

A nice condition M.1871 helmet for a Wurttemberg Reserve Infantry Officer.



Some states omitted their motto, only keeping a blank bandeau, if any at all, with regards to reserve helmet plates, but Wurttemberg still retained theirs. The motto is "Furchtlos und treu", meaning "fearless and true"; it is also found on the state belt buckle.

The helmet body is made from shellac coated boiled leather and has gilded brass fittings that still retain much of the original fire gilt frosted finish with burnished highlights.

The cockade is of the correct form for a Wurttemberg helmet and is cobwebbed in style, having a smooth edge, similar to Saxony and some Baden cockades. Note the gilded front plate with frosted silver reservist's cross, which is left without a motto as they chose to retain it on the front plate like the regular Infantry.

A pair of items belonging to the same Battalion, which are a Prussian M.1914 Shako cover, displayed on a M.1895 Jäger Shako and a M.1907/10 Jäger Feldrock.



Both items are from the Lauenburgisches Jäger-Bataillon Nr. 9 of IX Corps that were garrisoned at Ratzburg. The shako cover has a green felt number nine machine stitched to the front as per the September 1914 directive. The number has a thin tissue paper template under the number. This was not always used when unit numbers were originally applied to field covers.

It is thought that the tissue may have had a gum of some sort on both sides and therefore helped hold the number in place and prevent stretching and distortion while it was being machine sewn to the cover. Other covers sometimes have a thin film of what looks like animal product water based glue under the numbers that is sometimes visible through holes caused by moth damage. Some covers seem not to have had anything under the number at all, but this maybe due to laundering or extensive use in bad weather washing out any glue. These methods seem to have been used on machine stitched numbers of either felt or wool as often as not.

The Feldrock is typically early in construction and made from a very good quality Grundtuch material which now shows minor signs of moth damage and age stains although these do not detract from it in anyway.

The shako cover air vent hole is diamond shaped in this instance and the edges of the hole have been reinforced during manufacture with black cotton.

The Prussian Feldzeichen, "fieldbadge" has a small moth hole at the bottom allowing the interior wooden form to be seen.





Rear of Jäger Feldrock, The hand stitched seam reinforcing bar tacking can be seen either side of the rear belt support buttons.



Interior of tunic, totally devoid of acceptance/issue stamps although conforming to issue criteria.

It has no top inside pocket and has not had one put in by the tunic wearer. The waist draw cords are visible, as are the belt hook suspension braces.

The Shako with the cover partially raised showing the underside machine stitching of the Battalion number and part of the maker's mark of J.G.v.d.Line of Hanover. The gilded front plate and national cockade are also visible in this photograph.

The owner's name tag is hand sewn in the rear of the tunic, under the collar, it states Jäger Andresen was in the 1st Company of Jäger Battalion No.9 but the shoulder strap company button is

for the 2nd Company. Again another inconsistency that might indicate a change of unit.

The shoulder straps are of M.15 vintage though and not M.1907/10 making the tunic slightly later than originally intended for this volume. It was however decided to include it because of the Feldrock's other features, all of which are of pre-war construction.

The brass buttons have all been gilded, a very unusual feature for an issue tunic, but they are all original and have not been replaced. The shoulder strap detail show that the hand stitches can be seen, an indication that the tunic may have changed units at some time.





An M.1895 enlisted man's issue field service helmet of a soldier serving with the Prussian, 2nd Pommersches Feldartillerie Regiment number 17 with its issue field cover.

The helmet still has the original cover it was issued with, although it might not have been the only one. The helmet may have already seen some service use before it was cut down from a taller M.1867 helmet and eventually upgraded to its present form as an 1895 model.



The helmet without the cover, shows off the evenly patinated brass furniture and gilded front plate to its best. In this view nobody would suspect it was a cut down earlier version. This only becomes apparent when looking inside, under the lining which reveals the tell tale extra holes in the sides, where the side reinforcing "Ohrenleder" have been moved higher, making the helmet shorter. The old empty stitch holes once holding the original Ohrenleder can also be seen. After moving these, a new liner and peaks would have been fitted.



The markings on the rear peak are 2 P FA R Nr 17 with a date of 1889, which is most likely when the helmet was cut down. At this date however it would not have had M.91 side posts, but would have had steel screws securing the chin scales instead.



The marking of a script G means the helmet was intended for garrison use only, in times of war however markings are not always kept up to date. It is also marked 1 B for 1st Battery, the cover has exactly the same regimental stamp, but is dated 1901 and 1913 in two slightly varying ink shades. The regimental stamp, the 1901 stamp and a large number 3, presumably for 3rd Battery are all stamped in the same dark black Indian ink, that has slightly rotted the cloth. The 1913 stamp and a large I or 1, presumably for 1st Battery have been stamped in a lighter ink, more brown in appearance, which is probably the date that these two items were united.

