



Figure 2: Inside enlisted men helmet cover (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)



Figure 3: Officer's helmet cover with stiffened brims (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)



Figure 4: Soldier with a helmet cover that is too loose.

A way to simplify this process was therefore sought for a long time and the helmet cover from 1892 was the solution. It was lightweight and, unlike the white maneuver cover, covered the entire helmet. In addition, it was a cost-effective solution, according to Prussian taste, it was quickly ready for use and just as quickly removable. Last but not least, its reed-green color provided quite good camouflage in European nature, so the benefits outweighed the initial reservations about its clumsy appearance.

The M1892 cover was hooked onto the front and rear visors by means of nickel-silver hooks in accordance with the clothing regulations. Before 1896, the metal of the hooks was not yet specified in the clothing regulations, so for older covers they could be made of other metals. It should cover the whole helmet and fit tightly to it. The helmet covers of the enlisted men usually had 3 blackened nickel silver hooks in the front and 2 in the back (Figure 2).

Instead of the hooks, the officers' covers mostly had stiffened brims (Figure 3), which completely enclosed the visors of the spiked helmet and thus fitted much better. In addition, they often had elastic bands sewn into the sides or small steel springs in the seams to improve the fit even further. *der Pickelhaube komplett umschlossen und so wesentlich besser saßen. Zudem hatten sie seitlich oft eingenähte Gummibänder oder kleine Stahlfedern in den Nähten, um den Sitz noch weiter zu verbessern.*

1903 at the latest, elastic bands were also mandatory for enlisted men helmet covers, as can be seen from the clothing regulations for enlisted men from that year. This should avoid the sometimes overly loose fitting helmet covers (Figure 4).

Despite the quite detailed regulations, which expressly required hooks to attach the covers to the helmet, deviations were apparently tolerated. For example, enlisted men covers with the brims of the officers' covers, or combinations of hooks and brims are known. The focus of the army command was probably exclusively on a completely covered helmet and a tight fit.

The cloth cone for the spike of the helmet was usually sewn to the cover with cloth strips so that the head ventilation could continue to function (Figure 5). With the introduction of the M95 Pickelhaube, a slot for the newly introduced ventilation slider was also added to the rear spine.



Figure 5: Cloth cone for the spike of a helmet, attached to the cover with elastic bands (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)



Figure 6: Helmet cover with regimental number in red fabric (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)



Figure 7: Lanwehr helmet cover with green regimental number (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)

Up to 1897, all covers had no markings. It was not until the AKO of 28.1.1897 that markings were introduced, initially only for the infantry and reserve infantry regiments. These were to wear their regimental number in red Arabic numerals, on the front of the helmet covers (Figure 6). The reserve infantry regiments also wore a red "R" above the regimental number (similar to Figure 7). For the Peace Formation regiments, the signs were made of red cloth and were sewn to the helmet cover. To save costs and time, however, the numbers for the additional regiments of the wartime

formations were to be painted on merely with waterproof paint (see clothing regulations for enlisted men of 1903, page 106, §44).

Nr. 26.
Bekleidungsabzeichen für Infanterie.

Ich bestimme:

- Die Infanterie-Regimenter des XVI. Armee-corps — mit Ausnahme Meines Infanterie-Regiments Nr. 145 — führen künftig am Waffentrod citronengelbe Schulterklappen und am Mantel dunkelblaue Schulterklappen mit citronengelbem Vortroß, die Nummer in rother Schnur.
- Das Grenadier-Regiment König Friedrich I. (4. Ostpreussisches) Nr. 5, das Infanterie-Regiment Graf Schwerin (3. Pommersches) Nr. 14, das Infanterie-Regiment von Borcke (4. Pommersches) Nr. 21, das Infanterie-Regiment Graf Bose (1. Thüringisches) Nr. 31, das Infanterie-Regiment Graf Dönhoff (7. Ostpreussisches) Nr. 44, das Infanterie-Regiment Freiherr Müller von Saertringen (4. Posensches) Nr. 59, das Infanterie-Regiment von der Marwitz (8. Pommersches) Nr. 61, das 2. Hessische Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 82, sowie die Infanterie-Regimenter Nr. 128, 129, 140 und 143 führen hinfort die Schulterklappen am Waffentrod und den Vortroß an den Schulterklappen des Mantels von derjenigen Farbe, welche durch §. 92,2 der Bekleidungsordnung, II. Theil, für die Infanterie-Regimenter des betreffenden Armee-corps festgesetzt ist.
- Sämmtliche Linien-Infanterie-Regimenter und die Reserve-Infanterie-Regimenter der Provinzial-Armee-corps tragen auf den Helmüberzügen ihre Nummer nach den von Mir genehmigten Proben.
- Die hiernach erforderlichen Aenderungen sind nach Maßgabe der verfügbaren Mittel auszuführen.

Berlin den 28. Januar 1897.

Wilhelm.

An das Kriegsministerium. v. Bogler.

No. 26.
Dress badge for infantry.

I Ordering:

- The infantry regiments of the XVI. Army Corps --- with the exception of My Infantry Regiment No. 145 -- will henceforth wear citron yellow epaulettes on their tunics and dark blue Epaulettes with citron yellow advance, the number in red string.
- The Grenadier Regiment King Frederick 1st (4th East Prussian) No. 5, the Infantry Regiment Count Schwerin (3rd Pomeranian) No. 14, the Infantry Regiment von Borcke (4th Pomeranian) No. 21, the Infantry Regiment Count Bose (1st Thuringian) No. 31, the Infantry Regiment Graf Dönhoff (7th Ostpreussisches) No. 44, the Infantry Regiment Freiherr Müller von Saertringen (4th Posensches) No. 59, the Infantry Regiment von der Marwitz (8th Pomeranian) No. 61, the 2nd Hessian Infantry Regiment No. 82, and Infantry Regiments Nos. 128, 129, 140, and 143 will henceforth wear the epaulettes on the tunic and the bustle on the epaulettes of the coat of the color specified by § 92.2 of the Bekleidungsordnung, II. part, for the infantry regiments of the Army Corps concerned. Army Corps.
- All line infantry regiments and the reserve infantry regiments of the provincial army corps will bear their numbers on the helmet covers according to the samples approved by me.
- The changes required hereunder shall be carried out according to the means available.

Berlin, January 28, 1897.

Wilhelm.

To the War Ministry. v. Bogler.

„Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt“ von 1897, Nr. 26, vom 28.1.1897, Seite 37

When the pickelhauben were gradually introduced for the Landwehr infantry regiments on 27.1.1899, they initially also wore helmet covers without marking. However, this changed already one year later, when on 8.2.1900 it was ordered that the Landwehr infantry regiments, which were already equipped with helmets according to the just mentioned AKO, should wear red regimental numbers made of cloth on their helmet covers, just like the line infantry. Analogous to the reserve infantry, they were to be marked with an "L" above the regimental number instead of the "R".

Nr. 35.
Helmüberzug für Landwehr-Infanterie.

Auf den Mir gehaltenen Vortrag bestimme Ich, daß diejenigen Landwehr-Infanterie-Regimenter, welche gemäß Meiner Ordre vom 27. September 1899 mit Helmen ausgestattet werden, auf den Helmüberzügen die Regimentsnummer mit einem »L« nach der von Mir genehmigten Probe führen.

Berlin den 8. Februar 1900.

Wilhelm.

No. 35
Helmet cover for Landwehr infantry.

In response to the lecture given to me, I decree that those Landwehr infantry regiments which have been equipped with helmets in accordance with my order of September 27, 1899, shall bear on their helmet covers the regimental number with an «L» according to the sample approved by me.

Berlin, February 8, 1900.

Wilhelm.

"Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" from 1900, No. 35, dated February 8, 1900, page 78

On 3.7.1900, the red regiment numbers were also adopted for the field artillery regiments. All other branches of arms not previously mentioned continued to wear no marking on their Helmes covers.

Nr. 196.
Helmüberzüge für Feldartillerie.

Auf den mir gehaltenen Vortrag bestimme Ich:
Die Einien-Feldartillerie-Regimenter führen an den Helmüberzügen die Regimentsnummer aus rothem Zeug nach der für die Infanterie vorgeschriebenen Probe.
Das Kriegsministerium hat das Weitere zu veranlassen.
Wilhelmschwan, an Bord M. Y. Hohenzollern, den 3. Juli 1900.

Wilhelm.

No. 196
Helmet cover for field artillery.

In response to the lecture given to me, I decree:
The line field artillery regiments will carry on their helmet covers the regimental number made of red cloth according to the sample approved for the infantry.
The War Ministry is to arrange for further action.
Wilhelmschwan, on board M. Y. Hohenzollern, July 3, 1900.

Wilhelm.

„Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt“ of 1900, No. 196, of 3.7.1900, page 357

Somewhat irritating for me was first the following AKO of 26.3.1906, with which for the cavalry in the mobilization case the putting on of helmet covers without marking was ordered. Covers for hussars and ulans were already mentioned in the clothing regulations of 1896 and the book "Die deutsche Armee im 1. Weltkrieg" (Militaria-Verlag) shows the sample of a helmet cover for a metal pickelhaube from 1898. So there were helmet covers for cavalry units already before 1906.

In my opinion, the regulation can only be explained by the fact that until then cavalry units wore their covers only during maneuvers, to distinguish the parties. In 1906, the leadership realized that cavalry could no longer be used in combat as before, and that they could be targeted by enemy riflemen too. Therefore, the cavalry also had to avoid flashing helmet fittings in war.

Berlin, den 26. März 1906.

Nr. 77.
Helm- usw. Überzug für Kavallerie im Kriege.

Seine Majestät der Kaiser und König haben zu bestimmen geruht, daß der Kriegsausrüstung der Kavallerie der Helm- usw. Überzug - ohne Abzeichen - hinzutritt.
Abänderung der Bekleidungs- und Ausrüstungs-Nachweisung bleibt vorbehalten.

v. Einem.

Berlin, März 26, 1906

No. 77
Helmet etc. covering for cavalry in war.

His Majesty the Emperor and King have decreed that the war equipment of the cavalry shall include the helmet etc. cover - without insignia - shall be added to the war equipment of the cavalry.
The right is reserved to amend the clothing and equipment regulations.

v. Einem.

Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1906, No. 77, of 23.6.1906, page 77

As the last change before the 1st World War, a red maneuver band was introduced on 23.6.1909, to distinguish the units during the Kaiser maneuvers. This 6 cm wide cotton band, just like the helmet cover itself, was to be attached to it by means of hooks and eyes. However, reversible helmet covers with a red cloth strip sewn on one side are also known, so that the band could not get lost.

<p style="text-align: center;">Nr. 167 Note Bänder an den Helm usw. Überzügen.</p> <p>Auf den mir gehaltenen Vortrag bestimme Ich, daß fortan bei Übungen aller Art in zwei Parteien die rote Partei ein rotes Band an dem Helm- usw. Überzügen nach der von mir genehmigten Probe trägt. Kaiser Wilhelm-Kanal, an Bord M. Y. Hohenzollern, den 23. Juni 1909.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wilhelm</p> <p>In das Kriegsministerium v. Einem</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Berlin den 27. Juni 1909.</p> <p>Kriegsministerium. Nr. 810/6. 09. B. 3.</p> <p>Vorstehende Allerhöchste Kabinetts-Ordre wird mit folgendem zur Kenntnis der Armee gebracht: 1. Die Proben der Helmbänder werden seitens des Armee-Verwaltungs-Departements alsbald übersandt werden. 2. Die 6 cm breiten Bänder von farbeständigem Baumwollstoff sind der Form der Helme usw. entsprechend geschnitten. Ihre Befestigung auf den Überzügen erfolgt bei den Mannschaften durch Haken (an den Bändern) und Zwirnösen (an den Überzügen), deren Zahl dem Bedürfnis anzupassen ist. Der Sitz der Bänder ist so zu regeln, daß sie die auf den Überzügen befindlichen Regimentsnummern vollständig verdecken, im übrigen ihr unterer Rand etwa mit der seitlichen Ausweisung der Überzüge abschneidet. Die Hussaren tragen die Bänder etwa in der Mitte des Überzuges. 3. Die Beschaffung der Bänder haben die Truppen aus dem Ersparnis- oder Ausrüstungsfonds zu bewerkeln.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v. Einem</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No. 167 Red ribbons on the helmet etc. Coverings.</p> <p>In response to the lecture given to me, I decree that henceforth, during exercises of all kinds in two parties, the "red" party shall wear a red ribbon on the helmet etc. covers according to the sample approved by me. Coverings according to the sample approved by me. Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, on board M. Y. Hohenzollern, June 23, 1909.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wilhelm</p> <p>To the War Ministry v. Einem</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Berlin, June 27, 1909</p> <p>War Ministry. No. 810/6. 09. B. 3.</p> <p>The foregoing Most High Cabinet Order is brought to the attention of the Army with the following: 1. The samples of the helmet bands will be sent as soon as possible by the Army Administration Department. 2. The 6 cm wide bands of colorfast cotton fabric are cut according to the shape of the helmets etc. They shall be fastened to the covers of the crests by hooks (on the bands) and twine eyelets (on the covers), the number of which shall be adapted to the need. The position of the ribbons is to be regulated in such a way that they completely cover the regimental numbers on the h.-covers, otherwise their lower edge is to be cut off approximately with the lateral sweep of the h.-covers. The hussars wear the ribbons approximately in the middle of the cover. 3. The troops must purchase the ribbons from the savings or equipment fund.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v. Einem</p>
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Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1909, No. 167, of 23.6.1909, page 167

Shortly after the start of World War I, it became clear that the visibility of soldiers had to be further reduced. The field gray uniforms and the reed-colored helmet covers provided a fairly good camouflage, but the red numbers were almost as visible as the reflective metal parts on the uniforms. Due to the previously long period of peacetime, the army command apparently lost some of its focus, which is why it did not recognize this disadvantage in the maneuver exercises.

However, they reacted very quickly and already on 15.8.1914 the red numbers on the helmet covers were ordered to be replaced by regimental numbers in camouflage green (Figure 7). This time, moreover, all branches of the armed forces (except the Guard Corps) were to wear the numbers.

<p>Kriegsministerium . Nr. 992/8. 14. B. 3.</p> <p>Nr. 228. Änderung der Farbe des Grundtuchs für die feldgrauen Waffenstücke usw. Einführung grüner Nummern auf den Helmbezügen für alle Waffengattungen.</p> <p>1. Seine Majestät der Kaiser und König haben zu genehmigen geruht, daß das feldgraue Hocktuch künftig in der Farbe des bisherigen feldgrauen Hosenstoffs hergestellt wird. Der Grundstoff zu den langen Tughosen, Reit- und Stiefelhosen ist grau. Die Anfertigung der Stoffe in den neuen Farben beginnt, sowie die Fabrikanten die in der bisherigen Farbe eingefärbten Wollen verbraucht haben. Für die Offizier- usw. Bekleidung können solche Stoffe verwendet werden, sowie die Lieferanten im Besitze derselben sind. Für Felddröcke ist auch Trikot, für Stiefelhosen Cord zulässig.</p> <p>2. Alle Waffengattungen (ausgenommen beim Gardekorps) tragen künftig Nummern (und zwar grüne, statt rote) auf den Helm- usw. Bezügen. Weitere Verfügung geht an die stellvertretenden Generalkommandos.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">v. Falkenhayn</p>	<p>Berlin den 15. August 1914.</p>
<p>Ministry of War No. 992/8. 14. B. 3.</p> <p>No. 228. Change in the color of the ground cloth for the field gray tunics, etc. Introduction of green numbers on helmet covers for all branches of arms.</p> <p>1. His Majesty the Emperor and King have granted permission for the field gray tunic cloth to be manufactured in the color of the previous field gray pants cloth. The basic fabric for long pants, riding breeches and breeches is gray. The production of fabrics in the new colors begins as soon as the manufacturers have used up the wool dyed in the previous color. For officers' etc. such fabrics may be used for officers' clothing, etc., as long as the suppliers are in possession of them. Tricot may be used for field shirts, and corduroy for breeches.</p> <p>2. All branches of the armed forces (except for the Guard Corps) will in future bear numbers (green instead of red) on their helmets, etc. covers. Further order goes to the deputy general commands.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">v. Falkenhayn.</p>	<p>Berlin, August 15, 1914.</p>

Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1914, No. 228, of 15.8.1914, page 315

Just another 4 days later, the importance of removing sunlight-reflecting objects and the red numbers on helmet covers was again explicitly stressed.

<p>Kriegsministerium Nr. 1310/8. 14. B. 3.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nr. 227 Beseitigung aller blinkenden Ausrüstungsstücke usw. zur Felduniform.</p> <p>Seine Majestät der Kaiser und König haben zu befehlen geruht, daß zur Felduniform im Gefecht Adjutantenschnäpeln und Feldbinden mit einem grauen Ueberzug zu versehen oder mangels eines solchen ganz abzulegen sind. An Stelle der Feldbinde tritt dann ein lederner Gurt. Ordensschnallen und Orden sind im Gefecht nicht anzulegen, alle sonst im Sonnenlicht glänzenden Uniform- oder Ausrüstungsstücke sind abzulegen. Die roten Regimentsnummern auf den Helmüberzügen bei Offizieren und Mannschaften sind zu entfernen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Vertretung: Bild v. Hohenborn</p>	<p>Berlin, den 19. August 1914.</p>
<p>War Ministry No. 1310/8. 14. B. 3.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No. 227. Removal of all flashing accoutrements, etc., to field uniform.</p> <p>His Majesty the Emperor and King has decreed that adjutant's sashes and field dress uniforms are to be provided with a gray cover or, in the absence of such, are to be discarded altogether. A leather belt will then take the place of the sash. Order buckles and medals are not to be worn in combat, and all other items of uniform or equipment reflecting sunlight are to be removed. The red regimental numbers on the helmet covers of officers and enlisted men are to be removed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By delegation: Bild v. Hohenborn</p>	<p>Berlin, August 19, 1914.</p>



Figure 8: Landsturm helmet cover with green Landwehr cross and battalion number below (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)

Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1914, No. 227, of 19.8.1914, page 315

In this War, more troops and units were assembled than ever before and quite a few regiments or battalions were newly formed. All these units had to function together and the army command had to keep track of all the different units. Therefore, the German army experimented with more designations on the helmet covers during the first years of the war. No longer were only the green regimental numbers and numbers with an "R" or "L" above them used.

For the Landsturm battalions, for example, a green Landwehr cross was introduced on the helmet cover on 14.4.1915, and below it the battalion number in Arabic numerals (Figure 8).

As with other Landsturm regulations, however, this regulation was not uniformly implemented in the following period. So it came that the following markings, sewn and painted, were also documented:

- Landwehr Cross without battalion number.
- Completely missing marking for Landsturmtruppen.
- Landwehr crosses made of metal (which was actually absolutely inadmissible because of the reflections of the metal).
- Landwehr cross and below it the corps number in Roman numerals next to the battalion number in Arabic numerals.
- Landwehr Cross and below it the corps number in Roman numeral and again below it the battalion number in Arabic numeral.
- "L" in place of the Landwehr Cross (which normally stood for "Landwehr") and below it the corps number in Roman numerals next to the battalion number in Arabic numerals.

<p>Kriegsministerium. Nr. 1076/3. 15. B 3.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stoßes Hauptquartier den 14. April 1915.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nr. 304. Abzeichen usw. für Landsturmformationen</p> <p>1. Die Truppengattungen der Landsturmformationen unterscheiden sich gemäß §§ 120¹, 122², 126³, 127⁴ der Bekleidungs-Ordnung II. Teil hauptsächlich durch die verschiedenfarbigen Schulterbündelklappen ohne Nummern am Waffenrock (Litewka). Sie sind bei der Infanterie blau, den Pionieren schwarz, der Feldartillerie ponceaurot, der Fußartillerie gelb.</p> <p>Solche aufgenähten Schulterklappen erhalten künftig auch die Mäntel. An diesen sowie an den Litewken fallen die Kragepatten - einschl. Litzen - fort.</p> <p>2. Die Abzeichen zur Kennzeichnung der Landsturmformationen bei den in Ziffer 1 genannten Waffengattungen werden vorn am Kragen (heiderseits) des Waffenrocks (Litewka) und des Mantels angebracht. Sie bestehen in der Nummer des Armeekorps in römischer Zahl - beim Gardekorps III -, darunter die Nummer des Bataillons usw. in arabischer Zahl, innerhalb jedes Armeekorps von Nummer 1 ab - einschl. Landsturm-Ersatzformationen - durchlaufend. Die Zahlen sind aus matriertem Messing, jedoch dürfen die vorhandenen blanken arabischen Nummern aufgebraucht werden.</p> <p>Proben der matrierten Zahlen erhalten die Bekleidungsämter von der Bekleidungs-Abteilung des Kriegsministeriums.</p> <p>3. Alle entgegenstehenden Bestimmungen werden hiermit aufgehoben.</p> <p>4. Die mobile Verwendung findenden Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillone führen am Helmübergang unter dem Landwehrkreuz nur die Bataillonsnummer (vgl. Probe vom 15. März 1915 - Nr. 2523/2. 15. B 3 G -).</p> <p>5. Die bisherige Bezeichnung aller Formationen des Landsturms muß während des Krieges beibehalten werden. Dieser ist in Klammern die neue Bezeichnung beizufügen, z. B. Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillon Nechlinghausen (VII. 15.), oder 10. Landsturm-Infanterie-Ersatz-Bataillon VII. Armeekorps (VII. 42.).</p> <p>6. Die stellvertretenden Generalkommandos haben hiernach das Weitere zu veranlassen und dem Kriegsministerium (Armee-Abteilung) Nachweisungen vorzulegen, aus denen die Benennung der einzelnen Landsturmformationen und die ihnen zugewiesenen Abzeichen (vgl. Ziffer 5) ersichtlich sind.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bild v. Hohenborn.</p>	<p>War Department. No. 1076/3. 15h B 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Grand Headquarters, April 14, 1915.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No. 304. Insignias etc. for Landsturm formations.</p> <p>1. According to §§ 120¹, 122², 126³, 127⁴ of the Bekleidungs-Ordnung II. Part mainly by the different colored belt shoulder flaps without numbers on the tunic (Litewka). They are the infantry blue, the pioneers black, the field artillery ponceau red, the foot artillery yellow.</p> <p>In the future, the coats will also have such shoulder epaulettes sewn onto them. On these, as well as on the liteworks, the collar flaps - including braids - will be discontinued.</p> <p>2. The insignia identifying the Landsturm formations of the branches of the armed forces mentioned in paragraph 1 will be attached to the front of the collar (on both sides) of the tunic (litewka) and the coat. They consist of the number of the army corps in Roman numerals - in the case of the Guards Corps III - and below that the number of the battalion, etc. in Arabic numerals, within each army corps from number 1 onwards - including Landsturm substitute formations. The numbers are of matted MesSing, but existing blank Arabic numbers may be used up.</p> <p>Samples of the matted numbers will be furnished to the clothing offices by the Clothing Division of the War Department.</p> <p>3. All contrary regulations are hereby repealed.</p> <p>4. The Landsturm infantry battalions in mobile use will bear only the battalion number on the helmet cover under the Landwehr cross (cf. sample of 15 March 1915 - No. 2523/2. 15. B 3 G -).</p> <p>5. The previous designation of all formations of the Landsturm must be retained during the war. The new designation must be added to this in parentheses, e.g. Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillon Nechlinghausen (VII. 15.), or 10th Landsturm Infantry Replacement Battalion VII Army Corps (VII. 42.).</p> <p>6. The deputy general commands are hereafter to arrange for further action and to submit to the War Ministry (Army Department) records showing the designation of the individual Landsturm formations and the insignia assigned to them (cf. item 5).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bild v. Hohenborn.</p>
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Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1915, No. 304, of 14.4.1915, page 172

But as the AKO of 1.3.1916 shows, there were also authorized deviations from the rule. This regulation ordered newly formed batteries of foot artillery to wear the battery number on their helmet covers as long as they were not yet assigned to a foot artillery battalion unit. Furthermore, soldiers of ammunition columns of field artillery or foot artillery wore the column number in Roman numerals on their helmet covers (since ammunition supply was an Army Corps resource, the Roman numeral reflected the Army Corps). Photos of soldiers with atypical markings on their helmet covers also suggest other experimental designations.

<p>Kriegsministerium . Nr. 2075/12. 15. B 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Berlin den 1. März 1916.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nr. 147. Abzeichen für selbstständige Fußartillerie-Batterien.</p> <p>Sämtliche während des Krieges neuaufgestellten Batterien der Fußartillerie tragen, solange sie keinem Fußartillerie-Bataillonsverband angehören, abweichend von § 127 der Bekleidungs-Ordnung II als Abzeichen auf den Schulterklappen und Helmübergängen die ihnen bei der Neuaufstellung beigelegte Nummer der Batterie.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Verrerrung: v. Wandel</p> <hr/> <p>War Ministry No. 2075/12. 15. B. 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Berlin, March 1, 1916.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No. 147. Badges for independent foot artillery batteries.</p> <p>All batteries of foot artillery newly raised during the war, as long as they do not belong to a battalion of foot artillery, will, in derogation of § 127 of the Bekleidungsordnung II, wear as insignia on their epaulettes and helmet covers the number of the battery attached to them at the time of their new issue.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In deputy: v. Wandel</p>

Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1916, No. 147, dated 1.3.1916, page 132

On 21.9.1915 the field-gray peace uniform and the new helmet M15 were presented, why also the helmet cover was adapted again. Due to the removable top of the helmet, also the cloth cone was always a separate part. Furthermore, the M15 helmet covers had side slots for the chin straps (Figure 9).

Between October 1915 and March 1916, the fabrics of the helmet covers were also changed from reed green to field gray. On the one hand, this was certainly an adaptation to the new uniform, which was now entirely field gray, but on the other hand, the previous helmet covers had also worn out and faded too quickly in the field. For this reason, special attention was paid to the use of particularly lightfast dyes for the fabrics of the new covers, as the article in the „Färber-Zeitung“ of March 1916 shows.

<p>Erläuterungen zu der Beilage No. 6.</p> <p>No. 1. Indanthrenfarbiger Helmbezugstoff.</p> <p>Infolge der schlechten Erfahrungen, welche während des Krieges mit ungenügend echten Helmüberzügen gemacht wurden — dieselben waren in kurzer Zeit derart verschossen, daß sie ihren Zweck verfehlten —, hat sich das Bekleidungs-Beschaffungsamt nach vorgenommener Prüfung entschlossen, für vorliegenden Zweck die echten Indanthrenfarbstoffe vorzuschreiben und ein Gewebe als Typ aufzustellen, welches in der Kette ein sattes Oliv, im Schuß ein Grau enthält.</p>	<p>Explanatory notes to supplement No.6.</p> <p>No. 1: Indanthrene-colored helmet cover fabric.</p> <p>As a result of the bad experiences made during the war with insufficiently genuine helmet covers — These were so worn out in a short time that they failed to serve their purpose — the Clothing Procurement Office decided, after a thorough examination, to prescribe the use of genuine indanthrene dyes for the present purpose and to establish a fabric as a type, which in the warp a rich olive in the warp, and in the weft a gray in the weft.</p>
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"Färber-Zeitung" volume 27 (1916), attachment to issue 6 of 15.3.1916, page 90

Figure 9: M15 helmet cover with green regimental number (photo courtesy of James LeBrasseur)

At the end of 1916, however, it dawned on the Germans that the Entente also used the information on the helmet covers to identify the German units. As a result, on 27.10.1916 the order was also given to remove the green designations from them. Only the green crosses of the Landsturm were kept on the covers.

<p>Kriegsministerium . Nr. 2403/9. 16. B. 3.</p>	<p>Berlin den 27. Oktober 1916.</p>
<p>Nr. 735. Fortfall der Abzeichen an den Helm- usw. Überzügen</p>	
<p>Seine Majestät der Kaiser und König haben zu befehlen geruht, daß an den Helm- usw. Überzügen fortan keine Abzeichen (Nummern und Buchstaben) zu führen sind. Die vorhandenen Abzeichen sind alsbald zu entfernen.</p>	
<p>Wld v. Hohenborn.</p>	
<p>Kriegsministerium No. 2403/9. 16. B. 3.</p>	<p>Berlin, October 27, 1916.</p>
<p>No. 735. Removal of the insignias, etc. on the helmet covers.</p>	
<p>His Majesty the Emperor and King have deigned to approve that at the helmet etc.. From now on, no insignia (numbers or letters) are to be worn on helmets, etc. The existing insignia are to be removed as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>Wld v. Hohenborn.</p>	

Transcript from the "Armee-Verordnungs-Blatt" of 1916, No. 735, of 27.10.1916, page 416

With the steel helmet then also the helmet covers became superfluous, since at these helmets no more decoration was led and they were painted immediately in camouflage color.