



This 1915 manufactured M.07/14 Feldrock has 10th Corps depot stamps in a box with the date, in the wearers left inside breast lining over the vertical slash pocket. Below this, is an ink stamp with the Oldenburg Coat of Arms, above the size markings, lower down are the regimental abbreviations of; O.J.R.91, for The 91st Oldenburg Infantry Regiment. This was the regiment in which the tunic wearer first served.

One of the ciphered shoulder straps and the enamel pin was in the tunic pocket when it was found in Germany in the 1970's. A small regimental history for this regiment was also in the pocket, as was the photograph of the tunic being worn in its present form, the wearer had changed regiments, moving to an 11th Company element of the 74th. It is impossible to tell if it was the active line or reserve or Landwehr Regiment as they all wore the same shoulder straps. The regimental history has a 1st Company paper label inside the cover with wearers name of Böger, but it may now not be possible to determine exactly what element of the 74th he later transferred to.



with a tongue, fixing through a cotton strand woven loop. The regimentally ciphered shoulder strap of the 91st Oldenburg Infantry Regiment is also of the M.15 new uniform style and the newer reduced width of 4.5cms, but is conventional in being non-detachable.

The shooting lanyard is private purchase, made of a silken material as opposed to the worsted issue type and is of the lowest form, 1st class, with one acorn. It is worn incorrectly in the contemporary photograph, from the third button, instead of the second.

At bottom ends of the shoulder straps, the piping can be seen folded under itself, both in the original picture and on the tunic now. The belt support buttons are brass, the manufacturer using up old existing stock, while the belt support hooks are field grey painted steel like the majority of the buttons. Two buttons, one on the tunic lower front closure, the other on the rear skirt were replaced with brass ones.

The tunic was made from a very mottled field grey Grundtuch of the type that is often seen used in this period and the bolt of cloth it was cut from may have been woven from re-cycled wool. The dominant use of field grey painted steel buttons could mean that the tunic was manufactured after April 1915, but this is by no means conclusive.

The 74th shoulder straps are of the post September 1915, new uniform style and although are most likely issue, have the unusual feature of light grey backs and are held in place





An M.1894/14 ersatz enlisted man's 6th Prussian Uhlán Regiment tschapka.



An original fur felt Uhlán helmet with white metal fittings (nickel) that was worn by a Wachmeister serving in the 6th Thüringen Uhlán Regiment of 18th Corps. The helmet is ink stamped to the interior of the bowl, R.B.A.XVIII, the letter R is so faint that it is almost non-existent, but is definitely present. This stood for the reserve-clothing depot of 18th Corps, a wartime evolution, in the pre-war years this Corps did not have their own clothing depot and were supplied by other corps.

The nickel helmet furniture has patinated to an almost black colour; the high areas show signs of once being over cleaned, although this does not detract too much from its appearance. The over sized foot troop style front plate has also been bent outwards after the patination had occurred, in the head and wing areas, causing the darkened crust to pop off in the creases, possibly by somebody over zealously trying to remove it without taking the leather wedges out first, maybe to look at the back, who knows what goes through some people's minds! It is not uncommon to find large foot troop style Prussian eagle plates on original fur felt ersatz Tschapka, or Jäger style small eagle plates on original metal Tschapka.

The chinstrap's leather has been blackened on the exterior and has the correct brass fittings for this Regiment. The mortarboard trumpet is fixed in the same manner as the previously shown felt Uhlán helmet, but the field badge holder is on the outside of the trumpet, as opposed to being sandwiched between the two felt layers of the mortarboard. The manner of fixture for this helmet, although somewhat untidy, reduced the amount of felt used, by only having one layer for the mortarboard top. It looks as if a Feldzeichen had never been worn, but a lanyard toggle was once fitted to the top of the mortarboard, judging by the distorted nature of the slot, this is now absent. The side re-enforcing "Orenleder" were machine sewn in position before the blackened eight tongued leather lining was machined in and the "91" side posts were fitted.





A relic condition, ground dug Army Group Gaede helmet.



This forerunner to the M.16 steel helmet was instigated by the Chief of Staff of Army Group Gaede, Lieutenant-Colonel Hesse. It was a means of head protection that was much more suited to his army group's theatre of war than the existing pickelhauben of varying forms because it was manufactured of thick stamped steel. It protected the wearer not only from small shell splinters but also from flying rock fragments during artillery bombardments. Fatalities were sometimes prevented by surgeons extracting small steel splinters from the brain by means of electro magnets, this operation however could not be carried out to remove small shards of flint. Death brought about

through this type of head wound was thought to be partially preventable if a more protective type of helmet was designed. The Army Group Gaede helmet was designed and produced by the artillery workshops of Muhlhhausen sometime in 1915. About 1500 helmets are thought to have been made and supplied to the army group who were active on the Vosges front. Later in 1916 after the introduction of the M.16 steel helmet, the surviving Gaede helmets were withdrawn and melted down to re-cycle the metal, which was most likely primarily for the scarce nickel content.

