

- Cockades -

The history of the pickelhauben cockades

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR KIND SUPPORT, AS I WAS ALLOWED TO USE SAMPLE PICTURES AND INFORMATION OF THEM. MY THANKS GO TO JAMES LEBRASSEUR, JOHN MANN, JOHN SCHULER, TONY SCHNURR, BERNARD VITTE AND BRIAN LORÉE

As early as the age of knights, some kind of insignia was worn on the helmet. This was later continued in the form of the cockade on the headgear. Originally, in the 17th century, colored ribbons were worn on the headdresses of individual troop bodies to differentiate the companies. These were first used to make rosettes by crossing the ribbons and fastening them to the headdress with a button. For military purposes, these rosettes were made of more durable materials such as leather or sheet metal and painted in the national colors. This resulted in the last known form of cockade.

The earliest cockade as a sign of a ruling house was the orange cockade of the Oranians. The French Revolution and Napoleon's attacks all over Europe then made the idea of the national cockade widespread.

In the armies of the German states the cockade was generally introduced around 1810. At first it only showed the regional origin of the wearer, but later it could also roughly indicate the rank of the wearer, since it was designed differently for enlisted men and officers (and later also for non-commissioned officers with portepée). It was worn on all military headgear (with the exception of grenadier caps) in Germany, but this essay only addresses cockades on pickelhauben starting in 1842.

For a long time in Prussia and in the German states, there was only the national cockade worn on the right side, which, as already mentioned, was always designed in the colors of the fatherland. However, with the signing of the military conventions for the North German Confederation and the founding of the German Empire (see 1867-1871), the armies of many smaller German states were integrated into the Prussian Army. The soldiers of these states therefore wore the Prussian cockade on the left, and the cockade of their home country on the right. Long after the founding of the Empire, the German Imperial Cockade in black-white-red, or black-silver-red for the officers, was generally introduced in 1897, the year in which the founder of the Empire, Kaiser Wilhelm I, would have celebrated his 100th birthday. With the introduction of this „Reichskokarde“, the state cockade switched to the left side and the Reichs-Kokarde took the place on the right side of the helmet. In the case of the non-Prussian countries, whose armies were integrated into the Prussian Army around 1870, the soldiers wore the cockade of their home country on the left side from 1897 onwards and discarded the Prussian cockade.

The new types of helmets (Pickelhauben) with cockades in the colors of the individual countries, but mostly in the Prussian style, were introduced into the armies of the German states as follows:

Kingdom of Prussia 1842	1843 Grand Duchy of Oldenburg
Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, Duchy of Saxe-Ältenburg, Principality of Reuss (older and younger), Duchy of Anhalt, Principality of Lippe-Detmold, Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe, Principality of Waldeck, free Hanseatic Cities of Bremen, Hamburg und Luebeck	1848 Kingdom of Bavaria (Landwehr), Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
Grand Duchy of Baden, Grand Duchy of Hesse	1850 Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Principality of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen
Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen	1867 Kingdom of Saxony
Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Reichsland Alsace-Lorraine	1886 Duchy of Brunswick, Kingdom of Bavaria (whole army)

The colors of the state cockades (enumeration from inside to outside) of the various German states were as follows:

- Prussia:	Black-White-Black
- Bavaria:	White-Light Blue-White
- Saxony:	White-Green-White
- Wuerttemberg:	Black-Red-Black (or red with black edge)
- Baden:	Yellow-Red-Yellow (or red with yellow edge)
- Hesse-Darmstadt:	White with 2 red rings
- Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz:	Red-Yellow-Blue
- Oldenburg:	Blue-Red-Blue
- Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach:	Black-Green-Yellow
- Brunswick:	Blue-Yellow-Blue
- Anhalt:	Green
- The 3 Saxon Grand Duchies:	White-Green -White (until 1867)
- Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt:	White-Blue-White (until 1867)
- Schwarzburg-Sondershausen:	White-Blue -White
- Reuss:	Black-Red-Yellow
- Schaumburg-Lippe:	Blue-Red-White (or white-red-white)
- Lippe-Detmold:	Yellow-Red-Yellow (or red with yellow edge)
- Waldeck-Pyrmont:	Black-Red-Yellow (or red with yellow edge)
- Hamburg, Bremen, Luebeck:	White cockade with red Maltese Cross (until 1897)

In 1867, the following state cockades were modified:

- The 3 Saxon Grand Duchies:	Green-White-Green
- Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt:	Blue-White-Blue
- Schwarzburg-Sondershausen:	White-Blue-White

In 1897 the following state cockades were modified:

- Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach:	Black-Yellow-Green
- Bremen:	The cockade no longer had a cross in the middle, colors were now - White-Red-White -
- Hamburg:	The cross was now a Hanseatic cross (without the v-shaped notches at the ends)
- Luebeck:	The Maltese cross no longer went to the edge of the cockade, but ended slightly above half the radius of the cockade now - White-Red-White -

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY, GERMANY SLOWLY SWITCHED FROM THE INCH- TO THE METRIC SYSTEM AND THEREFORE ROUNDED THE GIVEN MEASUREMENTS. HOWEVER, SINCE EACH COUNTRY HAD ITS OWN DEFINITION FOR 1 INCH BEFORE THAT, LARGER MEASUREMENT RANGES ARE ALSO QUITE NORMAL FOR THE COCKADE DIAMETER, ESPECIALLY ON EARLY HELMETS. FOR THIS REASON, I GIVE THE COCKADE DIAMETERS IN MARGINS OF 5 MM.

1842 (Prussia)

In this year the pickelhaube M/42 was introduced in Prussia.

- ❖ **Enlisted men:** The cockade up to the rank of vice sergeant consisted of a blackened, wavy pressed leather disc with a serrated edge and had a diameter of 70 - 75 mm. About 7 - 8 mm from the serrated edge, a white ring about 5 mm wide was painted on (Fig. 1).
- ❖ **Officers:** Sergeants and officers ranks also wore a leather cockade with a diameter of 70 - 75 mm, but instead of the painted white ring of the enlisted cockade, it had a silver-plated affixed metal ring decorated with a diagonal hatching embossing (Fig. 2). This makes the ring look similar to a cord, which was popularly used as a decoration for various objects at that time.

❖ **Officers in Life Cuirassier Rgt. No. 1:** Due to the regimental history, the officers of this regiment wore on the metal pickelhaube from the beginning a cockade in old Hessian form, which was described in this essay as "Extra Type 1". It consisted of a silver disc painted black and pressed into folds with an unpainted rim stripe. In addition, they were flattened on one side and from 1896 at the latest were only 50 mm in size (see clothing regulations for officers - part 2 from 1896).



FIG. 1: LEATHER COCKADE FOR ENLISTED MEN OF 1842, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM WITH WHITE PAINTED RING
 FIG. 2: LEATHER COCKADE FOR OFFICERS OF 1842, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM WITH SILVER-PLATED METAL RING

1844

❖ **NCO's with Portepee:** On 9.3.1844 non-commissioned officers with portepe were allowed to wear the officer's cockade. Portepee ensigns and music masters, however, had to obtain them at their own expense.

(Kr.-M. v. 9. März u. 11. Mai 1844, 26. März 1847). Die zum Tragen des silbernen Portepees Berechtigten dürfen auch die schwarz-silberne Kokarde tragen, Portepee-Führer und Musikmeister müssen sich dieselbe jedoch selbst beschaffen.

(Kriegsministerium, March 9 and May 11, 1844, March 26, 1847) Those entitled to wear the silver portepe may also wear the black and silver cockade. However, portepee ensigns and music masters must obtain these themselves.

„DIENST-VORSCHRIFTEN DER KÖNIGLICH PREUSSISCHEN ARMEE: INNERER DIENST, GARNISONSDIENST“- VOL. 1-2, PAGE 69 ([HTTP://BOOKS.GOOGLE.DE](http://books.google.de))

1846

- **Enlisted men:** Since the color held badly on the leather, it was permitted to wear cockades from wool by AKO on 27.10.1846 (Fig. 3).
- **Officers:** At that time, officers often wore silk cockades (Fig. 4). Since these didn't last long, however, they later switched to metal cockades.



FIG. 3: WOOLEN COCKADE FOR ENLISTED MEN, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM
 FIG. 4: SILK OFFICER'S COCKADE, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM

1848-1851

During the revolutionary period from 21.3.48 to 14.3.51, a "German cockade" in "black-red-gold" (enumeration from the inside to the outside) was worn on the left (Fig. 5). However, this type of cockade was discarded again after the revolution had failed.



FIG. 5: SILK "GERMAN COCKADE" OF 70 - 75 MM DIAMETER (SOURCE: [HTTP://MASAS-ATTIC.JUGEM.JP/?EID=149](http://MASAS-ATTIC.JUGEM.JP/?EID=149))

1857

At the end of 1857, the M/57 pickelhaube was introduced and it was decided to make the cockades from a more durable material, as the paint on the leather didn't hold up well and the cloth cockades weren't very durable.

❖ **Enlisted men:** The cockade was now a metal disc pressed into folds, still with a diameter of 70 - 75 mm and a ring painted on in color (Fig. 6). In the center it had a mounting hole of about 8 - 9 mm for attachment under the chin scale. The material was mostly iron sheet. In Baden, however, brass sheet was preferred because it did not have to be painted and only a red ring had to be painted on.



FIG. 6: METAL COCKADE M1857, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM



FIG. 7: METAL COCKADE M1857 FOR OFFICERS, DIAMETER 70 - 75 MM

❖ **Officers:** The officers' cockades were now also made of metal. However, the ring was not painted, but continued to be a silver-plated affixed metal ring (Fig. 7).

❖ **Issued helmets:** Upgraded helmets mostly kept their old cockades. To save costs, the planned wearing times for cockades, which at that time was 5 years, were respected if possible.

1862

In 1862, a new model of cuirassier helmet was introduced, which also included a smaller cockade for this type of helmet.

❖ **Metal-Helmets:** The cockade diameter for the metal cuirassier helmets, which had previously been identical to the diameter of the cockades on the leather helmets, was reduced to 60 - 65 mm for enlisted men and officers. This cockade diameter was maintained for all metal pickelhauben, also for the later emerging metal helmets of the Jäger zu Pferde (hunters on horseback), until the end.

1867

❖ **Enlisted men:** On 16.3.67 the helmet height was reduced again and with it the cockade diameter was adjusted for the first time. The enlisted men's cockade was reduced to a diameter of about 50 mm (Fig. 8).

❖ **Officers:** The officers also received a lower helmet M/67 on 2.5.67. For them, however, a completely new cockade model was introduced, which differed in size and design from the enlisted men's cockade. The "double ring" or "twin ring" cockade had a diameter of 55 mm and a newly designed silver-plated slip-on ring of 5 mm width. This consisted of 2 interconnected rings 2.5 mm wide, with slightly raised thin borders (the inner border was sometimes just dotted). The area between the raised edges was usually embossed with a decorative fishbone pattern (Fig. 9 right). Varying designs, however, suggest some design latitude on the part of the manufacturers. According to the regulations, an approx. 8 mm wide ring should still be visible from the outer serrated edge of the cockade.



FIG. 8: COCKADE M1867 WITH 50 MM DIAMETER

❖ **NCO's with Portepee:** After officers received the double-ring cockade, non-commissioned officers with a portepee continued to wear a cockade in the style of the old officers' cockade. Like the enlisted men's cockade, however, it had a diameter of about 50 mm (Fig. 9, left).

❖ **Saxony** introduced the pickelhaube. The Saxon cockades of the previous helmets were adopted unchanged and had a diameter of only 47 mm (2 inches).



FIG. 9: COCKADES FOR NCO'S WITH PORTEPEE 50 MM (LEFT) AND OFFICERS WITH DOUBLE RING 55 MM (RIGHT)

1871

❖ After the founding of the German Empire, the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg adopted the Prussian-style pickelhaube on 25.9.1871. The Wuerttemberg cockade according to the Baden model continued to be worn, but it was also available according to the Prussian model, with a serrated edge.

- ❖ The Prussian helmet was also introduced in Alsace and Lorraine, which were now German territories again.

1867 - 1871

With the conclusion of the military conventions of Prussia and many smaller German principalities in 1867/1868, as well as after the founding of the German Empire in 1871, the troops of smaller German states were integrated into the Prussian military after an army reorganization and the regulations of the armies of larger states were harmonized with those of Prussia. In all cases where officers and enlisted men were required to wear the Prussian cockade on their helmets as well as the state cockade, the Prussian cockade was worn on the right side and the state cockade on the left:

- The Prussian and the homeland national cockade was worn by every non-Prussian soldier who served in a Prussian unit that was not stationed in his homeland. Furthermore, all Brunswick nationals, the officers of the Anhalt and Thuringian infantry regiments No. 93 to 96, from Saxony-Weimar, from the 3 Saxon Grand Duchies, from Reuss and from Schwarzburg, as well as the officers of the Baden units (with the exception of the generals and the general staff, who wore only the Prussian cockade).
- In Bavaria, Saxony, Wuerttemberg and Mecklenburg, only the state cockade was worn. Likewise, the enlisted men of the Anhalt and Thuringian Infantry Regiments Nos. 93 to 96, from Saxony-Weimar, from the 3 Saxon Grand Duchies, from Reuß and from Schwarzburg wore only the state cockade on their helmets.
- In Oldenburg the officers wore only the Prussian cockade. The Oldenburg troops belonging to the standing army wore the Prussian and the state cockade on their helmets, if they were Oldenburg citizens.
- The enlisted men of the Baden units wore only the Baden cockade on their helmets. The officers of the Prussian regiments detached to the 14th (Baden) Army Corps, on the other hand, didn't put on the Baden cockade and wore only the Prussian cockade.

1886

After their sovereigns Duke Wilhelm of Brunswick (†1884) and King Ludwig II of Bavaria (†1886) who had previously refused to introduce the pickelhaube, died in quick succession, Brunswick and Bavaria now introduced the helmet. The cockade was made of iron or brass plate in Brunswick, and of nickel silver or iron plate in Bavaria.

1887

- ❖ **Enlisted men:** With the introduction of the new chinstrap fastening with hook and thorn buckle for the helmet M/87 (Fig. 10), additional small holes were punched in the inner rim of the cockade next to the mounting hole (Fig. 11). These were necessary to fix the hook fastening so that it could not twist. Some older cockades were also retrofitted with the additional hole for the hook fastening.



FIG. 10: HELMET M87 WITH THE SPECIAL CHINSTRAP ATTACHMENT



FIG. 11: COCKADE WITH HOLE FOR M87 CHINSTRAP ATTACHMENT

1891

- ❖ **Enlisted men:** Since the hook fastening was found to be impractical, a new chinstrap fastening was introduced for the enlisted men in 1891. The M/91 chinstrap fastener consisted of a small cylindrical knob with a backward directed arrow on it (Fig. 12). Through this, the metal loop of the chinstrap, which was provided with a matching notch, could not be lost, because the chinstrap could only be removed facing backwards. For the new fastening, the mounting hole of the cockades was enlarged up to 14 - 15 mm, but the outer diameter in 1891 was still 50 mm (Fig. 13).
- ❖ **NCO's with Portepee:** The cockade for NCOs with portepee also still had a diameter of 50 mm and received the enlarged mounting hole of 14 - 15 mm for the new chinstrap attachment. As before, however, it had the silver-plated affixed metal ring in the design of the old officer cockade.



FIG. 12: HELMET M91 WITH NEW CHINSTRAP-ATTACHM.



FIG. 13: COCKADE M91 FOR ENLISTED MEN, D=50MM AND 15 MM MOUNTINGHOLE



FIG. 14: ISSUE COCKADE M91 FOR ENLISTED MEN WITH „V“-NOTCH



FIG. 15: ISSUED OFFICER COCKADE FOR M91-CHINSTRAP ATTACHM.

❖ **Issued cockades:** Older cockades were simply drilled out and sometimes also provided with a V-shaped notch in order to slide them over the M91 fastening button (Fig. 14). Sometimes, however, only 2 small holes were made next to the small mounting hole of 8 - 9 mm diameter, allowing the cockades to be slid over the locking pins of the M91 button (Fig. 15/16). The latter adjustment even had the advantage that the cockades could not be lost even when the chinstrap was removed.



FIG. 16: M91-BUTTON WITH LOCKING PINS

1895

- ❖ **Enlisted men:** With the further reduction in height from the new M95 helmet introduced for the foot troops, the cockade diameter was also slightly reduced and was now 48 mm.
- ❖ **Mounted troops:** Since the helmet M95 was not only somewhat lower, but also thinner core leather was used for it, mounted units avoided the helmet M95 for the time being for safety reasons. Thus, they kept the helmet 91 with the thicker leather and also the cockade with 50 mm diameter for a while.
- ❖ **Officers:** Although the lower helmet M95 was also introduced for officers, the officer cockade was not changed. It still had a diameter of 55 mm. However, in the draft of the clothing regulation for officers of 1895, an officer's cockade made of blank leather was listed as well. In the final version of the 1896 clothing regulation for officers, however, a metal cockade was again prescribed. The 1899 version, on the other hand, only included a size specification of 55 mm, without naming a material. So if a leather 55 mm officer's cockade were found on an M95 officer's helmet, it would be extremely rare, but may be original.

1897

Introduction of the imperial cockade for all ranks. It was worn on the helmet on the right side, while the state cockade moved to the left side. The non-Prussian soldiers, who previously wore the homeland national cockade and the Prussian cockade, dropped the Prussian cockade and now wore only the native state cockade and the imperial cockade. In addition, the diameter of enlisted cockades and those of non-commissioned officers with a portepee, except those for metal helmets and Saxon enlisted cockades, was now reduced to 48 mm (Fig. 13). According to regulations, the ring was no larger than 46 mm in diameter and was still about 5 mm wide.

1915

This year marks the last adjustments to the pickelhaube and with it the cockades for leather helmets. The helmet M15 was introduced for officers and enlisted men.

- ❖ **Enlisted men and NCO's with Portepee:** For named troops the cockades did not change.
- ❖ **Officers:** The central mounting hole of the officers' cockade, which had never changed until then, was now also enlarged up to 14 - 15 mm and adapted to the M91 chinscale mount (Fig. 17). The officer's cockade, however, retained its diameter of 55 mm.
- ❖ **Issue helmets and „Ersatz“ helmets:** Older cockades were adapted similarly to the 1891 cockades for enlisted men. In 1915, those cockades can still be found on the helmets. The different diameters of 50

mm or 48 mm were probably too insignificant, which is why well-preserved cockades of the larger variant remained in use to the last.

❖ **In addition**, leather cockades with a diameter of 48 mm can be found sometimes on 1914 BING replacement helmets made of metal! This was done to avoid metallic rattling and scratching of the metal helmet shell.

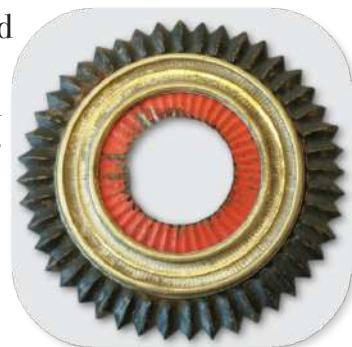


FIG. 17: OFFICER'S COCKADE M15 WITH MOUNTING HOLE OF 14 - 15 MM DIAMETER



Specific regional features of cockades of individual states

Baden, Saxony, Wuerttemberg, Hesse and Anhalt often used one of the 2 next cockade patterns:

- ❖ **Extra type 1** (Old Hessian) were one-piece officer's cockades made of thin sheet metal pressed in folds with folded smooth edge. Thin lines in the form of concentric circles were pressed on the disk. This cockade had no ring, only a colored rim (Fig. 18).



FIG. 18: EXTRA TYPE 1 OFFICER'S COCKADE WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

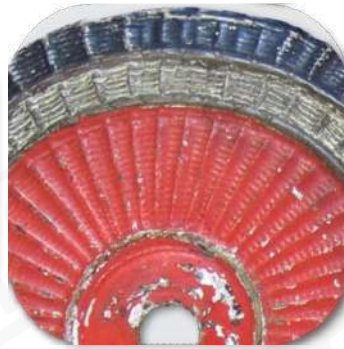


FIG. 19: CLOSE-UP OF AN EXTRA TYPE 2 EMPIRE COCKADE WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES



FIG. 20: SAXON EXTRA TYPE 2 OFFICER'S COCKADE

- ❖ **Extra type 2** were one-piece officers cockade made of thin sheet metal with folded edge. There were spokes and closely arranged concentric circles pressed on the disc in the form of thin lines and the fields between the spokes were slightly wavy. About 5 mm from the outer edge, a 5 mm wide ring was highlighted by 2 slightly thicker outlines (Fig. 19 (here an Imperial cockade) or Fig. 20).

- ❖ **Hessian enlisted men's and officers' cockades** were very similar to the Extra types, except that 2 slightly recessed rings were pressed into it, painted red for enlisted men and enameled red for officers (Fig. 21 right).

- ❖ **Saxon cockades** had a diameter of only 47 mm as early as 1867. They were one-piece white cockades made of thin sheet metal with a smooth edge. A narrow ripple pattern was stamped on the disk and about 5 - 6 mm from the rim was stamped an approximately 5 mm wide and somewhat recessed green painted ring. Starting in 1895, "V" shaped cutouts were prescribed on the mounting hole (Fig. 21 left). For officers, the disk was silver and the ring was enameled. After 1895, Saxon officers' cockades measured 55 mm. However, enlisted men's and officers' cockades in the Prussian style, with the serrated edge, can also be found on Saxon helmets.

- ❖ **Hanseatic cockades** had a Hanseatic cross or Maltese cross instead of the 5 mm wide ring (Fig. 22).

- ❖ **In addition**, the cockades just mentioned with a "V"-shaped notch (Fig. 21 left) also existed sometimes on other cockades.



FIG. 21: SAXON FLUTED COCKADE FOR ENLISTED MEN (LEFT) | HESSIAN EXTRA TYPE 2 COCKADE FOR ENLISTED MEN WITH CONCENTRIC CIRCLES AND 2 RINGS (RIGHT)

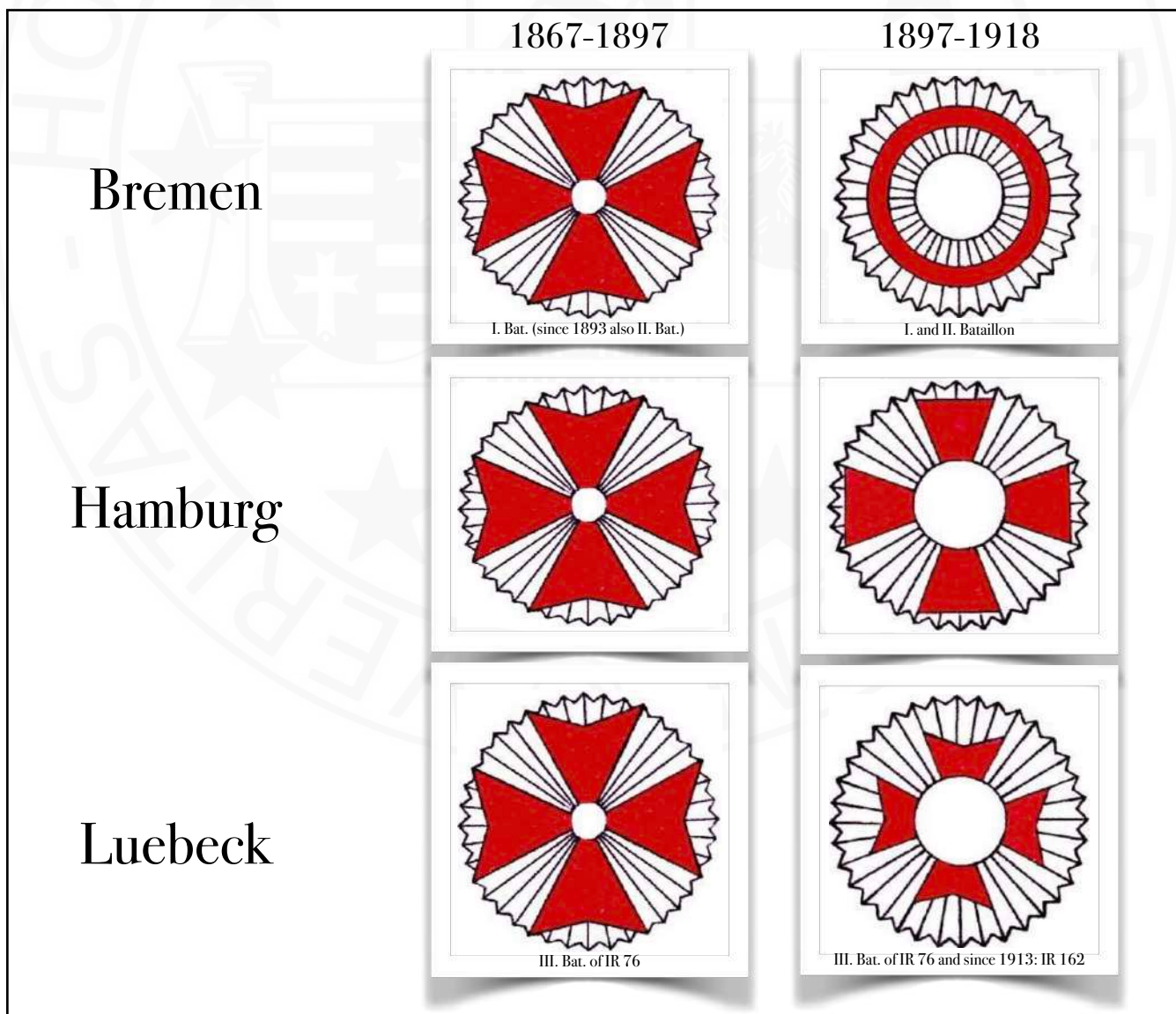


FIG. 22: HANSEATIC ENLISTED MEN COCKADE

Characteristics of the Hanseatic cockades

In 1867, as with so many German states at that time, Prussia also signed a military convention with the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Luebeck (Hamburg: 23.6.1867; Bremen and Luebeck: 27.6.1867). The Hanseatic troops were then integrated into the Prussian army and their soldiers from now on wore the standard Prussian helmet with the Hanseatic cockade on the left and the Prussian cockade on the right. The design of the Hanseatic state cockade was in the responsibility of the respective federal rulers, which is why they could look different.

- ❖ **Bremen:** From 1867-1897, Bremen citizens wore the Hanseatic cockade, a white fanned disc with a red Maltese cross on it. Unlike the "Hanseatic Cross", the "Maltese Cross" had a V-shaped notch at each of the 4 ends of the cross. Bremen citizens served mainly in the Bremen garrison, where the I Battalion of IR 75 was stationed (from 1893 also the II Battalion). Starting in 1897, Bremen citizens wore a Prussian-style cockade, in white with a red ring.
- ❖ **Hamburg:** Hamburg citizens also wore the Hanseatic cockade with the red Maltese cross from 1867-1897. The Hamburg nationals served mainly in the I. and II. Battalion of IR 76 and were stationed in Hamburg. From 1897, the Hamburg cockade showed a true Hanseatic cross.
- ❖ **Luebeck:** Until 1913, Luebeck nationals served in the III Battalion of IR 76, which was stationed in Luebeck. The cockade of the citizens of Luebeck was until 1897, as in Bremen and Hamburg, the Hanseatic one, with the red Maltese cross. After that, the cockade design for Luebeck citizens changed and the Maltese cross no longer went all the way to the edge of the cockade, but only reached a little over half of its radius. In 1913, the newly formed IR 162 was stationed in Luebeck, but the cockade of the Luebeck citizens did not change. Hamburg citizens who served in Luebeck always wore the cockade of Hamburg on their helmets.



Why was the Maltese cross worn on the cockade when it was supposed to be a Hanseatic cross?

The cockade with the Hanseatic cross was created in March 1813, when a separate Hanseatic Legion was formed from the contingents of the Hanseatic cities after the liberation from French oppression. The design goes back to patriots like Friedrich Perthes, H. M. Speckter and Dr. Ferdinand Benecke, who wanted to create a common symbol for this union. The cross had no historical connection to the Hanseatic League, as a common symbol of all Hanseatic cities. As a model served the Landwehr cross and the almost at the same time conceived and very popular - Iron Cross - which was founded on March 10, 1813.

However, unfortunately, the Hanseatic cross was never clearly defined in the regulations, which is why it was often shown in the form of a Maltese cross. This was maybe due to the more beautiful design or perhaps also a certain ignorance. But when the Hanseatic cockade was designed in 1867, probably a wrong historical representation was taken as a model, which is why a Maltese cross was used to decorate the Hanseatic cockades after 1867.*¹

*¹ „Der freien und Hansestadt Hamburg Wappen, Siegel, Flagge u. Cocarde“, Author C. F. Gaedchens (1855), pages 58 - 60



Reproductions or "Fake" cockades

A FREE TRANSLATION OF A GUIDE WRITTEN IN FRENCH BY THIERRY CARLI

Cockades are unfortunately the most faked parts for the pickelhaube. For collectors it is therefore especially important to be able to recognize such fakes as well as possible. However, since the cockade reproductions have become better and better, and still are, unfortunately it will probably not always succeed. But it is worth a try in any case!

To begin with, a few general tips for recognizing the simplest repro cockades:

- ❖ The first fakes were made of non-magnetic pewter. Original cockades were mostly made of iron and thus magnetic.
- ❖ The paint (especially the white lead paint) on the original cockades shows small cracks over time, often causing smaller pieces to chip off. This is difficult to replicate.
- ❖ Artificially aged cockades sometimes have an applied patina that can be rubbed off. A real patina can never be rubbed off. However, there are also machines with which a decades-long abrasion is to be imitated. However, this artificial wear also does not look like a real wear, because real wear does not occur everywhere, while artificial wear usually affects the protruding edges and surfaces fairly evenly.
- ❖ The colors of the cockades yellow with time. This yellowed shade is also not always well matched by counterfeiters.

Classification of cockade reproductions into different categories:

I) The copies of category I were all made very lovelessly, even untrained eyes recognize them as "fakes". As in the following examples, the colors on the cockades of this category are often applied uncleanly or do not hit the right hue (Fig. 24). Sometimes the serrations on the edge are uneven or their angle is either too shallow or too acute (Fig. 25). Sometimes the folds of the disc have simply been indicated, so that the "rays" inside the cockade ring, which should actually match the folds outside the ring, have merely been pressed in as strokes (Fig. 23, 25):



FIG. 23 - 25: REPRO-COCKADES

II) The reproductions of category II are already somewhat more elaborately worked. They come mainly from France, but are also offered by the manufacturer as reproductions in steel and brass plate.

HOWEVER, OTHER SELLERS (WITH DISHONEST INTENTIONS) SELL THEM AS "ORIGINALS".

Typical of this category is the shape of the "rays" inside the cockade ring. Where they meet the inner edge, the ridge, of the ring, the pressings have a rounded end, making the center of the cockade resemble the flower of a daisy, quite unlike a true cockade (Fig. 26). The curves are sometimes more pronounced, which is why it is not always easy to immediately recognize the reproductions of category II.

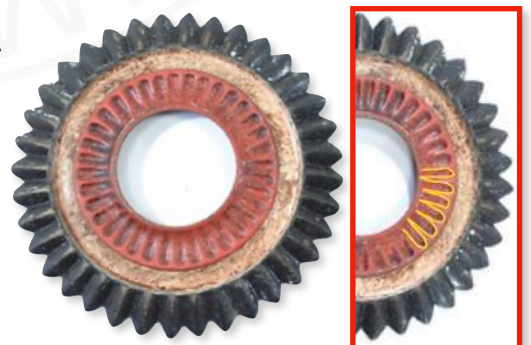


FIG. 26A+B - REPRO COCKADE CAT. II
(SOURCE: WWW.LAPETITEPIECE.FR)

III) With the copies of type III it becomes even more difficult. In fact, this category comes very close to authentic original cockades. The following repro cockade (Fig. 27) is already very well produced:

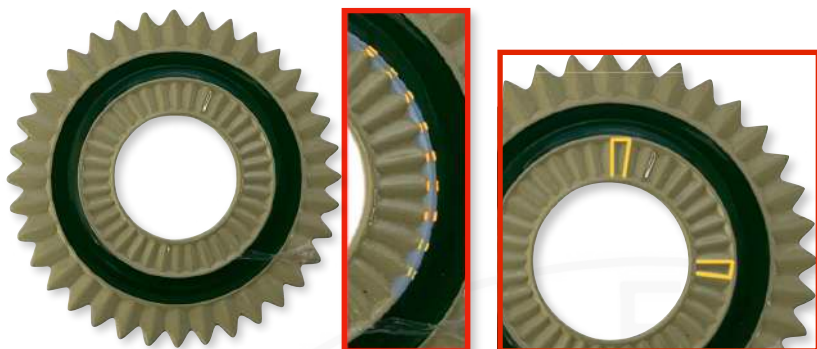


FIG. 27A -
REPRO COCKADE KAT. III

FIG. 27B

FIG. 27C

- ❖ The difference is that the "rays" (just like in the Cat. II) do not touch the ridge on the inner side of the cockade ring evenly (Fig. 27B). On the original, they always touch it evenly!
- ❖ Furthermore, the shadows of the inner "rays" in Category III copies always look quite rectangular, regardless of the angle, while they differ in the original 12 o'clock and 16 o'clock cockades (see Fig. 27C and 28):



FIG. 28A
ENLISTED MEN COCKADE M91 (PRUSSIA)

FIG. 28B

The following pictures Fig. 29-31 show original cockades once again, with subsequent explanations of how they can be recognized as:



FIG. 29A+B: ENLISTED MEN COCKADE M91 (PRUSSIA)

FIG. 30: ENLISTED MEN REICHSKOKARDE M91, D=50MM AND 14-15 MM MOUNTINGHOLE

FIG. 31: ENLISTED MEN REICHSKOKARDE M91, D=50MM AND 14-15 MM MOUNTINGHOLE

- ❖ The colors alone prove that the cockades shown in Fig. 29-31 are authentic. Orange discolored vermilion, stoneware white and the slightly faded black are perfect.
- ❖ Corrosion often forms under the paint. Moisture penetrates through minute cracks under the paint, causing the sheet metal to corrode under the paint. This is also difficult to replicate.
- ❖ In cockades, the ridge is mostly clearly accentuated at the edges of the cockade ring, but always evenly. However, due to thickly applied paint, it is not always easy to see. In some cases, unfortunately, the pressing was also applied with too little pressure, which is why some originals also do not have such clearly accentuated edges. In these cases, the focus should be clearly on the uniformity and on the other criteria.

- ❖ The "rays" in the center are less flower- or drop-shaped than in the copies. Depending on the viewing angle, they appear almost square. The different shadows at 12 and 16 o'clock (Fig. 28) are also a good feature.
- ❖ The "rays" also go all the way to the edge of the cockade ring and of the mounting hole, which is somewhat bent up. In copies, this is often flat.

All this shows how careful you have to be to identify the category III copies from original cockades. Of course, some details are tiny and one or the other copy is certainly not recognized as such, but it is worth looking closely...

AS FOR THE REGIONALLY SPECIFIC STATE COCKADES, SUCH AS HESSE, SAXONY, HANSEATIC CITIES, ETC., THE WEBSITES "KAMMERBULLE" OR "PRUSSIAN-GLORY" OFFER QUITE A NUMBER OF THEM, INCLUDING OFFICER VARIANTS. ACCORDINGLY, IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THESE COCKADES OFFERED ON THE NET ARE PATINATED COPIES.

Hanseatic reproduction cockades:

In the early years of the 2000s, reproductions of the rare M95 cockades from the Hanseatic IR162 from Luebeck flooded the market. Some of these copies were poorly painted and badly "patinated". However, there were also authentic works of art that were difficult to recognize as copies.

To explain the number of these copies someone invented a fable that all IR162 M95 cockades in Germany were found in the attic of an abandoned barracks. This lie worked for a while until it was finally disproved on a website selling the same model as replica cockades.

Here are 2 selected specimens of this reproduction variant:



FIG. 32A+B: REPRODUCTION OF AN ENLISTED MEN COCKADE OF THE IR 162



FIG. 33: REPRODUCTION OF AN ENLISTED MEN COCKADE OF THE IR 162

Fig. 34 on the left shows a reproduction of a silver cockade for a non-commissioned officer and on the right a white M97 for enlisted men. In green I have drawn the outline of the "swallow tail" of the Maltese Cross, as it should actually look like on a real enlisted cockade:



FIG. 34 (SOURCE: WWW.KAMMERBULLE.DE)

The corners of the dovetails should touch the pressed-in thin ring. In previous copies, the length of the dovetails was always too short, from which it can be easily seen. The length of the dovetails is about 45% of the length of the radius!

Fig. 35 shows a real officer's cockade, where the pressing of the Maltese cross correctly touches the thin line of the circle. The length of the dovetails is thus about 55% of the length of the radius on the original!



FIG. 35: OFFICER COCKADE - IR 162