

Heer metal strap & board letter devices

Description

Members of the German Army wore unit designators on their shoulder straps and boards. While numbers were the most commonly used, a number of different Gothic and Latin letters were also employed. Enlisted men and some junior NCOs used embroidered devices, while officers and most NCOs used metal cyphers - gold colored for officers and silver or leichtmetall for NCOs. Third Reich era devices had simple horizontal lines across the face. Many regular letter devices were produced in two sizes, roughly 3/4" and 5/8" tall. (Intwined and GD devices will be taller.) Regardless of the materials used, the devices were hollow-back and were manufactured by stamping. Prong length and width will vary, but in general the letter devices will have flat prongs with angle cut ends.



Latin W used by recruiters.



Latin FP
Compare to Gothic P below.



Upper case Gothic E.



Lower case Gothic a.



Joined Gothic letters (WS), both upper case.



Joined Gothic letters (Pz), one upper and one lower case.



Intwined Gothic letters (BL) with one letter higher.



Intwined Latin letters (KM) with even spacing.

Prepared by Dave Suter - 07/24/05

For those interested, a more detailed article covering all aspects of German shoulder boards and straps can be found at http://www.wehrmacht-awards.com/uniforms_firearms/uniforms/shoulder_boards/index.htm