



Presumably this is quite a small pair as the watch pocket flap comes into contact with the right waist trouser pocket, when viewing previous pairs there is a definite gap. Again the buttonhole under the side adjustment tab has been included.

In the absence of having a direct order/ information to change a pattern then the factory will just continue to make items 'as per', regardless of how redundant certain features may appear.



As well as the side adjustment tabs, the knife pocket flap is also produced in a different bolt of cloth judging by the tone of its colour.

INTRODUCTION TO BOOTS

Although parachuting was in its infancy when the Fallschirmjäger were being developed, it soon became clear that this method of delivering troops to the battlefield put immense pressure on the human form, especially the feet and ankles.

As a result a high lace up boot was initially designed and developed, supporting the ankle and lacing not up the front, but the side. This was not an altogether new system of closure, as a short ankle boot issued to the Prussian troops at the turn of the century also laced up the side. Whether or not this was more of a traditional move is unclear, but during the new uniform introductions of the 1930s several designs incorporated traditional connections to the past. Or it

might have been a safety design, reducing any fouling of the parachute lines, but with hindsight this thinking was probably over compensating.

Officially adopted in March 1938 as stated the first boots were side lacing, with twelve eyelets and an attached rubber sole made of Buna. This material was a synthetically produced replacement for rubber and was usually moulded into a waffle or chevron design. Mostly in a black leather some pairs were produced in a brown version and were blackened in time.

In about 1940 a second pattern of ankle boot was introduced, still produced in a black leather the Buna chevron sole was

included but the upper part of the boot now laced up the front. Although it kept the same number of eyelets the overall height was reduced slightly. This model was not in production for long and was very soon superseded by a boot with leather nailed soles, doing away with the Buna sole which under heavy use did not live up to expectations and readily wore out or just came apart.

Along with leather soles this 1941 model was reinforced with small round headed nails, a concave groove was included in the heel, supposedly for the attachment of ski bindings. As a result of not incorporating the rubber sole, which was very effective at gripping the often slippery metal floor of the

aircraft a pair of rubber galoshes were issued overcoming this. Manufactured in a reddish brown cordovan and black leather, there are some models which incorporate hooks as well as eyelets for the laces and from 1942 onwards the majority of the nails had small square heads.

This design remained in production until the end of the war, although declined in issue as the Fallschirmjäger were used more and more as ground troops as parachuting into action was on the decline and was only undertaken by the few.



A turn of the century or 1901 ankle boot which formed part of the early Prussian uniform. Although ending at the ankle, the principle of side lacing can be plainly seen. The construction details are very similar to the following boot designs. Even during World War Two the SS were issued a similar side lacing ankle boot in a light tan coloured leather, but only in very small numbers and probably for walking out duties.



The very first pre-war side lace black leather boots. They consist of 12 pairs of eyelets running up the side of the shaft. An interior tongue runs up behind the metal eyelets, of which on this pair happen to be hexagonal in shape.



The black leather in this instance is very pliable as can be seen in this view as the upper is folded down over itself, exposing the cloth manufacturers label mounted just inside the top of the boot on the tongue.

The actual makers details are now un-readable obscured by a large serial number. This is either a period stores number or a post war number from a museum catalogue. The soles have been resoled at the front, but the heels remain totally original. Note the characteristic waffle design and the red/brown colour of the composite rubber.

