

Meine Ehre heißt Treue
Inside the Allgemeine SS
1925-1945



**The most significant collection of Allgemeine-SS artifacts
ever assembled in one book**

Ulric of England

1. Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler & the Birth of the SS

By 1923, Hitler realized that it would be beneficial to have a small unit of loyal men at his own personal disposal. This unit would be responsible for the personal safety of Hitler, and for special security purposes at meetings. With the constant specter of Communist agitators and hecklers, this new small unit would be charged with their quick removal.

The new group was given the name 'Stabswache' (Headquarters Guard), and came into being during March 1923. By May 1923, the 'Stabswache' had undergone a name change to 'Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler' (Assault Force Adolf Hitler), and Josef Berchtold, one of the original 'Stabswache' members, was given the post of commander. Always a small unit of hand-picked loyal men, 'Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler' never had a membership exceeding 50. 'Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler' remained active until November 1923, playing an important role in an abortive assault on the Police Headquarters in Ettstrasse.

After the 9th November 1923 Putsch failed, Berchtold managed to escape, and made his way to Austria where he had good connections with the Austrian National Socialist Movement.

Hitler realized that the concept of a loyal force, separate to the SA, was to be hugely important. So, when the Party reformed in 1925, he entrusted his old friend, Julius Schreck, with forming a new unit, this time given the name 'Schutzstaffel' (Protection Unit), simply abbreviated to 'SS.'

Berchtold returned to Germany in April 1926 and Schreck gave over command of the new 'Schutzstaffel' to him. Although

separate from the SA, the 'Schutzstaffel' was subordinate to the SA. Berchtold was also appointed as Chief of the SA in Munich, so it was up to him how 'separate' he kept his 'SS.' In November 1926, Hitler appointed Franz Pfeffer von Salomon as Supreme Commander of the SA, and Berchtold as commander of the 'Schutzstaffel' was subordinate to him. This would cause some conflict, as Berchtold's control of the 'SS' was also now subordinate to von Salomon. Hitler, in an effort to appease Berchtold, gave him a new rank as commander of the 'SS,' 'Reichsführer-SS.'

There were constant efforts by Berchtold to try to keep his 'SS' independent from the SA, but this proved difficult. With further expansion of the SA during 1927, Berchtold resigned his position as 'Reichsführer-SS.' He remained in the SA, and in 1928, he transferred to the Headquarters Staff.

After Berchtold's resignation, his Deputy Leader, Erhard Heiden, became the new 'Reichsführer-SS,' succeeding Berchtold on the 1st of March, 1927.

On the 13 of September, 1927, Heiden issued his first order within the SS. SS Order N° 1 stated,

"The SS will never participate in discussions at member's meetings. SS men will attend discussion evenings for the purpose of political instruction only. No SS man will smoke during the address, and nobody will be allowed to leave the room. The SS man and SS commander will remain silent and will never become involved in matters (concerning the local political leadership and SA) which do not concern him."



Hitler with early SS members in 1925. From left to right, Schaub, Schreck, Hitler, Maurer and Schneider. There is a sixth man in this photograph crudely inked out, standing to the left of Hitler. Long thought to be Emil Maurice, the debate amongst experts as to this man's possible identity continues to this day.

Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler & the Birth of the SS



Portrait of Reichsführer-SS
Josef Berchtold



Portrait of Reichsführer-SS
Erhard Heiden

Himmler's SS ausweis dating from 1929 when he had just been appointed Reichsführer-SS.



Towards the end of 1928, Heiden had become involved in a scandal, wherein he, and another SS man had been involved in obtaining a part of the SS uniform (black breeches) from a company owned by Jews. There were also allegations that Heiden had made personal profits out of these transactions. Before news became public, Heiden informed Hitler and offered his resignation. His written resignation was accepted on the 6th of January 1929.

Heiden's deputy within the SS was Heinrich Himmler, after Heiden's resignation, Himmler became the new acting Reichsführer-SS. A position he held until he was officially appointed 'Reichsführer-SS' on the 20th of January, 1929.

The new Reichsführer-SS immediately set about an expansion program within the SS, which soon led to its membership rising way above the 300 men it had been at the point of Heiden's resignation. By the end of the following year, membership was nearly at 3,000.

Himmler's view of the SS as more than just a paramilitary or political force is evident even in these early years. For Himmler, the SS would not be just a paramilitary force, not just a political force, but more importantly a new religious order with its roots going back to pre-Christian Germanic times. It was to this end, that Himmler started to look for a suitable castle which



Members of 'Stosstrupp – Hitler' on a march in 1923.



A period map showing the Oberabschnitte territorial distribution

SS-Sub-Districts (SS-Abschnitte)

Each SS-District (SS-Oberabschnitt) was divided into SS-Sub-Districts (SS-Abschnitte). Generally there were between two and four SS-Sub-Districts making up an SS-District. By 1945, there was a total of 45 SS Sub-Districts (ss-Abschnitt) known to be in operation. An SS-Sub-District (SS-Abschnitt) was typically commanded by an SS leader holding the rank of SS-Oberführer or above.

A cuff band was introduced for all members on the Staff of an SS-Sub-District (SS-Abschnitt), which had Roman numerals designating the area (i.e. Danzig had the Roman numerals 'XXVI').



An SS-Obersturmführer wears the 'XXIX' collar patch, showing him to be attached to SS-Abschnitte Konstanz.

I	München	XXIV	Oppeln (Oberschlesien)
II	Chemnitz (also Dresden)	XXV	Dortmund/Bochum
III	Berlin-Steglitz	XXVI	Danzig
IV	Hannover	XXVII	Weimar
V	Düsseldorf	XXVIII	Bayreuth
VI	Breslau	XXIX	Konstanz
VII	Königsberg/Pr.	XXX	Frankfurt/Main (formerly Kassel)
VIII	Linz	XXXI	Wien I
IX	Würzburg	XXXII	Augsburg
X	Stuttgart (also Tübingen)	XXXIII	Schwerin (Mecklenburg)
XI	Koblenz	XXXIV	Kaiserlautern/Neustadt
XII	Frankfurt/Oder	XXXV	Graz
XIII	Stettin	XXXVI	Innsbruck (also Salzburg)
XIV	Bremen-Horn	XXXVII	Reichenberg
XV	Hamburg	XXXVIII	Karlsbad
XVI	Dessau	XXXIX	Brünn (Czechoslovakia)
XVII	Münster	XXXX	Bromberg
XVIII	Halle/Saale	XXXXI	Thorn
XIX	Karlsruhe	XXXXII	Gnesen
XX	Kiel	XXXXIII	Litzmannstadt
XXI	Hirschberg (Riesengebirge)	XXXXIV	Gumbinnen (East Prussia)
XXII	Allenstein/Pr	XXXXV	Strassburg (Elsass)
XXIII	Berlin-Wilmersdorf		

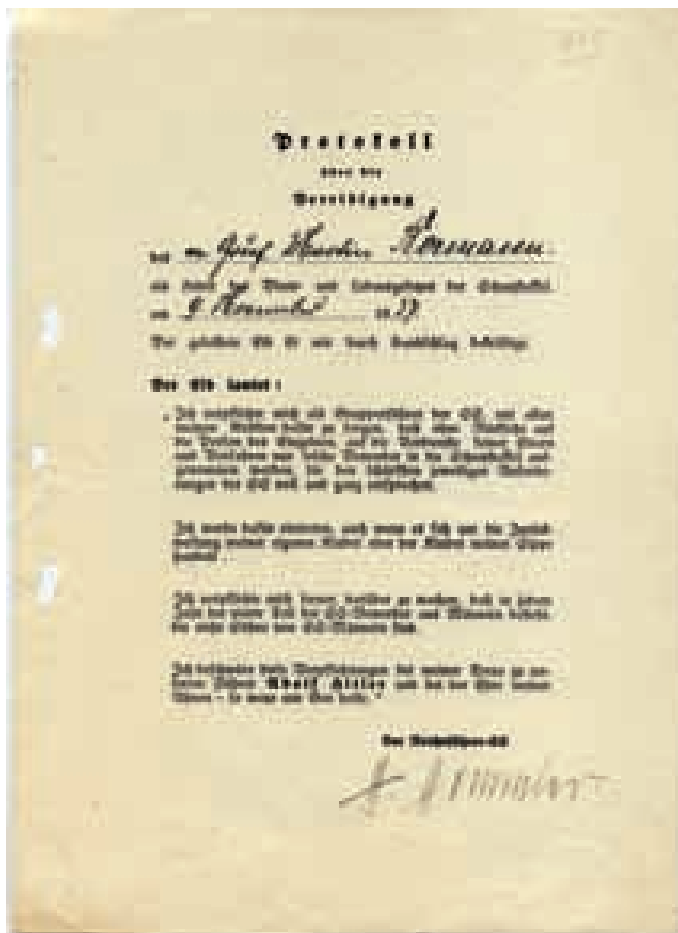
Some of these sub-districts changed during the war.



A bronze badge was struck to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of King Heinrich I (Henry the Fowler).



Above the crypt of Heinrich I, an 'eternal watch' of two SS men stood guard.



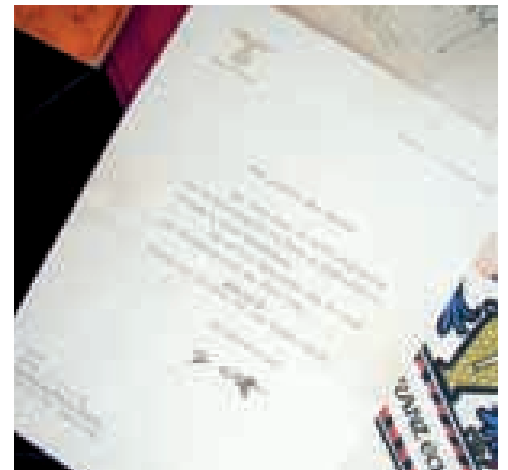
The original 'Oath to the SS' taken by SS-Gruppenführer Martin Bormann on the 9th of November, 1937. This new Oath to the SS was undertaken with a traditional hand-shake between the oath taker and the Reichsführer-SS.



A wooden candle holder probably made as a wedding gift for an SS couple. The candle holder is of the typical period style with hand-finished effect to the wood, and has a central Life Rune within a circle bearing the initials of the family in Runic form in relief.



If a family had nine children, and the ninth child was a boy, a tradition had been laid down between Hitler and Himmler, that the child would be bestowed with the first name of Adolf. A lavishly produced color parchment citation was signed by Himmler and contained in a large red leatherette folder. This example was presented for the child, 'Adolf Eckert,' who was born on the 25th of November, 1938.



A copy of SS Leader Weitzel's 'Die Gestaltung der Feste im Jahres- und Lebenslauf in der SS-Familie' (Procedure for Conducting celebrations within the SS Family). This important book was published in 1936 and would become the basis for much of Reichsführer-SS Himmler's 'New Religion.' One can say that Weitzel was an initiator of the 'New religious Order.' He was also instrumental in leading the way for the SS leadership to leave the Church as soon as possible.



A page from 'Die Gestaltung der Feste im Jahres und Lebenslauf in der SS Familie' (Procedure for Conducting celebrations within the SS Family) showing an example of the 'SS Corner.' Weitzel and Himmler believed every SS house should have its own 'SS Corner,' where sacred SS and family artifacts would be kept.