

Book of Feats

Introduction

The history of military awards in Germany is a long and storied one, dating back to the days of the Holy Roman Empire. Over the centuries, various states and principalities within the German-speaking world have created their own unique awards to honor their soldiers for bravery, dedication, and service.

With the rise of Prussia as a major power in the 18th and 19th centuries, a standardized system of military awards began to emerge. The Iron Cross, first awarded in 1813, quickly became one of the most prestigious military decorations in the world. Other awards, such as the Knight's Cross and the German Cross in Gold, were also introduced to recognize exceptional acts of heroism and leadership.

After World War I, the Weimar Republic continued to award military decorations, but the rise of the Nazi Party in the 1930s led to a significant expansion of the awards system. The Third Reich created numerous new awards, both for members of the military and for civilians who supported the Nazi regime.

The most famous of these awards is undoubtedly the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, which was awarded to over 7,000 German soldiers during World War II. Other notable awards include the German Cross in Gold, the Iron Cross, and the Wound Badge.

After World War II, the military awards of the Third Reich were abolished. However, in the years since, there has been a growing movement to revive these awards. In 1957, the German government authorized the wearing of certain Third Reich military awards, provided that they were denazified by removing all swastikas and other Nazi symbols.

Today, there is still some debate over the appropriateness of wearing Third Reich military awards. Some people believe that these awards are a reminder of a dark chapter in German history and should not be worn. Others believe that these awards are a legitimate way to honor German soldiers who fought bravely during World War II.

Regardless of one's personal opinion on the matter, there is no doubt that the military awards of the Third Reich are a fascinating and complex topic. This book will explore the history of these awards, from their origins in the Holy Roman Empire to their use in World War II and beyond.

Book Description

Book of Feats is the definitive guide to the military awards of the Third Reich. This comprehensive volume covers everything from the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross to the more obscure awards given to civilians who supported the Nazi regime.

Inside, you'll find:

- Detailed descriptions of each award, including its history, design, and criteria for award
- Hundreds of stunning color photographs of awards and their recipients
- First-hand accounts from veterans who were awarded these decorations
- A look at the debate over the appropriateness of wearing Third Reich military awards today

Whether you're a collector, a historian, or simply someone who is fascinated by World War II, this book

is a must-have. It's the perfect way to learn more about this fascinating and complex topic.

Praise for Book of Feats

"A comprehensive and well-researched guide to the military awards of the Third Reich. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in this topic." - Pasquale De Marco, author of Book of Feats

"A fascinating look at the history and significance of the military awards of the Third Reich. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in World War II." - Pasquale De Marco, author of Book of Feats

"A beautifully illustrated and informative book that tells the story of the military awards of the Third Reich. This book is a must-have for any collector or historian." - Pasquale De Marco, author of Book of Feats

Chapter 1: A Legacy of Honor

Topic 1: The Iron Cross: A Symbol of Valor

The Iron Cross is one of the most iconic military decorations in the world. It was first awarded in 1813 by King Frederick William III of Prussia to recognize bravery and leadership in battle. The Iron Cross quickly became a symbol of valor and honor, and it was awarded to soldiers of all ranks, from privates to generals.

During World War I, the Iron Cross was awarded to over 5 million German soldiers. It was also awarded to a small number of foreign soldiers who fought alongside the Germans. The Iron Cross was awarded in two classes: First Class and Second Class. The First Class was awarded for exceptional bravery or leadership, while the Second Class was awarded for lesser acts of bravery.

After World War I, the Iron Cross was abolished by the Weimar Republic. However, it was revived by the Nazi regime in 1939. The Nazis awarded the Iron Cross to soldiers of all ranks, as well as to civilians who had made significant contributions to the war effort.

The Iron Cross was awarded in five classes during World War II:

- Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross
- Iron Cross First Class
- Iron Cross Second Class
- Iron Cross Third Class
- Grand Cross of the Iron Cross

The Knight's Cross was the highest class of the Iron Cross, and it was awarded to only a few thousand soldiers. The Grand Cross was awarded to only 27 people, all of whom were senior military commanders.

The Iron Cross was a highly prized decoration, and it was worn with pride by its recipients. It is still worn

today by some veterans of World War II, and it remains a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

The Iron Cross is a powerful symbol of German military history. It has been awarded to millions of soldiers over the centuries, and it continues to be a source of pride for those who have received it.

Chapter 1: A Legacy of Honor

Topic 2: The Knight's Cross: The Highest Military Honor

The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (German: Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes) was the highest award in the military of Nazi Germany during World War II. It was awarded for extreme bravery in combat, outstanding leadership, or other exceptional achievements. The Knight's Cross was a highly coveted award, and only a small number of soldiers were ever awarded it.

The Knight's Cross was instituted on September 1, 1939, by Adolf Hitler. It was originally intended to be awarded only to officers, but it was later extended to include enlisted men as well. The Knight's Cross was awarded in three grades:

- Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes)

- Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Eichenlaub)
- Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Eichenlaub und Schwertern)

The Knight's Cross was awarded to over 7,000 soldiers during World War II. The most famous recipient of the Knight's Cross was Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was awarded the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords. Other notable recipients of the Knight's Cross include:

- Hans-Ulrich Rudel, the highest-decorated German pilot of World War II
- Werner Mölders, the highest-scoring German fighter ace of World War II
- Friedrich Paulus, the commander of the German 6th Army at Stalingrad

- Claus von Stauffenberg, the leader of the failed July 20 plot to assassinate Hitler

The Knight's Cross was a symbol of great honor and prestige in Nazi Germany. It was awarded to the bravest and most skilled soldiers of the Wehrmacht. Today, the Knight's Cross remains a controversial award, but it is also a reminder of the sacrifices made by German soldiers during World War II.

In addition to the three grades of the Knight's Cross, there were also a number of other awards that were associated with it. These included:

- The Knight's Cross of the War Merit Cross (Ritterkreuz des Kriegsverdienstkreuzes)
- The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Diamonds (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit Brillanten)
- The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit goldenem Eichenlaub)

- The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Golden Oak Leaves and Swords (Ritterkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes mit goldenem Eichenlaub und Schwertern)

These awards were even rarer than the Knight's Cross itself, and they were only awarded to a handful of the most deserving soldiers.

Chapter 1: A Legacy of Honor

Topic 3: The Wound Badge: Recognizing Sacrifice

The Wound Badge (Verwundetenabzeichen) was a military decoration of the German Armed Forces awarded to members of the Wehrmacht, Waffen-SS, and other organizations who were wounded in combat or as a result of enemy action. It was first instituted on March 30, 1918, during World War I, and was later revived in 1939 for World War II.

The Wound Badge was awarded in four classes:

- **Black:** Awarded for a single wound.
- **Silver:** Awarded for three wounds.
- **Gold:** Awarded for five wounds.
- **Gold with Oak Leaves:** Awarded for ten wounds.

The badge was worn on the upper left breast pocket of the uniform.

The Wound Badge was a highly prized decoration, and it was often awarded posthumously to the families of soldiers who died from their wounds. It was also a symbol of sacrifice and suffering, and it was often worn with pride by veterans of the war.

In addition to the four classes of the Wound Badge, there was also a special class known as the Wound Badge for Civilians (Verwundetenabzeichen für Zivilpersonen). This badge was awarded to civilians who were injured as a result of enemy action, such as air raids or artillery fire.

The Wound Badge was a significant military decoration, and it was awarded to hundreds of thousands of German soldiers and civilians during World War I and World War II. It is a reminder of the sacrifices that were made by the German people during those two conflicts.

The Wound Badge was not only a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, but it was also a symbol of hope. It represented the idea that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for a better future. The Wound Badge was a reminder that the German people would eventually overcome their enemies and rebuild their country.

The Wound Badge is a powerful symbol of the human spirit. It is a reminder that even in the face of great adversity, the human spirit can prevail.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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