

WAFFEN-SS



UNIFORMS, ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY  
OF THE

WAFFEN-SS

VOLUME

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ROGER JAMES BENDER  
and  
HUGH PAGE TAYLOR



Vol. 1



UNIFORMS, ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY  
OF THE  
**WAFFEN-SS**

BY ROGER JAMES BENDER AND HUGH PAGE TAYLOR



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# Introduction



Nazi Germany forms a subject which has captured the interest of millions. Countless books are currently available covering most aspects of this complicated and sinister era. Many of them are devoted to the Waffen-SS, one of Nazi Germany's most powerful and feared organizations, which contained a fully-equipped army with volunteers from almost every country in the world.

Much hate propaganda has been written about the SS, but only recently has a distinction been drawn between its political and military branches. On the one side, those blindly against the SS in all its forms (especially in East Germany and other Communist countries) refuse to appreciate a difference between the two. On the other hand (especially amongst veterans' associations in West Germany such as H. I. A. G. \*), the million or so members of the Waffen-SS go down in the pages of history as untarnished heroes of what they believe to have been the fourth branch of the German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht).

One of the most followed, yet least understood of Third Reich subjects, the Waffen-SS has enjoyed increasing popularity in recent years. Although many excellent unit histories have appeared in the German language (of special note is Dr. Kliemann's excellent "Die Waffen-SS - Eine Dokumentation"), these have been rather difficult to obtain, hard to follow for non-German speaking readers, and have not dealt with the subject of uniforms and insignia. The ever-growing hobby of collecting Waffen-SS relics and war souvenirs in Europe, and especially the U. S. A., has in itself spawned a multitude of books, pamphlets and magazines. Regrettably, the vast majority of these have not been up to a high standard as they have relied on outdated and inaccurate war-time intelligence manuals such as the TM-E series and JAN 1, or on unreliable information. The authors are confident that "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS" will mark the advent of professional thinking to the study of Waffen-SS uniforms and insignia.

"Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS" represents years of careful research carried on in all parts of the world, and is the first book of its kind to be based on official contemporary German sources.

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\*H. I. A. G. is the old comrades' association of the Waffen-SS (HILFSGEMEINSCHAFT AUF GEGENSEITIGKEIT EHEMALIGEN ANGEHÖRIGEN DER WAFFEN-SS - BUNDESVERBAND DER SOLDATEN DER EHEMALIGEN WAFFEN-SS e. V.).

The fortnightly "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS" has been thoroughly studied and continual reference will be found to it throughout the series. Photographs have been selected from the thousands available, both in the U. S. A. and Europe, and special consideration has been given to select those which have not been reproduced before and are of high quality.

This, the first of four volumes of "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS", covers the basic subject of Waffen-SS uniforms and insignia without going into unit insignia variations. It covers such essential subjects as basic uniform types, headgear, rank insignia, trade insignia and Waffenfarben, which will form the framework for any serious study of this complicated and involved subject. The volumes that follow will cover each and every unit of the Waffen-SS in descending order of size and importance... from the 6. SS-Panzer-Armee, down through the corps, the divisions, brigades, foreign legions, independent units, training and replacement units, schools, battle groups, and so on. All special unit insignia will be as fully described and illustrated as possible, together with unit histories, organizational break-downs, and lists of commanders. Each volume will form a complete work of reference within itself and the series as a whole will be the most complete and detailed source of information on the Waffen-SS ever produced.

## Acknowledgements

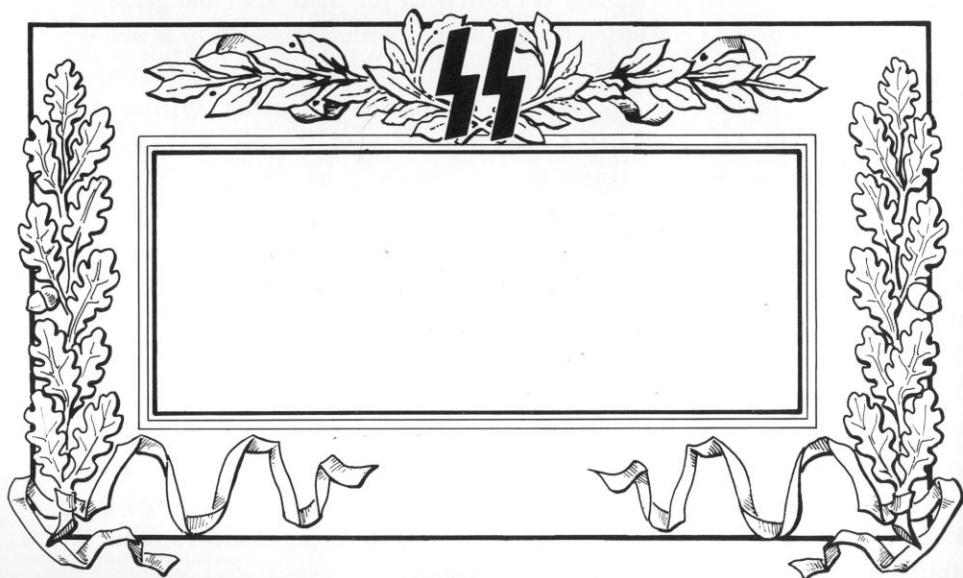
We would like to thank personally the following for their kind and generous assistance in the production of this book. Without their help it would never have been possible in its present form. Individuals: Dennis Aley, Markus Anaja, Major John R. Angolia, Egon Alois Bartetzko, William M. Brooks Jr., Philip H. Buss, B. A. (Hons.), Brian L. Davis, Richard E. Deeter, David Lee Delich, Albert Denis, Colonel C. M. Dodkins, C. B. E., D. S. O., Retd., Hartvig Fleege, Al Fleming, Art Grigg, David Littlejohn, Dr. André Mathias, William R. McClure Jr., A. M. McLachlen, Andrew Mollo, Richard L. Mundhenk, F. Ollenschläger, George Petersen's Kriegsbild Dienst, L. Roker, Daniel Rose, Jerry Sanders, Guenther G. Schoen, Dave Singer, Dipl. Ing. Otto Skorzeny, John G. Slade, James G. Steuard, Dan E. Stover, J. van Fleet, Drs. N. K. C. A. In't Veld, M. C. Voit and Jerry Weiblen. Institutions: Imperial War Museum, London, Istituto Luce, Rome, National Archives, Washington, New York Public Library, New York, Norsk Telegrambyraa A/S, Oslo, Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, Amsterdam, Tøjhusmuseet, Copenhagen, Universitetsbiblioteket, Oslo and Wiener Library, London.



## The Scope of this Series

In keeping with the title of this work, "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS", it is the authors' intention to describe the Waffen-SS and nothing else. Readers will therefore find little or no coverage in this series of the uniforms, organization and history of the various units that were brought together to form the Waffen-SS. Consequently, the SS-Verfügungstruppen and SS-Totenkopfverbände will not be described as such, only their successor formations such as divisions "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf". Those interested in these units should consult volume three in the present series "Uniforms of the SS" (Historical Research Unit, London, England).

No exact date has been found for the introduction of the title "Waffen-SS", but Reichsführer-SS Himmler stated that it should be used in a directive dated December 1st, 1939 (published March 8th, 1940). The Chief of Staff of the SS-Führerhauptamt, SS-Gruppenführer Jüttner, ordered on April 22nd, 1941, that the terms "SS-Verfügungstruppe" and "SS-Totenkopfverbände" were obsolete and no longer to be used. Thus, all that can be said is that the Waffen-SS came into being as such at the beginning of World War II, and this is basically where this series begins.

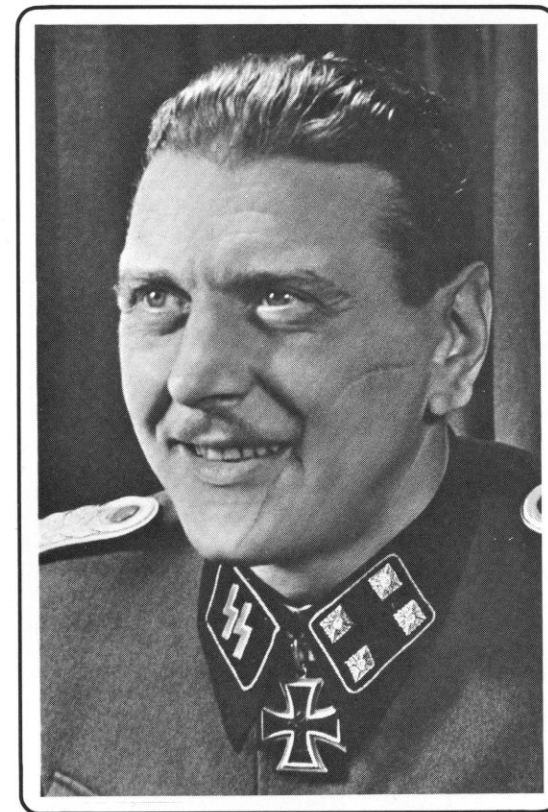


## Foreword by

Dipl. Ing.

### Otto Skorzeny

Former SS-Standartenführer of the Waffen-SS, commander of the SS-Jagdverbände (special forces) and February/March 1945 commander of the Division Schwedt a. d. Oder, and holder of the Oak-Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.



I am delighted to write the foreword for this book by invitation of the authors. The tremendous research work which the authors have put into the book is appreciated by me, not only in the name of the still living members of the Waffen-SS, but also of our dead brothers. I appreciate this work even more so as it is done by an English and an American historian who show sincere interest in our old military units, universally known as the Waffen-SS. I am confident that this unique book gives with all possible precision, a complete description of all uniforms and insignia used by the Waffen-SS.

The authors have informed me that this book is the first in a series of four on the Waffen-SS. In the next three volumes, I am sure that they will write about the Waffen-SS and of the major battles in the Second World War in which Waffen-SS Divisions and Corps took part. This series, once published, will form an important addition to the true history of the Second World War. These books will clearly show that the Waffen-SS formed for the first time a European army, composed only of volunteers and united by a European ideal which was possibly premature at this time.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Otto Skorzeny". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Madrid, Spain  
October 1969





Waffen-SS Headgear



## Steel Helmets

The Waffen-SS utilized the M1935 (Modell 35) steel helmet, which was adopted by the Wehrmacht, to replace the larger, cruder and heavier World War I helmet. The M1935 was supplied in five basic sizes and weighed from 1.8 to 2.7 lbs. Its suspension consisted of an adjustable, leather-padded, spring-aluminum band which was secured at the sides and rear by three cotter keys. The M1943 which was introduced in 1943, was also adopted and worn by the Waffen-SS personnel. It was similar in appearance to the M1935 except it dispensed with the inward crimp around the rim thus easing and cheapening manufacture. Waffen-SS helmets were finished in a matt field-grey and fitted with a black leather chin-strap.

The Waffen-SS continued to use the two transfer (decal) shields which the SS-VT had utilized pre-war. These shields were centred immedi-



NOTE OUTWARD CURVE OF M1943 HELMET AT LEFT AND INWARD CRIMP OF M1935 HELMET AT RIGHT.



SS TRANSFER (RIGHT SIDE)



SWASTIKA TRANSFER (LEFT SIDE)



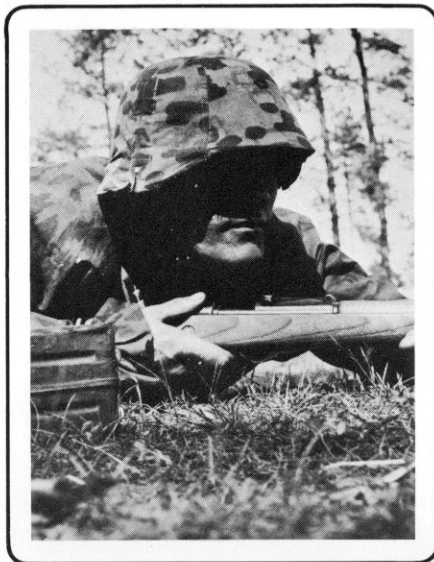
NOTE TRAINING GRENADE IN BELT OF SS RECRUIT AT RIGHT.

ately below the ventilation holes on either side of the helmet. The left shield was red with a white circle containing a black swastika. The right shield was silver<sup>1</sup> bearing the double runes of the SS. In early 1941, combat troops were restricted in the wearing of the red/white/black swastika shield for the sake of camouflage and concealment. Although the SS runes were worn alone for some time, these were also discontinued after November 1943.

Cloth camouflage helmet covers were widely used by the Waffen-SS and can be distinguished from those of the Army and Luftwaffe by the distinctive SS camouflage pattern. These covers were reversible, having either two styles of camouflage pattern (spring and autumn) or a mottled pattern on one side and white on the other. They were fitted to the helmet by a fold in front and small metal hooks at the back and either side. It is probable that a special SS helmet cover was issued and worn by members of the SS-Fallschirmjäger-Bataillon.

<sup>1</sup>The base colour of the right shield varied greatly. Besides the varying degrees of discolouration of the basic silver, white and gold coloured shields exist.

The basic matt field-grey helmet was often re-painted to fit the terrain when helmet covers were not available. In these cases, the painting depended entirely upon the whim of the individual or on the available paint. The helmet shields were completely obliterated, partially covered over or painted around and therefore left intact. Camouflage netting was also worn on Waffen-SS helmets and decorated with leaves, branches, etc.



THE CLOTH CAMOUFLAGE COVER AT LEFT WAS REVERSIBLE TO EITHER THE SPRING OR AUTUMN PATTERN.



WHEN CAMOUFLAGE COVERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, HELMETS WERE GENERALLY PAINTED TO FIT THE TERRAIN.

## SS PARACHUTIST HELMETS

The SS parachutist (SS-Fallschirmjäger) helmet was the standard Luftwaffe issue, with or without the Luftwaffe eagle transfer (decal). It is thought unlikely that the SS runes were ever worn on this helmet, as SS parachutist units were created after regulations were issued ordering the removal of these helmet transfers (Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st November 1943). A cloth helmet cover in SS camouflage pattern was issued for wear with this helmet.



THE SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER ABOVE IS WEARING THE STANDARD LUFTWAFFE ISSUE PARACHUTIST HELMET.



## SS POLICE HELMETS

Certain SS-Police units (e. g. the 4. SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grenadier-Division and the Norwegian SS and Police companies) wore the helmet insignia of the German Police on their field helmet. These consisted of a silver police eagle on a black shield (left side) and the red/white/black swastika shield (right side).



SS-POLICE TROOPS IN RUSSIA.



POLICE EAGLE TRANSFER  
(LEFT SIDE)



SWASTIKA TRANSFER  
(RIGHT SIDE)

## ITALIAN SS HELMETS

The Italian SS retained the Italian steel helmet throughout the war and in no instance were they reported wearing German issue helmets. Helmet insignia was not generally worn except for some units which utilized special Italian-manufactured transfers (decals) with black SS runes on silver (left side). These shields varied from the German-manufactured transfers (decals) in shape and size. Little care was taken in their application as opposed to the precise positioning on German helmets. Netting was the basic means of camouflage on the Italian SS helmet.



THESE ITALIAN SS PERSONNEL, FROM "LEGIONE SS ITALIANA," WORE THE STANDARD ITALIAN HELMET WITH NETTING FOR CAMOUFLAGE.

## Service Caps

The service or uniform cap was a peaked cap with field-grey cover, black cap-band and black leather peak (visor). The cap-band for officers was a black velvet and a black wool for enlisted men. Officers and Standartenoberjunker (NCOs entitled to wear a dagger portepe) wore a double silver cap cord fastened with matt silver buttons. NCOs wore a black leather strap fastened by two black buttons. Waffenfarbe appeared above and below the cap-band and around the crown of the cap for officers and enlisted men. Waffen-SS generals wore caps with silver piping.



OFFICER'S SERVICE CAP



NOTE ARMY EAGLE ON CAP OF "SEPP" DIETRICH IN CENTRE OF PHOTO AT LEFT, AND POLITICAL EAGLE WORN ON SS PEAKED CAP BELOW.



The Waffen-SS eagle in matt silver metal was worn on the upper front portion of the cap and a matt silver SS Totenkopf was worn in the front centre of the cap-band. Non-SS eagles were sometimes worn, such as cloth or metal Army eagles, NSDAP eagles, etc., probably through lack of supplies.





(LEFT) OFFICER'S PEAKED CAPS WITH CAP SPRING (a) AND WITHOUT (b)

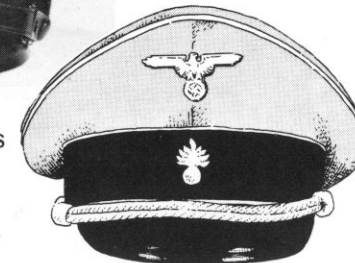
(LEFT) ENLISTED MAN'S CAP WITH CAP SPRING (c) AND WITHOUT (d)

Although against regulations, many Waffen-SS personnel of all ranks removed the rigid cap spring in order to give their peaked cap a jauntier shape.

The Italian-SS cap had the SS Totenkopf on its cap-band and a special eagle insignia on its crown. This Italian-made SS eagle carried the Fascio of the Italian Social Republic in its claws instead of the wreathed swastika. Another exception to the standard SS procedure was the cap-band insignia of the Dutch "Landstorm" units. Members of these units substituted the "Landstorm" flaming grenade emblem for the standard SS Totenkopf. It should be noted, however, that the 34. SS-Grenadier-Division "Landstorm Nederland" did not follow this practice and utilized the SS Totenkopf.



DUTCH "LANDSTORM" ENLISTED MAN'S CAP (ABOVE) AND OFFICER'S CAP (RIGHT)



NOTE ITALIAN SS CAP INSIGNIA WORN BY SS BRIGADEFÜHRER MANNELLI, SECOND FROM RIGHT.



## Field Service Cap

Waffen-SS field service or forage caps were issued in a number of patterns, all or which appeared with variations in insignia. The non-visored cap came in two patterns, one styled after the Army cap and the other based on the Luftwaffe's forage cap (Fliegermütze). In 1943 a visored cap, very similar to the mountain cap was introduced and known as the M1943 (Modell 43).

Caps for enlisted men and NCOs were plain, whereas officers and Standartenoberjunker wore silver piping. Waffenfarbe did not always appear on the non-visored caps. When it did, however, it took the form of an inverted "V" on the front of the turn-up. The Totenkopf insignia was enclosed by this inverted "V" in Waffenfarbe.<sup>2</sup>

Officers and specialist NCOs were given the option to wear the forage caps or the old style Army field cap which closely resembled the service cap but with a soft leather visor and without cap cords.

### 1st MODEL (SS-VT)

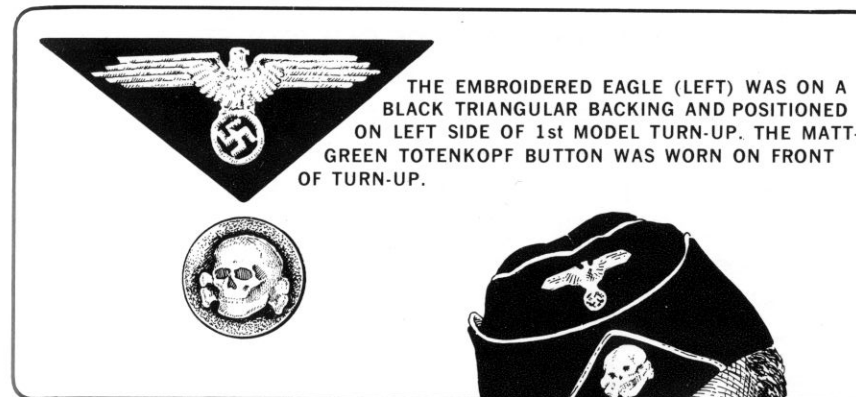
This pre-war version was of a field-grey wool-rayon. The turn-up was scalloped downward in front which left the eyes uncovered when worn to protect the neck and ears. Officers wore a higher quality cap with silver braid around the top of the crown and along the edge of the scallop. Waffenfarbe was sometimes added in the form of an inverted "V" which enclosed the Totenkopf at the front of the turn-up. This cap was decorated with the Totenkopf and SS eagle as in (a) and (b) below. Early in the war, an Army pattern service cap was introduced, replacing the earlier 1st. model. Its insignia was worn as in (c) below.



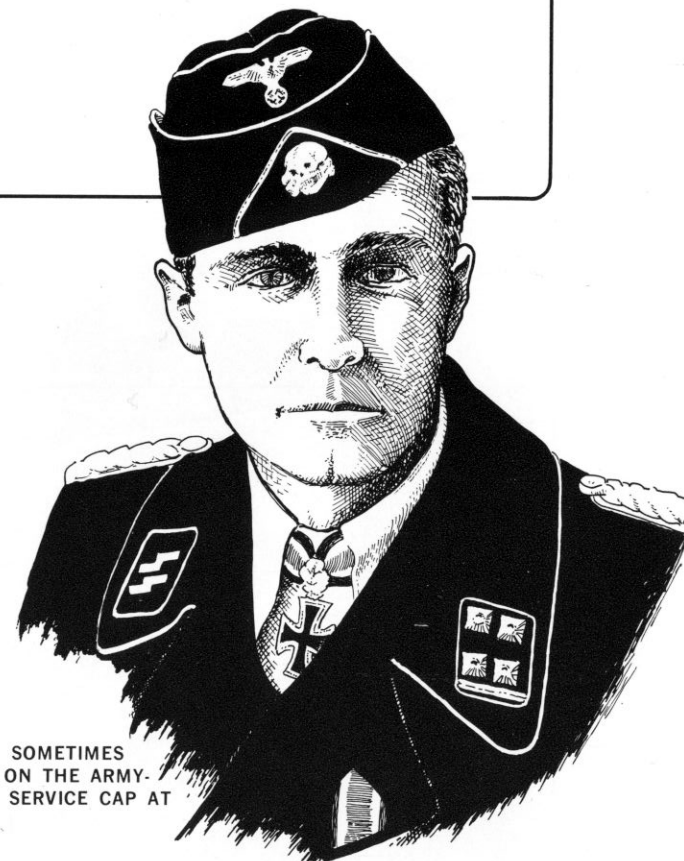
NOTE WAFENFARBE INVERTED "V"

- (a) Totenkopf embossed on matt grey button on front of the turn-up and the SS eagle on a black triangular backing on the left side of the turn-up.
- (b) Embroidered Totenkopf on front of turn-up with similarly manufactured SS eagle on a black underlay (not a triangle) on the left side.
- (c) Embroidered eagle worn on front of cap above similar Totenkopf.

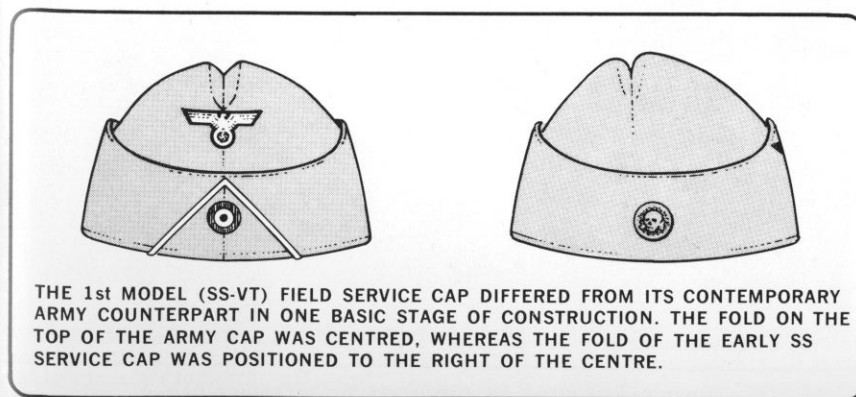
<sup>2</sup> *Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS*, 1st September 1942, states the 'inverted "V"' Waffenfarbe is no longer to be worn on the field service cap.



THE EMBROIDERED EAGLE (LEFT) WAS ON A BLACK TRIANGULAR BACKING AND POSITIONED ON LEFT SIDE OF 1st MODEL TURN-UP. THE MATT-GREEN TOTENKOPF BUTTON WAS WORN ON FRONT OF TURN-UP.



A WAFENFARBE INVERTED "V" SOMETIMES ENCLOSED THE TOTENKOPF AS ON THE ARMY-STYLE PANZER OFFICER'S FIELD SERVICE CAP AT RIGHT.



THE 1st MODEL (SS-VT) FIELD SERVICE CAP DIFFERED FROM ITS CONTEMPORARY ARMY COUNTERPART IN ONE BASIC STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION. THE FOLD ON THE TOP OF THE ARMY CAP WAS CENTRED, WHEREAS THE FOLD OF THE EARLY SS SERVICE CAP WAS POSITIONED TO THE RIGHT OF THE CENTRE.



### OPTIONAL FIELD SERVICE CAP (OLD STYLE)

Officers and SS-Standartenoberjunker could wear an alternative field service cap known as the Old Style Officers' Field Service Cap (Offizierfeldmütze älterer Art). This cap was similar in appearance to the Uniform Peaked Cap but with less elaborate insignia. The silver cap cords were omitted and the vizor was in either soft leather or cloth. It was required to be withdrawn from use on 1st. April 1942, but was possibly retained after this date.



NOTE CLOTH VISOR ON OLD STYLE FIELD SERVICE CAP.

### SS STYLE FIELD SERVICE CAP

A new forage cap was introduced in mid-1940 for the Waffen-SS in the style of the Luftwaffe's forage cap (Fliegermütze)<sup>3</sup>. Waffenfarbe was sometimes worn as an inverted "V" which contained the Totenkopf. Officers and Standartenoberjunker wore a higher-quality cap with an aluminum thread piping around the turn-up. The officer's cap was decorated with a white or silver thread eagle worn above a similar Totenkopf on the front. The insignia for enlisted men and NCOs appeared in light grey embroidery without a black underlay. White fur ear-covers were available for this model.



NOTE POSITIONING OF INSIGNIA AT LEFT AND INVERTED "V" ON CAP ABOVE.

<sup>3</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st November 1940. The field cap modelled after that of the Luftwaffe (Luftwaffenform) was officially called "Feldmütze n. A." (i.e. new pattern) and was worn by this date. The old-style cap (i.e. with scallop, Totenkopf button and eagle in triangle on left side) was officially titled "Feldmütze a. A." (i.e. old pattern) and could be used until stocks exhausted.



SILVER BULLION CAP EAGLE  
FOR OFFICERS



THIS STYLE EAGLE COULD BE IN  
SILVER THREAD FOR OFFICERS AND  
GREY THREAD FOR NCOs AND E.M.



TOTENKOPF AS WORN  
ON FIELD SERVICE CAP.



NOTE ALUMINUM PIPING ON OFFICER'S SS STYLE FIELD SERVICE CAP AT RIGHT.

## M1943

In 1943 a visored cap in wool-rayon was introduced for all troops and known as the Einheitsmütze.<sup>4</sup> Its design was based on the mountain cap, whose style had been derived from the visored Austrian cap of World War I. The turn-up could be pulled down to protect the neck and ears with the flaps buttoning across the chin. As in the mountain and Army style caps, the turn-up was scalloped in front to permit vision when pulled down. The turn-up was fastened in front by either one large or two small buttons.



NOTE ALUMINUM PIPING AROUND CROWN OF OFFICER'S  
NEW STYLE CAP (ABOVE).



(SINGLE BUTTON)



(DOUBLE BUTTON)

The cap was plain and unpiped for enlisted men and NCOs. It was piped around the crown for officers.

The M1943 insignia consisted of the SS eagle and Totenkopf in grey or white embroidery. The eagle could be worn over the Totenkopf on the front of the cap (a special cloth badge incorporating the two insignia

<sup>4</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st October 1943. A new field cap (Feldmütze-i. e. M1943) was introduced to replace the former forage cap for all practical purposes. The new cap was to be in the style and manufacture as the mountain cap (Bergmütze). This cap was to be black for Panzer units and field-grey for all other Waffen-SS units.





INSIGNIA FOR M1943 CAPS WAS ON BLACK FOR PANZER AND FIELD-GREY FOR OTHER

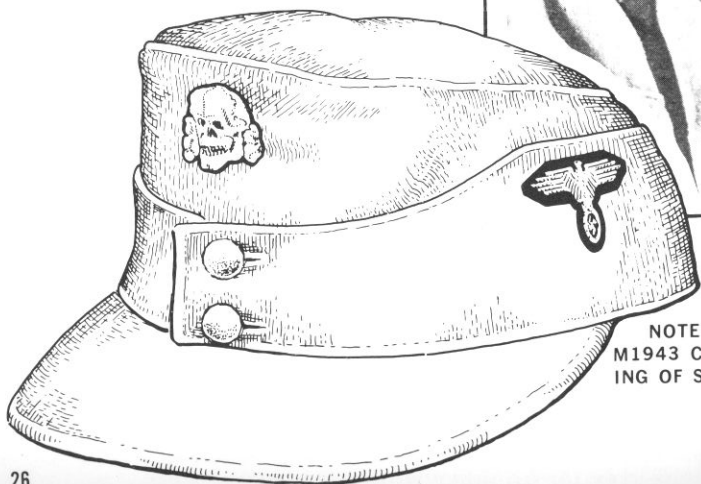
WAFFEN-SS UNITS. (NOTE DETAIL ON "BEVO" STYLE AT RIGHT)



was also worn - manufactured mainly by Bevo of Wuppertal). The Totenkopf could also be worn on front while the eagle was on the left side of the turn-up.

A pattern of the M1943 was produced in camouflage cloth and worn with or without the eagle and Totenkopf insignia.

A white cloth cover was issued for winter use in snowbound areas.



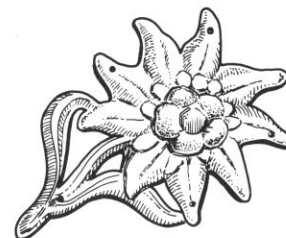
NOTE WHITE CLOTH COVER FOR M1943 CAP ABOVE, AND POSITIONING OF SS EAGLE AND TOTENKOPF ON M1943 CAP AT LEFT.

## Mountain Cap

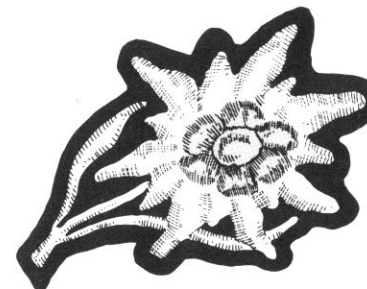
The Waffen-SS adopted a visored, field-grey cap in wool-rayon which was identical to the Army version.<sup>5</sup> Its side flaps could be let down to protect the neck and ears. The front of the turn-up was scalloped to allow vision when worn down and was fastened by either one large button or two small ones. These buttons were either in grey-green painted metal with a fixing loop at the back or in plastic with four small thread holes.

The mountain cap was decorated with a light-grey machine-embroidered SS eagle and Totenkopf. They were sometimes worn on the front of the cap above the turn-up buttons, although the eagle was often worn on the left side of the turn-up. Officers wore a higher-quality cap with its insignia in either aluminum thread or metal and an aluminum piping around the top of the cap.

The distinctive insignia of the mountain cap, which differentiated it from the M1943, was the Edelweiss. This Edelweiss insignia was introduced



ARMY-STYLE EDELWEISS (METAL)

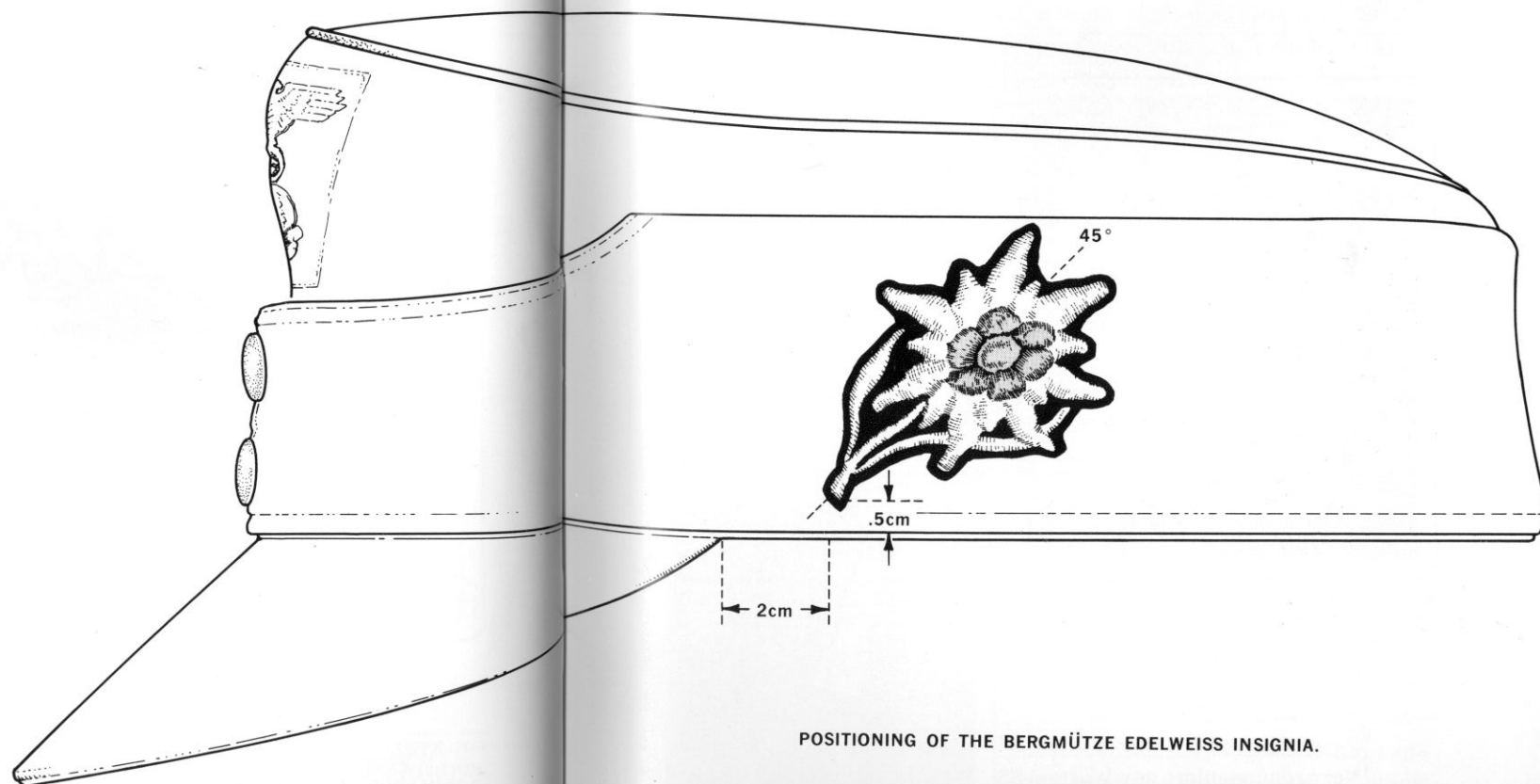


SS-STYLE EDELWEISS (CLOTH)

<sup>5</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st October 1943, Item 356. The "Schiffchen" (i.e. colloquial name for the forage cap) was to be replaced by a visored Feldmütze similar to the Bergmütze. It was to be black for Waffen-SS Panzer personnel and field-grey for all others. This order also stated that SS Gebirgstruppen are to wear the Edelweiss. It should be noted that the Edelweiss insignia was introduced to distinguish mountaineers from other personnel.



NOTE POSITIONING OF SS SLEEVE EDELWEISS ON MAN AT EXTREME LEFT AND SS CAP EDELWEISS ON MAN'S CAP IN CENTRE OF PHOTO. THE MUFTI IS WEARING A WHITE TURBAN.



POSITIONING OF THE BERGMÜTZE EDELWEISS INSIGNIA.

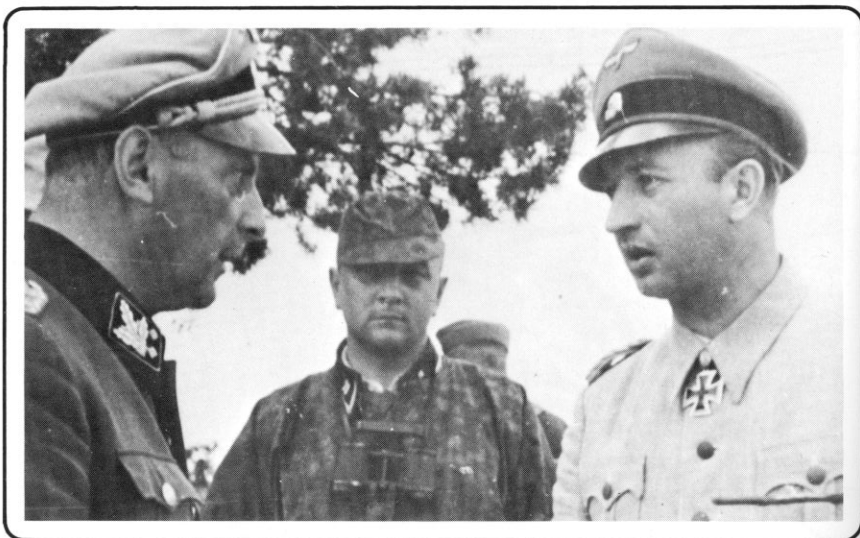


and worn to distinguish the SS-Gebirgstruppen from the regular Waffen-SS personnel. It was similar in design to the Army pattern and was worn either in metal (in which case Army stocks were utilized) or in a SS pattern of silver-grey thread on black. It was worn on the left side of the turn-up (worn on right side by Norwegian SS-Ski-Jäger-Btl.) with the stalk at an angle of 45 degrees and positioned approximately 2cm behind the peak and .5cm from the lower edge of the cap.<sup>6</sup> When the cap eagle was worn on the left side of the turn-up, the Edelweiss was positioned below it.<sup>7</sup>

A white, cloth camouflage cover was added to the mountain cap for winter use.

## Camouflage Cap

A simple visored cap in camouflage material was announced on 1st. June 1942 and worn with no insignia. By SS order dated 1st December 1942, the camouflage cap could be worn with SS insignia.



NO INSIGNIA WAS WORN ON CAMOUFLAGE CAP, ABOVE CENTRE. OFFICER AT RIGHT IS HERMANN FEGELEIN, COMMANDER OF "FLORIAN GEYER" DIVISION.

<sup>6</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st October 1943, Item 19.

<sup>7</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st September 1942, Item 306. The wearing of the SS-Bergmütze was restricted to the members of the SS divisions "Nord" and "Prinz Eugen" and forbade its use by other SS members. This same document, dated 1st October 1942, Item 338 lists the Hochgebirgsschule and the Inspection der Gebirgstruppen of the SS-FHA as eligible to wear the Bergmütze.



MAX WÜNSCHE, REGIMENTAL COMMANDER IN "LAH," WEARING CAMOUFLAGE CAP WITH INSIGNIA.



SS PANZER BERET

## Panzer Caps

Waffen-SS Panzer units originally wore a black Panzer beret similar to that of the Army. It bore the SS eagle (the size of which varied) over the Totenkopf on the front and was fitted with thick rubber padding for use in armoured vehicles. It was later considered unnecessary and replaced by field caps. These caps including the M1943, were in black cloth and identical in style to those worn by other branches of the Waffen-SS.



MICHAEL WITTMANN, "LAH"  
REGIMENTAL COMMANDER AND  
HERO OF NORMANDY FRONT,  
WEARING SINGLE-BUTTON  
BLACK PANZER M1943 CAP.



NOTE ARMY EAGLE AND PANZER  
SKULL ON FIELD SERVICE CAP  
(ARMY-STYLE) AT LEFT.

## W-Police Caps

SS-Police units wore either the Waffen-SS caps previously described or the standard German Police caps. Officers did, however, receive grants which enabled them to purchase SS insignia.



NOTE POLICE INSIGNIA WORN  
BY SS-POLICE OFFICER AT RIGHT.

## Women's Cap

Members of the SS Female Auxiliaries wore a field-grey side cap with no turn-up and the SS eagle insignia. Many female SS volunteers from various countries (e. g. Norway and Denmark) followed their Legions into combat as field nurses. They were issued a uniform with sleeve eagle, in certain cases a unit insignia or national arm shield, and a plain mountain-style cap. The Norwegian SS nurses wore a field-grey mountain-style cap which was single-buttoned and carried no insignia.



FIELD-GREY, FEMALE SIDE CAP  
WITHOUT TURN-UP AS WORN BY  
THE SS FEMALE AUXILIARIES.

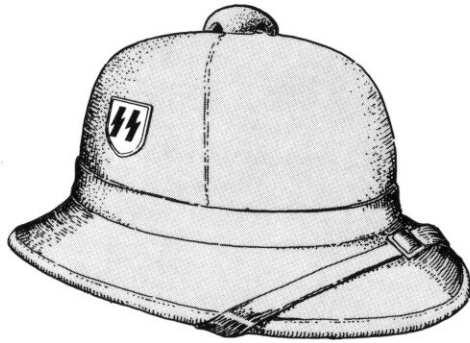


NORWEGIAN SS NURSES  
WEARING SINGLE-BUTTON  
MOUNTAIN-STYLE CAP.

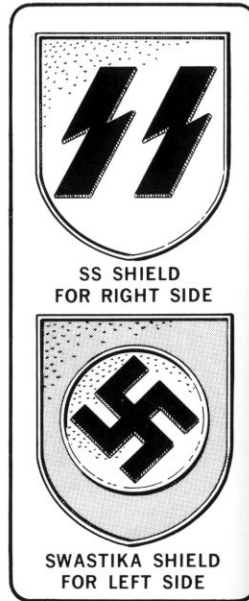


## W-Pith Helmet

Although the Waffen-SS was never engaged in Africa, some members were issued pith helmets bearing SS insignia... possibly for the Mediterranean area. The helmet was identical in manufacture to the Army style used by the Afrikakorps with the exception of the two embossed metal helmet plates (i. e. the black runes on silver and the red/white/black mobile swastika).

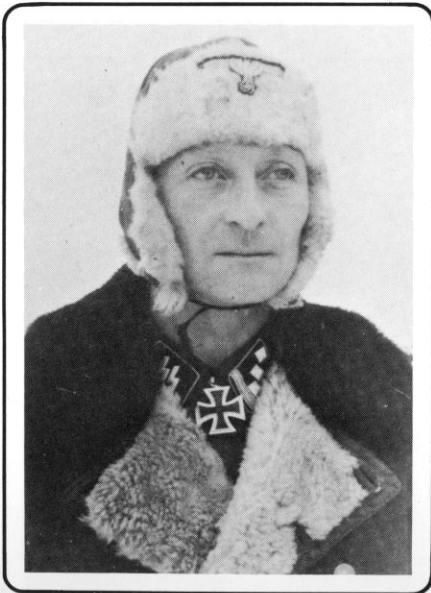


SS PITH HELMET



## Fur Caps

Various patterns of fur caps have been encountered and these bore the Waffen-SS insignia in a variety of manners. The caps were usually large and round with the SS eagle over Totenkopf on the front which could be in cloth or metal. Fur caps were also decorated with a metal Totenkopf only, on the front centre.



NOTE CLOTH SS EAGLE ON FUR CAP.

## Fez

The fez was the most distinctive item of uniform for the 13. (Handschar) and 23. (Kama) divisions and was worn by both Muslims and Germans alike while serving in these divisions. The fez was in two colours... red which was worn with the dress uniform and field-green which was worn with the field-uniform. Cloth Waffen-SS cap insignia was worn on the front (i. e. white or silver SS eagle above the Totenkopf, both on black).



"HANDSCHAR" DIVISIONAL COMMANDER WEARING THE DRESS FEZ (RED).

THE MUFTI REVIEWING MEMBERS OF THE "HANDSCHAR" DIVISION (NOTE FIELD-GREEN FEZ WORN BY TROOPS).

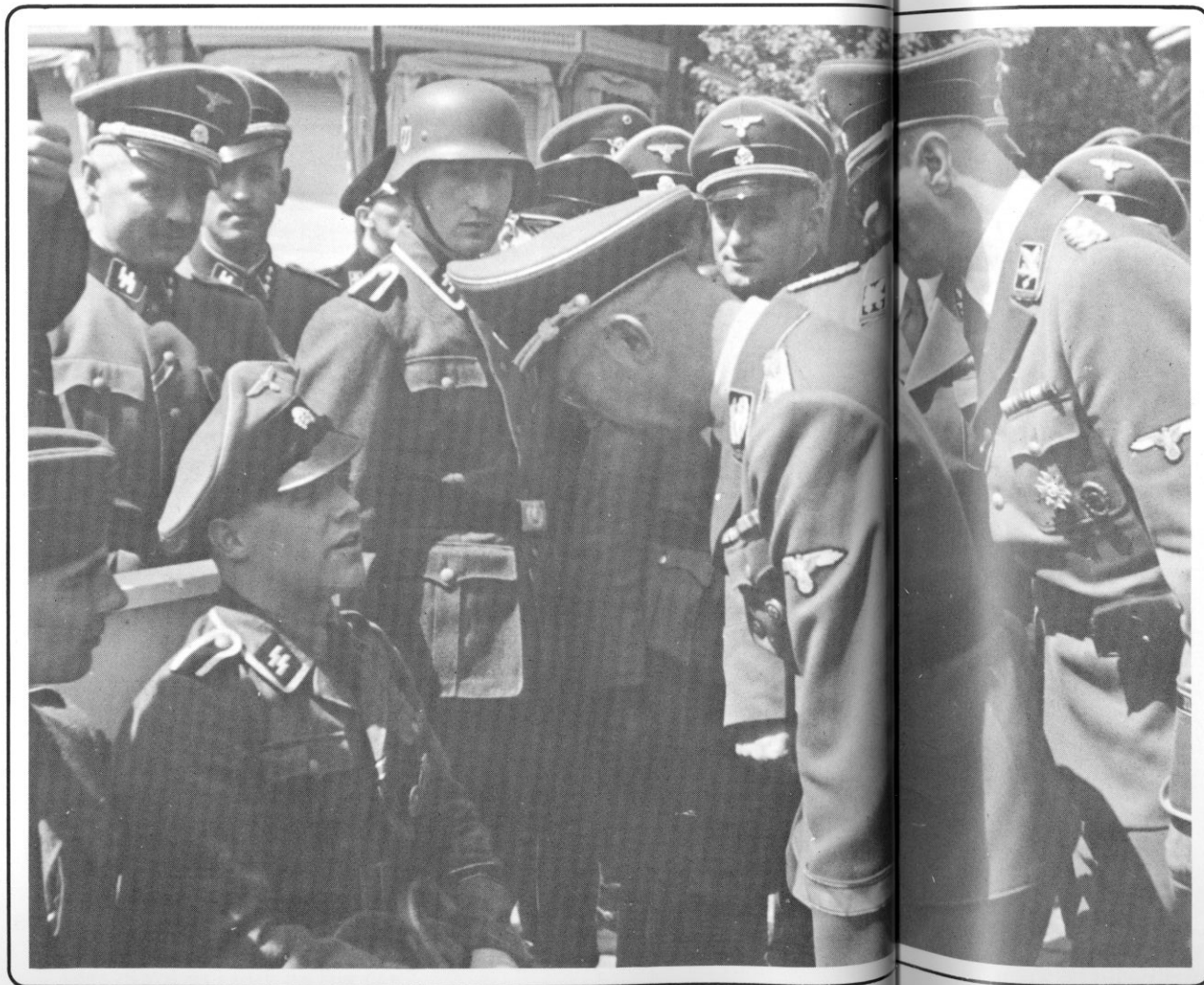


## Skull Cap

Albanian SS troops wore a plain skull cap in a light coloured material. This cap bore no insignia.

## Cossacks' Cap

Cossack troops who were integrated into the Waffen-SS and wore the SS uniform (not XV. SS-Kos. -Kav. -Korps) frequently continued to wear their own peaked caps.



**Waffen-SS Uniforms,  
Insignia and  
Accoutrements**





## Field Uniform

This uniform consisted of the following:

- Steel helmet
- Tunic (worn open or closed at the neck)
- Long trousers (for NCOs and men only)
- Breeches (for officers only)
- Black marching boots (for NCOs and men only)
- Black riding boots (for officers only)
- Black belt
- Field cap
- Soft peaked cap (optional for NCOs and officers only)
- Grey or brown shirt<sup>1</sup>
- Black tie (worn only if tunic is worn open at neck)



REICHSFÜHRER-SS HIMMLER REVIEWING SS TROOPS IN FIELD DRESS.

<sup>1</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15 September 1943. This official document banned the brown shirt from being worn with any style uniform, field, service, undress, etc. Only the field-grey shirt could be worn.

## Service Uniform

This uniform consisted of the following:

- Tunic (worn open or closed at the neck)
- Long trousers (for NCOs and men only)
- Breeches (for officers only)
- Black marching boots (for NCOs and men only)
- Black riding boots (for officers only)
- Black belt (officers wore cross strap until withdrawn by SS order dated 15th January 1941)
- Field cap
- Soft peaked cap (optional for NCOs and officers only)
- Grey or brown shirt
- Black tie (worn only if tunic is worn open at neck)

This uniform also served as the Walking-Out Dress (Ausgehanzug)



TWO YOUTHFUL BROTHERS—ONE IN THE KRIEGSMARINE (LEFT) AND THE OTHER IN THE WAFFEN-SS (RIGHT). NOTE WAFFEN-SS SERVICE UNIFORM.

## Walking-Out Dress

When the service tunic was worn as Walking-Out Dress, the front and rear belt supports were removed and replaced by clip-on buttons. Peaked caps were worn as well as long trousers over lace-up shoes. Swords could also be worn with this dress.<sup>2</sup>



WOUNDED WAFFEN-SS MEN ON LEAVE AND WEARING WALKING-OUT DRESS.

<sup>2</sup> Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th August 1942. From this date, the sword was not to be worn with Walking-Out Dress and on duty for the duration of the war. The sword, henceforth, was only to be worn by officers and NCOs on colour guard or honour guard.

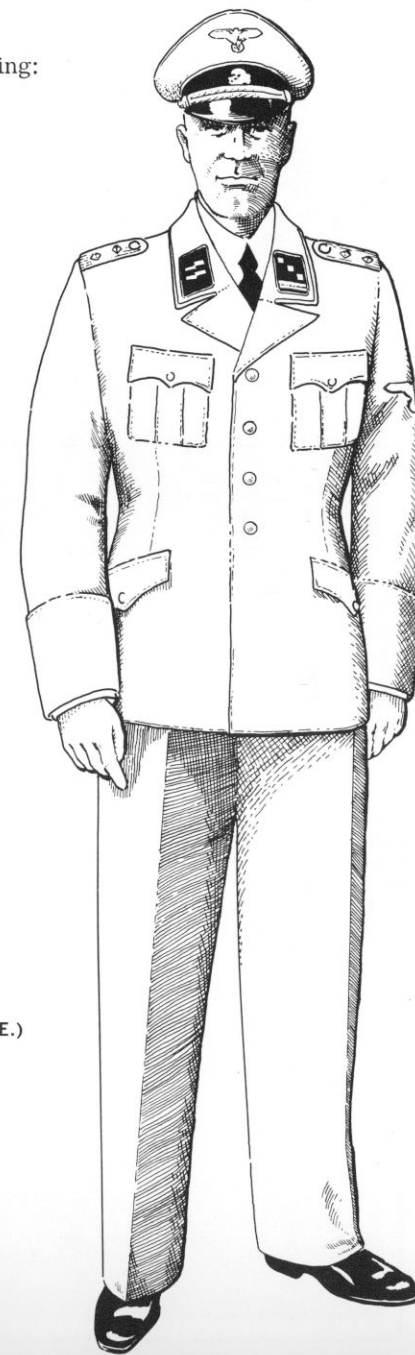
## Undress Uniform for Officers

This uniform consisted of the following:

- Peaked cap
- Tunic
- Long trousers
- Black boots
- Brown shirt
- Black tie

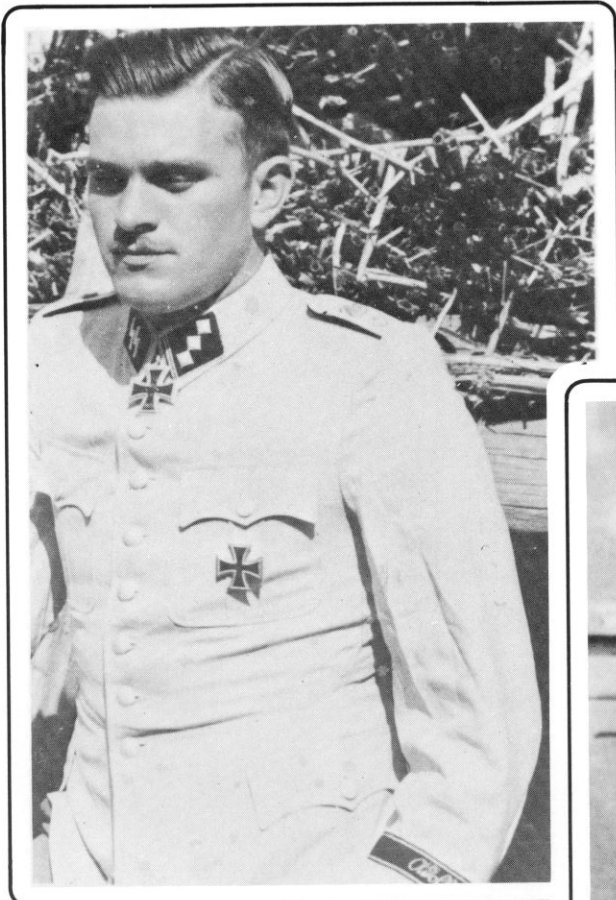


THE TUNIC COLLAR WAS PRESSED OPEN WHEN TUNIC WAS WORN WITH UNDRESS UNIFORM. (NOTE CROAT DECORATION ABOVE.)



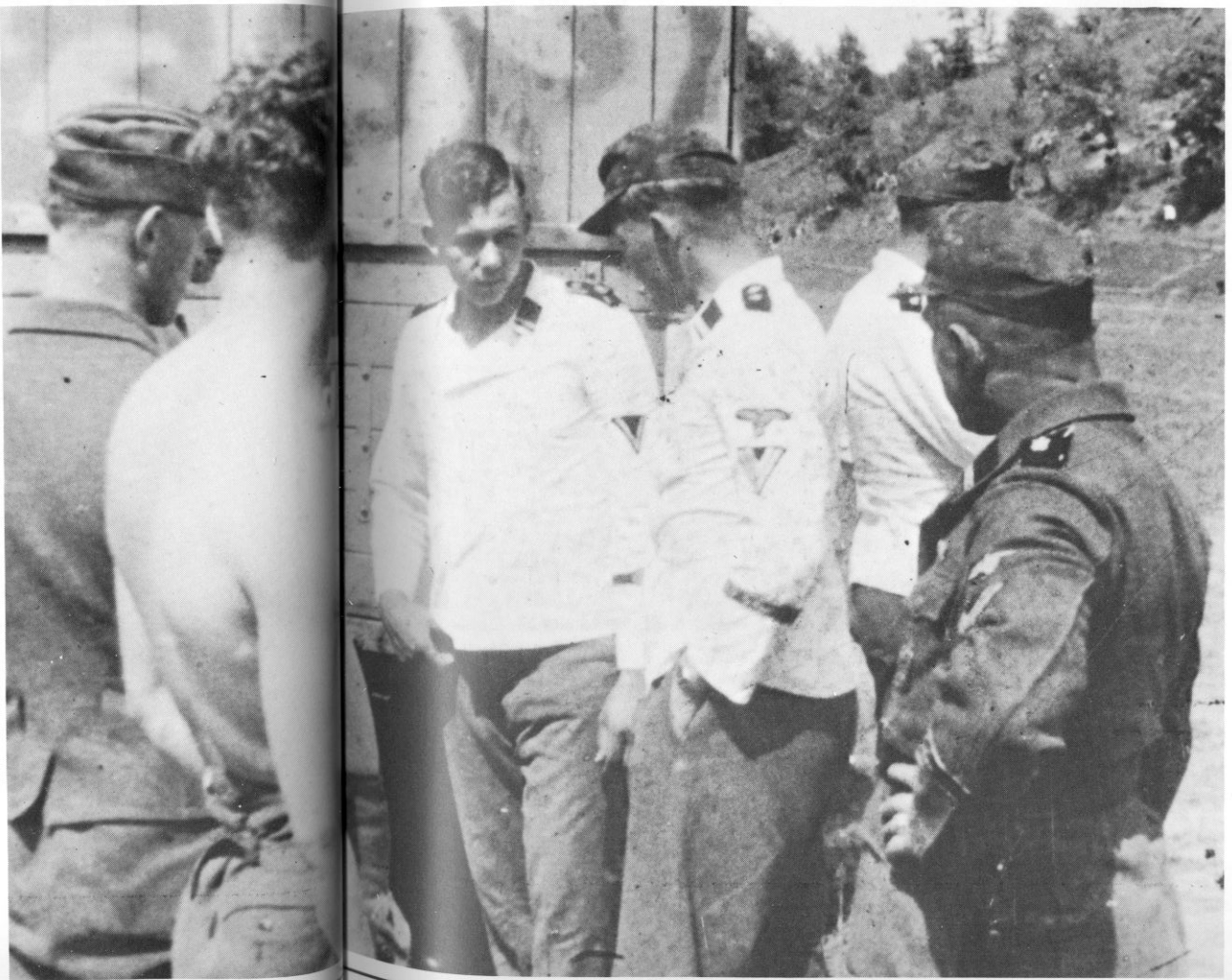


# White Summer Tunic



SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER GERHARD BREMER WEARING A WHITE SUMMER TUNIC. AT THIS TIME HE WAS COMMANDER OF THE 1. KRADSCHÜTZENKOMPANIE OF THE LIEBSTANDARTE-SS "ADOLF HITLER!"

ENLISTED MEN FROM THE "LAH" EXAMINING THEIR NEWLY ISSUED WHITE SUMMER TUNICS. NOTE THAT THE TUNICS ARE SHORT STYLE WITH NO POCKETS.



## Black Uniform for Armoured Vehicle Crews

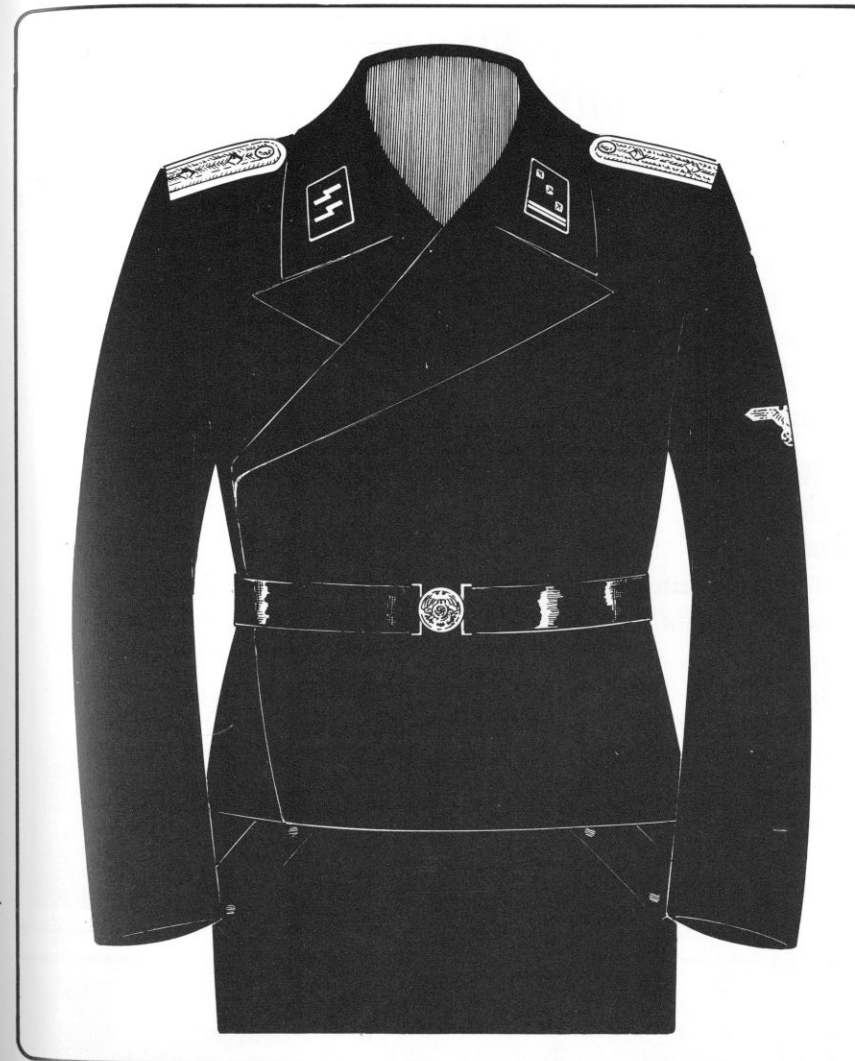
This uniform is basically the same as that worn by the German Army with the exception of the SS insignia. It was originally intended for tank and armoured crews but was later extended to crews of "Elephants", tank-destroyer and assault-gun crews in Panzer and Panzer-Grenadier divisions.<sup>3</sup> It consisted of the following:

- Black beret (worn initially and replaced by black field cap in 1941)
- Black field cap (in 1943 the black M1943 field cap was introduced)
- Soft peaked cap with field-grey top (for officers and NCOs only)

NOTE ALUMINUM CORD AROUND COLLAR OF MAX WÜNSCHE, "LAH" REGIMENTAL COMMANDER, AND THAT KNIGHTS CROSS HOLDERS DID NOT WEAR THE BLACK TIE.



PANZER ENLISTED MAN'S SERVICE TUNIC.



BLACK SS ARMoured VEHICLE TUNIC (ARMY-STYLE)

- Tunic
- Grey or black shirt
- Black tie (worn with Walking Out Dress)
- Trousers (fitted with tapes at the ankle for binding to the leg)
- Black belt
- Black boots

This uniform served as both Walking-Out Dress (Ausgehanzug) and Service Uniform (Dienstanzug). Officers and NCOs often wore the peaked cap when the uniform was worn as Walking-Out Dress. The distinctive wide collar on both the black and field-grey tunics was not trimmed in NCO "Tresse" with the exception of NCOs in the "LAH".

<sup>3</sup> Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15 August 1942. This order states Sturmgeschützeinheiten (Assault Gun) personnel are to wear the field-grey Panzer uniform. The same SS order, dated 1 December 1942 states that Panzerjäger-Einheiten (self-propelled anti-tank units) are to wear the field-grey Panzer uniform.

## Field Grey Uniform for Armoured Vehicle Crews

This uniform is identical in design to the black uniform for armoured vehicle crews but is in field-grey. It was announced as a uniform of the Waffen-SS in Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS dated 1st September 1941 and consisted of the following:

- Field cap
- Soft peaked cap (for officers and NCOs only)
- Tunic
- Grey shirt
- Black tie
- Trousers (fitted with tapes at the ankle for binding to the leg)
- Black belt
- Black boots

Note:

This uniform was known as "Schutzanzug".

"LAH" STURMGESCHÜTZ COMPANY  
COMMANDER WEARING THE FIELD-GREY  
TUNIC (RIGHT).



NOTE NCO "TRESSE" ON COLLAR OF MAN SHAKING HANDS WITH  
SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER DIETRICH.

## Fatigue Uniform

This fatigue uniform was of a light linen herringbone twill (Drillich) which was dyed a rush green. It consisted of the following:

- Field cap (field grey)
- Tunic (no pockets or insignia)
- Trousers
- Black belt
- Black boots

## Mountain Uniform

SS mountain troops wore the basic field uniform altered as follows to meet their needs.<sup>4</sup>

- Mountain cap
- White cover for mountain cap
- Tunic (worn open or closed at the neck with Edelweiss on upper right sleeve)
- Overcoat (with Edelweiss on upper right sleeve)<sup>5</sup>
- Long trousers (tucked into black climbing or ski boots)
- Climbing or ski boots

<sup>4</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS,  
1st November 1944, Item 651. This  
SS order lists all mountain units en-  
titled to wear the Edelweiss on the  
sleeve and cap.

- (1) SS-Gebirgsdivisionen
- (2) SS-Freiwilligen-Gebirgs-  
divisionen
- (3) Waffen-Gebirgsdivisionen  
der SS
- (4) Waffen-Gebirgs-(Karst-  
jäger) Division der SS
- (5) Waffen-Gebirgs-Brigaden  
der SS
- (6) General Kommando-SS-  
Gebirgs-Korps und Korps-  
truppen
- (7) General Kommando-Waffen  
Gebirgs-Armee Korps und  
Korpsgruppen
- (8) Gebirgsjägerschule der Waffen-SS
- (9) SS-FHA/In2/Abteilung Gebirgstruppen

EDELWEISS SLEEVE  
INSIGNIA



This order also forbids the wearing of Army-style Edelweiss badges on the sleeve and cap.

<sup>5</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st October 1943, Item 19. This document states that the SS Edelweiss arm insignia was to be worn 16cm from the seam of the upper right sleeve of both tunics and great-coats.

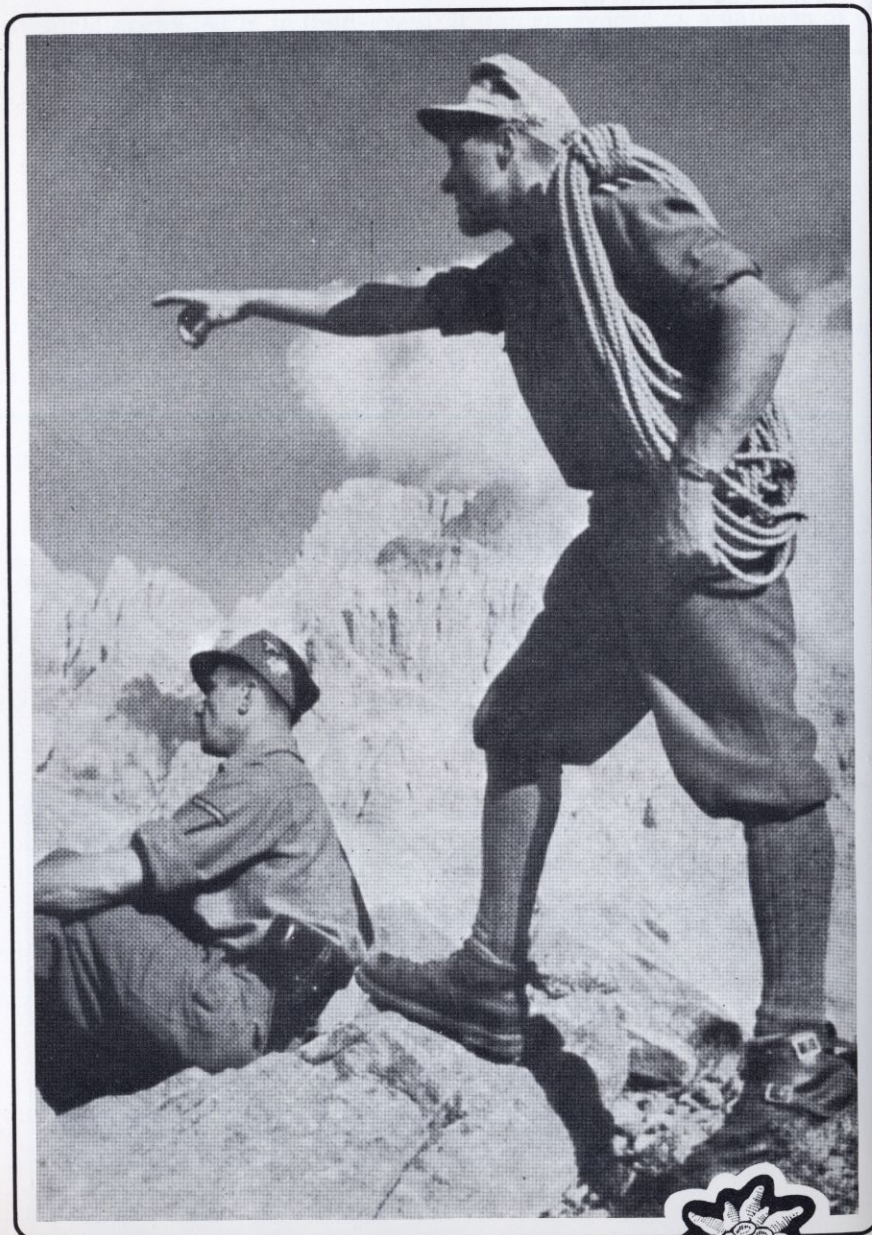


A shirt-sleeve order existed for hot weather:

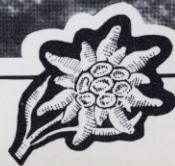
Shirt with sleeves rolled (shoulder straps or sleeve rank insignia was worn, but apparently not the sleeve eagle)

Knickerbockers worn with long wool socks

Climbing or ski boots



THE TWO MOUNTAINEERS ABOVE WEAR THE SHIRT-SLEEVE ORDER. NOTE SS-UNTERSCHARFÜHRER SLEEVE INSIGNIA ON SEATED MAN.



THE SS MOUNTAIN GUIDE (BERGFÜHRER-ABZEICHEN), IN CLOTH, WAS INTRODUCED IN OCTOBER 1944 AND WORN ON THE LEFT BREAST POCKET.

## Tropical Uniform

Some Waffen-SS units serving in the Crimea and Mediterranean areas were issued a tropical uniform of golden-tan, cotton twill. This uniform was standard Army issue and consisted of tunic, trousers, cloth and leather boots, web belt, etc. Regulation collar and shoulder insignia was generally worn on the unlined tunic with a black-backed,



rust-brown eagle on the upper left sleeve (this eagle was worn by all ranks). Army-style pith helmets and tan M1943 Army caps, with the addition of SS insignia, were worn with this tropical uniform.



VARIATION TROPICAL TUNIC (NON-ISSUE AND PROBABLY PRIVATE PURCHASE)



RUST BROWN EAGLE  
FOR TROPICAL UNIFORM

## Winter Uniform

Various garments were utilized by the Waffen-SS as camouflage in snow and ice and for protection against the extreme cold. Some of these winter issue varieties are listed below.



RABBIT-FUR VEST

- Field grey fur-lined parka with hood (worn with black belt)
- White parka with hood
- Rabbit-fur jacket and vest
- Sleeveless & sleeved pile jacket
- Overcoat with special lining
- Sheepskin surcoat
- Lined boots



FUR-LINED, WHITE PARKA





FIELD-GREY PARKAS, REVERSIBLE TO WHITE.

## Cavalry Uniform

Cavalry units wore reinforced breeches and riding boots.



NOTE THE LEATHER REINFORCED BREECHES WORN BY SS MAN (ABOVE LEFT).

## Shirt-Sleeve Order

In extreme heat the shirt-sleeve order was permitted. The shirt was worn open at the neck, except in the case of Knights Cross holders, and with the sleeve eagle and shoulder straps as the only insignia. Worn with field or peaked caps.





# Sports Uniforms

## Basic Sports Uniform:

- Black shoes
- White socks
- Black shorts
- White vest with circular black & white SS emblem on centre of chest

## Alternative Sports Uniform:

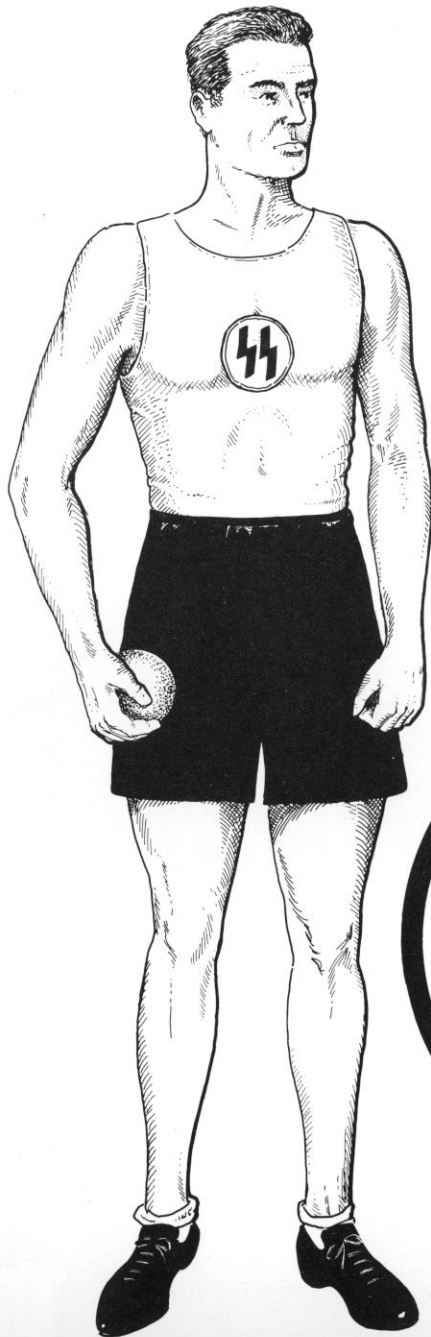
- Black shoes
- White socks
- Black shorts
- Black vest with white SS runes on centre of chest

## Fencing Uniform:

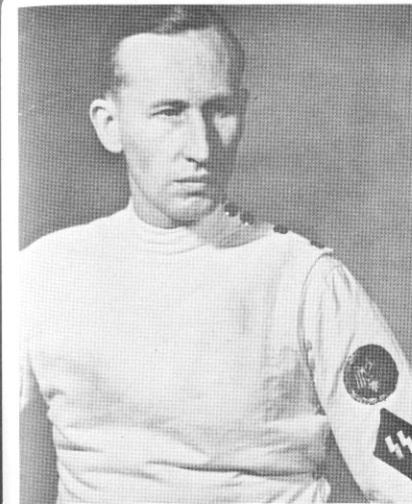
- White uniform with silver SS runes on black diamond-shaped badge worn on upper left sleeve

## Track Suit:

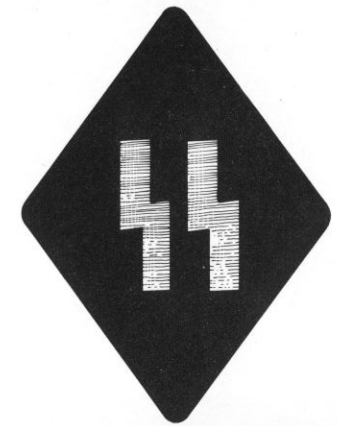
- Two-piece suit all in black, circular black and white SS emblem worn on left breast



SS EMBLEM FOR VEST



REINHARD HEYDRICH IN FENCING UNIFORM



SS BADGE FOR LEFT SLEEVE OF FENCING UNIFORM



GERMAN WAFEN-SS TROOPS EXERCISING IN NORWAY (NOTE BLACK TRACK SUITS).



## Camouflage Uniforms & Accessories

Various camouflage garments were issued and worn by the Waffen-SS with their pattern and colour scheme being governed by the type of terrain encountered. The spring colour scheme was predominantly green and brown and was issued in a variety of patterns. This scheme was also worn through the summer months. In the autumn colour scheme, various shades of brown were dominant. Variations of this scheme were utilized on the winter uniform which was also reversible to white. The camouflage patterns illustrated in this section are but a few of the many pattern variations which existed in both the spring and autumn colours.



SPRING PATTERN

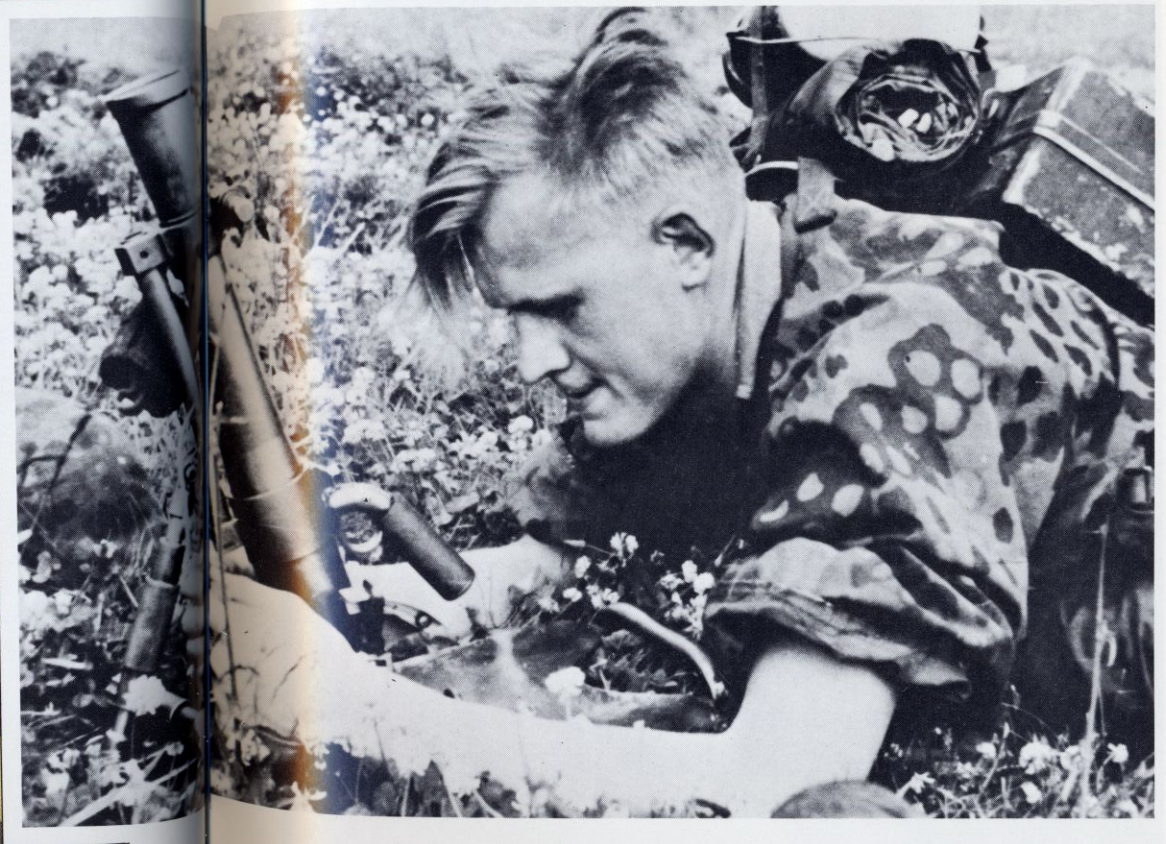


SPRING PATTERN





SPRING PATTERN





(RIGHT) SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER  
DAISENHOFER IN THE VICINITY OF  
CAEN DURING THE BATTLE OF  
NORMANDY, 13 JULY 1944.  
(NOTE HE AND HIS AIDE ARE  
WEARING THE PATTERN DESIGN  
BELOW, BUT IN SUMMER COLOURS)



AUTUMN PATTERN



AUTUMN PATTERN





AUTUMN PATTERN



NOTE OTHER VARIATIONS IN SS PATTERN DESIGN (ABOVE AND BELOW)







NOTE OTHER VARIATIONS IN SS PATTERN DESIGN (ABOVE AND BELOW)



The illustrated colour schemes were used on camouflage uniforms and garments of the Waffen-SS, some of which are listed below:

### CAMOUFLAGE COVERALLS FOR TANK CREWS

The tank crew uniform was one-piece, non-reversible and bore no insignia. It was worn with a field cap and black boots and belt.



### CAMOUFLAGE ASSAULT GUNNERS UNIFORM

The jacket was identical in style to that of the black and field-grey versions and bore no insignia. A field cap, black boots and belt were also worn.



### CAMOUFLAGE JACKET

This pull-over jacket was worn over the standard field tunic, and had elastic at its wrists and waist. Later issue camouflage jackets had vertical or slant, buttoned pockets.



### CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM

The uniform consisted of a tunic and trousers in camouflage pattern material. The tunic was a four pocket model with no pleats or cuffs. Regulations forbidding the use of insignia on this uniform were not generally adhered to and resulted in a number of variations being worn. Some of them are as follows:

- (a) No insignia (as required by regulations)
- (b) Shoulder straps only
- (c) Sleeve eagle and sleeve rank insignia
- (d) Full rank insignia



(ABOVE) THESE SS PRISONERS, WEARING THE LIGHTWEIGHT CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORM, WERE CAPTURED IN THE SUBURBS OF ARNHEIM. (RIGHT) NOTE MAN IN CAMOUFLAGE TUNIC WITH SHOULDER STRAPS AS ITS ONLY INSIGNIA.



Imperial War Museum, London

Imperial War Museum, London



Note: A special system of rank insignia was introduced in February 1943 for wear on both sleeves of camouflage jackets, winter suits, etc. (see Waffen-SS rank insignia section for full details).

### CAMOUFLAGE SHELTER QUARTER

The shelter quarter was of a water-repellent, camouflage material in the form of an isocetes triangle, 6'3" along the base and 8'3" along the other two edges. Generally, the quarter was reversible with a spring camouflage pattern on one side and an autumn pattern on the other. The quarter was also worn as a poncho with the soldier's head thrust through a slit and the top point of the triangle in the front. The two rear corners were brought forward and buttoned together, forming openings for the arms.



MAN IN FOREGROUND IS WEARING THE CAMOUFLAGE SHELTER QUARTER.

### CAMOUFLAGE FACE MASK

A camouflage face mask was introduced in April 1942 and worn by snipers, machine-gunners, reconnaissance troops, etc.<sup>6</sup>



## Uniform Parts and Insignia

### Tunics

The Waffen-SS utilized four basic tunic patterns during their short five years of existence. The SS model, which had slant side pockets and was with or without sleeve cuffs, was the SS-VT carry-over tunic from peacetime and was generally worn in the early years of the war. Officers wearing this model usually had a dark green collar and NCOs and men had a field-grey collar. Officers' buttons were silver and other ranks grey.

The increasing growth rate of the Waffen-SS necessitated the practice of issuing Army tunics to SS personnel, who then added their own regulation SS insignia. Later, the Army style, which had either a dark green or field-grey collar, was issued to replace the depleted stocks of the SS model. It had four pleated pockets and was with or without sleeve cuffs.

<sup>6</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th April 1942.



In the latter part of the war, a tunic style was introduced which reflected the conservative measures being forced on Germany by an increasing shortage of material. It had four pockets with no pleats, no sleeve cuffs and the collar material was the same as the tunic. This model, generally called the M1944, was also produced in camouflage patterns.

The "Field Blouse 44" (Feldbluse 44) was issued in late 1944 and portrayed the most vigorous attempt to conserve material. It was a short, waist-length blouse with two large breast pockets and no sleeve cuffs. Where an acute shortage of material existed, old style tunics were re-tailored. This style was to be issued to all field units with the exception of Panzer troops who already had a short-waisted tunic.

## Sleeve Eagles

The SS sleeve eagle was worn on the upper left sleeve and existed in a number of variations. The distribution of these variations was usually based on the style being used by the individual uniform manufacturer, the soldier's personal preference or what was available at the time. It was not uncommon to see an Army eagle on the sleeve of a SS tunic. The distinctive SS eagle was produced in silver bullion, in flat silver embroidery and aluminum-coloured thread (Bevo) and in grey wool thread. A "Bevo" eagle in rust-brown thread was also produced for wear on camouflage and tropical uniforms.

The following notes outline the practices generally adhered to by SS personnel. However, it should be noted that individual whims sometimes overruled regulations, so producing a number of uncatalogued variations.

**Officers:** Hand-embroidered, silver bullion eagles were worn for dress while "Bevo" eagles in flat silver and aluminum-coloured thread were worn in the field.

**NCOs:** "Bevo" eagles in aluminum-coloured thread were worn for dress and in the field. Standartenoberjunker could, however, wear the silver bullion eagles for dress.

**Enlisted Men:** Both the "Bevo" eagle in aluminum-coloured thread and a machine-embroidered eagle in grey thread could be worn.



NOTE OFFICER'S ARMY SLEEVE EAGLE AT RIGHT.



PEACETIME SS MODEL TUNIC



SILVER BULLION DRESS EAGLE FOR OFFICERS





ARMY-STYLE SS TUNIC



M1944 TUNIC



FLAT SILVER EAGLE  
FOR OFFICERS



ALUMINUM-COLOURED THREAD EAGLE  
FOR OFFICERS AND NCOs





FIELD BLOUSE 1944 TUNIC



WAFFEN-SS FEMALE AUXILIARY TUNIC



GREY THREAD EAGLE  
FOR ENLISTED MEN

### WAFFEN-SS FEMALE AUXILIARY TUNIC

Female personnel who were trained in the Reichsschule SS at Oberenheim/Alsace, for three or four months, were incorporated into the Corps of the SS-Helferinnen. Their tunic was field-grey and similar in style to that of the Army's Female Signal Auxiliaries. The SS sleeve eagle was worn on the upper left sleeve, a black oval patch with white SS runes on the left breast, a "blitz" symbol and the cuff title "Reichsschule SS" on the lower left sleeve.



## Overcoats

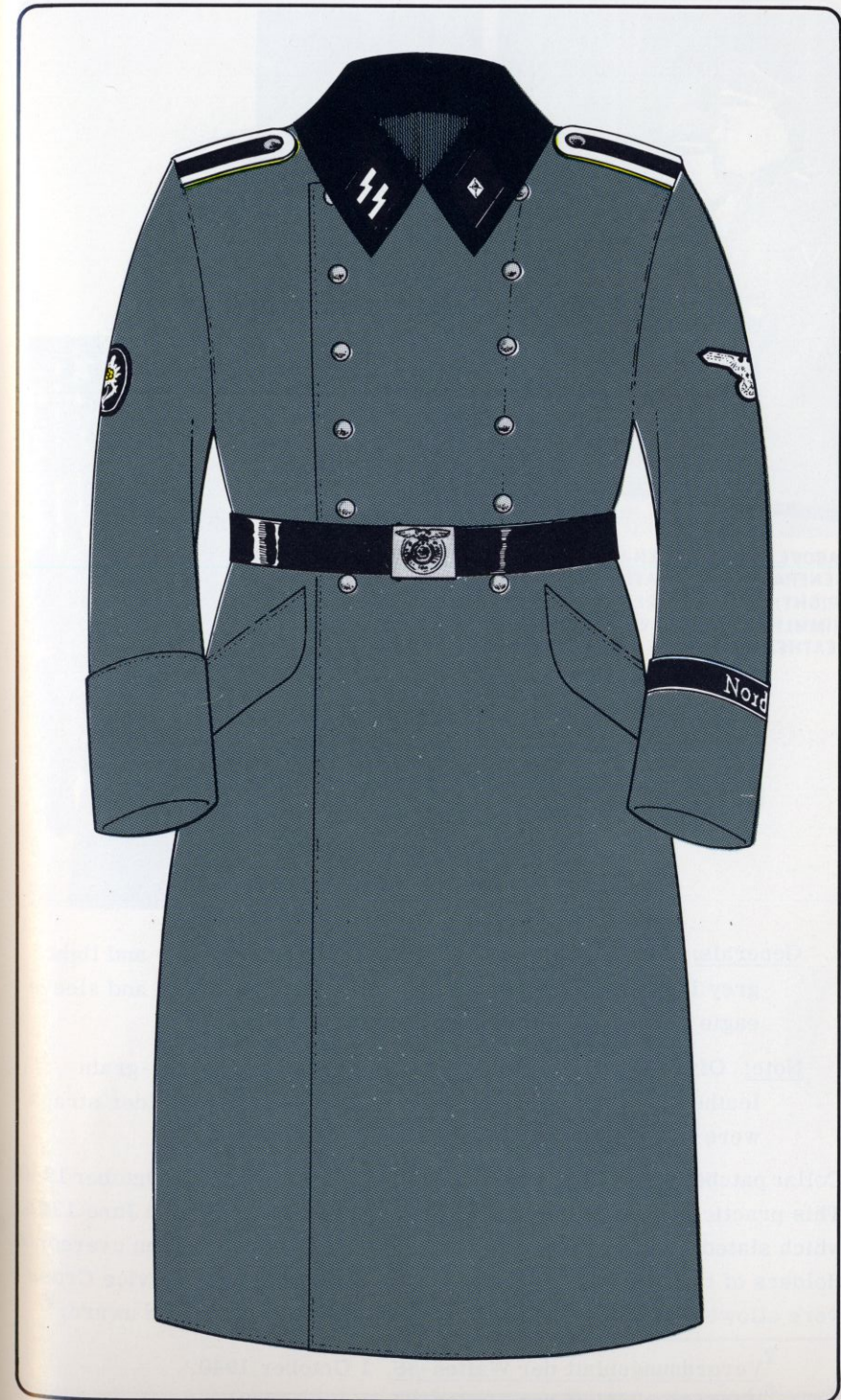
Officers and men in the Waffen-SS wore a long double-breasted, six button overcoat which was very similar to that of the German Army. It was narrow at the waist, flared at the bottom and had two side slash pockets. The collars, which were usually of dark bluish-green imitation velvet, tended to be of field-grey wool later in the war. Overcoats varied according to rank, not only in quality but also as follows:

NCOs and Men: Field-grey with dark-green collar and two rows of grey buttons down the front. Collar patches, shoulder straps, sleeve eagle, rank insignia and unit cuffbands were worn.

Officers: Finer quality material with dark-green collar and grey buttons. Shoulder straps, collar patches and sleeve eagle were worn.



COLLAR PATCHES WERE AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR ON OVERCOATS AFTER OCTOBER 1940. (NOTE POLITICAL CAP EAGLE AND ARMY SLEEVE EAGLE)



OVERCOAT FOR NCOs AND MEN (GREY BUTTONS)





(ABOVE LEFT) WAFFEN-SS  
GENERALS' OVERCOATS  
(RIGHT) REICHSFÜHRER-SS  
HIMMLER AND AIDE WEARING  
LEATHER OVERCOATS.



Generals: Fine quality material with dark-green collar and light grey lapel facings. Shoulder straps, collar patches and sleeve eagle were worn.

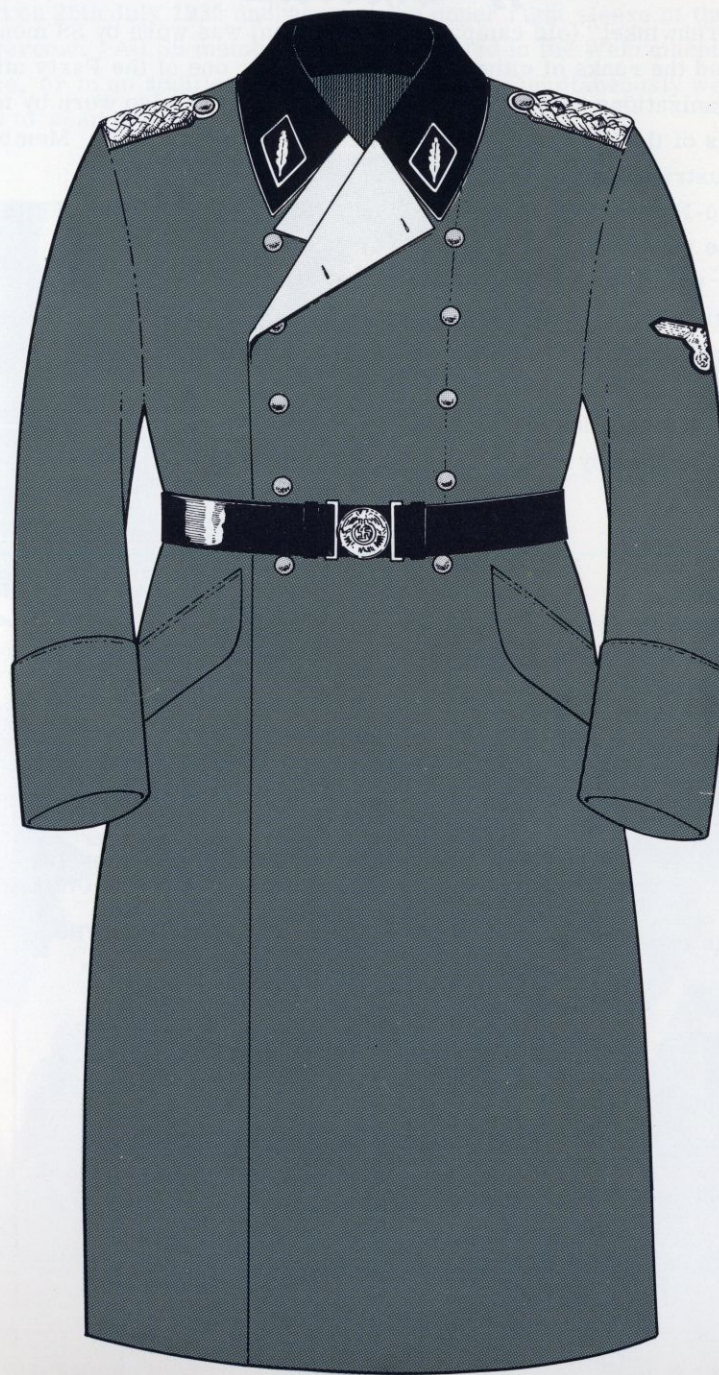
Note: Officers and General officers could purchase fine-grain leather overcoats for service use. Detachable shoulder straps were the only insignia worn on this coat.

Collar patches were authorized for wear on the overcoat by October 1940.<sup>7</sup> This practice was discontinued, however, by an order dated June 1942,<sup>8</sup> which stated that collar patches were no longer to be worn on overcoats. Holders of the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross and War Service Cross were allowed to leave the top two buttons open to display the award.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1 October 1940.

<sup>8</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1 June 1942.

<sup>9</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1 February 1941.



OVERCOAT FOR GENERALS (GREY BUTTONS)



## SS-Chevrans

The "Ehrenwinkel" (old campaigners' chevron) was worn by SS men who had joined the ranks of either the SS, NSDAP or one of the Party affiliated organizations before 30th January 1933. It was also worn by former members of the Wehrmacht and Police up to 25th July 1935. Members of the Austrian SS, Nazi Party or one of its pro-Nazi Austrian organizations and those volunteering for the SS in Austria, prior to 12th February 1935, were entitled to wear the chevron on their upper right arm. These stipulations also applied to other National Socialist organizations in areas such as Eupen, Malmedy and Poland.

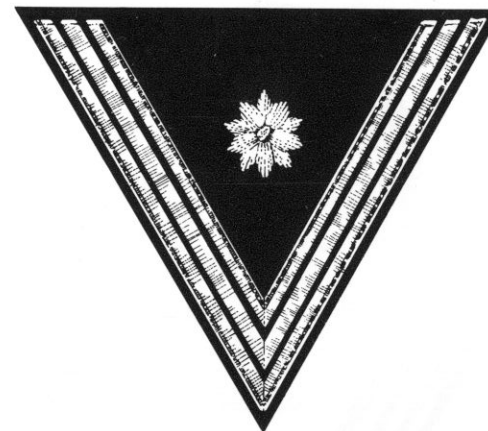


"OLD CAMPAIGNERS" CHEVRON



THE "FORMER MEMBERS" CHEVRON WAS WORN ON THE UPPER RIGHT SLEEVE. (NOTE CUFFBAND INDICATING ABTEILUNGSLEITER ON THE STAFF OF THE RF-SS (ALGEMEINE-SS))

The chevron for ex-members of the Wehrmacht and Police was introduced on 25th July 1935 and worn on the upper right sleeve of the tunic or overcoat. All SS members who had served in the Wehrmacht or Police, or in an additional Party organization simultaneously were entitled to wear this chevron with pip.



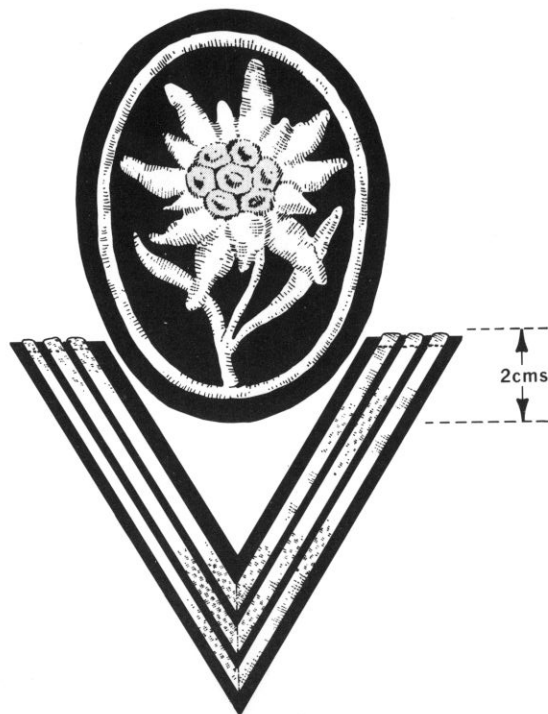
"FORMER MEMBERS" CHEVRON



NOTE POSITIONING OF "OLD CAMPAIGNERS" CHEVRONS ON THE UPPER RIGHT SLEEVE OF SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER FEGELEIN AND SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER WOLFF. (REICHSFÜHRER-SS HIMMLER IS IN RIGHT FOREGROUND)



The "Ehrenwinkel" was authorised for wear on field-grey uniforms in August 1943. When this SS chevron was worn by mountain units of the Waffen-SS, it was positioned below the Edelweiss sleeve badge, with the base of the latter 2cms below the level of the top of the "V".<sup>10</sup>



POSITIONING OF "EHRENWINKEL" WHEN WORN WITH EDELWEISS SLEEVE BADGE.

## Waffen-SS Brassards

Two varieties of the Waffen-SS brassard exist, the "Waffen-SS" in black on orange and the "Im Dienste der Waffen-SS" in black on white.<sup>11</sup> These armbands were worn on the left upper sleeve by non-German, civilian personnel (drivers, wagon drivers, etc.) in service with the Waffen-SS.

**Waffen-SS**

"WAFFEN-SS" BRASSARD (BLACK ON ORANGE)

**Im Dienst  
der  
Waffen-SS**

"IM DIENSTE DER WAFFEN-SS" BRASSARD (BLACK ON WHITE)

<sup>10</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st August 1943.

<sup>11</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th June 1942. An armband in pink, with "Dolmetscher" (Interpreter) in black letters, was authorized for wear on the left upper sleeve by interpreters in the Waffen-SS.



## Belts and Buckles

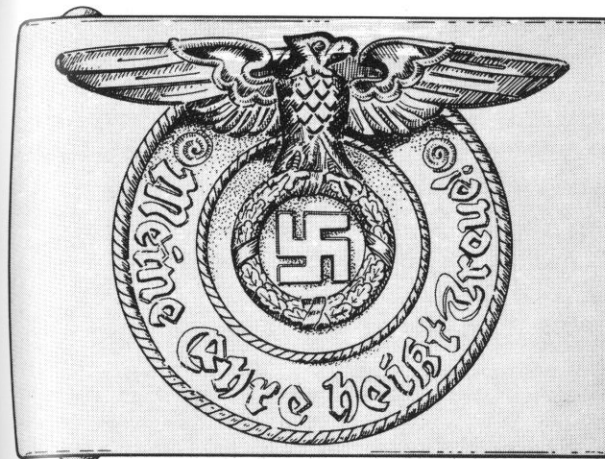
NCOs and enlisted men wore an oblong, dull silver buckle with the SS motto "Meine Ehre Heisst Treue!" and the SS eagle. Combat versions of this buckle also exist in field-grey. Officers wore either a circular, dull silver buckle with the SS motto and eagle or a double-claw buckle as used by Army officers. Black leather belts were worn with all of the above buckles. Officers also wore the round buckle and a

brocade belt, with embroidered SS runes and oakleaves, for dress occasions.

Black leather cross straps were worn initially but later forbidden for wear by officers on the field-grey uniform.<sup>12</sup>



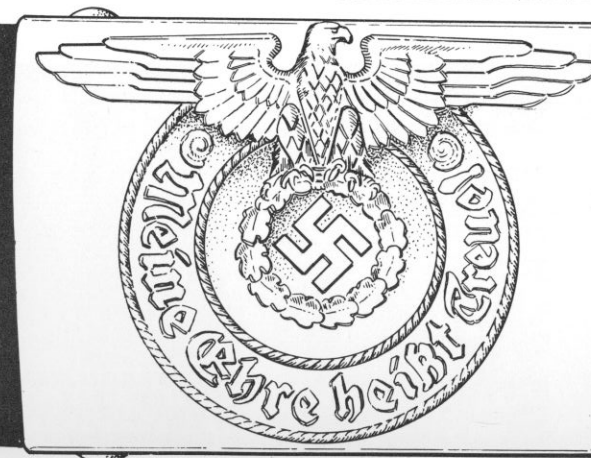
SS-MANN IN FIELD-GREY SERVICE UNIFORM FOR ARMoured VEHICLE CREWS WITH STANDARD E.M. BUCKLE.



STANDARD NCO AND ENLISTED MAN'S BUCKLE



NOTE OFFICER IN CENTRE WEARING ARMY DOUBLE-CLAW BUCKLE



NCO AND ENLISTED MAN'S BUCKLE VARIATION (NOTE MOBILE SWASTIKA)





SS OFFICER'S BUCKLE (VARIATION)



SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER FEGELEIN WEARING THE OFFICER'S BUCKLE WITH BLACK LEATHER BELT AND RUNNERS.

STANDARD SS  
OFFICER'S BUCKLE  
AND BROCADE  
DRESS BELT





# Gorgets



SS-FAHNENTRÄGER (STANDARD BEARER'S) GORGET



SS-STREIFENDIENST (SS PATROL SERVICE) GORGET



NOTE ARMY PATTERN "FELDGENDARMERIE" (FIELD POLICE) GORGET WORN BY GERMAN NCOs IN THE 13.WAFFEN-GEIRGS-DIVISION-SS "HANDSCHAR"



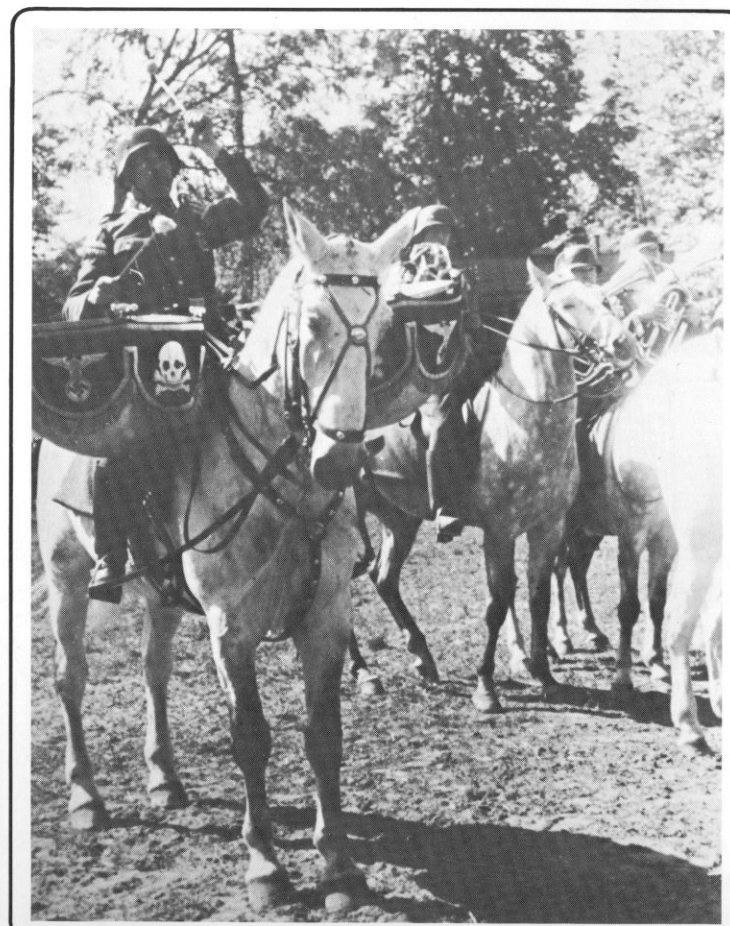
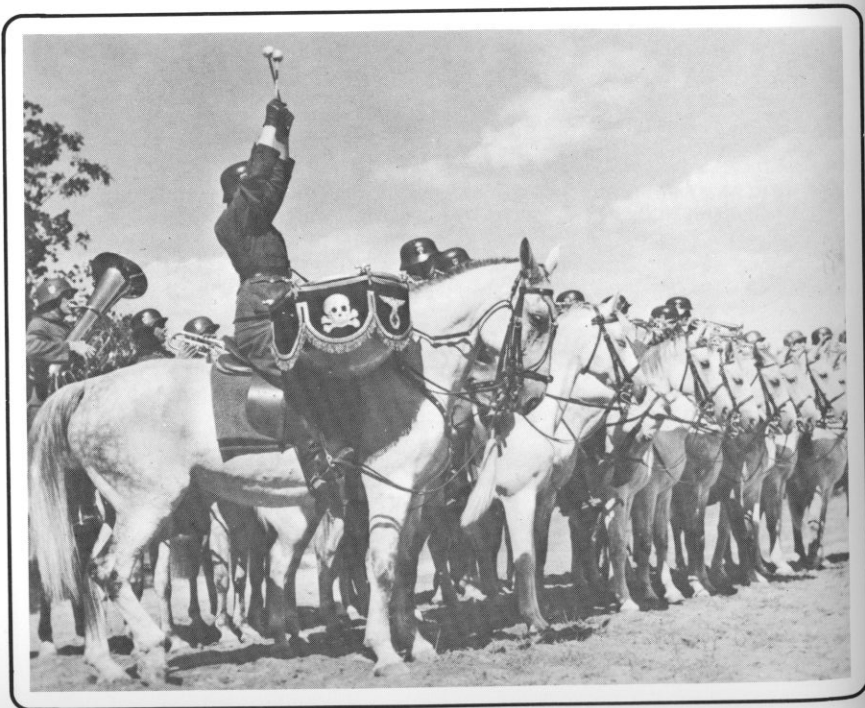
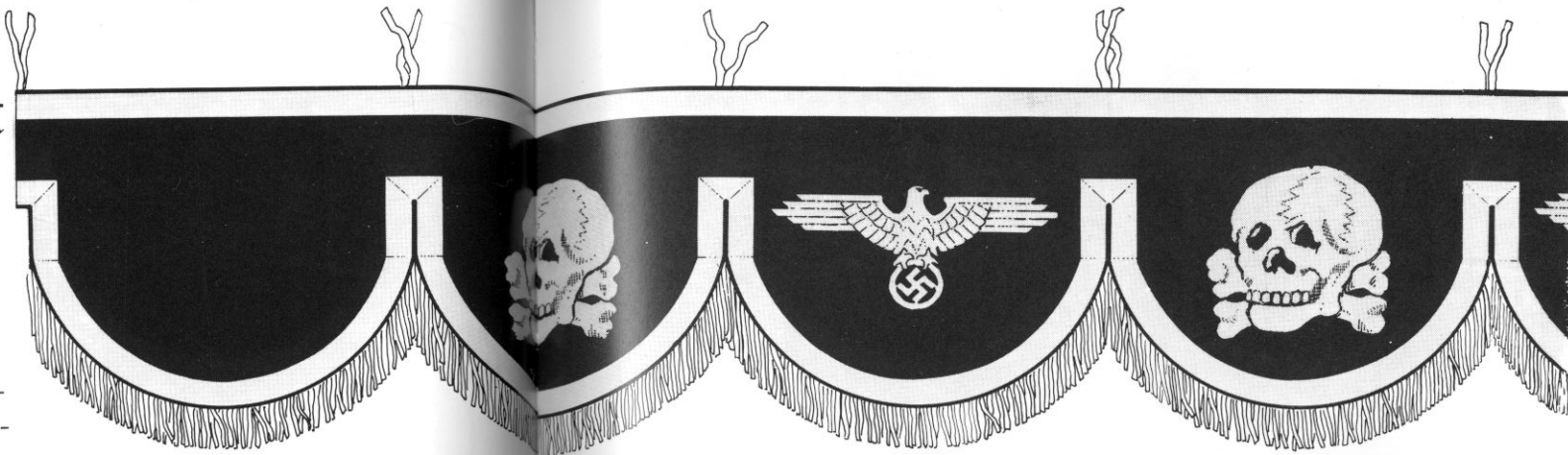
SS-FUNKSCHUTZ (SS PROTECTION FORCE FOR RADIO INSTALLATIONS) GORGET



## Band Equipment & Insignia

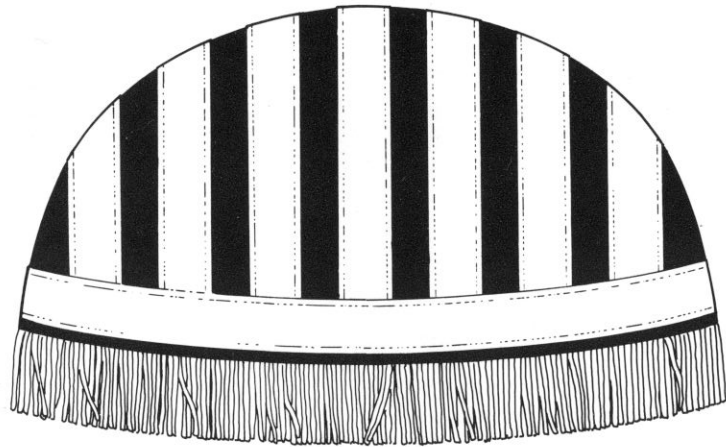
Waffen-SS bands were utilized less and less as the war progressed with regular soldiers, involved in combat duties, serving a dual purpose as band members. Therefore, SS bandmen did not generally wear any special insignia except the detachable "swallows' nest" (SS-Schwalbennester). The Waffen-SS retained the basic band insignia and equipment as that of the Allgemeine-SS and the SS-Verfügungstruppe.

(ABOVE RIGHT) THE SS KETTLE DRUM BANNER WAS IN BLACK CLOTH AND TRIMMED IN ALUMINUM BRAID. IT HAD SIX PANELS WHICH WERE DECORATED AS FOLLOWS: BLANK/TOTENKOPF/EAGLE/TOTENKOPF/EAGLE/BLANK. THE TOTENKOPF AND EAGLE DECORATIONS WERE ALSO IN ALUMINUM. NOTE EARLY SS EAGLE ON BANNER IN PHOTO AT RIGHT AND BELOW.

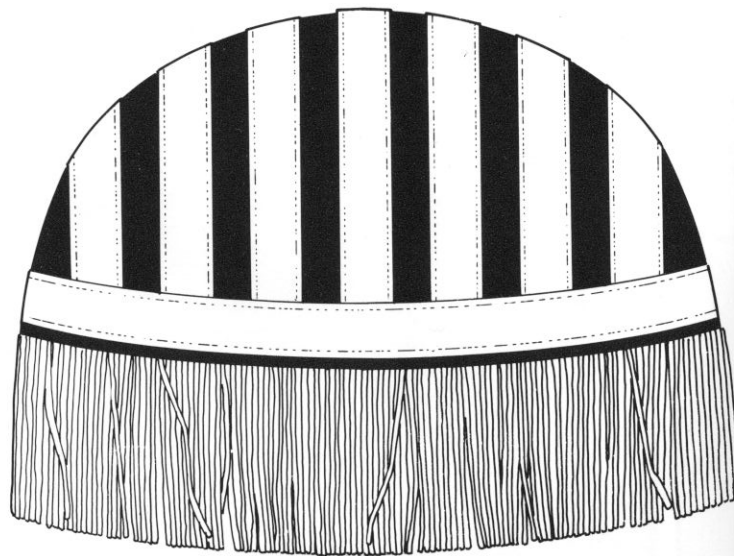


KETTLEDRUMMER (KESSELPAUKER) FROM A CAVALRY REGIMENT OF THE 8.SS-KAVALLERIE-DIVISION "FLORIAN GEYER."





BANDSMEN (SS-MUSIKER)



DRUM-MAJORS (SS-TAMBOURMAJOR)

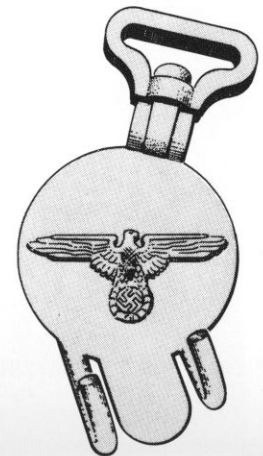
Waffen-SS musicians wore the traditional "swallows' nest" (SS-Schalben-  
 nester) on both shoulders of the tunic. The "swallows' nest", which was  
 in black cloth trimmed in aluminum braid, had a 3 cm long aluminum  
 fringe for bandsmen (SS-Musiker) and a 7 cm long aluminum fringe for  
 drum-majors (SS-Tambourmajor).



THE "LAH" BAND WORE NO SPECIAL MUSICIAN'S INSIGNIA  
 DURING THE GERMAN MARCH INTO PARIS, 1940.

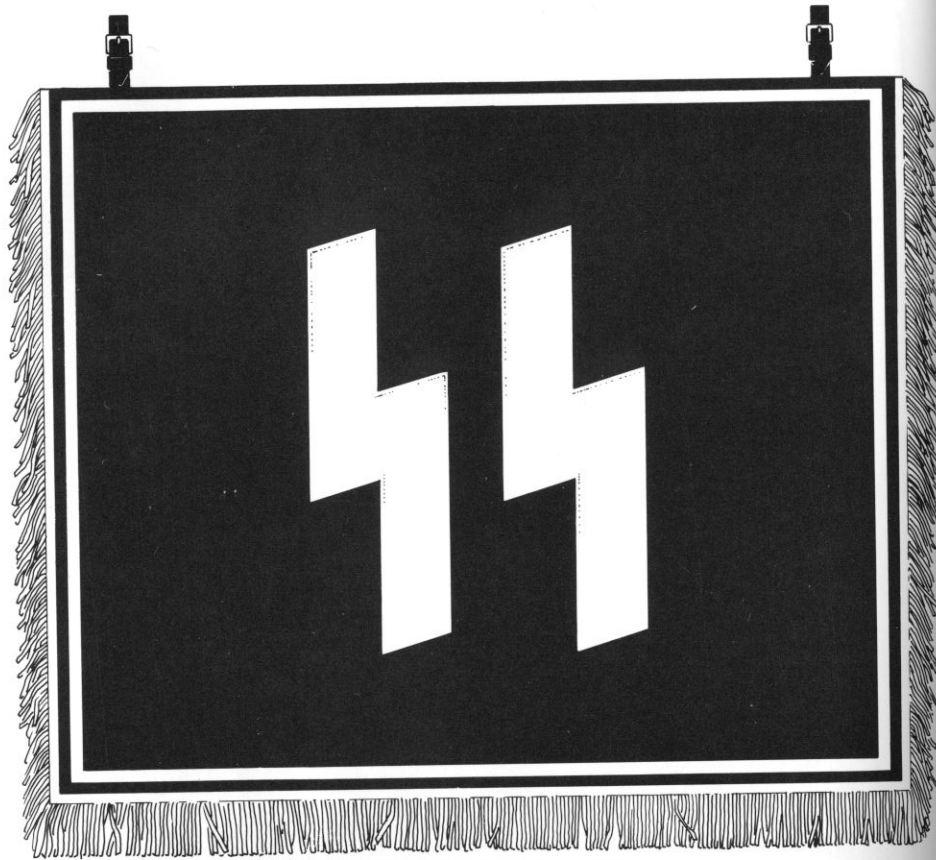


SS BAND LEADERS WORE A GOLD MUSICIAN'S  
 LYRE ON THEIR SHOULDER STRAPS.



SS DRUM HANGER

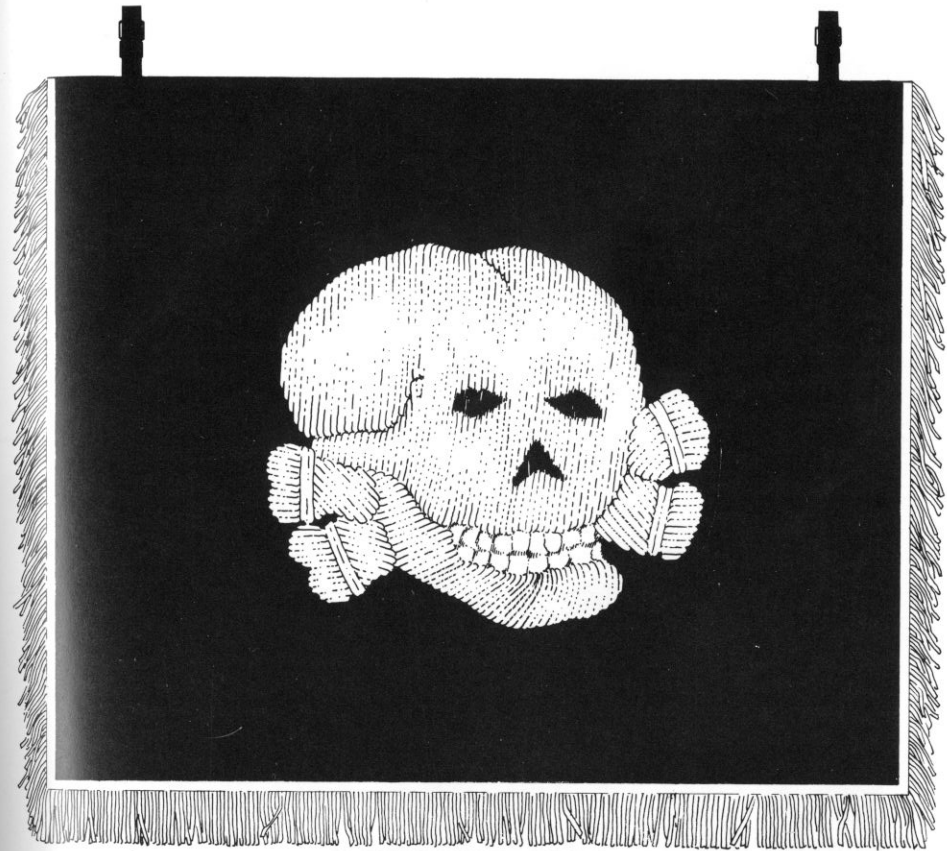




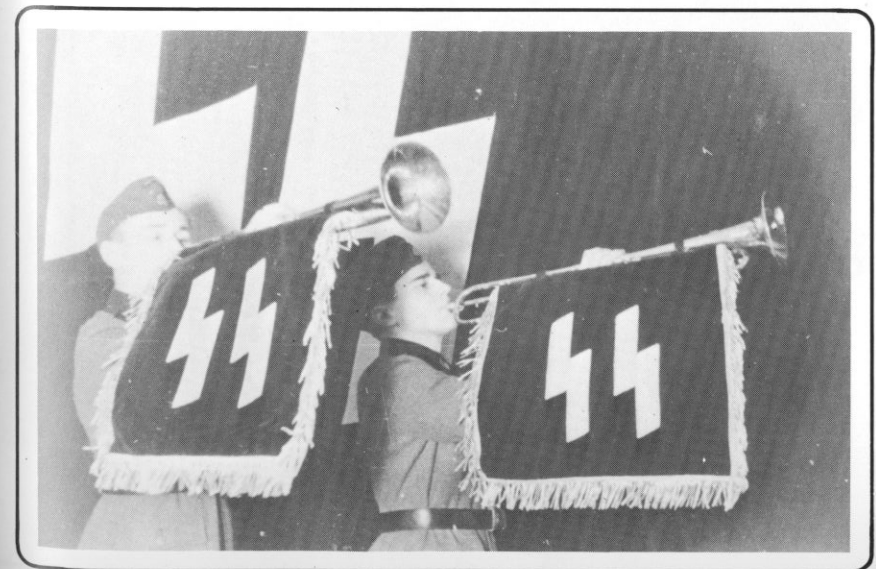
SS BUGLE BANNER (OBVERSE)

Waffen-SS bands were to consist of one band leader and 60 musicians; or one band leader and 47 musicians; or one band leader and 37 musicians; or one band leader and 27 musicians.<sup>13</sup>

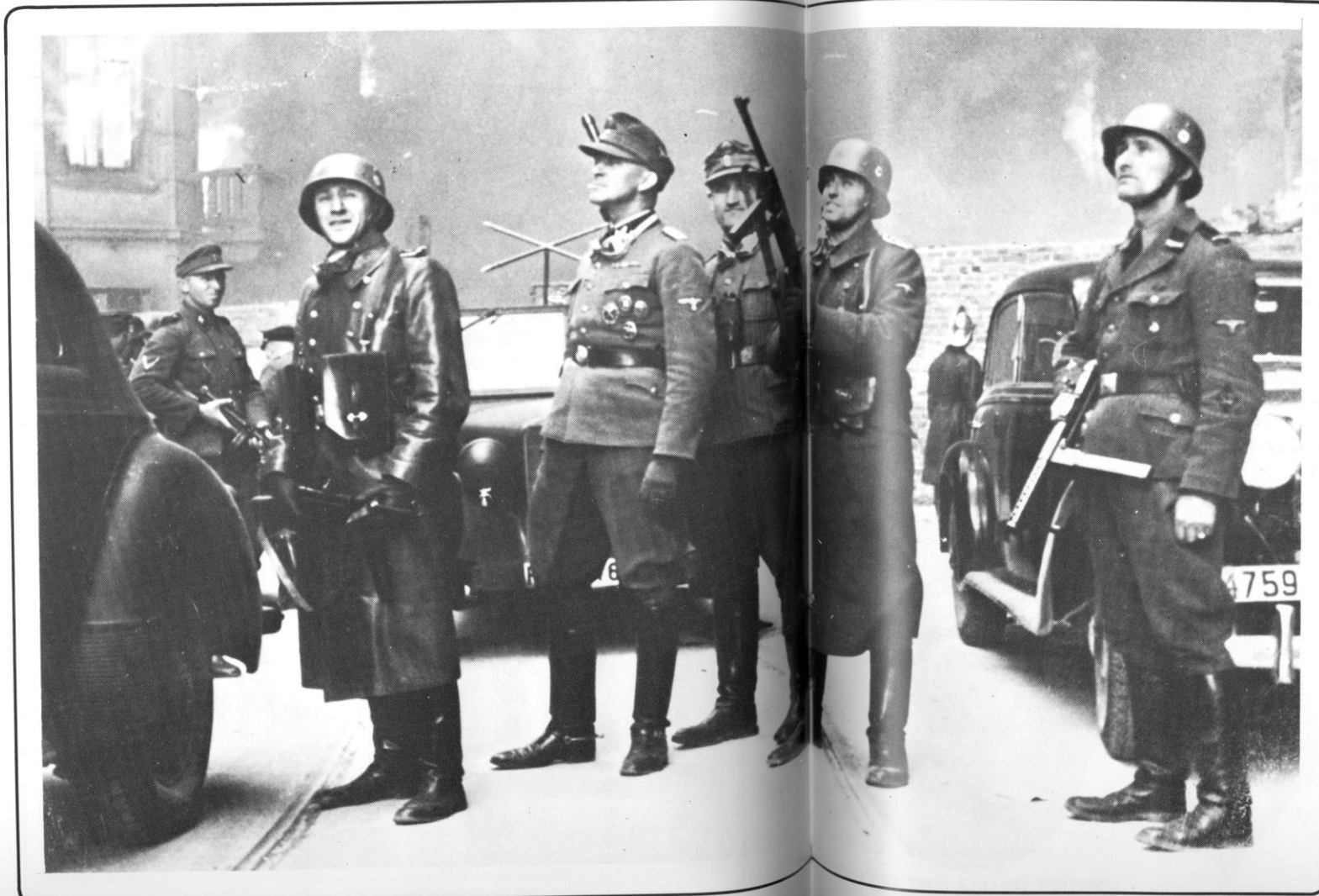
(PHOTO AT RIGHT) NOTE THAT SS BUGLE BANNERS DO NOT HAVE NARROW WHITE BORDER AS BANNER ABOVE. THE TWO YOUTHFUL SS MEMBERS ARE FROM SS-MUSIK-SCHULE BRAUNSCHWEIG.



SS BUGLE BANNER (REVERSE)







Waffen-SS  
Sleeve  
Diamonds



# Trade and Specialty Badges

As is traditional in the German Army, the branch of service within the Waffen-SS was indicated by the established system of "Waffenfarben". The individual's specific trade or specialty within his branch of service was indicated by an embroidered insignia which was worn on the lower left sleeve of both the tunic and great-coat.

The Waffen-SS trade badge was a combination of the Allgemeine-SS and German Army insignia which retained its basic design and significance. Early in the war, the Waffen-SS utilized circular trade badges as that of the Army's. The badge was shortly redesigned on a black, diamond-shaped background with aluminum embroidered symbols for the great-coat and a matt silver-grey embroidered symbol for wear on the tunic.

- (1) Hufbeschlagpersonal (Farrier Personnel)
- (2) Führer im Technischen Dienst (Technical Officers)
- (3) Nachrichtenpersonal (Signal Personnel)
- (4) Schirrmeister (Transport Sergeants)
- (5) Führer und Unterführer im Veterinärdienst  
(Veterinary Officers and NCOs)
- (6) Führer im Sanitätsdienst und Zahnarztendienst  
(Medical and Dentistry Officers)
- (7) Sanitätspersonal (Medical Personnel)
- (8) Musikzugführer (Musician Officers)
- (9) Führer im Gerichtsdienst (Officers in Legal Branch)
- (10) Führer im Verwaltungsdienst (Administrative Officers)
- (11) Waffenunterführer (Ordnance NCOs)
- (12) Sicherheitsdienst - SD (Security Service)



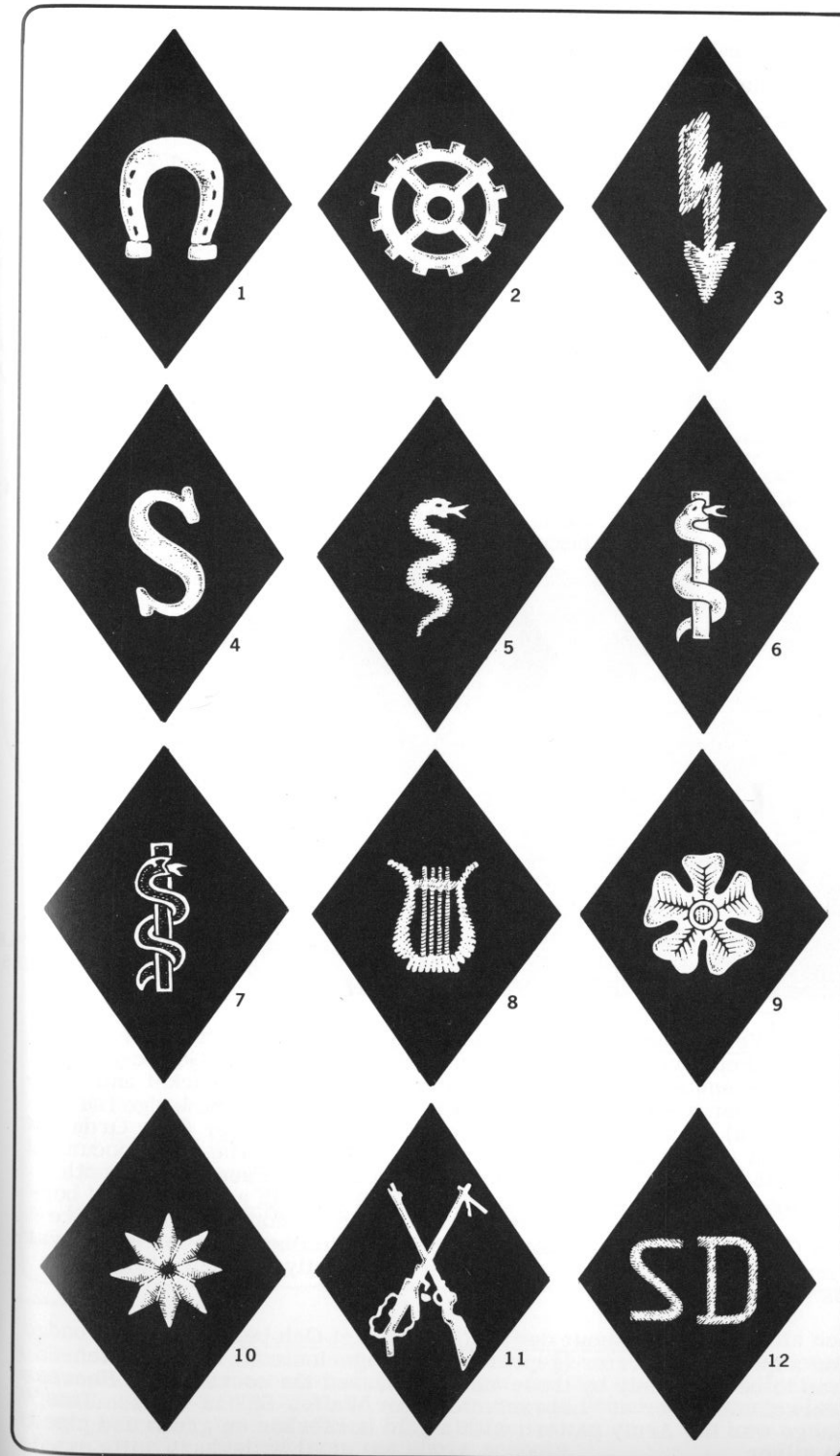
SNIPERS' BADGE

- 1st CLASS (60 KILLS)  
— GOLD PIPING
- 2nd CLASS (40 KILLS)  
— SILVER PIPING
- 3rd CLASS (20 KILLS)  
— NO PIPING

(Worn on right lower sleeve above other trade badges)

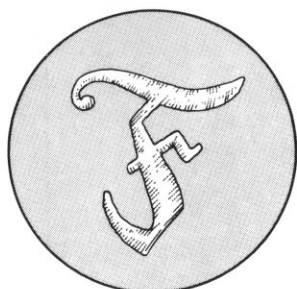


ENGINEER ASSAULT BOAT COXSWAIN

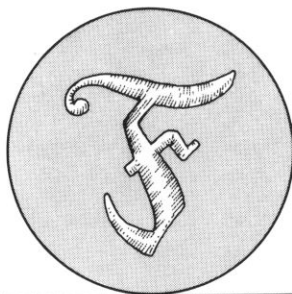




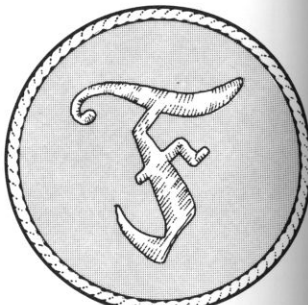
Illustrated below are some of the round and oval Army-style (green) specialty badges which were utilized by the Waffen-SS before the design of the black sleeve diamond. It should be noted that some of these badges were worn long after the introduction of the sleeve diamond.



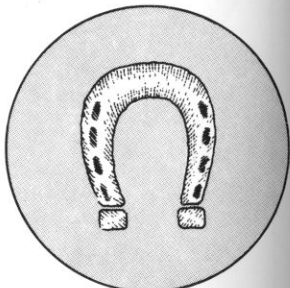
WAR ORDNANCE SERGEANT<sup>1</sup>  
(NOV. 1943-SEPT. 1944)  
WAR ORDNANCE SERGEANT  
CANDIDATE (INTRODUCED  
IN SEPT. 1944)



WAR ORDNANCE SERGEANT  
CANDIDATE (FROM NOV. 1943,  
DISCONTINUED IN SEPT. 1944)



WAR ORDNANCE SERGEANT  
(INTRODUCED IN SEPT. 1944)

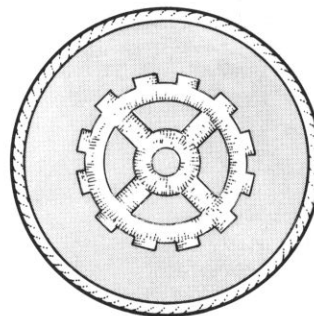


FARRIER<sup>2</sup>

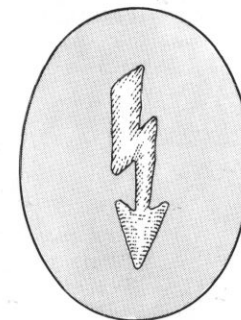
NOTE NCO WEARING ARMY-STYLE  
BADGE FOR QUALIFIED FARRIERS

<sup>1</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th November 1943. The Kriegs-Feuerwerker (War Ordnance Sergeant) wore a Gothic yellow "F" on green sleeve badge, on the right sleeve of the jacket and overcoat. When a strip of grey lace was mounted below the badge (see illustration), it signified Kriegs-Feuerwerker-Anwärter (War Ordnance Sergeant Candidate). It was only worn by NCOs. The same document dated 15th September 1944, states that a Kriegs-Feuerwerker with 6 months training now wore a Gothic "F" badge with a silver piped border. A Kriegs-Feuerwerker-Anwärter with 2 months training wore the Gothic "F" badge without piping. (It should be noted that many war-time and post-war publications have incorrectly captioned this badge as "Pyrotechnician")

<sup>2</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st October 1943. The badge for a qualified Farrrier (geprüfte Beschlagschmiede) in the Waffen-SS was to be worn only by those who had passed the course at a "Heeresleherschmiede" or at "Lehrschmiede der Waffen-SS" in Graz. This badge was the Army pattern with a gold horseshoe on green and piped in silver.

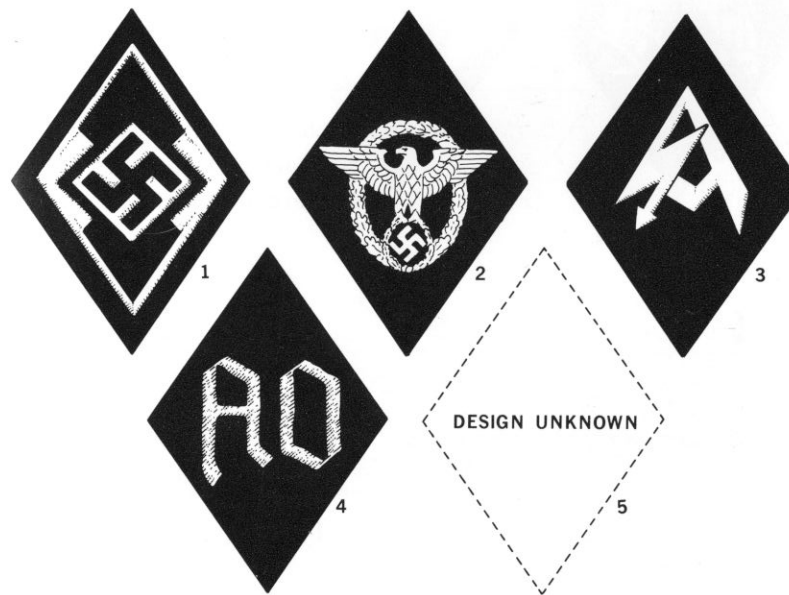


TECHNICAL NCO<sup>3</sup>



SIGNAL PERSONNEL

## Former Service Badges

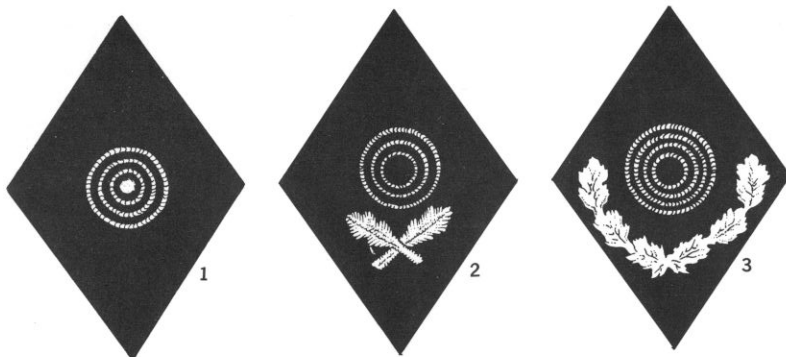


- (1) Former membership in the Hitler Jugend
- (2) Former membership in the Ordnungspolizei
- (3) Former membership in the Sturm Abteilung (SA)
- (4) Former membership in the Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP
- (5) Former membership in the Kyffhäuserbund

<sup>3</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st November 1944. This document states that a Technische Unterführer (Technical NCO), who was trained at "Waffentechnischer Lehranstalt der Waffen-SS" or "Heeres-Waffenmeister-Schule", could wear the cogged-wheel trade badge (Laufbahnabzeichen) piped in silver. The badge was worn on the lower right sleeve after graduating from the above schools.



## Marksmanship Badges

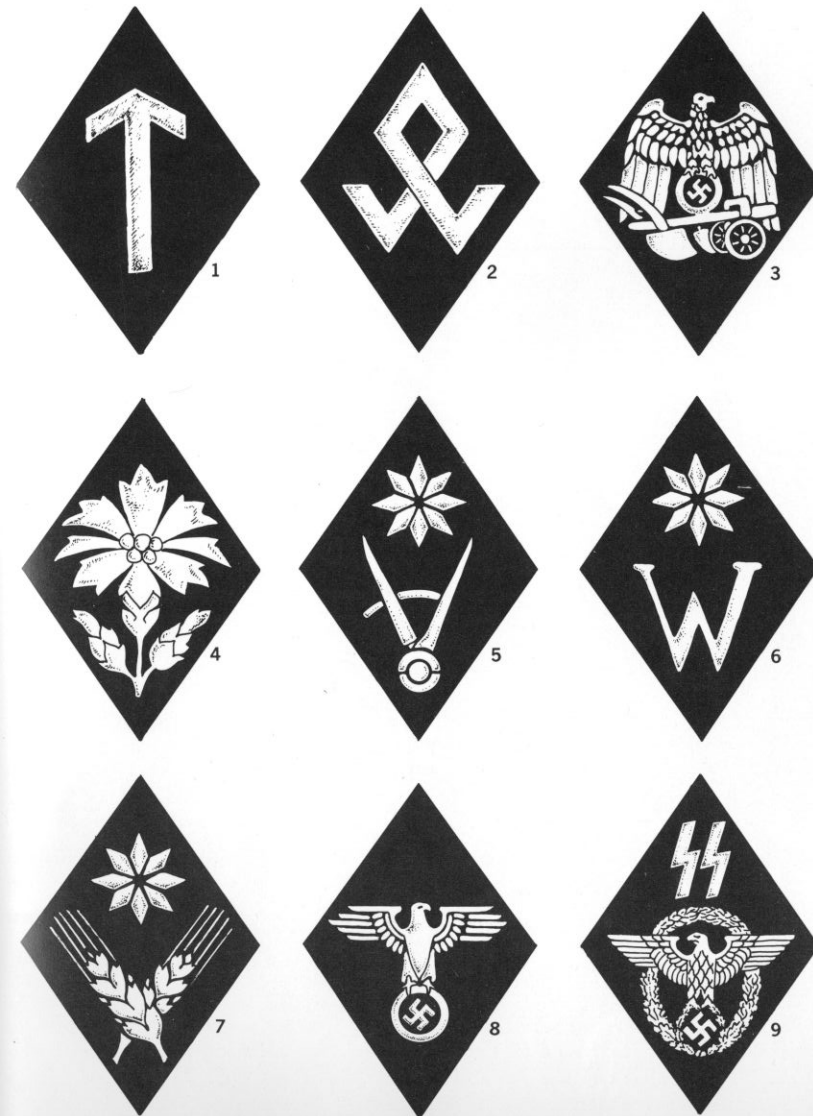


- (1) II. Schiessklasse
- (2) I. Schiessklasse
- (3) Scharfschützenklasse
- (4) Meisterschützenklasse

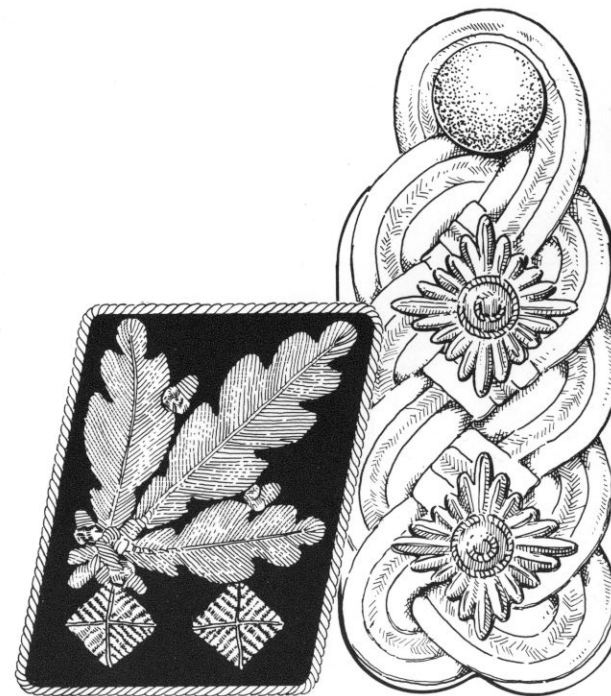
## Fachführer / Fachunterführer der Waffen-SS

- (1) SS-Hauptamt (Ergänzung, Erfassung und Schulung)  
SS-Head Office (Replacement, Procurement and Training)
- (2) R. - und S. -Hauptamt (Rassen- und Siedlungswesen)  
Race and Settlement Head Office
- (3) Reichskommissariat für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums, Stabs-  
hauptamt (Gruppe Siedlung)  
Settlement Group, Reichskommissariat for Strengthening German  
Nationality - Staff Head Office
- (4) Reichskommissariat für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums, Volks-  
deutschenmittelstelle (Gruppe Volkstumsarbeit)  
Nationality Work Group, Reichskommissariat for Strengthening  
German Nationality - Staff Head Office
- (5) Gruppe Bauwesen mit SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungs-Hauptamt  
Building Affairs Group, SS Economic and Administrative Head Office
- (6) Gruppe Wirtschaftsbetriebe im SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungs-  
Hauptamt  
Economic Management Group, SS Economic and Administrative  
Head Office

- (7) Gruppe Wirtschaftsbetriebe im SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungs-  
Hauptamt  
Agricultural Administration Group, SS Economic and Administrative  
Head Office
- (8) Gruppe Presse und Kriegswirtschaft im Persönlichen Stab Reichs-  
führer-SS  
Personal Staff of the RF-SS (Press and War Economy Group)
- (9) Gruppe SS- und Polizeiwesen im Reichssicherheits-Hauptamt  
Reich Security Head Office (SS and Police Affairs Group)







Waffen-SS Rank Insignia



The Allgemeine-SS system of indicating rank by pips, bars and oak-leaves was altered only slightly by the SS-Verfügungstruppe (SS-VT) and later by the Waffen-SS. The right-hand collar insignia indicated unit, while the left indicated the rank of the wearer (see opposite page). The SS runes were eventually worn by all units of the Waffen-SS with the exception of the SS-Police Division, the SS-Totenkopf Division and non-German units. The Totenkopf (death's head) was worn by members of the SS-Totenkopf Division, its Ersatz units (replacements), the Inspectorate of the Concentration

Camps and Totenkopf independent units (Insp. K. L. und Totenkopf-Sturmabteilung).



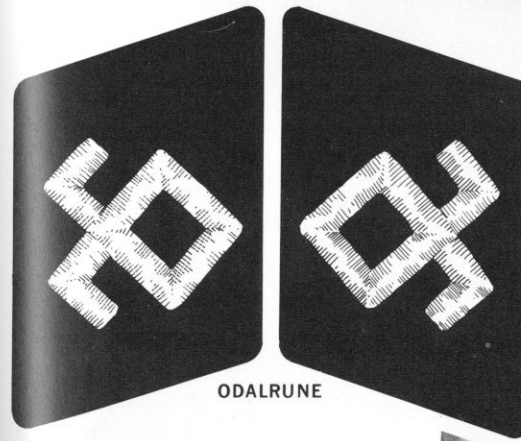
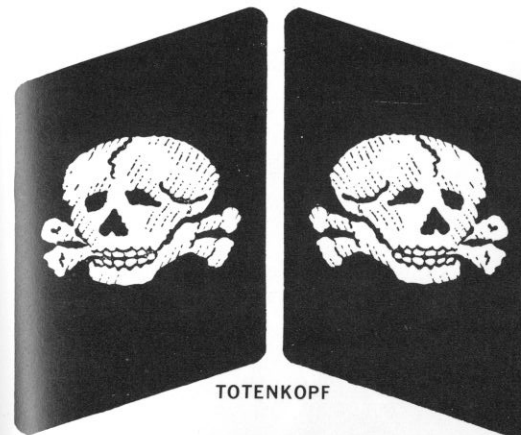
(LEFT) NOTE DISTINCTIVE RIGHT COLLAR PATCH WORN BY SS-ROTTENFÜHRER FROM 14. WAFFEN-GRENADIER-DIVISION DER SS (galizische Nr. 1)



NOTE GERMAN OFFICER WITH BLACK COLLAR PATCHES AT LEFT OF PHOTO AND ITALIAN SS OFFICER WITH RED COLLAR PATCHES TO HIS LEFT.

The practice of the right-hand collar insignia indicating unit, while the left indicated rank was disregarded in three recorded instances. This occurred when the unit insignia appeared on the left as well as the right collar patch:

- (a) Totenkopf ("Totenkopf" Division and other units)
- (b) Odalrune ("Prinz Eugen" Division)
- (c) SS runes (reason unknown at time of writing)



THE GERMAN OFFICER (CENTRE) IS WEARING SS RUNES ON BOTH COLLAR PATCHES.

All Waffen-SS collar patches were black with the exception of early Italian units in the Waffen-SS. The Italian-SS initially wore red as the colour for their collar patches and other insignia. They were honoured with the colour black, however, when the Italian SS Legion became the 29th division of the Waffen-SS.





THE SILVER/BLACK TWISTED CORD AROUND THE COLLAR PATCHES (SS-VT) WAS DISCONTINUED EARLY IN THE WAR.

Early SS collar insignia for enlisted men and NCOs was initially piped in silver/black twisted cord but this piping was discontinued probably for reasons of economy. The collar patches of officers and some NCOs, who were officer candidates, were trimmed in silver cord. SS Generals' collar insignia were also trimmed in silver cord.

In early 1942 the basic shape of the oak-leaves was altered. The leaves were now of a straighter style and the woven pips were in a slightly different position. The significance of the rank insignia was also effected as indicated in the following chart.

Rank	To end of 1941	1942 - 1945
SS-Oberführer	2 leaves	2 leaves
SS-Brigadeführer	2 leaves, 1 pip	3 leaves
SS-Gruppenführer	3 leaves	3 leaves, 1 pip
SS-Obergruppenführer	3 leaves, 1 pip	3 leaves, 2 pips
SS-Oberstgruppenführer	-----	3 leaves, 3 pips



THE LATER DESIGN OF THE COLLAR PATCH OAK-LEAVES IS EVIDENT IN THE ABOVE PHOTO OF SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER THEODOR EICKE.



Although the SS-VT and later the Waffen-SS retained the Allgemeine-SS collar rank insignia system, the tendency for closer association with members of the Wehrmacht's combat forces is evident in their shoulder straps. Originally, Waffen-SS shoulder straps were identical with those of the German Army and were worn on both shoulders.<sup>1</sup> The only variation was that the straps of SS enlisted men and NCOs had a black underlay. Enlisted men's straps were piped in Waffenfarben and NCO's straps were trimmed with a 9mm wide aluminum (later cotton) border. Straight silver cords were utilized for the ranks of Untersturmführer to Hauptsturmführer; entwined double silver cords for Sturmbannführer to Oberführer; and entwined gold/silver/gold cords for Brigadeführer to Oberstgruppenführer. Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler wore his special shoulder straps with 3 entwined silver cords on the black base with the addition of a silver 3-leaf insignia. The system was later altered for officers' ranks from Untersturmführer to Oberführer by the addition of a black base under the Waffenfarben. The pips on shoulder straps were the same as those of the Army in colour (i.e. gold for SS-Obersturmführer to SS-Oberführer and silver for SS-Gruppenführer and above). They were later changed to silver for all ranks.

In 1940 the Waffen-SS adopted the circular rank insignia of the Army's Oberschütze. This insignia consisted of a star which was positioned on a black, circular backing and worn by the SS-Mann below his SS sleeve eagle. The title of SS-Mann was altered to SS-Staffelmann and in 1941 changed to titles similar to those in the Army... SS-Oberschütze, SS-Obergrenadier, SS-Oberkanonier, SS-Oberreiter, etc. The single chevron sleeve insignia of the Army Gefreiter was also adopted and worn by the SS-Sturmmann. The double chevron insignia of the Army Obergefreiter was adopted and worn by the SS-Rottenführer rank. The Army's influence was also seen in the introduction of the silver lace around the NCO collar. The SS-Stabs-scharführer (equivalent to Army's Hauptfeldwebel and Hauptwachtmeister), a senior NCO serving in the capacity of company Sergeant-Major, wore two 9mm wide silver strips above the sleeve cuff.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Initially the Allgemeine-SS wore a single shoulder board on the right shoulder, but during the war they wore cords on both shoulders

<sup>2</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th November 1940. The Stabs-scharführer was equivalent to the British C. S. M., B. S. M., S. S. M., etc. or the American First Sergeant. This appointment was held by men of a specific rank in the British forces (i.e. W.O. 2) and in the American forces whereas the Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS were more flexible. The holder was usually an Oberfeldwebel/Oberwachtmeister/Hauptscharführer or a Stabsfeldwebel/Stabswachtmeister/Sturmscharführer. If the Hauptfeldwebel/Hauptwachtmeister appointment was held by a Feldwebel/Wachtmeister/Oberscharführer or by the two lower NCO ranks, the holder was regarded as a Hauptfeldwebeldienststeuer/Hauptwachtmeisterdienststeuer.

The introduction of combined titles of Waffen-SS generals and Army generals in late 1940 was another step in the trend to assimilate the SS with its Army comrades in arms.

SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS  
 SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS  
 SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS

By order of Himmler, on 2nd April 1942, a new rank of SS-Oberstgruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS was created. Sepp Dietrich, then the commander of the LSSAH, was promoted to this new rank with its added designation of Panzer-Generaloberst der Waffen-SS.



NOTE THE SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER IN THE FOREGROUND WEARING THE SLEEVE RANK INSIGNIA ON HIS CAMOUFLAGE JACKET.

A special system of rank insignia was introduced in February 1943 which was worn on both sleeves of uniforms which had neither collar patches nor shoulder straps (coveralls, winter suits, camouflaged combat jackets, drill jackets, etc.). This system of bars, oak-leaves and pips was nearly identical to the insignia already in use by the German Army with the exception of colour. The base colour for all the Waffen-SS insignia was black. The distinctive ranks were in gold colour for generals and dark green for all other ranks down to SS-Unterscharführer.

Variations in the basic SS rank insignia are minor as all manufacturers were strictly controlled by the Reichszeugmeisterei der NSDAP (RZM).



## WAFFEN-SS AND ARMY RANKS COMPARED

GENERALE (GENERALS)	
Generalfeldmarschall	Reichsführer-SS
Generaloberst	SS-Oberstgruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS
General der Infanterie, usw.	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS
Generalleutnant	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS
Generalmajor	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS
STABSOFFIZIERE (FIELD OFFICERS)	
Oberst	SS-Oberführer, SS-Standartenführer
Oberstleutnant	SS-Obersturmbannführer
Major	SS-Sturmbannführer
HAUPTLEUTE UND RITTMESTER (CAPTAINS AND CAPTAINS OF CAVALRY)	
Hauptmann, Rittmeister	SS-Hauptsturmführer
LEUTNANTE (LIEUTENANTS)	
Oberleutnant	SS-Obersturmführer
Leutnant	SS-Untersturmführer
UNTEROFFIZIERE MIT PORTEPEE (SENIOR NCOs)	
Stabsfeldwebel, usw.	SS-Sturmscharführer
Oberfähnriche, Oberfeldwebel, usw.	SS-Standarten-Oberjunker, Hauptscharführer
Feldwebel, usw.	SS-Oberscharführer
UNTEROFFIZIERE OHNE PORTEPEE (JUNIOR NCOs)	
Fähnriche, Unterfeldwebel, usw.	SS-Standartenjunker, Scharführer
Unteroffizier, Oberjäger	SS-Unterscharführer
MANNSCHAFTEN (MEN)	
Stabsgefreiter	SS-Stabsrottenführer
Obergefreiter	SS-Rottenführer
Gefreiter	SS-Sturmmann
Oberschütze, usw.	SS-Oberschütze, usw.
Schütze, usw.	SS-Schütze, usw.

Waffen-SS rank designation for lower other ranks changed with their type of unit. They are as follows:

SS-Panzer-Rgt. ————— SS-Panzerschütze — SS-Panzeroverschütze  
 SS-Pz. -Gren. -Rgt. ————— SS-Panzergranadier — SS-Pz. -Obergranadier  
 SS-Gren. -Rgt. ————— SS-Grenadier ————— SS-Obergranadier  
 SS-Geb. -Jäger-Rgt. ————— SS-Jäger ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Reiter-Rgt. ————— SS-Reiter ————— SS-Oberreiter  
 SS-Art. -Rgt. ————— SS-Kanonier ————— SS-Oberkanonier  
 SS-Geb. -Art. -Rgt. ————— SS-Kanonier ————— SS-Oberkanonier  
 SS-Sturmgesch. -Einh. ————— SS-Kanonier ————— SS-Oberkanonier  
 SS-Panzer-Jäger-Einh. — SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Kradsch. -Einh. ————— SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Panzer-Späh. -Einh. — SS-Panzerschütze — SS-Panzeroverschütze  
 SS-Flak-Einh. ————— SS-Kanonier ————— SS-Oberkanonier  
 SS-Pionier-Einh. ————— SS-Pionier ————— SS-Oberpionier  
 SS-Nachr. -Einh. ————— SS-Funker ————— SS-Oberfunker  
 SS-Werfer-Einh. ————— SS-Kanonier ————— SS-Oberkanonier  
 SS-Radfahr-Einh. ————— SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Nachschub-Einh. (besp.) — SS-Fahrer ————— SS-Oberfahrer  
 SS-Nachschub-Einh. (mot.) — SS-Kraftfahrer — SS-Oberkraftfahrer  
 SS-Sanitäts-Einh. ————— SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Veterinär-Einh. ————— SS-Reiter ————— SS-Oberreiter  
 SS-Werkstatt-Einh. ————— SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Feldgend.-Einh. ————— SS-Feldgendarm —————  
 SS-Karstwehr-Btl. ————— SS-Jäger ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Wehrgeologen-Btl. — SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Kriegsberichter-Abt. — SS-Schütze ————— SS-Oberschütze  
 SS-Jäger-Btl. 502 ————— SS-Bewährungsschütze<sup>3</sup> —————

Note:

1. The rank designation of "SS" followed by the rank title was altered in two special instances:
  - (a) Foreign legions serving within the Waffen-SS substituted the word "Legion" (or abbreviation "Leg.") for the "SS" and therefore used titles such as Leg.-Schütze, Leg.-Sturmmann, etc.
  - (b) Divisions designated "Waffen..... Division der SS" (i. e. formations composed largely of "non-Germanic" personnel - volunteers or conscripts) used rank titles such as Waffen-Oberführer der SS, Waffen-Standartenführer der SS, etc.

<sup>3</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st November 1944.



# Waffen-SS-Rank Insignia (revised late 1941)



REICHSFÜHRER-SS



NOTE EARLY STYLE OF COLLAR INSIGNIA WORN BY SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER "SEPP" DIETRICH.



SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER

GENERAL

GENERAL



SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER

GENERAL



SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER

FÜHRER DER RESERVE



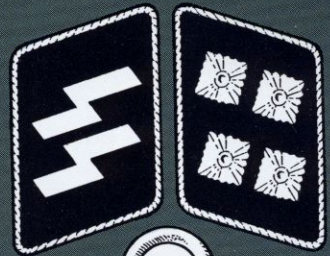
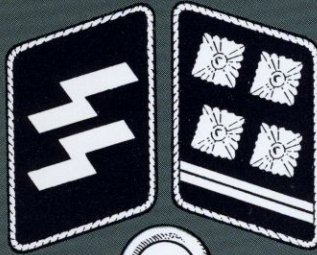
SS-OBERFÜHRER



GENERALKOMMANDOS DER WAFFEN-SS

ARTILLERIE

VETERINÄRDIENTSTE



SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER

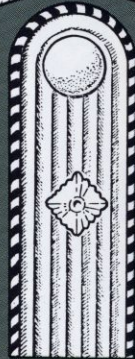
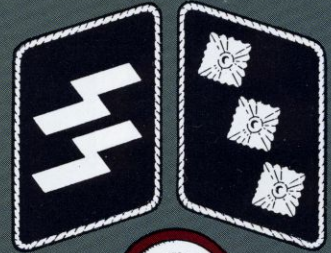
SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER

SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER

FÜHRER DER VERWALTUNGSDIENSTE

PANZER PIONIERE

GERICHTSDIENSTE



SS-HAUPTSTURMFÜHRER

SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER

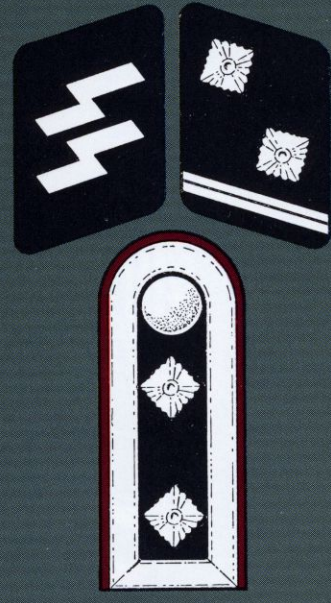
SS-UNTERSTURMFÜHRER





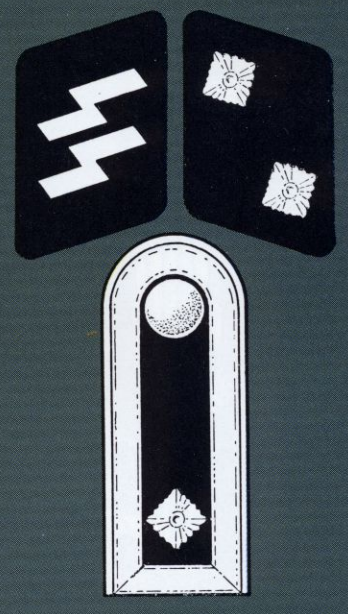
NO COLLAR INSIGNIA IS WORN BY NCO ABOVE.

WERFER-EINHEITEN



SS-HAUPTSCHARFÜHRER

INFANTERIE



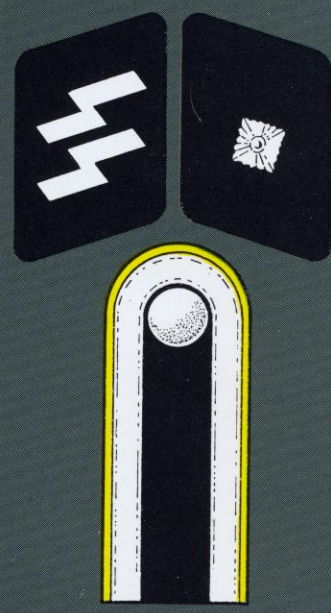
SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER

KONZENTRATIONSLAGER



SS-SCHARFÜHRER

NACHRICHTENEINHEITEN



SS-UNTERSCHARFÜHRER

SS-GEBIRGSJÄGER



SS-ROTTENFÜHRER

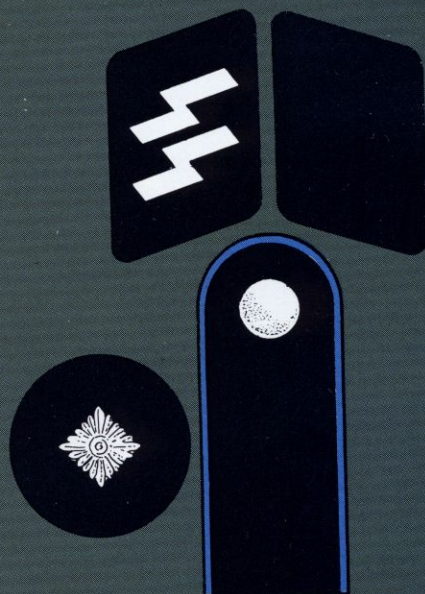


SS-FELDGENDARMERIE



SS-STURMMANN

VERWALTUNGS UND TECHNISCHE DIENSTE



SS-MANN

# Waffen-SS-Rank Insignia (1942-1945)

GENERAL

GENERAL



REICHSFÜHRER-SS



SS-OBERSTGRUPPENFÜHRER  
und  
GENERALOBERST DER WAFEN-SS



SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER  
und  
GENERAL DER WAFEN-SS





GENERAL



SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER  
und  
GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS

GENERAL



SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER  
und  
GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS

SICHERHEITS-DIENST (SD)



SS-OBERFÜHRER

INFANTERIE



SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER

REITEREINHEITEN



SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER

PANZEREINHEITEN



SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER



FÜHRER IM SONDERDIENST



SS-HAUPTSTURMFÜHRER

STAB DES RFSS



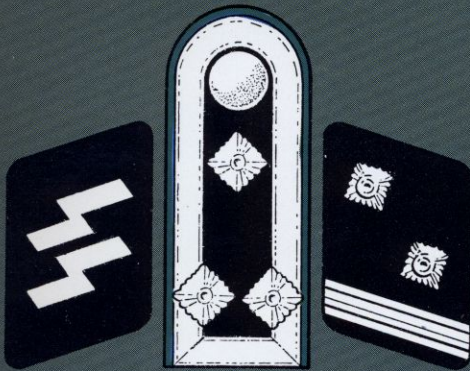
SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER

SANITÄTSDIENSTE



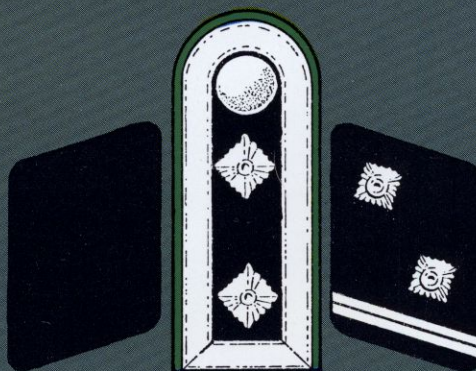
SS-UNTERSTURMFÜHRER

UNTERFÜHRER IM SONDERDIENST



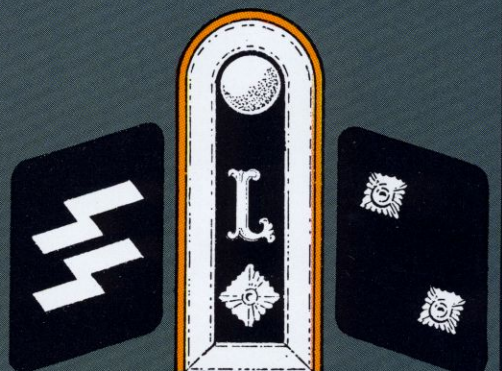
SS-STURMSCHARFÜHRER

SICHERHEITS-DIENST(SD)



SS-HAUPTSCHARFÜHRER

KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHE LEHRANSTALT



SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER



WEHRGEOLOGENEINHEITEN

PIONIEREINHEITEN

AUFKLÄRUNGS ABTEILUNGEN



SS-SCHARFÜHRER

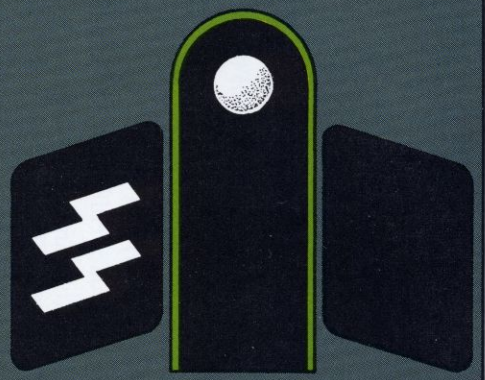
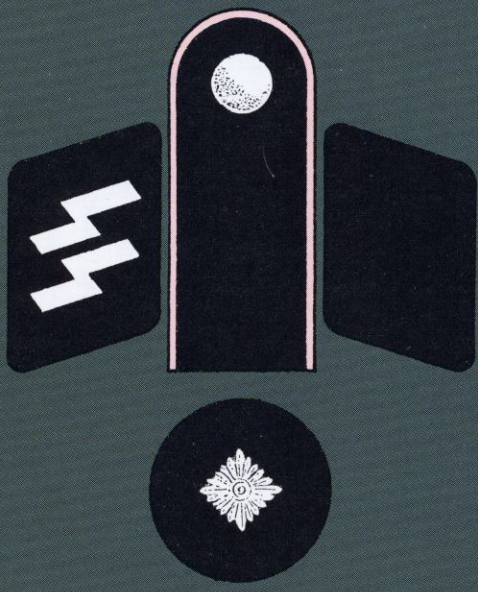
SS-UNTERSCHARFÜHRER

SS-ROTTENFÜHRER

ERGÄNZUNGSDIENSTE

KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHE DIENST

SCHÜTZEN-RGTR. DER SS-POLIZEI-DIVISION



SS-STURMMANN

SS-OBERSCHÜTZE

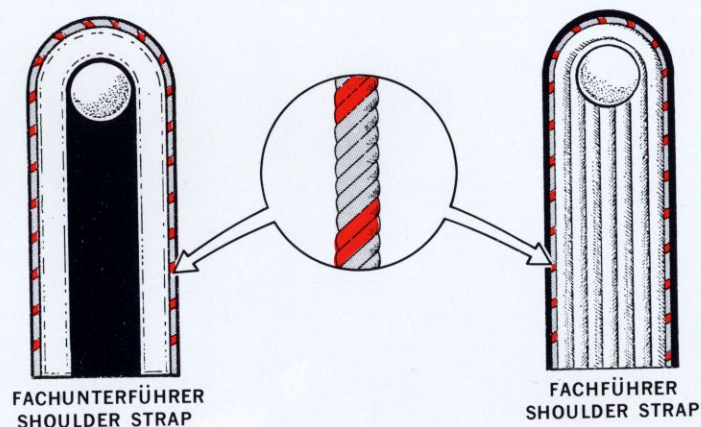
SS-SCHÜTZE



## //-Fachführer Rank Insignia

The SS-Fachführer and SS-Fachunterführer were generally men with specialist qualifications from civil life who performed administrative, legal, and technical services within the Waffen-SS. In certain cases, former professional NCOs and officers were recruited. Therefore, these specialists were equivalent to the Sonderführer of the Wehrmacht. There was one important difference between the SS-Fachführer and the Sonderführer, however, those of the former and of officer rank went through the Junkerschule (officer cadet school) and earned their rank. Officers' training was not required of the Sonderführer of the Wehrmacht as they were taken into the Wehrmacht and given a rank appropriate to their skill, but above their reserve rank (if any).

They wore the same uniform as NCOs and officers of the Waffen-SS with the exceptions of a distinctive red/grey Waffenfarbe on their shoulder straps<sup>4</sup> and special sleeve diamonds (see sleeve diamond section). It is assumed, that since this group of professionals were considered to be officials and not soldiers, they probably wore either blank collar patches or a blank right collar patch and normal rank insignia on the left collar.



<sup>4</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st December 1942. This document states that the red/grey piping on the shoulder straps was in a ratio of 2:6. It also states that an earlier form of this piping was in a ratio of 3:3

## Officer and NCO Candidate Rank Insignia

### OFFICER CANDIDATES

An officer career was available to applicants possessing three qualifications; his character as a German, his performance as a National Socialist and SS member, and his qualifications as a soldier and leader.

Untrained officer applicants (active) initially underwent four months of basic training with a training unit. They started this training as a Führerbewerber (active officer applicant), and at the courses' completion, received the title of SS-Junker (active officer candidate) and equivalent rank of SS-Unterscharführer. Officer candidates then attended six month officer candidate courses (Kriegsjunkerlehrgänge).<sup>5</sup> After passing an intermediate examination they became SS-Standartenjunker (intermediate officer candidate) with the equivalent rank of Scharführer. After completion of the six month course and the passing of final examinations, the SS-Standartenjunker became a SS-Standartenoberjunker (graduate cadet) with the equivalent rank of SS-Hauptscharführer. The graduate candidates were then returned to their units where, after a minimum of two months, they were appointed SS-Untersturmführer.

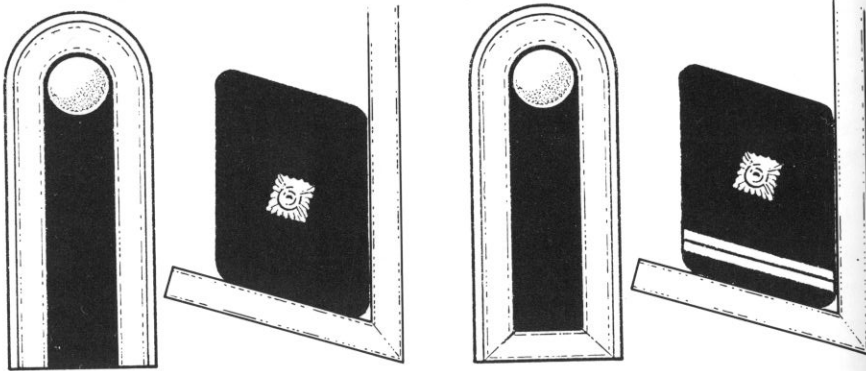
Active officer candidates who intended to "soldier on" were given regular commissions whereas others who did not plan on a military career were given reserve commissions. These Reserveführerbewerber (reserve officer applicants) underwent a four month basic training, after which time they became SS-Junker der Reserve. They then attended reserve officer candidate courses (Reservejunkerlehrgänge). After passing an intermediate examination, they became SS-Standartenjunker der Reserve. A reserve officer candidate who completed the Kriegsjunkerlehrgang (war course) was appointed SS-Oberscharführer der Reserve or SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve.<sup>6</sup> A minimum of two months was required before the officers' rank of SS-Untersturmführer der Reserve was attained. It was possible to gain this rank through bravery.

<sup>5</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th December 1941. SS-Führerbewerber (candidates) at SS-Junkerschulen and Reserveführeranwärter did not wear any rank insignia on the "class room" (Hörsaal) uniform and field uniform. They only wore rank insignia on the Walking-Out dress.

<sup>6</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th December 1941. Only Veterinary and Medical officer candidates (reserve) could receive the rank of SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve. The order also states the SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve could wear officers' silver cap cords, belt, etc. (previously this rank could not).

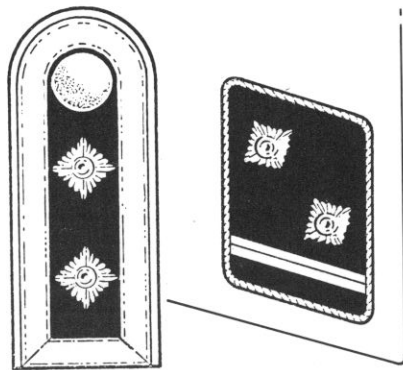


CIRCA EARLY 1940



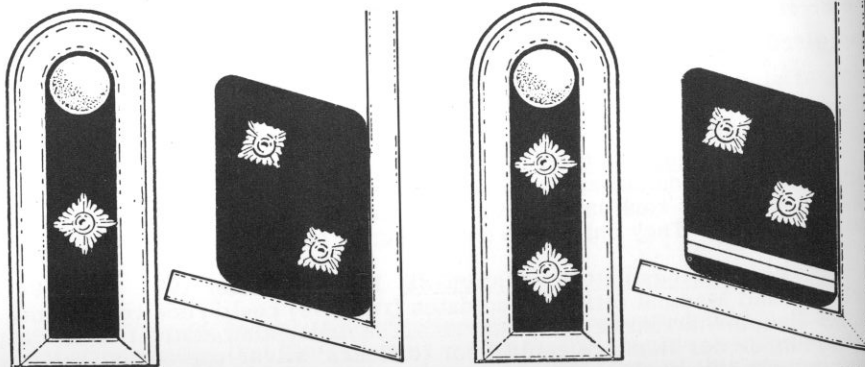
SS-JUNKER

SS-STANDARTENJUNKER



SS-STANDARTENOBERJUNKER

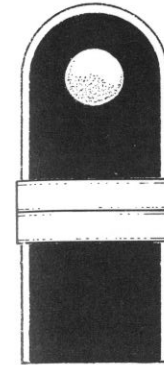
CIRCA NOVEMBER 1940



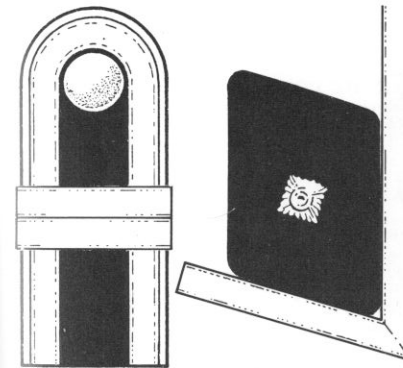
SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER DER RESERVE

SS-HAUPTSCHARFÜHRER DER RESERVE

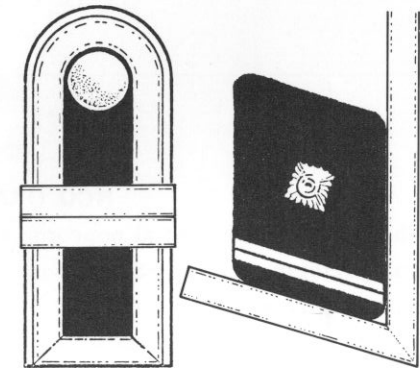
AFTER JULY 1943<sup>7</sup>



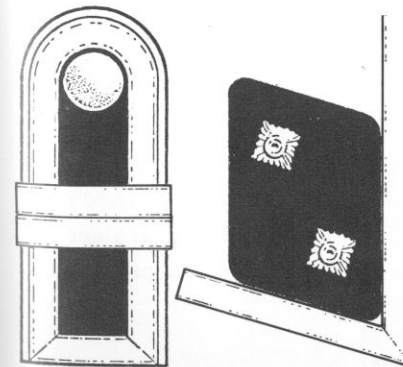
FÜHRER-BEWERBER



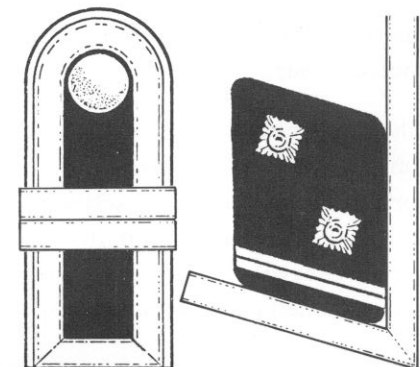
SS-JUNKER



SS-STANDARTENJUNKER



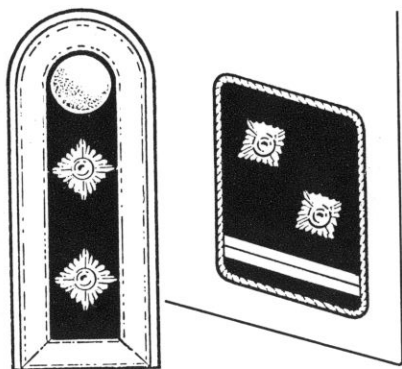
SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER DER RESERVE



SS-HAUPTSCHARFÜHRER DER RESERVE

<sup>7</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st August 1943. The Führer-bewerber (FB) badge (two 9mm aluminum bars on shoulder straps) is to be worn by Aktiv FB until they became SS-Standartenoberjunker and by Reserve FB until they became SS-Untersturmführer.





SS-STANDARTENOVERJUNKER



SS-STANDARTENOVERJUNKER  
KJELL SKJEFSTAD

(NOTE COLLAR PATCHES PIPED IN SILVER AND OFFICER'S CAP CORDS)

### NCO CANDIDATES

The training of potential noncommissioned officers for the Waffen-SS was performed at the SS noncommissioned officer schools (SS-Unterführer-Schulen) which trained both German and Germanic personnel. These potential NCOs were trained on a company level with each company specializing in a different branch of service. When the course was completed, the NCO applicant (SS-Unterführer-Bewerber) was appointed NCO candidate (SS-Unterführer-Anwärter).<sup>8</sup> Only after demonstrating his leadership abilities in the field was the individual promoted to sergeant (SS-Unterscharführer).

The only change in the potential NCO's uniform was the addition of a 9mm aluminum "Tresse" on E. M. shoulder straps for those signed up for more than 12 years (active), and a 4mm wool Waffenfarbe cord on E. M. shoulder straps for those signed up for less than 12 years service (reserve).<sup>9</sup> The collar patch insignia, at the time of application, was retained until the promotion was approved.

<sup>8</sup>It should be noted that the shoulder strap insignia for the SS-Unterführer-Anwärter and SS-Unterführer-Bewerber did not change.

<sup>9</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th December 1941.



SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWÄRTER  
(SIGNED FOR 12 YEARS SERVICE)



NOTE 9mm ALUMINUM TRESSE  
ON SHOULDER STRAPS OF  
SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWÄRTER



SS-UNTERFÜHRER-BEWERBER  
(SIGNED FOR LESS THAN 12 YEARS SERVICE)



# Waffenfarben of the Waffen-SS

The term "Waffenfarben" refers to the use of coloured piping on uniforms, insignia, caps, etc., all of which distinguished the wearer's branch of service. This practice of using colours began during the Boxer Uprising in 1900 to indicate the Armeekorps to which an infantry regiment belonged and to differentiate between cavalry regiments. Waffenfarben were continued in a more sophisticated manner by the German Army.

Initially, the Waffen-SS adopted the colour white as their overall Waffenfarbe and did not conform with the Army's multiple colour system, which denoted the various Waffengattungen (branches of service), until mid-1940. The official source "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", 5th September 1940, states that an abundance of shoulder straps with the new Waffenfarben (various colours) was available, so that even SS-Ersatz (replacement) units could be issued with them.<sup>10</sup> The same source of 15th December 1940 refers to officers wearing "illegal" Waffenfarbe (i. e. white, which was not being worn by all branches by this date).<sup>11</sup> The various Waffenfarben were utilized on the Waffen-SS uniform. . . .

- (a) as shoulder strap piping for ranks up to SS-Hauptsturmführer
- (b) as shoulder strap underlay for SS-Sturmbannführer to SS-Obersturgruppenführer
- (c) as piping to collar patches in rare cases<sup>12</sup>
- (d) as piping to tunic collar in rare cases
- (e) as an inverted "V" on the front of the field cap
- (f) as piping on the peaked cap
- (g) as 4mm wool cord on shoulder straps (for Unterführer Anwärter signed up for less than 12 years)

<sup>10</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1st May 1940. Ersatz-Einheiten (replacement units) of the Waffen-SS were to wear the Waffenfarben of their appropriate field units.

<sup>11</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th December 1940. All officers of the Waffen-SS must have from 1st January 1941 the shoulder cords with underlay in Waffenfarbe. Only up until 31st December 1940 was it allowed for officers, NCOs and men to wear the white pipings on the peaked cap and long trousers when they were not infantry.

<sup>12</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 3rd August 1940. Waffenfarben is no longer to be worn around collars and collar patches for Unterführer (NCOs) and Männer (men).



(ABOVE) AS COMMANDER OF THE 8.SS-KAVALLERIE-DIVISION "FLORIAN GEYER," SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER FEGELEIN WORE A FIELD SERVICE CAP (OLD STYLE) PIPED IN GOLDEN YELLOW. NOTE WAFFENFARBE ABOVE AND BELOW CAP-BAND AND AROUND THE CROWN. (RIGHT) THE PRACTICE OF WEARING WAFFENFARBEN AROUND COLLARS WAS DISCONTINUED AFTER AUGUST 1940.





## COMPOSITE LISTING OF WAFFEN-SS WAFFENFARBEN

White (Weiss)	Infantry (Infanterie/Grenadiere)
-"-	Corps & Divisional H. Q. Staff of the SS, NCOs and men (Note: One source restricts this to Generalkommandos der SS-Pz. -Gren. -Divs.) <sup>13</sup>
Light Grey (Hellgrau)	General officers and personal staff of the RFSS (Führer im Generalsrang und Persönlicher Stab des RFSS, 1941/2)
Black (Schwarz)	Engineers, including Bau units (Pionier-einheiten) also Engineer units serving with other branches of the service-e.g. Infanterie-Pioniere
Black & White (Schwarzweiss) <sup>14</sup>	Tank Engineers (Panzer Pioniere)
Bright Red (Hochrot)	Artillery and A. A. (Artillerie und Flak-einheiten) also SS-Art. -Schulen I & II
Crimson (Karmesinrot)	Veterinary Corps (Veterinärdienste)
Bordeaux Red (Bordorot)	Legal Service (Gerichtsdienste)
-"-	Specialist Service, Judge Advocate General Dept. (J. A. G. D., Truppen-sonderdienst)
-"-	Rocket Units (Werfer-Einheiten)
Orange Red (Orangerot)	Replacement Services, Technical Officers K., W. and N., also Welfare Officers until 19 June 1942 (Ergänzungsdienste, Technische Führer Kraftfahr, Waffen und Nachrichten, auch Fürsorgeführer bis 19 June 1942)
-"-	SS Military Police (SS-Feldgendarmarie)
-"- (plus "L")	Motor Transport Technical Instruction Establishment (Kraftfahrtechnische Lehranstalt)
Pink (Rosa)	Tank and Anti-Tank personnel (Panzer-einheiten)
Light Pink (Hellrosa)	Motor Transport Service (Kraftfahr-technische Dienst)
Light Salmon Pink (Hell-Lachsrosa)	Military Geologists (Wehrgeologen-Einheiten)
Dark Blue (Kornblumenblau)	Medical Troops (Sanitätsdienste)
Sky Blue (Lichtblau)	Officers, NCOs and men of Administration Service (Führer, Unterführer und Mannschaften der Verwaltungsdienste)
Light Blue (Hellblau)	Supply Troops; Supply, Administration and Technical Services (Versorgungstruppen; Nachschub., Verwaltungs- und Technische Dienste)

<sup>13</sup>Officers wore Waffenfarbe of their original arm of service (i. e. in the Waffen-SS).

<sup>14</sup>Black and white twisted cord.

Light Green (Hellgrün)	Rifle Regiments of the SS Police Division, colour discontinued in 1941/2 (Schützen-Rgtr. der SS-Polizei-Division)
-"-	Mountain Infantry (SS-Gebirgsjäger und Jäger)
Dark Green (Dunkelgrün)	Reserve Officers, colour discontinued in 1941/2 (Führer der Reserve)
-"-	Officers for Special Employment (Führer im Sonderdienst)
Blue/Dark Green (Blaulich-Dunkelgrün)	NCOs for Special Employment (Unterführer im Sonderdienst) <sup>15</sup>
Toxic Green (Giftgrün)	SS Security Service, introduced in 1941/2 (Sicherheits-Dienst (SD))
Light Brown (Hellbraun)	Concentration Camp Guards and Administration (Konzentrationslager)
Golden Yellow (Goldgelb)	Cavalry (Reitereinheiten)
-"-	Motorized Reconnaissance Units (Aufklärungs Abteilungen (Mot.))
Lemon Yellow (Zitrongelb)	Armoured Signal Troops (SS-Pz. - Nachrichteneinheiten)
-"-	Signal Troops (Nachrichteneinheiten)
-"-	War Correspondents in propaganda companies (Kriegsberichter (P. K.))
Red and Grey (Rotgrau)	Waffen-SS Specialists, introduced in 1941/2 (Fachführer der Waffen-SS)



SHOULDER STRAP UNDERLAY WAS LIGHT GREY FOR GENERAL OFFICERS. (NOTE ALUMINUM TRIM AROUND COLLAR)

<sup>15</sup>Bluish/Dark Green shoulder straps:  
Appointment Group "O" - 2 embroidered aluminum "slides"  
Appointment Group "G" - 1 embroidered aluminum "slide"  
(these slides were aluminum thread bars worn across the shoulder straps)



## Shoulder Strap Letters and Numbers

The most frequently worn unit letters dated back to SS-VT practice, but Gothic usually gave way to Block lettering. These included "LAH" for Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler", "D" for Regiment "Deutschland", "G" for Regiment "Germania" and "DF" for Regiment "Der Führer".<sup>16</sup> SS schools also mounted letters/numerals on the shoulder straps (e.g. SS Artillery Schools I and II wore  $\frac{AS}{I}$  and  $\frac{AS}{II}$  respectively).

Waffen-SS medical personnel wore the classical medical symbol, Askulapstab<sup>17</sup>, in addition to their dark-blue Waffenfarbe.

Brigadeführer and above - white metal AEsculapius Staff  
 Untersturmführer and above - gold metal AEsculapius Staff  
 Standarten Oberjunker - white metal AEsculapius Staff

It is assumed that the Veterinary Corps followed the established system above with their serpent symbol and crimson Waffenfarbe. SS band leaders wore a gold musicians lyre on their shoulder straps.



A SS-UNTERSCHARFÜHRER FROM REGIMENT "DEUTSCHLAND" (NOTE "D" ON SHOULDER STRAPS)

<sup>16</sup> Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS, 22nd October 1943. This SS-FHA document states that the wearing of shoulder strap numerals and letters is to be discontinued by order of Reichsführer-SS Himmler. *Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS*, 1st April 1944, further states that all letters and numerals are forbidden on shoulder straps except "LAH" for the 1. SS-Panzer-Division "Adolf Hitler". Therefore, "D", "G" and "DF" were banned as of this date.

<sup>17</sup> AEsculapius Staff.



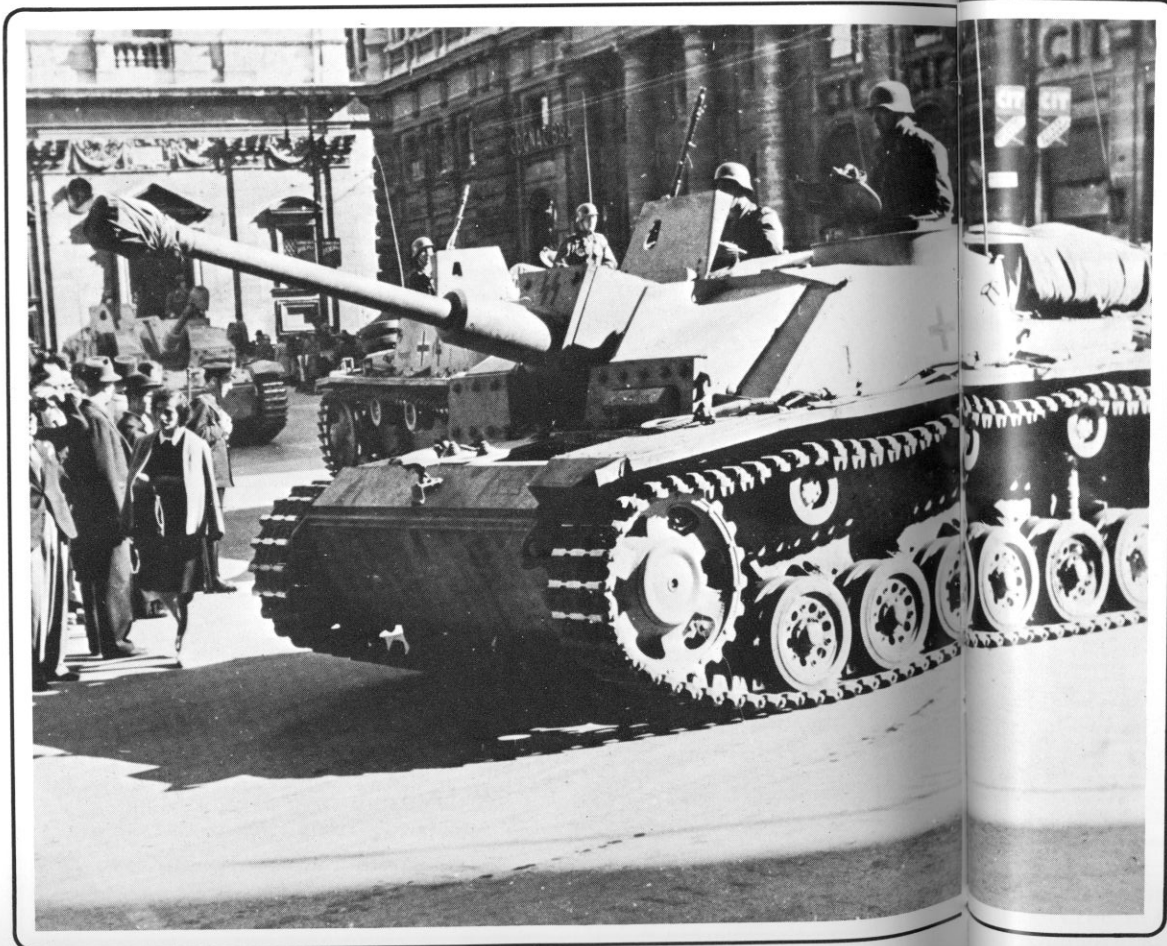
NOTE METAL "G" ON SHOULDER STRAPS OF SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER FROM REGIMENT "GERMANIA."



SHOULDER STRAP LETTERS AND NUMERALS WERE EITHER IN METAL OR EMBROIDERED (NOTE "LAH" ON SHOULDER STRAPS ABOVE).

In certain cases the Gothic letters of the Army were worn on the shoulder straps together with specific Waffenfarben to denote specialisation. This practice was unofficial, however, and rarely followed.





## Vehicle Markings and Registration Plates



## Waffen-SS Registration Plates

All wheeled and half-tracked vehicles which were utilized by the Waffen-SS and other branches of the Wehrmacht were issued registration (license) numbers and plates. This practice did not include armoured vehicles such as tanks and assault guns, however, due to the fact that they were tactical combat vehicles and not normally deployed on roads.

Waffen-SS license plates were prefixed with the black SS runes on a white plate of stamped steel or aluminum. The plates were bordered in black and bore black numbers. The construction of certain vehicles with curved surfaces or smooth armour plate sometimes necessitated the painting of license plates directly onto the vehicle's surface, thus eliminating the metal plates.

A rubber stamp was stamped on the plates near the hyphen between the SS runes and the numbers in the case of the front license plate (see illustration below). The stamp was positioned to the right of the runes on the

**44-60315**

(LEFT) THE FRONT LICENSE PLATE MEASURED 90mm IN HEIGHT AND 475mm IN LENGTH. (NOTE POSITIONING ON VEHICLE BELOW)



REAR LICENSE PLATES MEASURED 200mm IN HEIGHT AND 320mm IN LENGTH. THE VERSION AT ABOVE LEFT WAS THE EARLY STYLE AND WAS REPLACED LATER BY THE RECTANGULAR PLATE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE BACK PLATE FOR MOTORCYCLES WAS ALSO AS ILLUSTRATED ABOVE.

back plates. This rubber stamp contained a specific unit's Field Post Number which identified the unit for mail and for official purposes.<sup>1</sup> As a security measure, the license plate stamp could be compared with the stamp on the driver's identification papers which would verify the authorized usage of the vehicle.



FIELD POST  
STAMP

**44-67410**

MOTORCYCLE LICENSE PLATE (SEE LOCATION BELOW)



<sup>1</sup>Most of the Waffen-SS unit and sub-unit Field Post Numbers are covered in Dr. K. -G. Kletmann's *Die Waffen-SS - eine Dokumentation* (Osnabruck: Verlag "Der Freiwillige" G. M. B. H., 1965)



## Waffen-SS Pennants

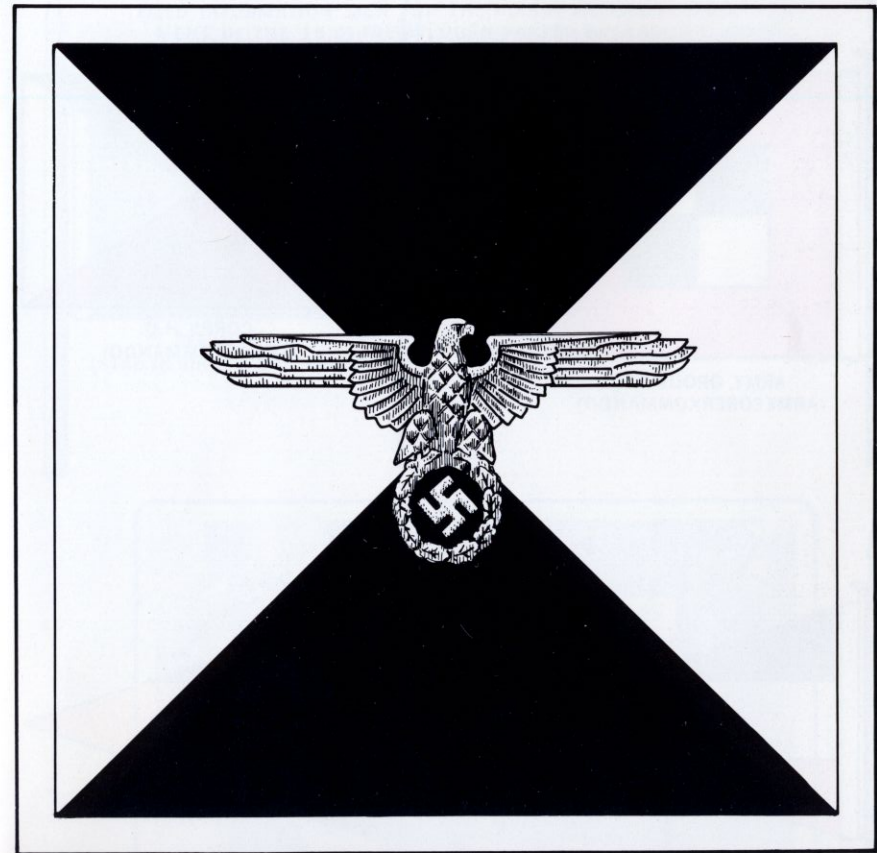
Although many styles of SS car pennants exist, few of them can be regarded as Waffen-SS... the majority are strictly Allgemeine-SS. Illustrated below is the official pennant of Reichsführer-SS Himmler, who was the supreme member of the Waffen-SS as well as the Allgemeine-SS. Also illustrated is the pennant for the "Befehlshaber der Waffen-SS" (commander of a Waffen-SS controlled territory).<sup>2</sup> Waffen-SS field units utilized the standard German Army car pennant system which could denote a headquarters or a commanding officer. These Army-style pennants sometimes carried symbols and numbers which identified a particular unit. Many "unofficial" pennants were also created for use by special units such as SS-Kampfgruppen (SS Combat Groups).



LICENSE PLATES WERE GENERALLY PAINTED ON VEHICLES WITH SMOOTH ARMOUR PLATING. (NOTE "LAH" DIVISIONAL INSIGNIA)



NOTE POSITIONING OF FRONT LICENSE PLATE ON THE SS LORRY.



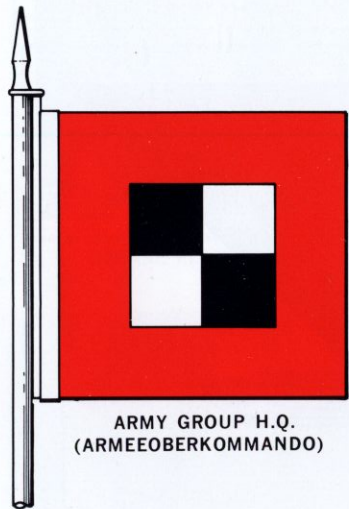
REICHSFÜHRER-SS PENNANT

<sup>2</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15th June 1942. The "Befehlshaber der Waffen-SS" pennant was in black and silver and measured 35cms long by 20cms high.

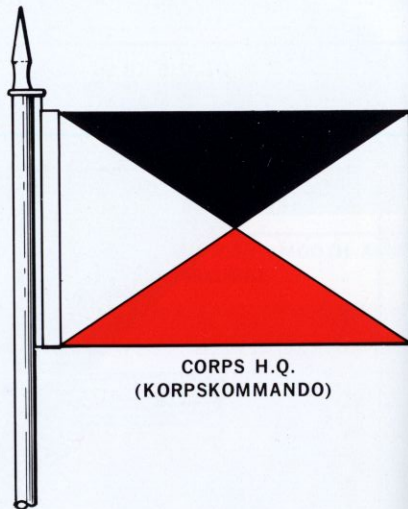




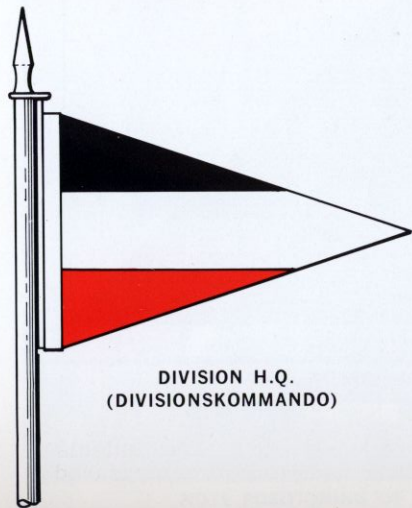
WAFFEN-SS TERRITORIAL COMMANDER  
(BEFEHLSHABER DER WAFFEN-SS)



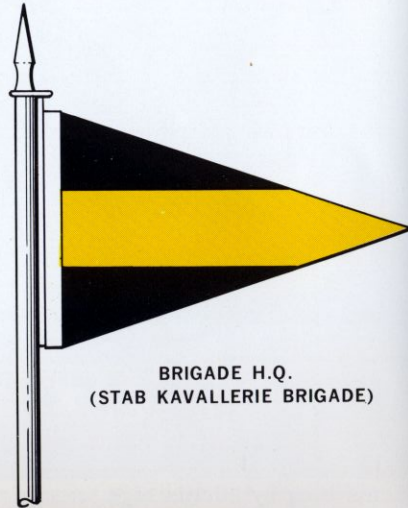
ARMY GROUP H.Q.  
(ARMEEOBERKOMMANDO)



CORPS H.Q.  
(KORPSKOMMANDO)



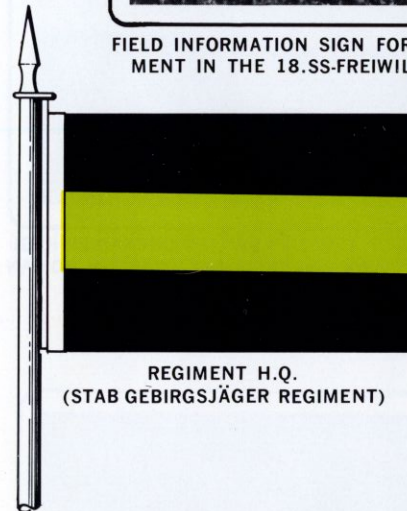
DIVISION H.Q.  
(DIVISIONSKOMMANDO)



BRIGADE H.Q.  
(STAB KAVALLERIE BRIGADE)



FIELD INFORMATION SIGN FOR THE 40.SS-PANZER-GRENADIER-REGIMENT IN THE 18.SS-FREIWILLIGEN-PANZER-GRENADIER-DIVISION.



REGIMENT H.Q.  
(STAB GEBIRGSJÄGER REGIMENT)

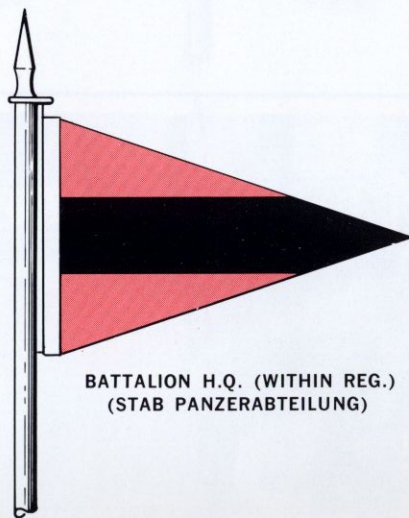


HEADQUARTERS PENNANT FOR THE SS-GEBIRGS-JÄGER-REGIMENT 2 IN THE 7.SS-FREIWILLIGEN-GEBIRGS-DIVISION "PRINZ EUGEN."

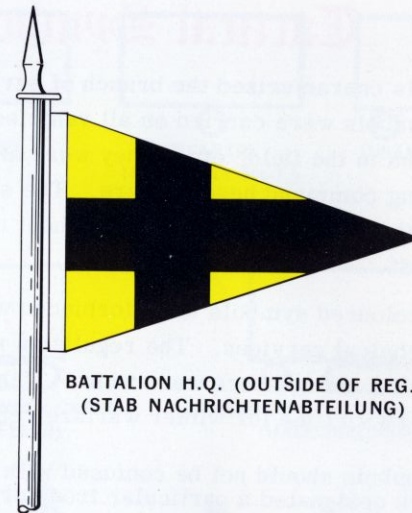




PENNANT FOR THE III (ARMoured) BATTALION OF THE 2.SS-PANZER-GRENADIER-REGIMENT OF THE 1.SS-PANZERDIVISION "LSSAH." (NOTE BATTALION NUMBER IN ROMAN ... SEE NOTE 2 ON OPPOSITE PAGE.)



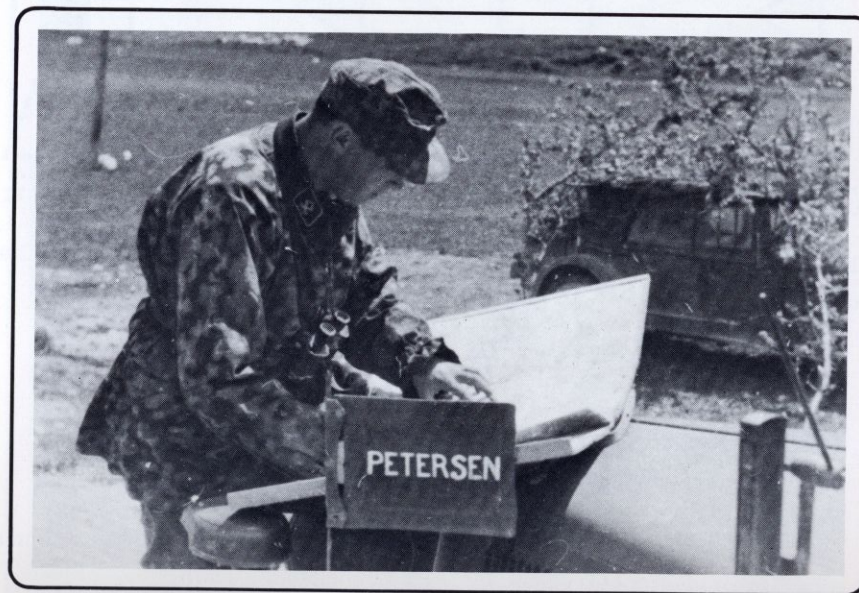
BATTALION H.Q. (WITHIN REG.)  
(STAB PANZERABTEILUNG)



BATTALION H.Q. (OUTSIDE OF REG.)  
(STAB NACHRICHTENABTEILUNG)

Notes:

1. Pennants of brigade, regiment and battalion commanders and H. Q. staffs varied in colour, according to their branch of service (e. g. bright red = artillery, pink = tank and anti-tank units, etc.).
2. The battalion pennant, with a black horizontal bar on a Waffensfarbe field, was for a battalion within a regiment and numbered in Roman. The battalion pennant, with a black cross on Waffensfarbe, was for independent battalions (i. e. outside the regiment) and numbered in Arabic.



CAR PENNANT FOR "SS-KAMPFGROUPE PETERSEN," NAMED AFTER THE GROUP'S COMMANDER SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER HEINRICH PETERSEN. (7.SS-FREIWilligen-GEBIRGS-DIVISION "PRINZ EUGEN")

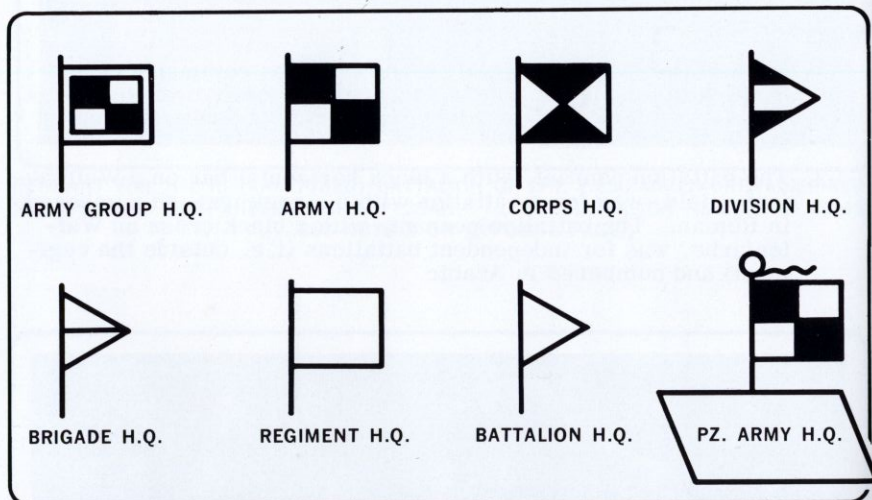


## Tactical Symbols

Tactical symbols characterized the branch of service and the size of a unit. These symbols were carried on all vehicles, weapons, equipment, information signs in the field, etc. They were also used as map signs and for indicating command headquarters. The symbols were regulated and updated by the Army and utilized throughout the Wehrmacht, including the Waffen-SS.

All special or coloured symbols were forbidden with the exceptions of medical and technical services. The regulation symbols and their corresponding letters and numbers were white. Vehicles which were temporarily painted with lime for winter warfare required no symbols.

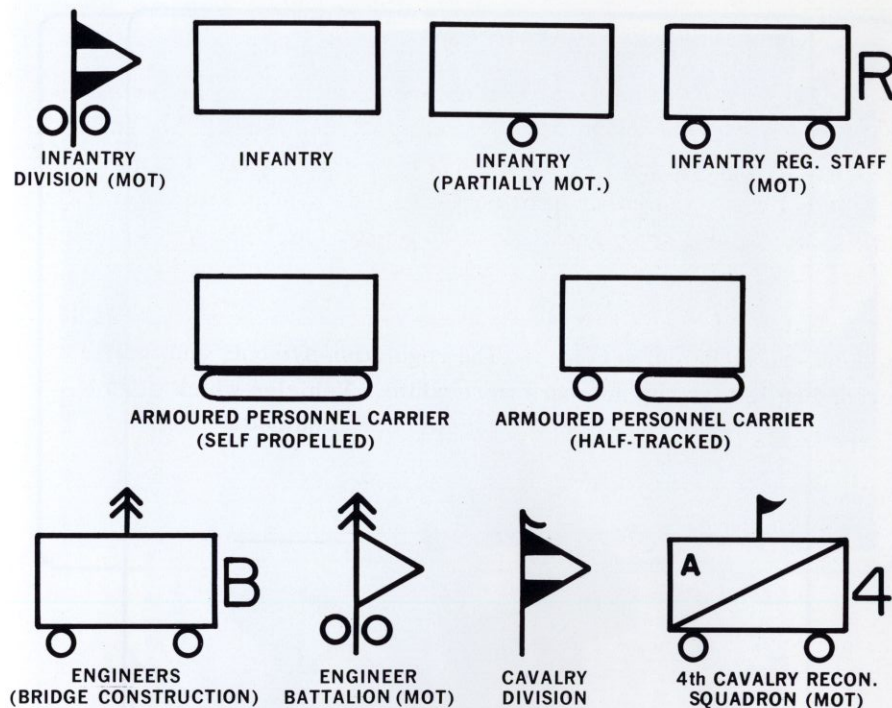
Note: These symbols should not be confused with troop recognition symbols which designated a particular troop or unit.



THE ABOVE H.Q. PENNANTS COULD BE ADDED TO BASIC TACTICAL SYMBOLS TO CREATE A UNIT H.Q. OR STAFF SYMBOL.

These identifying numbers and letters were positioned to the right of the tactical symbol.

- R = Regimental Staff (Regimentsstab)
- I = I Battalion Staff (Stab I. Btl.)
- II = II Battalion Staff (Stab II. Btl.)
- III = III Battalion Staff (Stab III. Btl.)
- St = Independent Battalion Staff (Stab einer selbständigen Abt.)
- 1-16 = Company, Battery or Squadron (Kp., Btr., Schwdr.)
- K = Supply train assigned to a Battalion, etc. (Kolonnenbezeichnung, K1-11)
- B = Bridge construction Column (Brückenkolonne)
- M = Mechanized Engineers (Pioniermaschinenzug)
- W = Workshop Company (Werkstattkompanie, W1, W2)

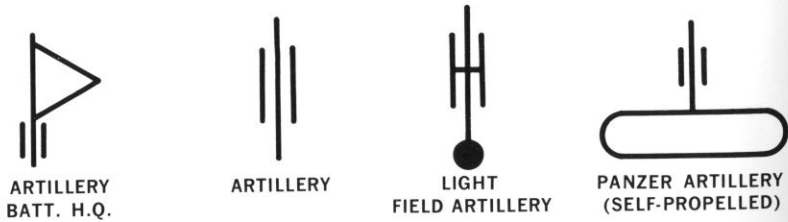


NOTE TACTICAL INSIGNIA OF THE III BATTALION STAFF OF THE SS-PANZER-GRENADIER-REGIMENT 2 IN THE 1.SS-PANZER-DIVISION "LSSAH."





NOTE THE COMPANY AND DIVISIONAL INSIGNIA FROM 3.SS-PANZER-DIVISION "TOTENKOPF."

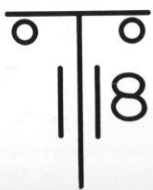


ARTILLERY BATT. H.Q.

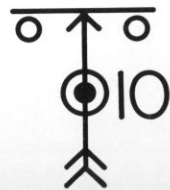
ARTILLERY

LIGHT FIELD ARTILLERY

PANZER ARTILLERY (SELF-PROPELLED)



FIELD ARTILLERY, 75 mm (MOT) (8th BATTERY)



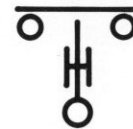
HEAVY FIELD ARTILLERY, 150 mm (MOT) (10th BATTERY)



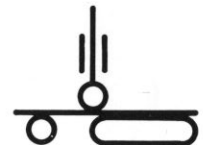
A HEAVY HOWITZER BATTERY ON THE MARCH IN JUNE, 1944.



FLAK BATTALION (MOT)



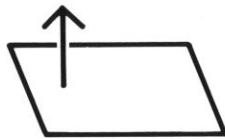
FLAK BATTERY (MOT)



FLAK COMPANY (SELF PROPELLED)







ASSAULT GUN  
(ARTILLERY UNIT)



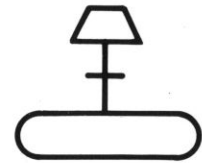
WAFFEN-SS ASSAULT GUNS ON THE MOVE IN ITALY, JANUARY 1944.



ROCKET UNIT



ROCKET UNIT (MOT)



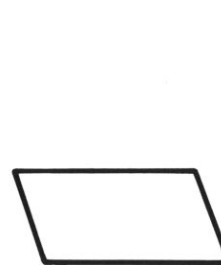
ROCKET UNIT  
(SELF-PROPELLED)



PANZER GRENADIER  
DIVISION



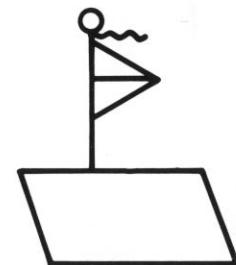
PANZER GRENADIER  
BRIGADE



PANZER



PANZER DIVISION

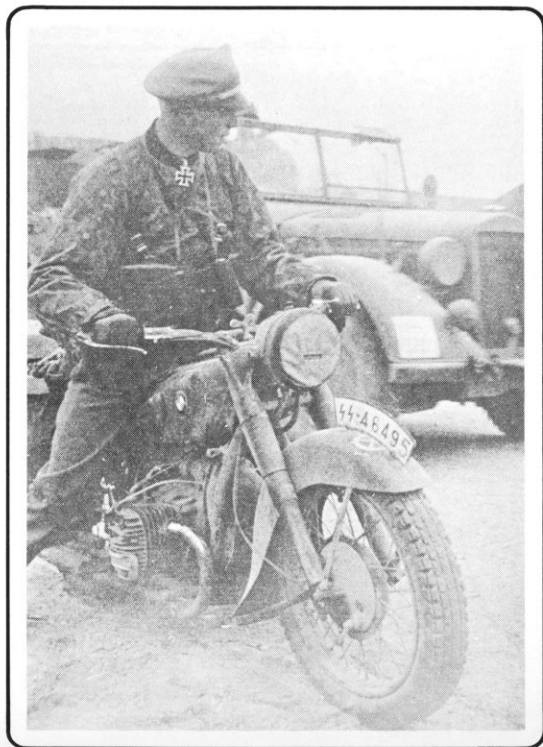
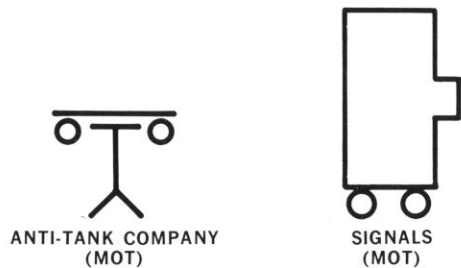


PANZER BRIGADE

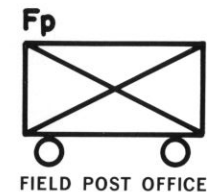
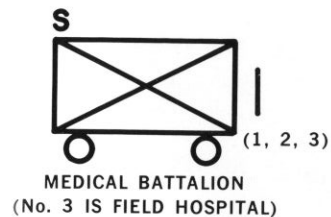


PANZER RECONNAISSANCE  
BATTALION





NOTE MOTORCYCLE SYMBOL  
UNDER FRONT LICENSE PLATE.



THE KB WAS POSITIONED ON  
THE LEFT FRONT FENDER OF  
THE CORRESPONDENT'S  
ASSIGNED VEHICLE.





# Bibliography

The following bibliography represents source material and suggested further reading for this the first volume in the series "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS". Future volumes that will deal with the various units of the Waffen-SS will be accompanied by corresponding bibliographies.

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Note: Several of the above works contain excellent bibliographies. Further reference should be made to them for more detailed study.





Cover Illustration: George Petersen

ISBN No. 0-912138-02-5



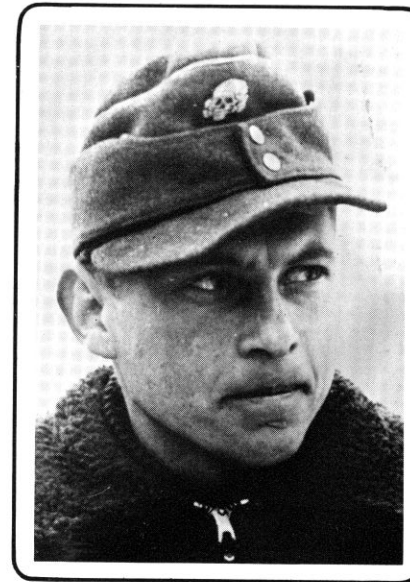
# Appendix

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO VOLUME I

### PAGE

- 4 Line 5: For "Waffen-SS" read "SS"
- " " 7: "with volunteers from almost every country in the world" is an overstatement.
- " " 19: In fact, few excellent unit histories have appeared in German ... most of them have been "formation histories".
- 5 Lines 12/14: Armies, corps, divisions and brigades are not, technically speaking, "units".
- 6 Line 14: For "SS-Führerhauptamt" read "SS-Führungshauptamt".
- 7 For "Division Schwedt a. d. Oder" read "Gruppe Schwedt a. d. Oder".
- 11 Line 7: The order abolishing helmet markings is cited on page 13, lines 6/7.
- 13 Illustration: Waffen-SS paratroopers possibly wore rank insignia on their smocks as did those of the Luftwaffe.
- 14 Line 1: "Units" should read "elements".
- 14/15 Both photographs show members of the Police Division, rather than of the SS Police Regiments (who wore police eagles on the sleeve and police rank insignia), which at this time was not part of the Waffen-SS. Army style sleeve eagles were frequently worn.
- 16 Line 1: The Italian SS did not exist "throughout the war" as it was only formed in 1944.
- " " 3: For "insignia was" read "insignia were".
- 17 Line 3: Delete brackets and contents after "Standartenoberjunker" (St. O. Jk. wore the officers' sword knot and not the NCOs' portepee).
- " " 6: For "NCOs wore" read "NCOs and men wore".
- " " 8: "Fascio" in English is "Fasces".
- 19 It is possible that the "Landstorm" caps shown were of the second (i. e. police rather than Waffen-SS) Landwacht.
- 21 Top box, Lines 3/4: For "matt-green" read "matt grey".
- " Illustration: The officer shown is SS-Obersturmbannführer Joachim (Jochen) Peiper - he wears the army style Panzer jacket.
- 25 Photo at left: The officer shown is SS-Obersturmführer Helmut Scholz, battalion commander in the SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Regiment "De Ruyter".
- 27 The Army Edelweiss was eventually forbidden.
- 28 Photo: The NCO at the left of the picture wears an army style sleeve Edelweiss (see page 47 for SS pattern).
- 30 Note 7: For "Inspection" read "Inspektion".
- 31 Top photo: SS-Obersturmbannführer Max Wünsche commanded the 1st Battalion of the 1st SS Armoured Regiment of the 1st SS Armoured Division "LSSAH", and was therefore not a regimental commander in that division. He did, however, command the 12th SS Armoured Regiment of the 12th SS Armoured Division "Hitlerjugend".

- 31 Bottom photo: Here an army style Panzer uniform is being worn.
- 32 Top photo: SS-Hauptsturmführer Michael Wittmann was not a regimental commander of "LAH". He won the Oak-Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on January 30, 1944, as "Zugführer 13. (schwere) SS-Pz.-Rgt. 1, 1. SS-Pz.-Div. "LSSAH", and the Swords on June 22, 1944, as "Chef der 1. (schweren) SS-Pz.-Abt. 501, I. SS-Pz.-Korps "LSSAH"".

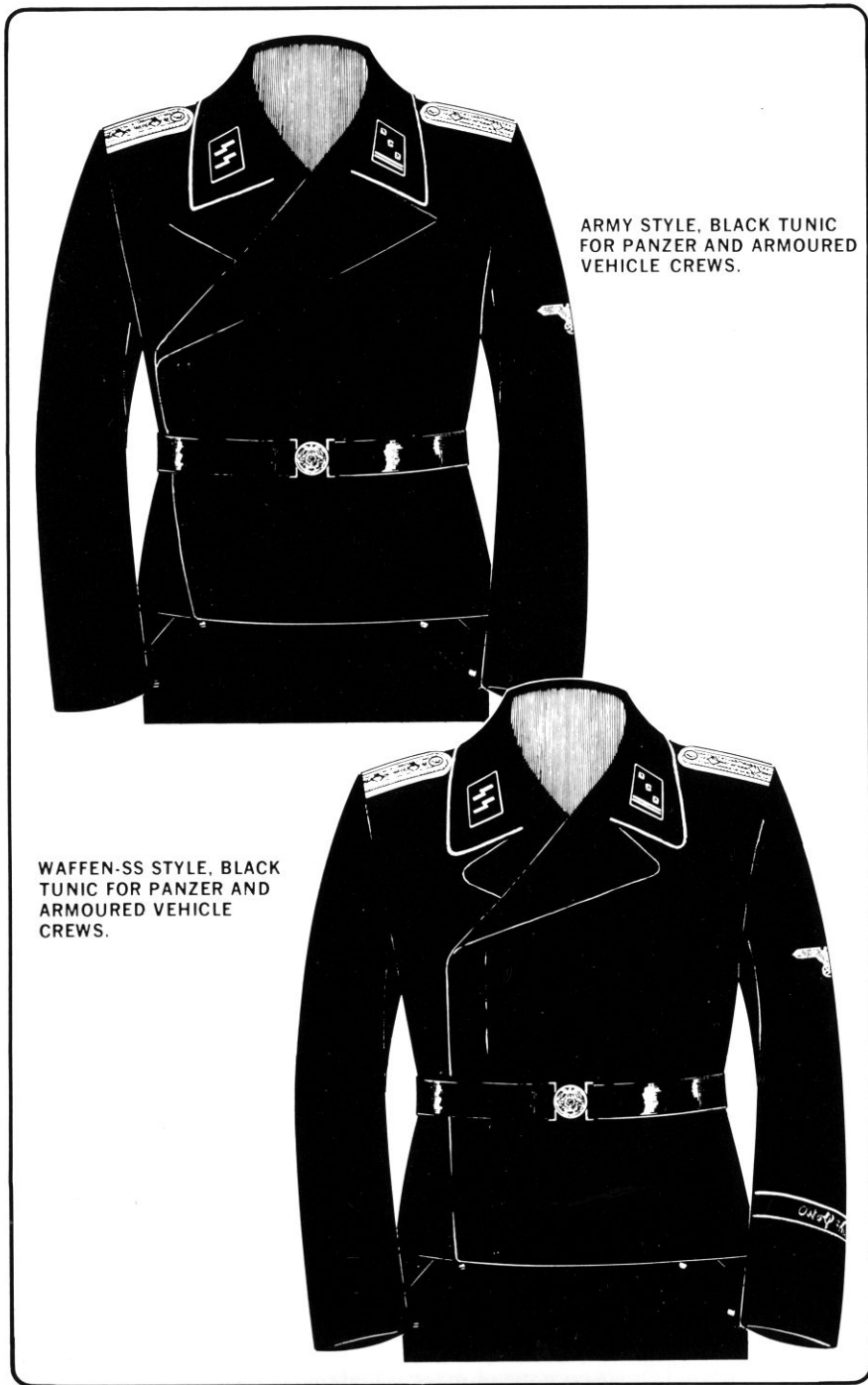


MICHAEL WITTMANN, HERE AN SS-UNTERSTURMFÜHRER SHORTLY BEFORE RECEIVING THE KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE IRON CROSS ON JANUARY 9, 1944, FOR OUTSTANDING DESTRUCTION OF SOVIET ARMOUR.

- " Bottom Photo: Caption to read "SS-Untersturmführer Karl-Heinz Worthmann wearing the army field service cap and army style Panzer uniform. He was awarded the Knight's Cross on March 31, 1943, as "Zugführer in der 6. SS-Pz.-Rgt. 2, SS-Pz.-Div. "Das Reich" (i. e. the 6th company of the 2nd regiment).
- 33 Top photo: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei Hans Cristian Schulze. Awarded the Knight's Cross on September 11, 1941, as "Oberst und Kdr. des SS-Polizeischützenrgt. 2, SS-Pol.-Div."
- 34 Photo: The officer is possibly SS-Obersturmführer Karl Klosewski.
- 35 Fez: One report states that Bosnian fezes came not only in two colours but also in two styles. Another states that the red fez had a black tassel, while the field-grey had a green tassel.
- " Top photo: The officer shown is SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Sauberzweig.
- " Skull Cap: The Albanian skull cap was white.
- 42 Photo: Bremer won the Knight's Cross on October 10, 1941, and the Oak-Leaves on November 25, 1944, the latter as "Kdr. der SS-Pz.-Aufkl.-Abt. 12, 12. SS-Pz.-Div. "Hitlerjugend". For "Liebstandarte" read "Leibstandarte".
- 44 Right photo: Wünsche was not a regimental commander in "LAH" (see note on page 31 above).

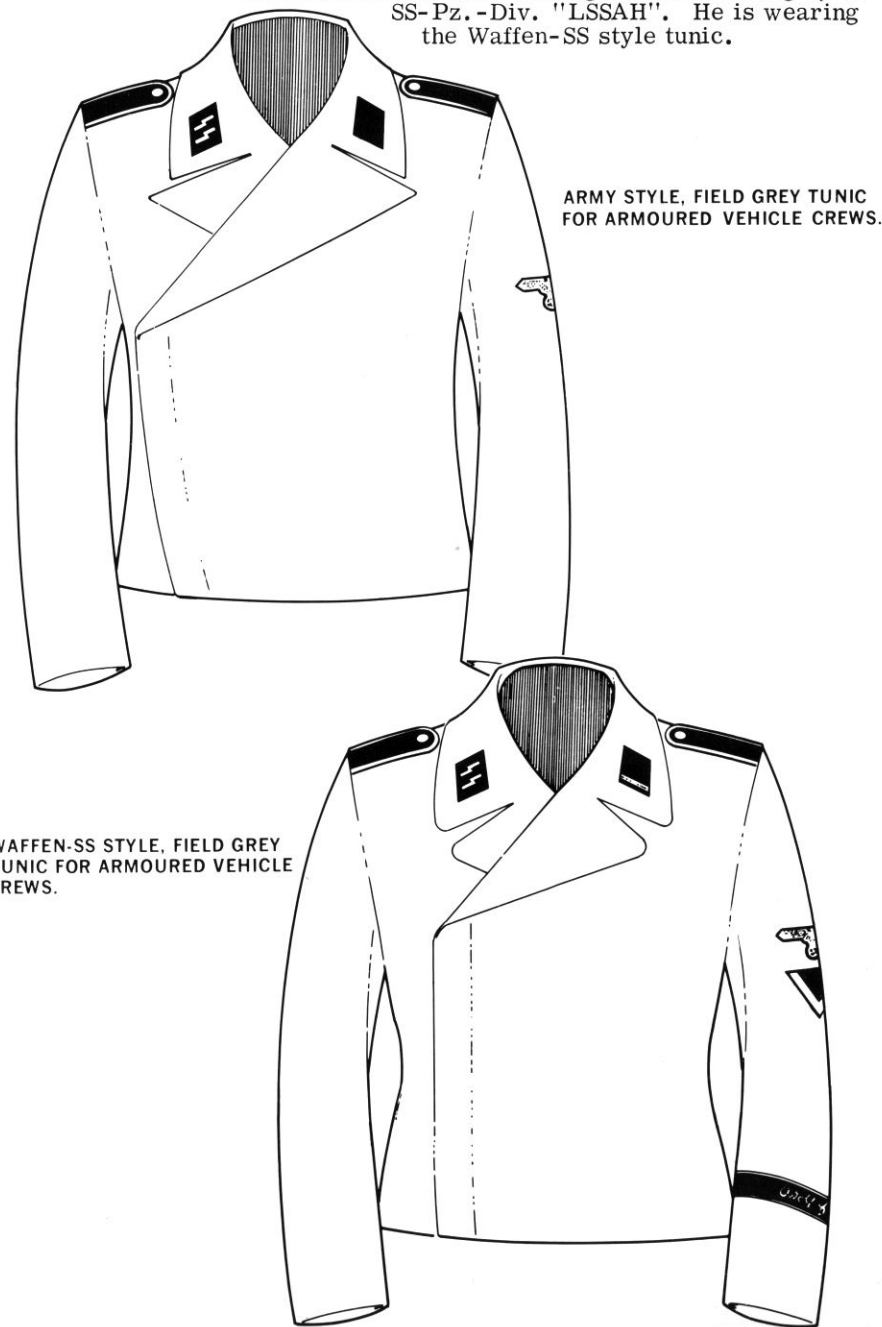


44/45 At first the army issue black uniform was worn with SS insignia, as illustrated on page 45. Later a special Waffen-SS pattern was introduced as illustrated below, and as shown in both photographs on page 44.



45 Illustration: This uniform should have the silver collar piping.

46 Top photo: The officer shown is SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Rettlinger, who won the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on December 20, 1943 as an SS-Hauptsturmführer and "Batteriechef der 3. SS-Sturmgeschützabteilung 1, 1. SS-Pz.-Div. "LSSAH". He is wearing the Waffen-SS style tunic.





Initially, the army issue field grey uniform was worn with SS insignia, but later a special Waffen-SS pattern was introduced, as in the case of the black uniform. A comparison of the two can be seen from the illustrations on the previous page.

Members of assault gun crews were allowed to wear this uniform in August 1942(1), while those of self-propelled anti-tank units (Panzerjäger-Einheiten (SFL)) had to wait until almost the end of the year(2). The trousers were called Feldhose, the tunic Feldjacke, and the whole uniform Sonderbekleidung.

- 46 Note: For "Schutzanzug" read "Feldanzug".  
 " Bottom photo: Jackets are Waffen-SS style. The NCO "Tresse" was only worn by members of the "LAH".  
 47 Note 5: Add: In some cases the army pattern sleeve Edelweiss was worn (especially by the Walloon troops of the Waffen-SS).  
 49 For "THE SS MOUNTAIN GUIDE" read "THE SS MOUNTAIN GUIDE BADGE". It was authorized, for the duration of the war, in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated October 1, 1944.  
 50 The uniform illustrated is said to have been of Italian manufacture.



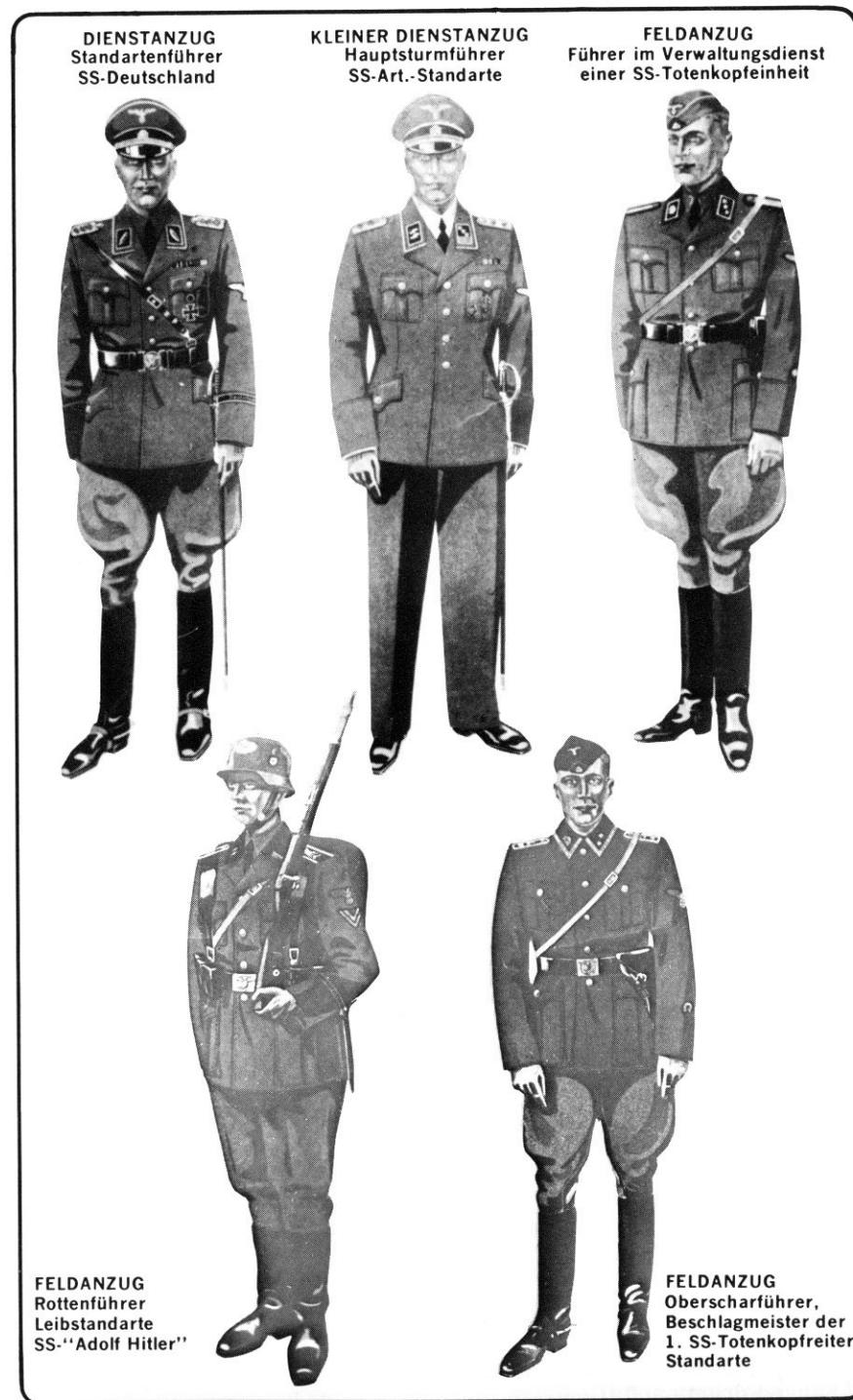
- 55 Variation of the fencing diamond.

- 60 Photo: For "SS-Standartenführer Daisenhofer" read "SS-Oberführer Dr. Eduard Deisenhofer". He received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on May 17, 1942, as a SS-Sturmabannführer and "Kdr. einer Kampfgruppe bei der SS-Totenkopf-Div." (i. e. commander of a battle group with the SS "Totenkopf" Division).  
 65 Reversible camouflage coveralls for tank crews are known to have come with sleeve eagles stitched to both sides.  
 68 Note: The special system of rank insignia introduced in February 1943 was only worn on the left sleeve.  
 70 Sleeve eagles: SS Military Police and Police troops wore police eagles on the sleeve at times (see respective sections in future volumes). Police troops did not belong to the Waffen-SS until February 10, 1942.

<sup>1</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, August 15, 1942

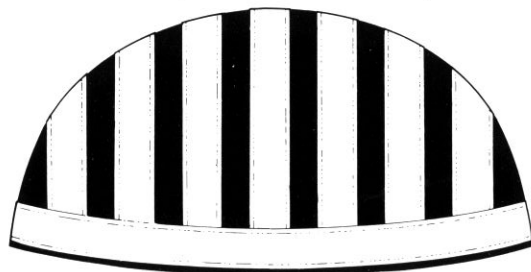
<sup>2</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, December 1, 1942

71/74 The following uniforms are from the wall chart "Uniformen der Waffen-SS - Feldgrau"(1940).





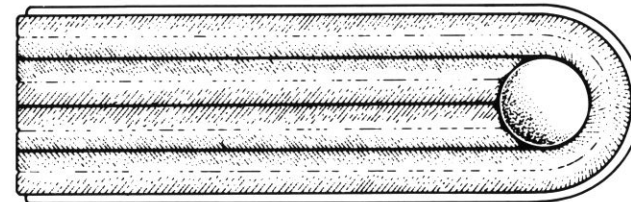
- 75 The "Reichsschule SS" cuff title was worn by "aktiv" personnel only. Also, the "blitz" badge was worn only by signals personnel.
- 76 Overcoats - Line 4: Collars were of bluish dark-green cloth, and not dark bluish-green imitation velvet (in fact velvet and imitation velvet were forbidden).
- 78 Top photo: The SS generals at the left of this photograph are wearing their overcoats incorrectly buttoned (at first four buttons had to be fastened, later it was reduced to three).
- " Line 1: Generals' overcoats had bluish dark-green collars, not dark green.
- " Collar patches were once more authorized for wear on Waffen-SS overcoats by "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", February 1, 1943. They were still not to be worn, however, on leather, fur, field, drivers' and other special coats.
- 79 The rank insignia on this overcoat should be for SS-Brigadeführer and above, never for an SS-Standartenführer as shown.
- 80 Photo: In caption for "(Algemeine-SS)" read "(Allgemeine-SS)".
- 82 Note 10: For "1st August 1943" read 15th December 1943".
- 84 Line 2: For "Heisst" read "heisst".
- 85 Photo: Alter caption to read: "Note officer in centre wearing army double-claw belt buckle and field service cap".
- " Bottom Illustration: Believed to have been a prototype only.
- 86 Belt buckle: Believed to have been a prototype only.
- 87 Top Photo: Hermann Fegelein rose to the rank of SS-Gruppenführer and Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS and received the Oak-Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on December 25, 1942, as an SS-Oberführer and commander of a battle group.
- 88 Illustrating this gorget is somewhat academic as most Waffen-SS units had no standards or colours and those that did, put them away during the war. The caption should read: "SS-Fahnenträger (colour bearers') gorget".
- 91 Photo: "Schematische Kriegsgliederungen" indicate that the "Florian Geyer" Division had a divisional music corps, not (a) regimental one(s).
- 92 In addition to those "swallows' nests" shown, there was also:



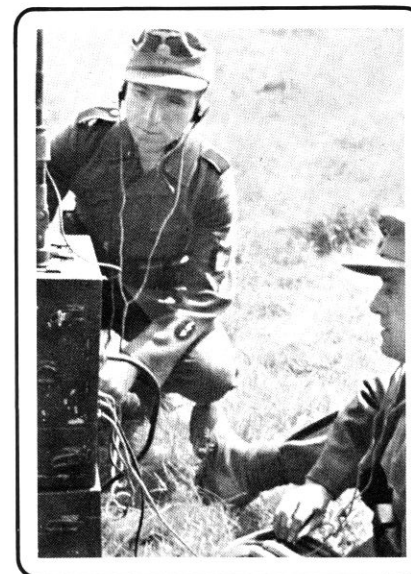
SPIELLEUTE

The Spielleute were the company buglers whose bugles were purely for sounding signals. When grouped together, they played drums and fifes.

- 92 Lower illustration: For "SS-Tambourmajor" read "SS-Bataillontambour".
- 93 The lyre was only worn unofficially on shoulder straps and disappeared when the sleeve lozenge was introduced (see page 99).
- 93/117/124/128 All these shoulder straps should have 8 rows of silver cord (formed by two double loops) - as drawn with 7 rows is impossible.



- 94/95 For "bugle" read "trumpet".
- 98 (3): This was probably for signals personnel of non-signals units (as in the Army).
- " (6): This badge was authorized for dental officers in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", May 15, 1941.
- " (11): For "Ordnance NCOs" read "Armourer NCO".
- " Right illustration: This badge was not only worn by engineer assault boat coxswains, but also by motor drivers on pontoon bridges and other motor boat drivers.
- 100 Lines 2/3: The army pattern trade badges were worn by the Waffen-SS after the introduction of the black sleeve lozenges.



NOTE ARMY STYLE SIGNALS SPECIALTY BADGE WORN BY WALLOON VOLUNTEER.

- " Illustrations: Letters and horse shoe were yellow. The War Ordnance Sergeant illustrations should be footnoted (1) and the Farrier illustration footnoted (2).



100 Note 2: For "(geprüfte Beschlagschmiede)" read "(geprüfter Beschlagschmied)". The badge (last line of note) was a yellow horse shoe on bluish dark-green.

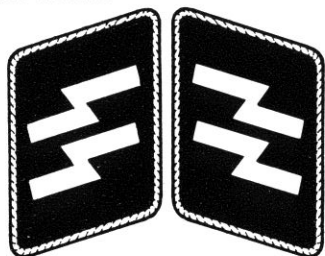
101 Former Service Badges: (1): Is unconfirmed.  
(2): "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated April 1, 1943, states that this badge was worn by NCOs (Unterführer) in the Waffen-SS who were returning to the police.  
(4): Was for Waffen-SS officers seconded to the A. O. of the NSDAP.

Note 3: This note refers to the badge illustrated at top left. For "Technische Unterführer" read "Technischer Unterführer".



102 (4): This illustration of the Meister-schützenklasse is unconfirmed.

107 The "double" collar patches were probably for the Führer/Unterführer im Sonderdienst.



109/110/111/112/121/134 Throughout Volume I, the spelling "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" was used. While in fact being correct from the date of the rank's introduction on April 2, 1942, it was ordered to be hyphenated as "SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer" in mid-June of the same year. Therefore, "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" was only officially used for a few months. The order was published in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated June 15, 1942, and is believed to have been prompted by the confusion between "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" and "SS-Obergruppenführer".

111 Paragraph 1: Some Waffen-SS generals incorporated police ranks in their titles.

" Paragraph 3: The rank insignia system introduced in February 1943 for uniforms which had neither collar patches nor shoulder straps was identical in every way to

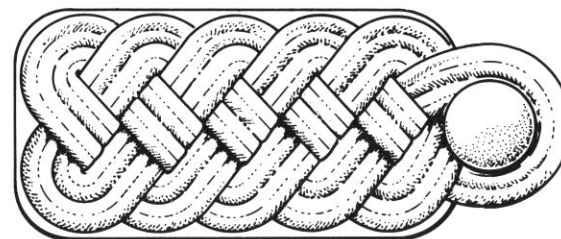
that used by the Army (with the exception of the rank SS-Oberführer, of course, which had no equivalent in the Army). Thus, it was worn only on the left sleeve and generals' insignia were in gold-yellow, and light green for all other ranks down to SS-Unterscharführer. Lower ranks used the same rank insignia (i. e. chevrons) as on the field tunic.

112 Under "UNTEROFFIZIERE MIT PORTEPEE (SENIOR NCOs)" add "(Hauptfeldwebel)" to "Oberfähnriche, Oberfeldwebel"; and "(SS-Stabsscharführer)" to the corresponding "SS-Standarten-Oberjunker, SS-Hauptscharführer (not Hauptscharführer)". Although Oberfähnriche/Standartenoberjunker were classified as "Unteroffiziere mit Portepee", they did not in fact wear the NCOs' Portepee but the officers' sword knot (along with officers' silver cap cords, etc. and without NCO "Tresse" on the collar).

" Under "UNTEROFFIZIERE OHNE PORTEPEE (JUNIOR NCOs)" correct "Scharführer" to read "SS-Scharführer" and add "SS-Junker" to "SS-Unterscharführer".

" Under "MANNSCHAFTEN (MEN)" delete "SS-Stabsrottenführer". There was a pay grade equivalent to Stabsgefreiter, and this has been found written as SS-Stabsrottenführer (it is not believed to have been used officially). The Stabsgefreiter was equivalent to SS-Rottenführer but in the 2nd pay grade, and no difference was made to the rank insignia.

115/116/122/123 To be more precise, the entwined silver cords on field officers' shoulder straps should be shown as being double, thus:



116 The white underlay could also mean that this SS-Standartenführer was in the infantry (see page 136).

" For "SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER" read "SS-OBERSTURMBANN-FÜHRER".

117 Pips on shoulder straps for SS-Obersturmführer and SS-Hauptsturmführer should be in gold (see page 110).

" For "FÜHRER DER VERWALTUNGSDIENSTE" read "FÜHRER DER VERWALTUNGSDIENSTE".

117/136 Delete the black and white twisted cord for Tank Engineers (Panzerpioniere), as it is not believed to have been worn by the Waffen-SS (see page 136).

118 The rank of SS-Sturmscharführer (see page 125) was possibly in use before 1941.

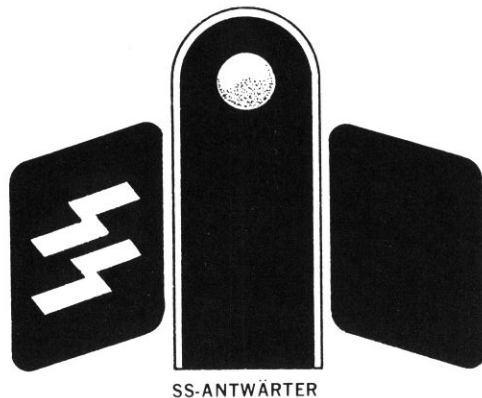
118/136 Some sources state that Rocket or Projector Units (Werfer-Einheiten) used the bright red Waffenfarbe of Artillery and A. A.



119/120 For consistency, for "SS-GEIRGSJÄGER" read "GEBIRGS-JÄGER", and for "SS-FELDGENDARMERIE" read "FELD-GENDARMERIE".

120 It is believed that the only members of the SS-Feldgendarmerie below NCO rank were drivers, etc.

" The lowest rank of all is not illustrated:

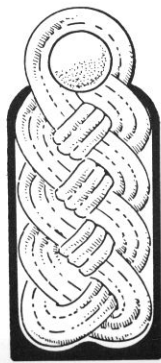


" For "VERWALTUNGS UND TECHNISCHE DIENSTE" read "VERWALTUNGS- UND TECHNISCHE DIENSTE".

121 Collar patch pips for SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS and SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS are incorrectly aligned, as illustrated below they should be placed point-to-point:



121/122 Generals also wore a black base underlay to their shoulder straps.



122/125 The SD sometimes wore police shoulder straps. They are not believed to have worn uniforms requiring the sleeve rank insignia.

124 For "FUHRER IM SONDERDIENST" read "FÜHRER IM SONDERDIENST".

" For "STAB DES RFSS" read "STAB DES RF-SS".

124/138 Medical personnel only wore the Aesculapius staff on shoulder straps unofficially, and this was discontinued when the lozenge was adopted (see page 99).

125 The insignia for SS-Sturmscharführer im Sonderdienst is not correct as the Unterführer im Sonderdienst belonged to either Appointment Group "O" (Oberfeldwebel) or "G" (Gruppenführer i. e. junior NCO). (see note on page 137 in this appendix)

126 For "AUFKLÄRUNGS ABTEILUNG" read "AUFKLÄRUNGS-ABTEILUNG".

127 For "KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHE DIENST" read "KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHER DIENST & KRAFTFAHRTRUPPE".

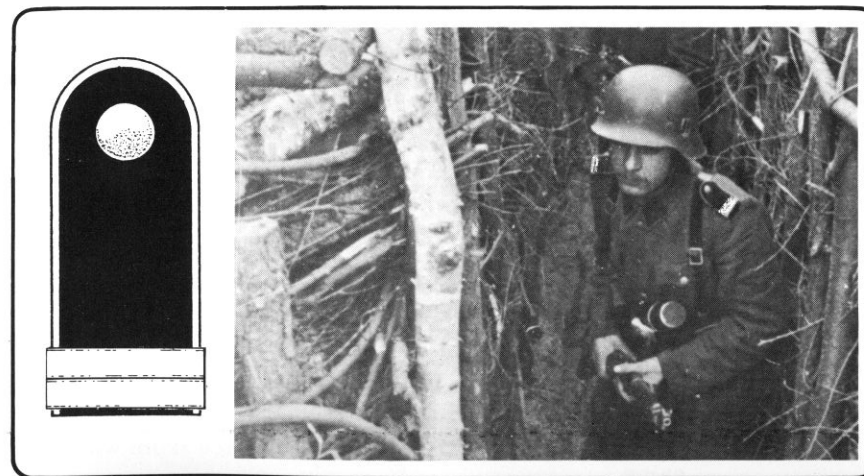
128 The "double" collar patches (see page 107) were probably for the Führer/Unterführer im Sonderdienst.

129 It is not apparent from the text, but an SS-Oberscharführer der Reserve or an SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve need not have been a Reserve-Führer-Anwärter... he could have been an ordinary NCO. It is believed, in fact, that "(R. F. A.)" (or "(FB)") should have been put after the relevant ranks.

" Note 6: According to "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated December 15, 1941, Reserve-Führer-Anwärter im SS-Sanitätsdienst und SS-Veterinärndienst with the rank and title of SS-Hauptscharführer wore the same uniform as SS-Standarten-Oberjunker (i. e. collar patches piped in silver, officers' cap cords and belt, plus "Tresse" to differentiate them from SS-Standarten-Oberjunker).

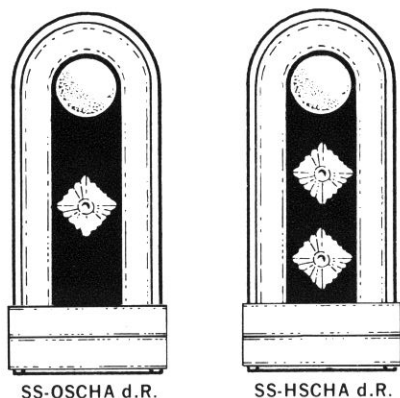
" The special insignia worn at officer cadet schools will be described in a later volume in this series.

131 In all illustrations, the FB badge (two 9mm aluminum bars on shoulder straps) should be placed close to the base of the shoulder straps, thus:





- 131 One source states that SS-Oberscharführer and SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve after July 1943 mounted one and two pips respectively on their shoulder straps, thus:



- 132 The special insignia worn at NCO schools will be described in a later volume in this series.
- 133 Photo: For "SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWARTER" read "SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWARTER".

- 134 Line 3: Denys Erlam, in his translation of Hettler's "Uniformen der Deutschen Wehrmacht", stated that the use of different colours to indicate branch of service (i.e. Waffenfarben) began during the Boxer Uprising of 1900. This theory is now in doubt, and the statement that the use of these colours was to indicate the army corps to which an infantry regiment belonged is definitely incorrect as German troops in China were not very numerous and the question of army corps did not arise. It is believed that the system of shoulder and cuff colours for army corps was already in use before the Boxer Rebellion, and that it was introduced some time after 1870.

" Waffenfarbe was used as a piping to shoulder straps for NCOs and men and an underlay for officers and generals. Thus:

- (a) Waffenfarbe was used as shoulder strap piping for ranks up to SS-Sturmscharführer (not SS-Hauptscharführer); and
- (b) it was used as shoulder strap underlay for SS-Untersturmführer to SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer (not for SS-Sturmbannführer to SS-Oberstgruppenführer (sic)).

" Note 12: For "Waffenfarben" read "Waffenfarbe".

- 135 Lower photo: As the collar patches are not piped in Waffenfarbe (as is the collar) the wearer must hold the lowest rank: SS-Anwärter.

- 136 White: The source referred to in the note that white applied to Generalkommandos der SS-Pz.-Gren.-Divs. is "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated September 1, 1943 (item 322). This in itself is confusing as SS-Pz.-Gren.-Divs. had divisional staffs (Divisionsstäbe) and obviously not staffs of army corps (Generalkommandos)! The correct text should therefore read: "Armoured Corps and Divisional H. Q. Staffs of the SS (NCOs and men), (Generalkommandos der SS-Panzerkorps und Divisions-Kommandos (Unterführer und Mannschaften)). Officers wore the Waffenfarbe of the branch of service from which they came.

- 136 Light Grey: For "RFSS" read "RF-SS".

" Black: Text should read: "Engineers, including construction units (Pionier- und Bau-Einheiten)".

" Black and White: (as already covered concerning page 117) The black and white twist piping was not worn as a branch colour within the Waffen-SS as stated. In fact, when engineer units of the Army wore black shoulder straps, the black Waffenfarbe was separated from the shoulder strap by a white piping. Twisted black and white cord was worn in the Army by a type of volunteer (possibly Kapitulationen-Anwärter).

" Delete Note 14.

" Bright Red: One source states that this was also worn by rocket or projector units (Werfer-Einheiten).

" Bordeaux Red: Delete "Specialist Service (Truppensonderdienst), Judge Advocate General Dept (J. A. G. D.)" as this is synonymous with "Legal Service (Gerichtsdienste)".

" Orange Red: Replace "K., W. and N." by full English translation: "motor transport, ordnance and signals".

" Orange Red & Light Pink: On August 1, 1944, all officers, NCOs and men in the Kraftfahrtechnischer Dienst (drivers not included) from Sonderlaufbahn (K) became part of the "Kraftfahrtruppe" branch of the service and so wore the light pink Waffenfarbe instead of the orange red. ("V. Bl. d. W. -SS", August 15, 1944).

" Light Pink: Replace text by: "Motor Transport Service/Troops (Kraftfahrtechnischer Dienst/Kraftfahrtruppe).

" Light Blue: Also worn by personnel of the SS Field Post offices, which were authorized in February 1943 ("V. Bl. d. W. -SS", February 1, 1943).

- 137 Light Green: Mountain Infantry (SS-Gebirgsjäger und SS-Jäger) are said to have worn "grass or ivy green" (Wiesengrün) Waffenfarbe after May 30, 1942.

" For Blue/Dark Green read "Bluish dark green".

" Officers and NCOs for Special Employment: Those readers doubting the existence of "Führer und Unterführer im Sonderdienst" should consult RF-SS, SS-FHA, IIb/(1) Az. 64 B16h Nr. 221/11. 1941 v. 6. 11. 41, which lays down their special insignia.

" Lemon Yellow: For "(Zitrongelb)" read "(Zitronengelb)".

Delete "Armoured Signal Troops (SS-Pz.-Nachrichteneinheiten)" as these were only a part of the signal troops as a whole.

" For "Red and Grey (Rotgrau)" read "Red-Grey (Rot-grau)".

" Note 15: An Unterführer im Sonderdienst could be appointed to one of two grades ("G" or "O"), and a Führer im Sonderdienst to one of three ("Z", "K" or "B"), all depending on the individual's qualifications and the nature of his job. It is believed that they wore special shoulder insignia resembling their Wehrmacht counterparts. The Sonderdienst appointment groups were as follows:



G = Gruppenführer, i. e. in the Army sense of a Section Leader, as a junior NCO (not an SS-Gruppenführer).

O = Oberfeldwebel, i. e. senior NCO.

Z = Zugführer (officer commanding a platoon).

K = Kompanieführer (company commander).

B = Bataillonsführer (battalion commander).

138 As well as having unit letters woven into the shoulder straps, slip-on letters were also used. Other school shoulder strap letters will be dealt with in a future volume in this series.

" The Aesculapius Staff for medical personnel, snake for veterinary personnel and lyre for musicians were never official but were worn in certain cases before the introduction of the respective sleeve lozenges (see page 99), which were official. With the advent of the sleeve lozenges the unofficial shoulder strap insignia disappeared.

142 Waffen-SS Registration Plates: The SS Police Divisions (4th and 35th) are believed to have used "POL" as the prefix to their number plates at first, then "SS".



REAR LICENSE PLATE WITH "POL" PREFIX.

" It is not known whether Kraftfahrstaffel DRP (a part of the Waffen-SS) used the "SS" or "DRP" prefix to its registration plates.

143 A German source states that the rubber stamp on the number plate did not contain the unit's field post number, but was rather a stamp of the issuing authority. (56509 is not, incidentally, recorded as a Waffen-SS field post number).

145/157 The valid point has been made that in view of the authors' intention to describe the Waffen-SS and nothing else (see page 6) much of this section is irrelevant as it consists of information about the Army's practices which were copied by the Waffen-SS. The reply is simply that the authors wish to make this series as complete a coverage of the Waffen-SS as possible, even if this means describing Army usage copied or adopted by the Waffen-SS.

145/149 This section should be headed "Waffen-SS Flags and Pennants", and the word "pennant" should be replaced by "flag" when not describing a true pennant (which by definition has to be triangular or swallow-tailed).

145 Lines 6/7: Replace "car pennant" by "command or staff flag".

145/149 The design of the flags used by Waffen-SS field units was the same for both of its uses:

(a) flown on vehicles carrying the commanding officer - to show who and where he was;

(b) to show the location of the H. Q.

Thus, the same flag could denote (following the sequence above):

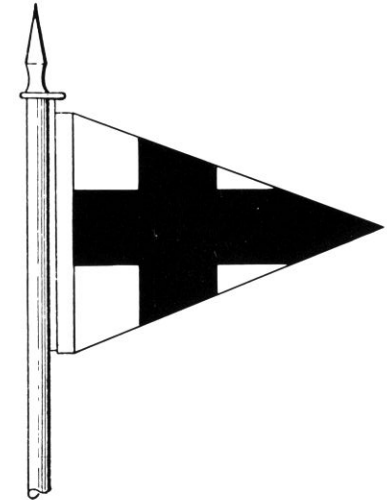
(1) Divisionskommandeur (divisional commander), and

(2) Divisionsstab (divisional H. Q.)

Both captions would therefore be correct for illustrations of such a flag, but a fuller title would be of the type: "Kommandeur und Stab (eines Infanterieregiments)" (Commander and H. Q. (of an infantry regiment)).

146 Bottom right: For "(STAB KAVALLERIE BRIGADE)" read "(STAB KAVALLERIE-BRIGADE)".

147 Centre: For "(STAB GEBIRGSJÄGER REGIMENT)" read "(STAB GEBIRGSJÄGER-REGIMENT)".



149 Pennant for an engineer battalion (Pionier-Bataillon) had a black cross on a white field.

150/157 These signs were used on order-of-battle charts ("Schematische Kriegsgliederungen") and maps long before they appeared on vehicles. Illustrated below are but a few of the virtually countless variations. It should be noted that Waffen-SS divisions in operational areas, that were not under the command of the Army, were not permitted to use divisional symbols on their vehicles, only tactical symbols. ("V.Bl.d.W.-SS", February 1, 1943).

150 Line 6: The Wehrmacht did not include the Waffen-SS.

" These symbols for regimental and battalion H. Q. s never appeared on vehicles, and were blacked-in on charts, etc. On vehicles they appeared thus:

REGIMENTAL H.Q.'s



BATTALION H.Q.'s





- 150 "K": Replace "Supply train assigned to a Battalion, etc." by "Supply train of a Division".
- " "M": Not "Mechanized Engineers" but only a platoon within each battalion which was equipped with the special equipment required.

151 Top row (from left to right):

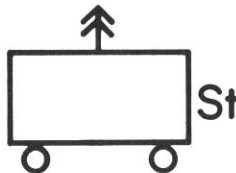
- (1) For "INFANTRY DIVISION (MOT)" read "DIV. KDO. / INF. -DIV. (MOT) - later PZ. -GREN. -DIV."
- (2) To "INFANTRY" add "COMPANY".
- (3) To "INFANTRY" (PARTIALLY MOT)" add "COMPANY".
- (4) This probably does not indicate a staff as there is no flag.

" Second row (from left to right):

- (1) Delete "(SELF PROPELLED)" as it is self-evident, and add "COMPANY".
- (2) Add "COMPANY".

" Third row (left to right):

- (1) Replace "ENGINEERS (BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION)" by "ENGINEERS (BRIDGE COLUMN)". There was a platoon in each battalion which saw to the motor transport of the pontoon bridges on land...the bridges themselves were built by the companies of the battalion.
- (2) Replace "ENGINEER BATTALION (MOT)" by "STAFF OF ENGINEER BATTALION (MOT)". As such, it did not appear on vehicles...when it did, it was shown thus:



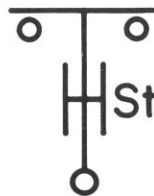
- (3) Replace "CAVALRY DIVISION" by "CAVALRY DIVISION H.Q."

152 The sign at top left captioned "ARTILLERY BATTALION H.Q." was not for use on vehicles and in any case should be for "STAB, ARTILLERIE-ABTEILUNG". On vehicles it was shown thus:



All other signs on this page indicate batteries.

153 Left: Replace "FLAK BATTALION (MOT)" by "STAFF OF A FLAK-ABT. (MOT)". When used on vehicles it was drawn thus:



153 Right: Replace "FLAK COMPANY (SELF-PROPELLED)" by "HALF-TRACKED FLA COMPANY".

NOTE: "Fla" referred to 2cm and 3.7cm guns which belonged to the infantry; "Flak" were artillery guns of 7.5cms or more.

154 This sign denotes a company or battery of assault guns.

155 For "PANZER GRENADIER DIVISION" read "PANZERGRENA-DIERDIVISION".

" For "PANZER GRENADIER BRIGADE" read "PANZERGRENA-DIERBRIGADE".

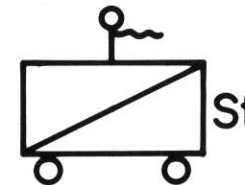
Both signs denoted H. Q. or staff.

" Third row (left to right):

(1) For "PANZER" read "PANZER COMPANY".

(2 & 3) Both signs denoted H. Q. or staff.

" Bottom: This sign designated the staff of a reconnaissance bat-talion, not necessarily Panzer. When used on vehicles it was shown thus:



156 All these symbols indicate a unit (Kompanie or Zug) rather than an actual gun or motor-cycle.

" Top left: For "ASSAULT GUN (ARMOURED CORPS)" read "SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK (EQUIPPED WITH ASSAULT GUNS)".

157 Second row - left: During the war there were no medical battalions, only companies, platoons or field hospitals.

" "KB": This sign designated a vehicle attached to a war corre-spondents' unit, which could have been a company ("P.K."), a troop ("KB-Trupp") or platoon ("KB-Zug").

159 SS-Führungshauptamt: "VERORDNUNGSBLATT DER WAFFEN-SS": For "1941 - 1945" read "1940 - 1945".



# Appendix

(CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS)

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## VOLUME 1

### PAGE:

11. Lines 12/13: Another style of camouflage helmet cover was held in place by elastic and had neither a fold in the front nor the metal retaining hooks at the back and at either side.
14. SS-Police helmets: The Polizei-Division originally wore the helmet of the German Police as illustrated on page 15 of Volume 1. SS helmets were also worn, however, with the insignia as shown on page 11 of Volume 1.
66. Camouflage Jacket: Later issues (1943/1944) of the camouflage jacket were collarless and had a hood. A variation is reported with zip fasteners throughout.  
A knee-length, reversible camouflage smock was issued to SS parachutists, which had two slant pockets. It was also being worn by other Waffen-SS troops in the autumn of 1944.
67. Camouflage Uniform: As can be seen in the lower photograph, standard field-grey trousers were also worn with the camouflage tunic. A reversible waist-length camouflage tunic is said to have been issued in limited quantities during the summer of 1944. It was unlined and had two breast pockets.
83. Waffen-SS Brassards: A variation to the "Jm Dienst/der/Waffen-SS" brassard exists, i. e. "Jm Dienst der/Waffen-SS" in two lines.  
A white brassard with the black lettering "Streifendienst/der Waffen-SS" was worn by Waffen-SS men on patrol service. This being the case, it is entirely possible that the "SS-Streifendienst" gorget, illustrated on page 89 of Volume 1, was not worn with the Waffen-SS uniform.
89. Top Illustration: See under note on page 83 in this appendix.



# Appendix

(CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS)

PAGE:

VOLUME 1

11. Steel Helmets: The helmet insignia illustrated were worn from September 1935. In March 1940 (not early 1941 as stated) it was decided to omit the swastika shield for camouflage reasons (Mollo, Vol. 6, p. 15). On 1.11.1943, an order was published prohibiting the wearing of the SS runes shield for the duration of the war (Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 4. Jahrgang, Berlin 1.11.43, Nr. 21, Z. 402) but this is known to have been ignored in many cases.
13. Illustration: Parachutists' smocks in SS camouflage drill material had the SS eagle sewn onto the rightbreast (Mollo, op.cit., p. 62).
- 20/21. Top Box: The button with embossed death's head worn on the field service cap was at first in white metal, later painted field grey (Mollo, op.cit., p. 10).
31. Panzer Caps: The machine-embroidered death's head and SS eagle worn on the Panzer beret were of a special design (see Mollo, op.cit., p. 55). A field-grey beret also existed (an example is in the collection of Dave Delich).
35. Fez: In the "Handschar" Division, the field-grey fez was worn with service dress, whereas the red version was for wear with parade and walking-out dress. Officers of this Division were permitted to wear the mountain cap for walking-out instead of the fez(1).
70. Sleeve Eagles: Three other patterns are to be described; (Mollo, op.cit., p. 75)
- light khaki eagle on black backing for tropical uniform (as illustrated on p. 50 of Vol. 1);
  - brown eagle on black backing for autumn camouflage uniforms;
  - bright green eagle on black backing for spring camouflage uniforms.
86. Belt Buckle: This version of officers' belt buckle is held by some to have been a post-war invention, not even a prototype as suggested on p. 162 of Vol. 2. No concrete evidence has yet been found to resolve this problem.
110. The lower ranks based on those of the Army (SS-Oberschütze, etc.) were introduced by Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 2. Jahrgang, Berlin 15.7.1941, Nr. 14. The circular rank badge of the Army's Oberschütze and the other Army badges of rank for the lowest SS ranks are now known to have been introduced earlier than 1940. Photographically confirmed as having been worn in October 1938 (FM-Zeitschrift, Folge 11, Berlin 1.11.1938) and possibly introduced in March 1938, when Army pattern shoulder straps were introduced (Mollo, op.cit., pp.98/99).
111. Lines 7/11: The new rank of SS-Oberstgruppenführer was ordered by Hitler, following which Himmler issued a directive to this effect from the FHQ dated 19 April 1942. To avoid possible confusion with this rank and the existing "SS-Obergruppenführer", Himmler ordered that it be hyphenated thus: "SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer"(2)
113. The special rank designations listed were in use by March 1943 (Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 4. Jahrgang, Berlin 1.3.1943, Nr. 5, Z. 94). All SS-Bewährungs-Einheiten (not just SS-Jäger-Btl. 502) had the special rank designations "SS-Bewährungsschütze" & "SS-Bewährungs-Oberschütze" (Sonderanhang zum Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 5. Jahrgang, Berlin 1.11.1944, Nr. 21, Z. 110).
136. Light Grey: Not used in late 1939 but by May 1940 worn by staff of main offices & general officers. In June 1942, worn by general officers and personal staff of the RF-SS. Finally, the latter adopted dark grey and light grey was worn only by general officers (Mollo, op.cit., pp. 105/106).
136. Bright Red: Rocket or Projector Units (Werfer-Einheiten) finally wore the bright red Waffenfarbe of Artillery and A.A., not Bordeaux (Bordorot - claret).
136. Orange Red: At first worn only by staff of recruiting offices (Ergänzungsstellen) and then for special services (Sonderdienste: Verw.-, Gerichts.-Techn.-, u. Ergänzungsdienst u. d. Ang. d. Standortkommandanturen), who previously had retained the Waffenfarbe of their former unit (Mollo, op.cit., pp. 104 and 106).
137. Light Green: In fact it was "grass or ivy green" (Wiesergrün), not "lightgreen" (Hellgrün), that was worn finally by mountain troops (Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 4. Jahrgang, Berlin 15.9.43, Nr. 18, Z. 334).
137. Golden Yellow: At first for cavalry regiments of the SS-TV, by June 1942 it was worn by cavalry and reconnaissance units, schools and replacement elements of the Waffen-SS.
137. Lemon Yellow: SS-Feldpost wore it until February 1943... thereafter they wore lightblue (Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 4. Jahrgang, Berlin 1.2.1943, (Nr. 3, Z. 37).
137. add: Copper Brown (Kupferbraun)... listed in November 1939 and May 1940 for reconnaissance battalion and replacement units of the SS-VT and SS-TV. Not listed in June 1942, by which time golden yellow had been adopted (Mollo, op.cit., p. 104).

<sup>2</sup>Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 3. Jahrgang, Berlin 15.6.1942, Nr. 12, Z. 192. For a detailed study of this rank see article "SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS - Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Rang- und Dienstgradabzeichen der Waffen-SS" by Klietmann in Feldgrau, January 1967, pp. 15-18.



# Appendix

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Volume 1

### PAGE

- 10 Steel Helmets: Estonian Waffen-SS men are reported to have painted the Estonian arm shield (presumably type "A" - see page 217 of this book) on the side of their steel helmets while fighting at Narva in 1944 (J. P. Petersen).
- 80 SS Chevrons: The "old campaigners" chevron (at first called "Armwinkel für Altegediente," by 1943 "Ehrenwinkel für alte Kämpfer") was reserved in the case of Austrians for those who had volunteered for the SS before 12 February 1938 (not 12.2.1933 as given by Mollo in Uniforms of the SS, Vol. 1, pg. 54 - nor 12.2.1935 as given in this series - see Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 6. Auflage 1940 & 7. Auflage 1943).
- 81 SS Chevrons: The "former members" chevron was at first called "Armwinkel für ehem. Polizei- und Wehrmachts-Angehörige," but by 1943 it was referred to as an "Ehrenwinkel" (Organisationsbuch der NSDAP).
- 98/99 Trade and Specialty Badges: These designs for Waffen-SS motor transport drivers' badges were drawn up in 1942, but never introduced (doubtless because of the Motor Vehicle Driver's Badge of Merit, introduced on 23.8.1942). That at left (a) was to have been for motorcycle drivers (SS-Kraftfahrabzeichen für Kradfahrer der Waffen-SS), that at right (b) for motor car and truck drivers and tractor operators (SS-Kraftfahrabzeichen für Pkw.-, Lkw-Fahrer und Führer von Zugmaschinen der Waffen-SS) (See Der Versuch der Einführung eines SS-Kraftfahrabzeichens und das



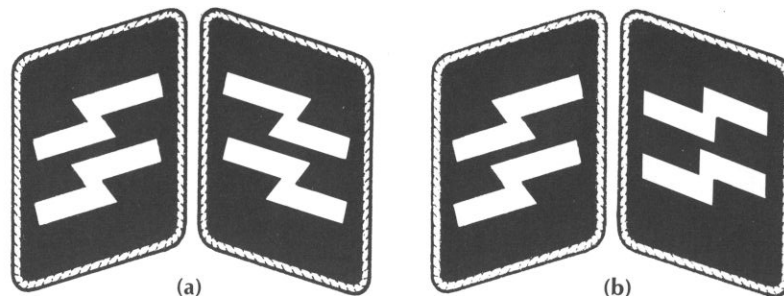
(a)



(b)

Kraftfahrbewährungsabzeichen (1942-1945) by Wolfgang Vopersal, in Der Freiwillige, 22. Jahrgang, Heft 11, November 1976, pp. 14-17).

- 107 There were two types of "paired SS runes" collar patches:



(a)

(b)

- (a) where the left patch bore a mirror image of the SS runes on the right (as worn below by whom Beadle/Hartmann (op.cit., pg. 30) identify as a doctor of the "Prinz Eugen" Division at Mostar in 1943.)
- (b) where the "SS runes" appeared on both left and right collar patches (as worn inexplicably by SS-Oberführer Herbert-Otto Gille in October 1942 as C.O. of SS-Art.Rgt. 5 of the "Wiking" Division).



- 129/132 Officer Candidates: See the 2-part article Der Führer-Nachwuchs der Waffen-SS - Aufbau und Abzeichen by Jochen Nietsch in Der Freiwillige, 20. Jahrgang, Heft 4, April 1974, pp. 17-19 & Heft 5, Mai 1974, pp. 17-20.
- 146 Car flag of the Inspector General of the Latvian SS Legion (Kommandostandarte des Generalinspektors der lettischen SS-Freiwilligen-Legion). Shown in a photograph dated 20.8.1944 (see page 86 of this book) of the car of Waffen-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der



Waffen-SS Rudolfs Bangerskis. It is logical to assume (but so far unproven) that similar flags existed for the Inspector Generals of the other national SS legions (such as for Johannes Soodla, Inspector General of the Estonian SS Legion, which could also have incorporated the national colors).