



It is interesting to compare this well used G&S HSAT Mark I with the previously shown helmet. Many of the surviving G&S helmets were clearly stored and unissued. However this example shows extensive wear.

The chin strap upon this helmet is not the G&S specific type but has clearly always been fitted to the helmet. Several of the issued examples examined have this configuration. Another observation in regard to G&S helmet chin strap installation is the non crossing rear two nape straps.

This example shows the same deep chocolate brown paint, however in this case it is lightly textured.



A BMB 1943 produced HSAT Mark I helmet possibly being a fairly late example of this type having the rubber coated felt pads.

All BMB riveted chin straps tend to be of this configuration having one rivet above two lower in a triangular form. Rivets can be found in copper and tinned copper as well as in a zinc-like metal.



In this close up one can see the lightly granulated paint finish.



Helmet Steel Airborne Troops (HSAT) Mark II

This was the final war time development of the steel helmet and would continue into the late seventies and early eighties. The earliest models can be found dated 1943 with the majority being dated 1944. However no 1945 examples are known at this time to the authors. The shell remained the same, however the chinstrap fixation points were reduced to three thus the helmet's shell was only pieced in three points. The major difference was the webbing chinstrap system. Use of leather to produce the earlier chinstraps had never been wholly successful due to shrinkage, expense and the degradation of leather due to moisture and dryness. Thus a simplified webbing system was produced, with brass furniture being finished with a blackening chemical substance and brown leather

chamois lined chin cup. The chinstrap fitted to the helmet's shell by means of three brackets. These proved the helmet far easier to adjust and tighten. The lining received minor modification in that the two rear nape pads were drawn closer together. The pads were in most cases black, however yellow sorbo examples have been observed and also those of mixed colouration due to wartime expediency. The helmet saw very limited service during the D-Day operations if the evidence of period photos is anything to go by. However, during Operation Market Garden the helmet saw extensive service and can be observed in ever increasing numbers from then on. Briggs Motor bodies were the only war time producers of this model.



1943 dated HSAT Mark II. Although considerably rarer than '44 dated versions, a number of these helmets showing this early date have Arnhem provenance appearing in collections in that area. The use of firm sorbo pads seems to be much more prevalent towards the end of the war found in both black and yellow colours.



A detailed shot of the chin strap. Of note is the strip of herringbone cloth tape that was used to stop the folded end from fraying, this appears to be very much a wartime feature.





Another helmet discovered in Arnhem and manufactured in 1943. It was British made and had a string, small mesh and net and scrim attached to it.

