arabic numbers 1-50.
Signal battalions (Nachrichtenabteilungen).	Lemon yellow (zitronengelb).	Number of battalion. (24)
Transportation battalions (Kraftfahr- und Fahrabteilungen).	Light blue (hellblau).	Number of battalion. (25)
Medical battalions (Sanitätsabteilungen).	Cornflower blue (kornblumenblau).	Number of division. (26)
Veterinary units (Veterinärabteilungen).	Carmine red (karmesinrot).	Number of division. (27)
Chaplains (Heeregeistliche) -----	Violet (violet).	No shoulder straps.
Field signal commandant (Feldnachrichtenkommandant).	Lemon yellow (zitronengelb).	Latin "K."
Antiaircraft battalions (Flak-Battalion).	White (weiss) -----	Gothic "Fl." (28)

Arm of service	Colors	Shoulder straps
Military police (Feldgendarmerie) --	Orange (orange) --	No number. Nazi eagle and swastika surrounded by oak wreath on upper left arm; brown band with "Feldgendarmerie" in silver inscribed on lower left arm.
Local defense units (Landesschützen-Einheiten).	White (weiss) --	Latin "L" plus Arabic number of regiment or battalion.
Some local defense units (Einige Landesschützen-Einheiten).	Light green (hellgrün).	
Construction units (Bau-Einheiten) --	Light brown (hellbraun).	
Railway engineers (Eisenbahnpioniere).	Black (schwarz) --	Latin "E" and Arabic numeral of unit.
Administration of ordnance stores -- enlisted men (Feldzeugkommando).	Light blue (hellblau).	Latin "Fz." (29)
Officials (Beamte) -----	Dark green (dunkelgrün)	(30)

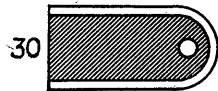
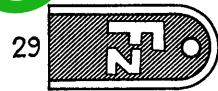
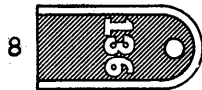
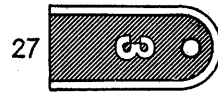
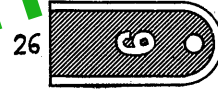
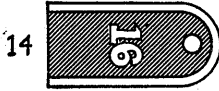
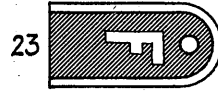
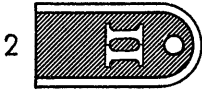
NOTE.—The numbers in parentheses on right and margin correspond to the numbers in the chart on the following page.

7. Enlisted men (Mannschaften).—Shoulder strap is plain; dark green on a foundation in the color of the arm of service. Their regimental number is also in the color of the arm of service. Collar patch is plain; latest type consists of three lines in mouse gray (Einheitslitze). Insignia of rank is worn on left sleeve in dull silver chevrons.

NOTE.—Corporals in the German Army are classed as enlisted men.

8. Noncommissioned officers (Unteroffiziere).—Noncommissioned officers have a dull silver lacing all around the collar of the field blouse. The dark green background of the shoulder strap is bordered by a silver strip around which is a narrow braid of the distinctive color of the wearer's arm of service.

9. Officers (Offiziere).—All officers have either the old style officer's collar patch (as illustrated) or the new standard collar patch (Einheitslitze) which is worn by officers and enlisted men. The shoulder strap of company officers (lieutenants and captains) consists of four flat silver laces with piping in the color of the arm of service. Field officers (Stabsoffiziere) wear shoulder straps with two heavy silver laces twisted, with piping. The number of an officer's battalion or regiment is in gold metal. Company numbers do not appear.



TALPOIT
TALPOIT
TALPOIT

ENLISTED MEN

Schütze (private). No chevron		
Oberschütze (private first class). One dull silver diamond		
Gefreiter (lance corporal). One dull silver chevron		
Obergefreiter (corporal) with less than 6 years service. Two dull silver chevrons		
Obergefreiter (corporal) with more than 6 years service. One dull silver chevron and one diamond		
Stabsgefreiter (corporal on administrative duty). Two dull silver chevrons and one diamond		

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Unteroffizier (sergeant). Only noncommissioned officer with silver strip open on arm end. Embroidered number of regiment or battalion in color of arm of service



Unterfeldwebel (cavalry: unterwachtmeister). Number of regiment or battalion in silver in color of arm of service



Fähnrich (officer aspirant junior grade). Same as Unterfeldwebel, only numbers of regiment or battalion in silver. This grade has lately been abolished



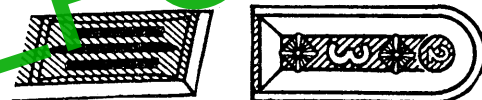
Feldwebel (or Wachtmeister, cavalry) (technical sergeant). Shoulder straps same as above with one dull silver star



Oberfeldwebel or Oberwachtmeister (battalion sergeant major, approximate American equivalent). Same as Feldwebel, but with two silver stars



Hauptfeldwebel or Hauptwachtmeister (first sergeant). Shoulder strap same as Oberfeldwebel. Also has two silver stripes on both lower sleeves

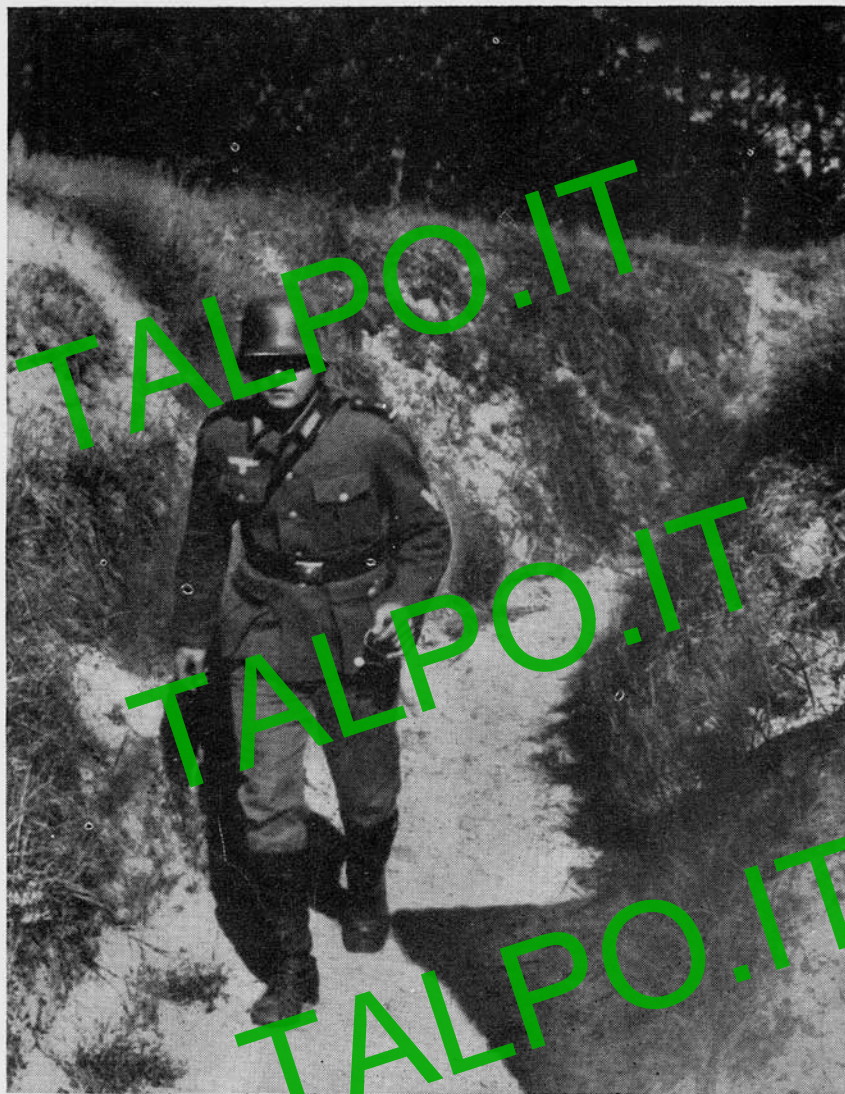


Oberfähnrich (officer aspirant senior grade). Shoulder strap same as Oberfeldwebel, but he has officer's collar patch. This grade has lately been abolished



Stabsfeldwebel or Stabswachtmeister (regimental sergeant major). Same shoulder straps as Feldwebel, but with three silver stars





Noncommissioned-officer candidate (Gefreiter)
Unteroffiziersanwärter



The soldier on the left is an Obergefreiter (corporal with less than 6 years service). On the right is an Unteroffizier (noncommissioned officer). The instrument is a German BC telescope

a. Company officers.

Leutnant (second lieutenant).
Lowest ranking officer. No stars on shoulder straps



Oberleutnant (first lieutenant).
Shoulder strap has one gold star



Hauptmann, Rittmeister in the Cavalry (captain). Two gold stars on shoulder strap



b. Field officers.

Major (major). Shoulder strap has no star



Oberstleutnant (lieutenant colonel). One gold star on shoulder strap

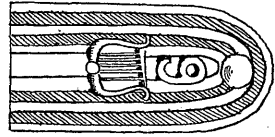


Oberst (colonel). Two gold stars on shoulder strap

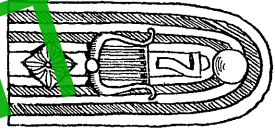


c. Band masters.—Band masters rate a salute from all non-commissioned officers and enlisted men. However, they do not outrank any commissioned officers even though they may hold a higher corresponding rank.

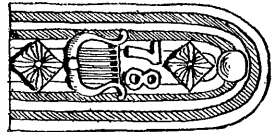
Musikmeister, piped in Waffenfarbe, red and aluminum cords, lyre and numeral gold-colored metal.
Band master, junior. Rank of second lieutenant



Obermusikmeister, same as Musikmeister, but one gold-colored star, metal. Band master, senior.
Rank of first lieutenant



Stabsmusikmeister, same as Obermusikmeister, but two gold-colored metal stars. Chief band master.
Rank of captain



E. GENERAL OFFICERS

Generalmajor (major general).
No star on shoulder strap



Generallieutenant (lieutenant general). One silver star



General der Infanterie, etc. (general). Two silver stars

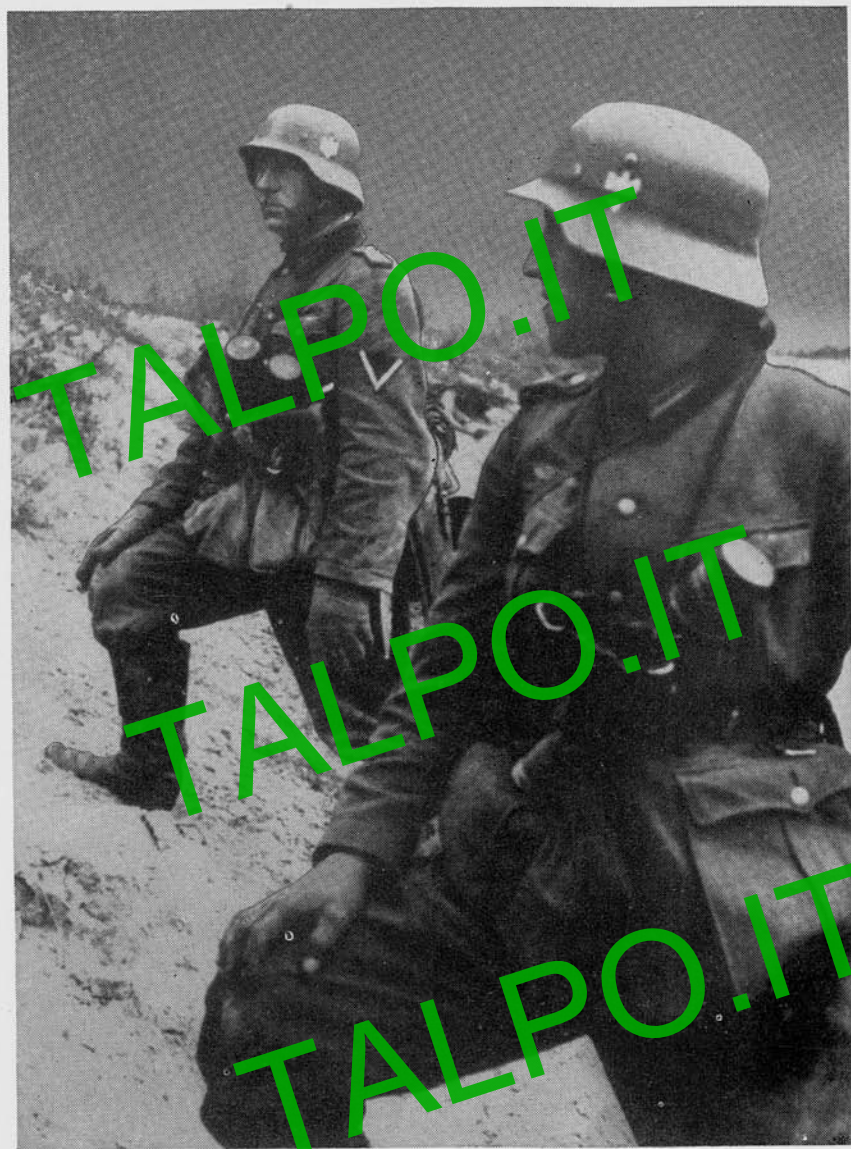


Generaloberst (colonel general).
Three silver stars

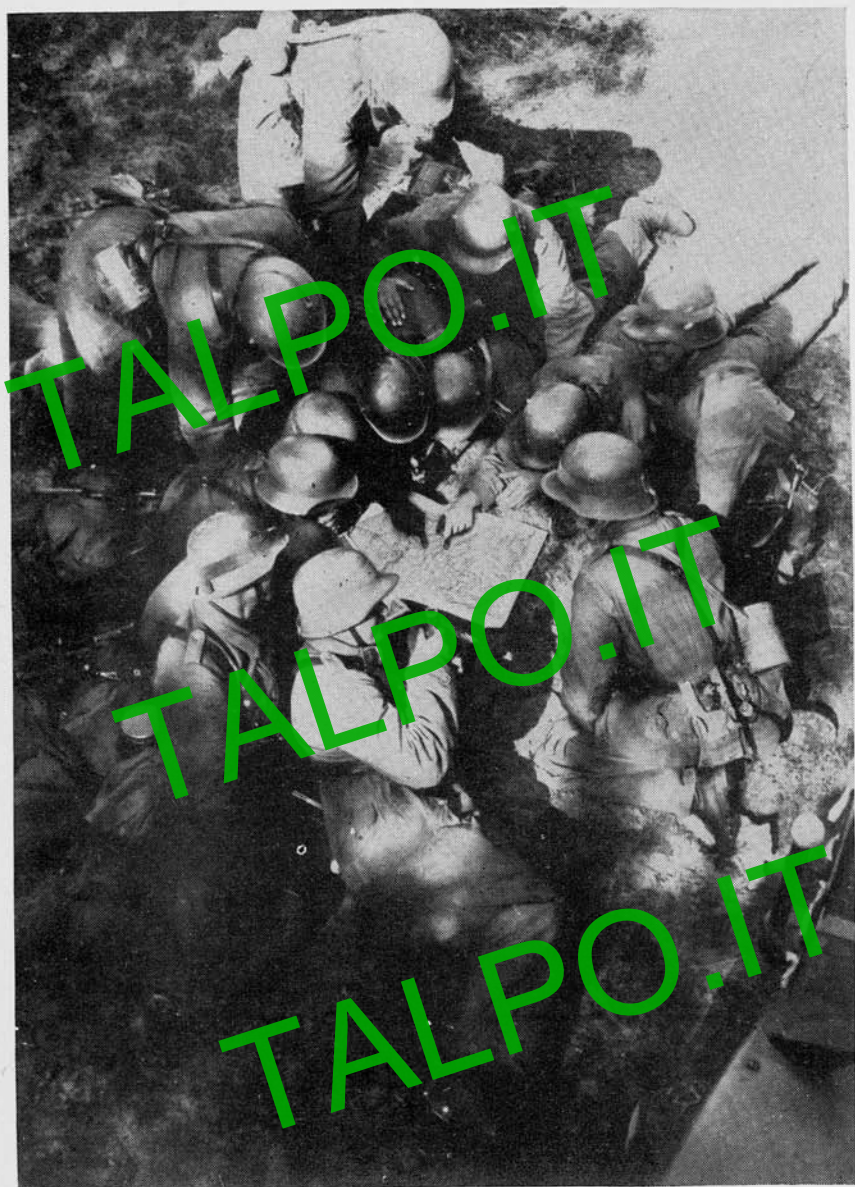


Generalfeldmarschall (field marshal). Two crossed batons





Troops on maneuvers



Can you detect the ranks of these men?

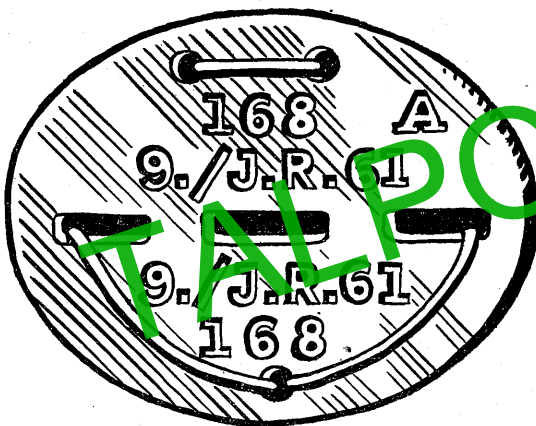
d. Medical, Veterinary, and Reserve officers.—All medical officers carry on their shoulder straps in addition a caduceus. All veterinary officers carry only winding snake (caduceus without a stick). Reserve officers have their shoulder straps on a second mouse gray underlay.

e. Generals (Generäle).—The collar patch consists of a gold leaf on a red background. The shoulder strap is formed by the interweaving of two heavy gold laces with one silver lace. Generals have neither regimental nor company numbers, and also no piping on their straps, but have red strips on the seams of their trousers.

10. German identification tag (Erkennungsmarke).—*a.* It is believed that every German officer and soldier carries an identification tag, which is usually worn around the neck. The tag is made of zinc, is oval in shape, and measures about 2 by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It is divided into an upper and a lower part by perforations. Each half bears identical markings.

b. When a man is killed, the lower half of the tag is broken off and sent back to Germany and the upper half is buried with the body. Identification tags captured up to the present bear only the unit, subunit, and a number. This number is also inscribed on the first page of the pay book (Soldbuch). The tag also bears a letter or two letters indicating to which blood group he belongs (A, B, AB, or O). The identification tag seldom shows the unit in which the man concerned is now serving unless he has lost the original disk issued to him on being assigned to a depot unit and his present unit has issued a replacement. The tag may record the existence of a previously unidentified unit.

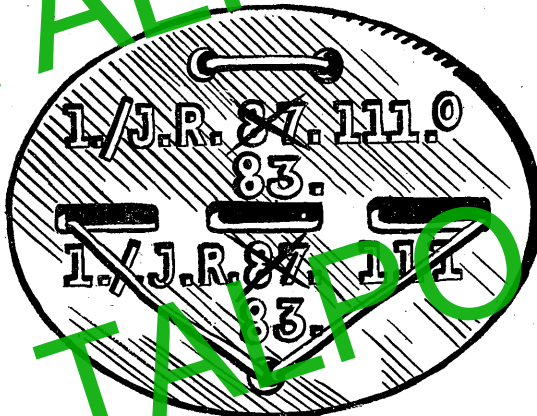
c. A report should always be made of the entries on the tags.



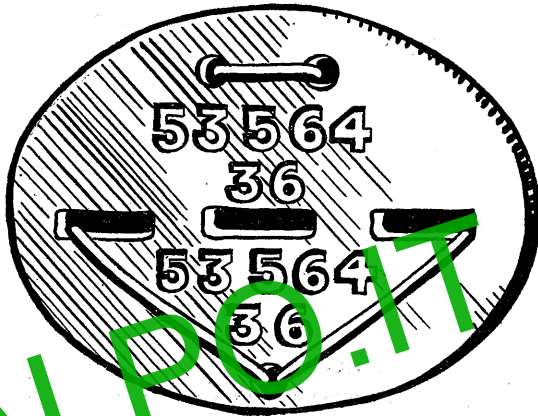
A captured identification tag of the old type. 168 is the personal number. 9th Company of the 61st Infantry Regiment. Blood group "A"



8 is the personal number. Stb. means Staff. 7 Pz. Abw. means 7th Division Antitank Battalion. Blood group "O"



83 is the personal number. 1st Company of 111th Infantry Regiment (formerly of 87th Infantry Regiment). Blood group "O"



The new type identification tag, five-digit serial number indicates field post number which is that of the messing unit. 36 is the personal number.

11. "Wehrmacht" officials (Wehrmachtbeamte).—a. Definition.—"Wehrmacht" is a German word having no exact American translation but including the Army, Navy, and Air Corps. These officials hold administrative positions and are often referred to as "civilian officials in the Army."

b. Basic colors (Waffenfarbe).—Dark green.

c. Classification.—Indicated by secondary color (Nebenfarbe).

(1) War Ministry officials (Wehrmachtbeamte des Reichskriegsministeriums)—carmine red.

(2) Officials for education, libraries, topography, and sports (Wehrmachtbeamte des Bildungs-, Bibliothek- und Vermessungswesen, Heeressportlehrer)—dark green.

(3) Court-martial officials (trained lawyers) (Reichskriegsgerichtsbeamte)—wine red.

(4) Engineers (Truppeningenieure), other construction personnel, technical instructors, etc.—black.

(5) Service command administration officials (Wehrmachtbeamte der Wehrkreisverwaltungen)—bright red.

(6) Judge Advocate Department (lower grades) (Heeresjustizbeamte)—light blue.

(7) Pharmacists (Apotheker)—light green.

(8) Officials at repair stations (Wehrmachtbeamte der Remonteverwaltungen)—gold yellow.

(9) Paymasters (Heereszahlmeister)—white.

12. "Ersatz" system.—a. Field army (Feldheer) and replacement army (Ersatzheer).—Units in the German Army are allocated to the field army (Feldheer) or to the replacement army (Ersatzheer).