

This type of armour is not universally worn, being confined to men in exposed positions, such as snipers, sentries, or machine gunners.

Gas masks.—The respirator or gas mask shown is the standard type, made of rubberized cotton with the chemical container screwed into the face-piece. A more recent type, of the same shape, but made of oiled leather, is coming into general use; neither type is equal to ours, since if worn continuously for three hours, they become useless as a protection against gas, as the wearer must both inhale and exhale through the chemicals, which quickly reduces their strength. After three hours continuous wear the chemical container must be replaced by a fresh one (each man carries two), and in making the change there is great danger of being gassed. In addition to this the new leather mask quickly becomes dry or cracks, and is then useless.

The "Pickelhaube" or dress helmet is seldom carried, and never worn on active service. The helmet shown belonged to a Prussian infantryman, as shown by the cockades; the red-white-black is the Imperial German cockade, and is worn by all arms and ranks of the German army.

The black-white-black, is the Prussian State cockade, and is worn by all ranks.

Troops of the various states may be indentified by the cockades worn, as follows:—

STATE.	COLOUR OF COCKADE.
Prussia.....	Black-white-black.
Bavaria.....	White-blue-white.
Saxony.....	White-green-white.
Wurttemberg.....	Grey-red-grey.

On the "Pickelhaube" the state cockade is worn on the left side, and the Imperial cockade on the right; while on the field-service cap they are worn one above the other; the Imperial above and state below.

Landstrum troops wear either a white metal or a brass cross on the front of the "Pickelhaube."

Heavy Machine Guns (M.G. .08).

Very early in the war the Germans realized the value of machine guns, both in offensive and defensive operations; the proof of this can be found in the speed with which they increased their machine-gun establishment immediately after the outbreak of the war. Within a year they had increased the number of machine guns from a peace