

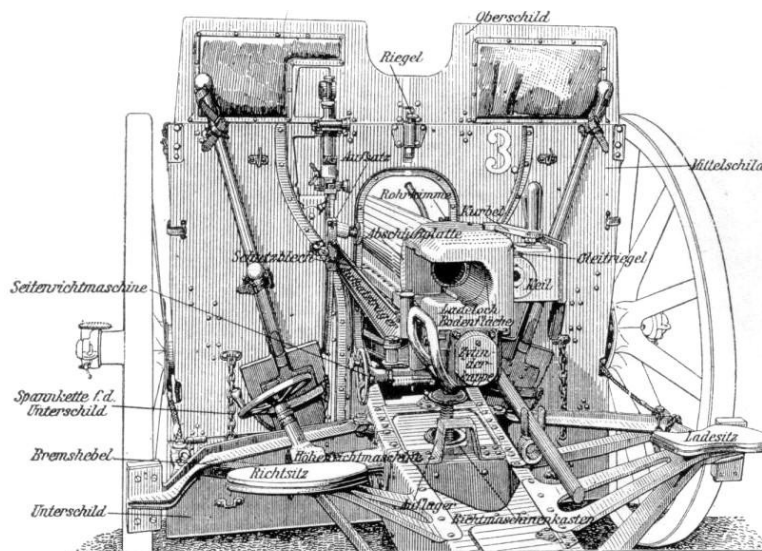


1. Introduction

These decals are intended for 1/76-72 scale models of WW1 German Artillery, in the first place the EMHAR 7.7cm FK96 and the HÄT 7.7cm FK16 and 10.5cm IFH 98/09, but are of course usable on any relevant Artillery kit in this scale. Here you find the basics.

2. The Decals

The decals consists of two types of markings: Gun Numbers and Nicknames. The numbers (1. to 6.) designate the number of the individual gun within the Battery, and they were often applied to the inner right-hand side of the shield, i.e. facing the crew and not the enemy.



Notice the obligatory dot after the numeral.

The Nicknames were – obviously – names given by the crews to individual guns, often those of a heavier variety, not least the 21cm Mörser m10-16. They could be placed on the barrel, the top recuperator or the inside of the shield – if there was one. (Included is also a small piece of Great War graffiti: “Nach Paris!” (Onwards to Paris!).

4. Camouflage Schemes

The subject of colours and camouflage used on German WW1 Artillery is a complex and not by any means fully researched one, and this is just intended as a simple primer.

- In 1914, the standard scheme used on all German Guns was *Feldgrau* Overall. The exact shade of this Feldgrau - literally: “Field Grey” - was investigated in the 1990-ies when a replica A7V was built in Germany: a large number of surviving WW1 equipment was examined for traces of colours, and it was found out that what is called "Feldgrau" was in reality a pretty wide spectrum of colours, ranging from Green to Grey. This means that it is hard to go really wrong on "Feldgrau". If one is to recommend one colour, however, to use for *Feldgrau* it is the Humbrol #31 Slate Grey. Guns painted in *Feldgrau* could be seen all through the war.

- In 1915-16 the first real camouflage schemes started to appear. The plain *Feldgrau* colour was *supplemented* by other colours – the *Feldgrau* was not over-painted per se. What colours to use and in what patterns, was left to the units themselves. And this in turn often depended on what front the equipment was employed. A gun used in Champagne, where the earth was very bright, almost white, was camouflaged with a much lighter colour, than a gun used, say, at the Somme, where the ground was more yellow in hue. Anyway: the *Feldgrau* base were given blotches or bands, or patches AND bands, of Green, Brown, Yellow, even Blue and/or White. The variations were of course big here.

- In 1917 the Army started to regulate the camouflage schemes used on the Guns. After test (using observers in planes) some colours used earlier were ruled out as ineffective: namely White, Bright Yellow ("hellgelbe") and Bright Blue ("hellblau"). The colours that was to be used henceforth, in this so called *Buntenfarben Anstrich* was Sand, Green and Brown (two hues have been observed: Mid-Brown and Brick-Red), painted in irregular blotches and separated by thin Black lines. This was pretty much the standard scheme up until the end of the war.



- Beside this standard scheme another one also appeared at about this time, and that was the *Dapple Camo*. The scheme consists of a *Feldgrau* base overpainted with rows of connected spots of two colours: one darker than the ground colour, probably Dark Green or Dark Brown, and one considerably brighter than the ground colour, probably Sand or even Yellow or White. The spots were painted on, sometimes even using a rag – no neat air-brushing here!

5. References

David Nash: "German Artillery 1914-1918". Almark Publications 1970.

Herbert Jäger: "German Artillery of World War One". The Crowood Press 2001.

Alfred Muther: "Das Gerät der Artillerie vor, in und nach dem Weltkrieg". Berlin 1927-1933.

Thanks to Peter Kempf of www.landships.freeservers.com.