

**A BRIEF
HISTORY
OF DOG
TAGS**

Dog tags are a soldier's metal identity tag, worn on a chain around the neck. The earliest idea of dog tags was during the American Civil War, when soldiers going into battle pinned a piece of paper with their name and address to their uniform. Others would stencil their information on backpacks, or scratch it onto the back of their belt buckles. From 1862 to 1906, many systems of identification were presented to the government for adoption and publicly for individual sale.

Then in 1906 a circular aluminum disc was presented and by 1913 identification tags were made mandatory. During World War Two, circular dog tags were replaced by rectangular ones, and the name "dog tags" was adopted. In 1944 rubber silencers were added around the edges of each dog tag. The WWII dog tags were on the same chain, and had notches.

If a soldier was killed in combat then one dog tag would be taken back to headquarters, while the other tag would be stuck in between the soldiers teeth.

In the late 1950s notched dog tags were discontinued, and replaced with the dog tags that the army uses today. These dog tags are on two different sized chains, and if a soldier was killed in combat, then the tag on the larger chain would be brought back, and the shorter chain would be placed around the soldier's foot.

A dog tag contains the soldier's first and last name, and middle initial, serial or social security number, blood type, and religious affiliation. This information is clearly stamped into a stainless steel tag.