

Heer collar tabs

Description

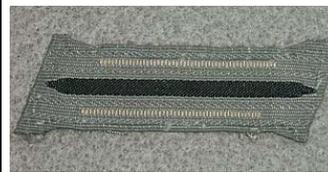
Members of the German Army wore rhomboid-shaped collar tabs on their uniforms. The patches denoted the wearer's status and in most cases their arm of service. The design and construction of the patches varied, depending on the type of uniform worn, whether officer or enlisted, issue or private purchase, and the time period when it was produced. With some exceptions, the collar tabs were made up of two parallel bars or litzen attached to a backing. In the case of field or service tunics, the branch color or waffenfarbe was shown as a colored bar on the litzen, while the backing was dark green. For dress tunics the backing was done in the branch color. Most officer tabs will be hand embroidered, while enlisted pieces are usually made up of woven litzen tapes sewn to the backing. Enlisted hand embroidered pieces for dress tunics also exist. In most cases, the collar tab will be constructed on a woven burlap-like material called buckram. Toward the end of the war, BeVo woven officer tabs were produced, and enlisted members began using a generic collar tab with no waffenfarbe or backing. The double litzen was sewn directly to the collar. Generals wore red tabs with a gold hand embroidered Abaresque design. Panzer uniforms had patches with metal skull devices and waffenfarbe piping. Patches for enlisted assault gun wrappers used a standard double litzen tab with waffenfarbe piping.



Regular hand-embroidered tab for the service tunic of a panzer officer.



Later war artillery officer. The patch is BeVo woven rather than hand-embroidered.



1st pattern infantry enlisted man's litzen. Would have been sewn to a dark green patch.



Later pattern patch. No waffenfarbe and the litzen is sewn directly to the collar with no backing.



Standard tab for a medical waffenrock or walking out tunic.



Hand embroidered military police / recruiter waffenrock collar tab.



General Staff officer's dress tunic. Notice the serrated litzen that denote the General Staff assignment.



Standard general officer's collar tab. Field marshal tabs had a 3rd leaf.



Tab for NCO Preparatory School



Enlisted assault gun



Black panzer wrap tab with metal skull device.



Tab for a panzer pioniere wrapper. Note the red cloth behind the eyes.

Prepared by Dave Suter - 08/03/05

For those interested, a 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