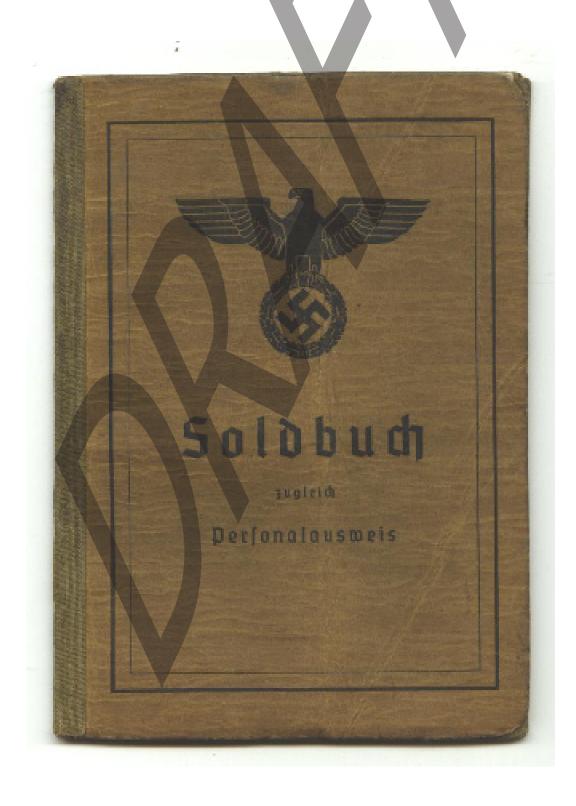
A Short Manual on How to Fill out your Soldbuch



A no doubt very confusing introduction...

The Soldbuch was the basic pay and identity document for a German soldier and was issued after his entry into active duty service. It contained the basic personal data, transfers, information about granted leaves, awards, received training, issued equipment, clothing, weapons, pay, medical treatment, hospitalization and vaccinations.

The Soldbuch was at the same time identity card to the police (but not a passport). It was also the necessary document to prove a soldier's identity according to the Kriegsvölkerrecht.

Upon discharge or after death the Soldbuch was to be kept with the Wehrstammbuch.

The Wehrstammbuch was created on the basis of the information in the Wehrstammrolle upon entering active duty.

The Wehrstammbuch was the essential part of a soldier's personnel file. It was created by the respective local police authorities in quadruplicate.

Two of them went to the recruiting offices and served as a basis for enlistment and physical examination. Upon enlistment the Stammrol-lennummer or Wehrnummer was appointed, i.e.:

Aachen 17/9/3/6

Aachen - name of the district of the recruiting office

- 17 last two digits of the year of birth
- 9 number of the local police authority
- 3 pagenumber of the Wehrstammrolle
- 6 number, the person obliged to do active duty, was listed under in the Wehrstammrolle

During active duty, the Wehrstammbuch was mostly kept at the adjudancy of the division.

The Wehrstammbuch contains the most extensive information about the career of a soldier. Any reassignments, secondments, transfers, training courses etc. would have been entered here.

The Wehrpass was created simultaneously with the Wehrstammbuch. The Wehrpass contained the essential information from the Wehrstammbuch.

Once the decision about eligibility for active duty was made, the soldier was issued the Wehrpass. After the enlistment, the soldier would hand in the Wehrpass and would receive his Soldbuch.

Apart from that there was a stammrolle which basically was kept at the regimental headquarters. The Kriegsstammrolle was a sort of a basic list, a collindex. like the Wehrstammrolle. ective In principle, the Wehrstammrolle was a list of the people who are eligible for active duty whereas the Kriegstammrolle was a list of personnel data consisting of one page per soldier which was kept at the regimental headquarters. Upon transferal of a soldier to a different unit, the Kriegsstammrollenblatt (the one page per soldier) was closed and a new one was created at the headquarters of the new unit.

This might sound complicated. Well, don't be disconcerted, it is complicated even for native German speakers.

Remember this:

- 1. As an official document, the Soldbuch was personal identification in wartime as well as an authorization to receive pay. In addition, it is an identification for rail travel, detached service, leave, and for receiving mail.
- 2. The Soldbuch would have always bee caried on person in a tunic pocket.
- 3. The Soldbuch had to be kept in an orderly fashion. All previous replacement units were crossed out in such a way as to remain legible.

44 - Soldbuch zugleich Personalauswels

Nr.	
	(n.

lienstgrad)

Gasmaskengröße

Wehrnummer

66-F.H.A. 8. - 50000 - 8. 42.

Nr. - Number of the Kriegsstammrolle (very seldom the same as the dog tag number)

für - rank of the owner at the time of the Soldbuch was issued. (i.e. Panzergrenadier)

ab (Datum neuer Dienstgrad) - Date when the promotion became effective and new rank (i.e. 1.1.1943 Obergrenadier)

Vor und Zuname - first name and surname of the owner (i.e. Hans-Peter Müller)

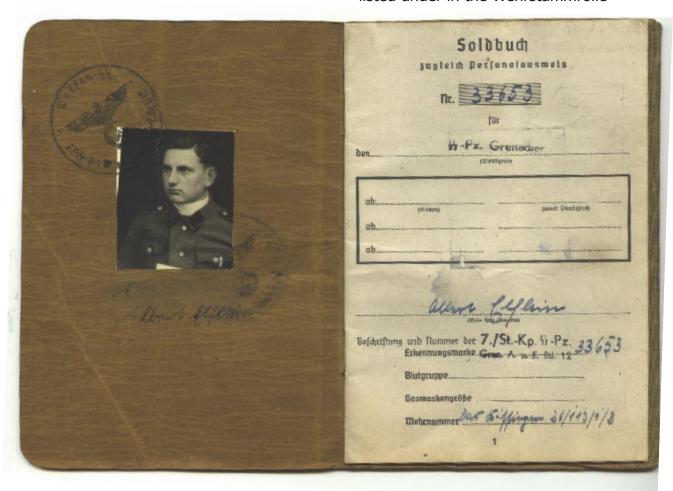
Beschriftung und Nummern der Erkennungsmarke - dog tag number

Blutgruppe - bloodgroup (A, B, AB or O)

Gasmaskengröße - Size of Gas mask (1-3, 1 being the smallest size)

Wehrnummer - Stammrollen- or Wehrnummer (i.e. Aachen 17/9/3/6)
Aachen - name of district of recruiting office 17 - last two digits of the year of birth

- 9 number of the local police authority
- 3 pagenumber of the Wehrstammrolle
- 6 number, the owner of the Soldbuch was listed under in the Wehrstammrolle



geb, am in	(Ort, Kreix, VerwBezirk)
Religion Stand	Beruf
Personalbe	schreibung:
Größe	Gestalt
Gesicht	Haar
Bart	Augen
Besondere Kennzeichen (z.B. Brille	ntröger):
Schuhzeuglänge	Schuhzeugweite
(Var-u. Zurame,	elgenhändige Urzerschrift des lahabers)
Die Richtigkeit der nicht umrand und der eigenhändigen Untersch	
den	annes all come comments
(Ausieri	igender Truppenteil, Dienstaulle)
(Diensetempel)	

(Sigenh, Unterschrift, Dienstgrad v. Dienststellg, d. Vorges.

Religion 12 26 in July 1000 July 100

geb. am - date of birth (i.e. 1.2.1923 or 1.II.1923)

in - place of birth and district (Gau)

Religion - mostly either catholic = kath. or protestant = ev.

Stand, Beruf - occupation of soldier prior to enlistment

Personalbeschreibung:

Größe - height in cm

Gestalt - build (schlank = slim, kräftig = rugged, mittel = medium build)

Gesicht - face: rund-round, oval-oval

Haar - hair: braun = brown, blond = blonde, grau = gray. The words hell (light) or dunkel (dark) are added as a prefix to the color.

example- dunkelbraun is dark brown (black).

Bart - for most soldiers it would have been marked with % or kein = none

Augen - eyes: blau = blue, grün = green, braun = brown, grau = gray, combinations are possible i.e. blau-grau.

Besondere Kennzeichen - (other distinguishing characteristics) i.e. Brillenträger = wears glasses, Narbe = scar, Brandnarbe = burn scar, Blindarmnarbe = appendectomy scar, or Leberfleck = liver spot, followed by a location of the feature i.e., Brandnarbe li. Arm (burn scar on left arm).

Schuhzeuglänge - (shoe length and width) It was quite common to fill out the shoe length and leave the width blank. In later-war Soldbüchern, oftentimes both spaces are left blank. The shoe width is 1 to 5 with 1 being the largest.

There were two different systems of shoe sizing in use during the war: one system is loosely identified as the "European" shoe size, the other is "German". Both are found in the books, with no apparent trend over the course of the war -- you are just as like-

ly tofind one as the other, early in the war or late. The length sizes are equatedas follows:

European	Germar
40	27
41	27,5
42	28
43	28,5
44	29
44	29,5
45	30
45	30,5
46	31
47	31,5

Vor— und Zuname eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers - first name and surname signed by the owner. Sometimes people signed with their last name and then their first name although it was against regulations .

Die Richtigkeit der nicht umrandeten Angaben auf Seiten 1 und 2 und der eigenhändigen Unterschrift des Inhaber bescheinigt den.......(The correctness of pages 1 and 2 and the witnessing of the signing by the bearer is certified today...) The date is inserted here.

Ausgefertigender Truppenteil, Dienstelle - (filled out by this unit, station) i.e. Inf. Ers. Btl. GD, or Dienstelle Nr. 14060c

Eigenhändige Unterschrift, Dienstgrad, u, Dienststellung des Vorgesetzen - (Actual signature, rank, and position of the certifier) i.e. O. Lorenz, Hauptmann u. Btl. Kdr.

Bescheinigungen

über die Richtigkeit der Zusätze und Berichtigungen auf Seiten 1 und 2

LFd. Nr.	Art der Anderung	aut Sei- le	Datum	Truppenteil	Unterschrift	Dienstgrad und Dienststellung
Ì						
		-				
		1				
-	er amministration in the					
			-			

Any mistakes on pages 1 and 2 you made filling out your Soldbuch would be corrected here and the correction would then have been signed by a superior in charge. Also this page would have listed any changes in rank. A typical page 3 will have few stamps on it, except for an occasional unit name or officer's title.

(Von links nach rechts) - from left to right

Lfd. Nr. Nummer der Änderung - (sequential number of the correction)

Art der Änderung - (type of correction) i.e. Beförderung or Versetzung (promotion or posting)

auf Seite - (on page) insert the number of the page where the correction was made

Datum - (date) when the correction was made

Truppenteil - unit or Fieldpostnumber of the unit, the owner of the Soldbuch belongs to

Unterschrift - (signature) of the corrector, usually an officer

Dienstgrad und Dienststellung - (rank and position) of the corrector. This entry sometimes features a stamped and sometimes a hand-written signature.

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A. Zuletzt zuständige Wehrersatzdienststelle: B. Zum Feldheer abgesandt von: ') Nr. derTruppen stammfolk Ersatztruppenteil Kompanie Ь C Nr. der Kriegs-Feldtruppenteil*) Kompanie stomptrolle a Ь c Jetzt zuständig. Ersatz truppenteit!) Standort

(Meldung dortselbst noch bitekehr vom Feldheer oder Lozorall, zusländig für Ersalz on Bekieldung und Ausristung)

Vom Ersotzfruppenteil einzutragen, von dem der Soldbuchinhaber zum Felcheer

obgesandt Wird. Vom Feldtruppenteil einzutrogen und bei Versetzungen von einem zum anderen Feldtruppenteil derort obzuendern, daß die olten Angoben zur durzetnichen Feldtruppermett der un werden, also leserlich ble ben. Weiterer Raum für Eintregungen auf Seite 25.

A. Juleht zuständige Wehrersatbienststelle 63- Joseph XIII / Man B. Jum feloheer obgefandt von:') Rr. ner Teurpen-Kompania 7. / St. Kp. 44 - Pr. Gren. C fic der fictege Sommorie C Jest zuftinidiger Erfahlruppentell") (Malbung dortfelijft und Andskehr nen Soldhoot aber Enganett, reftundig für Erfah an Bekleibung und flusrüking) 3) Dem Erlagtruppenieil eingutragen, um ben ber Solbbudjahaber gum Selbheet Dam Selbimpsentell einzukrugen und bei Derkhurgen von einem zum anderen Obtraggenbeil derurt abzunndern, deß die aben Angeben nur durchsteichen werden, Metterer Roum füt Eintragungen auf Sette 17.

This page is a complete record of the soldier's current unit and the affiliated replacement unit s he was sent to. With the great number the transfers and re-naming of units in a soldier's career, this page would have often been completely full. On the bottom of page 4 it says that more room for further entrie is on page 23, which has a similar layout.

Section A

Zuletzt zuständige Wehrdienstersatzstel-

le - (Wehrmeldeamt (military recruiting reporting station) or RAD assignment), where the soldier was enlisted. It is mostly the same as the Wehrnummer (last entry on page 1). For an extensive list of Wehrkreise (districts of recruiting offices), go to http://www.dererstezug.com.

Section B

Ersatztruppenteil - (replacement/training units) the soldier used to belong to.

Kompanie - name of the company the owner of the Soldbuch belongs to.

Nr. der Kriegsstammrolle - Number of the Kriegsstammrolle.

Section C

Feldtruppenteil - (field army units), company and registration number) the soldier used to belong to.

Section D

Jetzt zuständiger Ersatztruppenteil - (replacement/training units) It is the name of the replacement unit belonging to the Feldtruppenteil (field army units) the owner of the Soldbuch belongs to at the moment.

Standort - location of the Ersatztruppenteil (replacement unit).

Normally, all but the pertinent entries in Blocks B to D blocks will be crossed out. The first entry, the induction unit name is usually stamped, only in very early Soldbüchern it is in hand-writing. There are instruction in brackets (just before the horizontal line) stating that it is the soldier's responsibility to return/requisition items when retuning from the Feldheer (field army) or Lazarett (hospital).

Anschriften der nächsten lebenden Angehörigen des :Vor- and Zuname Ehefrau: Vor- und Mäddrennome (ggl. Vermerk "Indig") Wohnort (Kreis) Straße, Haus-Nr..... 2. Eltern: des Vaters, Vor- und Zuname Stand oder Gewerbe der Mutter, Vor- und Mädchennaine Wohnort (Kreis)..... Straße, Haus-Nr. 3. Verwandte oder Braut:") Vor- und Zuname Stand oder Gewerbe Wohnart (Kreis)-----Stroße, Hous Nr.

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Dohnort (Freis)
Strake, figus-Nr.
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2. Eltern: des/Dolors, Dar- und Juname was Jung !!!
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3. Derwandte oder Braut:*)
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*) Ausfühlung nur, wenn weder 1. noch 2. ausgefüllt sind.

5

Address of the next of kin

des: - (of the owner of the Soldbuch) first and family name

1. Ehefrau: Vor- und Mädchenname - first name and maiden name of the wife

Wohnort (Kreis) - residence (district) of the wife

Straße, Haus-Nr. - (street name and number)

2. Eltern: des Vaters, Vor und Zuname (parents: first and family name of the father)

Stand oder Gewerbe - profession and trade of the father

der Mutter, Vor- und Mädchenname - first name and maiden name of the mother

3. Verwandte oder Braut: - relatives or bride, affiliation of the soldier i.e. bride, brother, uncle etc.

Vor- und Zuname - first name and surname of the relative (maiden name of the bride)

Stand oder Gewerbe - profession and trade

Wohnort (Kreis) - residence (district)

Straße, Haus-Nr. - (street name and number)

3. was only filled in when the owner of the Soldbuch would have been married and the parents were dead by the time the Soldbuch was issued. It would then have been the only section filled in on this page apart from the soldier's name at the top of the page.

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Nachweis über Bekleidungs- und Ausrüstungstücke - (evidence of pieces of clothing and equipment)

These pages were used for recording of issued items. Any item issued, but not preprinted, was to be listed in the blank spaces. These extra items could be handwritten or rubberstamped in, also additional pages were sometimes pasted in for specialized equipment or when there was no more room left. Weapons and certain other items were listed on pages 8a, 8b, 8c & 8d.

Truppenteil - (unit doing the issuing of equipment) Any pre-printed item not issued was either marked with a slash or with a %.

Namenzeichen - issuer or the checker's name and the date

Under the name of the respective items the number of issued items was entered.

Sources:

http://www.dererstezug.com http://www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de/Soldat/Soldbuch/SB

http://www.soldbuchweb.com