



Handbook of WWII German Military Symbols and Abbreviations 1943 - 1945

By Terrence Booth

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Handbook of WWII German Military Symbols and Abbreviations 1943 - 1945 By Terrence Booth

To the uninitiated, German military symbols appearing on documents, maps, orders-of-battle, and throughout postwar German WWII military literature, can appear indecipherable. Yet an understanding of their meaning is key to being able to seriously read and research all aspects of the WWII German Armed Forces. This book aims to provide the reader with a clear and comprehensive reference to these symbols, as seen in photos, tables of organization and maps for the period May 1943 onwards. The first two parts of the book feature an overview of how the German Armed Forces used the symbols in the field. Parts III, IV and V deal with specific forms and categories of symbols used. The format used throughout has been to provide an image of the symbol, accompanied by the relevant German term and its English translation, along with any pertinent information that will aid the reader's understanding of the symbol and the unit that it represented. The final part of the book, containing a list of over 500 abbreviations and their German terms, supplemented by English translations, should prove invaluable to any reader who has more than a passing interest in the Second World War German Armed Forces. - The only English-language book available on this subject; a new book, NOT a photocopied reprint! - All images computer-enhanced for crystal-clear reproduction - Ideal reference for modelers and all those who take an active interest in the WWII German Armed Forces - A thoroughly researched guide to a little-known subject - Over 800 symbols illustrated; over 1,000 German terms & abbreviations translated into English.

REVIEWS

"This book is absolutely the last word on the subject, and will be all you will ever need." Wargames Illustrated

"It is doubtful if anyone could find a symbol of the unit that has not been included in this book Highly recommended." Formation Sign

"This is an absolute must for the non-German speaker who wants to try to deal with original source documents." George Nafziger

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- Sales Rank: #677329 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Helion and Company
- Published on: 2002-08-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .30" w x 6.04" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback

- 121 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

The military symbols in this book appeared on maps, documents, tables-of-organisation, and orders-of-battle, as well as on military vehicles. The symbols illustrated replaced those in use up until May 1943, although some of the former symbols remained in use until the end of WWII. The book is divided into six sections: Structure of the Symbols, featuring basic arm-of service, weapon, and mobility indicators; Command and Senior Headquarters symbols; Combat Troops, featuring infantry, panzer troops, cavalry, artillery, engineers, signals, field waterway units, and propaganda units, among others; Supply and Rear Area troops, including baggage train, supply, water supply, ordnance military, and field post office units; Units and Departments with Special Assignments such as administrative units, transportation departments, rear-area care facilities, border and penal units. Each symbol appears with its description in both German and English, and there are occasional organizational examples included, along with pertinent information that assist the reader to understand the symbol and the unit it represented. There is an equally useful A-Z section entitled Abbreviations, where relevant terms in German are expanded and translated into English. The author has been exhaustive in his efforts to research his subject, and the result is a vital reference for modelers of figures, AFV's and dioramas alike, as well as historians wishing to understand the complex hierarchy of the Wehrmacht. Very highly recommended. --By Tor Riley

Some time ago, I came to own several reproduced tactical maps (1:10,000) of German operations on the Eastern Front. Each of these maps were covered in symbols that, except for the most obvious, meant very little to me. Several people recommended various websites that I could use to help decipher the maps, but being an old-fashion sort of guy I really wanted a book. Within a few minutes on Amazon I had discovered this wee book and a few days later it was in my possession. This is one purchase that I have not regretted in the slightest! To say that this book is comprehensive is a gross understatement - over 119 pages Booth details every imaginable unit and their related symbols. The symbols are printed down the middle of each page and on the left hand side is the unit description in English and on the right it is in German. The book is broken down into six parts: I - Basics: Structure of symbols (19 pages) II - Command and Senior Headquarters (5 pages) III - Combat Troops (52 pages) IV - Supply and Rear Area Troops (23 pages) V - Units & Departments with Special Assignments (4 pages) VI - Abbreviations (25 pages) This book is an absolute must for any historian or modeller, I cannot recommend it highly enough. --By Anthony Bates -

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