

Der Jungsturm Awards System (updated 22 JUN 2020)

Scope/Purpose: To provide members with a system of recognition for participation/attendance, historically 'realistic' impressions and meritorious action on behalf of the unit. This award system seeks to enhance the experience of the unit by rewarding realistic action and paralleling the requirements and criteria for awards during WWII. Awards will be worn in line with "historical common sense" and are not intended to be overrepresented or unrealistic. Finally, as in the German Army, awards are a measure of what individual soldiers have accomplished during their experiences as well as simultaneously enhancing the collective unit impression.

Categories:

- 1) Participatory Awards – Awards that can be earned for participation or direct contribution in unit supported events. Members are eligible to earn these awards AFTER being voted into the unit. Generally, these awards will parallel their actual historical counterparts, if possible. Members are unable to be nominated for these awards and are only awarded at the discretion of the Field Commander. They also do not require a vote.
- 2) Valorous Awards – These awards will require nominations based on superior performance and valorous action at a particular event or exemplary service to the unit over a period of time. Any member may nominate another member for a Valor Award (some requiring unit leadership nomination), but the Unit Field Commander is responsible for confirming the nomination and bringing it to a unit vote for final approval.

Important Note: In order to maintain historical authenticity and remain in the realm of likelihood, some awards can not be worn together, worn for a certain impression, or the total number of wearable awards are limited in number. During the war, some awards were simply not seen in some units, by some ranks, or at certain time periods. At the bottom, there will be a regulation as for the number of awards one can wear based on their rank, which is provided at the bottom of this document.

Participatory Awards and Criteria:

Deutsches Reichssportabzeichen or SA Sportabzeichen –



(1). The Sports Badge will be awarded based upon the results of a test in the spirit of the *Reichssportabzeichen* that combines both aspects of sport and common physical tasks required during extended tactical reenactment. It is intended to encourage physical fitness in the unit, and while not required for membership, all members should strive to earn their sports badge in order to achieve the proper presence required to better portray a German soldier of WWII.

(2). See the applicable Jungsturm unit regulations for this award.

(3). The award is worn on the left breast pocket. Awardees have the option of getting either the DRL or SA badge but may not have both.

Infanterie-Sturmabzeichen (Bronze)(Infantry Assault Badge)–



(1). Historically awarded to "recognize combat action as an infantryman on December 20, 1939. Awarded by the Army commander-in-chief upon the recommendation of the infantry company commander... Will be awarded to officers, NCO's, and enlisted men of rifle companies in Motorized Infantry Divisions...who from January 1, 1940 completed the following:"

(1a). "Combat in three assaults,"

(1b). "in the front lines,"

(1c). "armed with hand weapons during assault,"

(1d). "on three different combat days."

"The badge is awarded for counter- assaults, assaults of particular importance, patrols and patrolling activities resulting in combat and hand-to-hand combat. Criteria also include the soldier or individual personally and single-handedly destroying an enemy tank."

(2). Awarded after the soldier has met all uniform and equipment requirements, earned the rank of Grenadier, and participated with the unit in three separate (3) events AND has obtained six (6) tactical credits.

Medaille Winterschlacht im Osten 41/42 --



(1). Historically awarded to recognize soldiers who participated in the eastern front between 15 November 1941 and 15 April 1942 under the following criteria:

(1a). "Spent 14 days in active combat."

(1b). "30 Air Combat Sorties."

(1c). "60 days continuous service in a combat zone."

(1d). "Being wounded or suffering a frozen limb severe enough to warrant a wound badge."

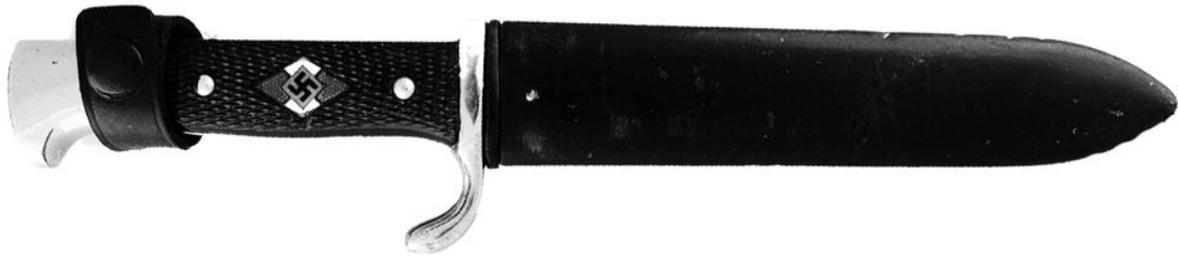
(2). This award will be awarded to members of Der Jungsturm who:

(2a). Have 14 tactical credits in an event that takes place between November 1941 and April 1942;

(2b). OR have been awarded a wound badge for an event taking place at the same aforementioned dates.

Award may only be worn on impressions that take place after June 1942. If the impression is in 1944/45, the unit member must hold the rank of Sturmmann or higher!

Hitlerjugend Knife --



(1). Traditionally this knife was given to those who joined the Hitlerjugend. This knife with the inscription “Blut und Ehre” or “Blood and Honor” signified membership in the Hitlerjugend.

(2). In Der Jungsturm, members who were a part of the unit since before December 31, 2021 will be permitted to wear the knife.

Nahkampfspange (Bronze/Silber) (Close Combat Clasp) –



(1). Historically awarded starting November 25, 1942, by Hitler, in recognition of the courage of the German soldier in hand-to-hand combat. The Close Combat Badge was awarded for hand-to-hand combat; completely independent from the Infantry Assault and requiring different criteria. The Close Combat Badge was awarded in three grades (Bronze, Silver and Gold) based on the number of combat days a soldier fought. Criteria for close combat days were as follows:

(1a). “All combat days on which the soldier had the opportunity to be close enough to ‘see the white of the enemy’s eyes,’ use close combat weapons, to assault the enemy man-to-man and be victorious.”

(1b). “Also counted are days during which the soldier was a part of a major attack or assault, reconnaissance attack, defending a forward position, or a single messenger run, as well as an enemy reconnaissance attack.

(1c). “The area- at a combat outpost in the front area, on the main battle line, at an artillery firing position, in the rear army areas (i.e. attack by partisan groups), or an enemy attack on a hospital train or supply column, all are criteria for consideration.

(1d). The initial combat days were established taking into account the uninterrupted time of engagement on the Eastern Front or Africa since June 22 of 1941:

15 months = 15 combat days

12 months = 10 combat days

8 months = 5 combat days

(1e). When the recipient was awarded the Close Combat Clasp in Bronze, he also automatically was awarded the Iron Cross II Class, if it had not been awarded previously.**

(2). The Close Combat Clasp in Bronze shall be awarded for participation in fifteen (15) independent reenactments, AND upon earning 30 tactical credits. The Silver Clasp shall be awarded for thirty (30) independent events, AND upon earning 60 tactical credits. Due to the historically small numbers of Gold clasps awarded (<1000), this grade is **not** available for award/wear as part of Der Jungsturm.

In order to represent this practice of simultaneous award of the Iron Cross with the Close Combat Clasp in Bronze, the soldier (if not already possessing this award) will be automatically **nominated for the Iron Cross II Class to be confirmed by a majority unit vote.

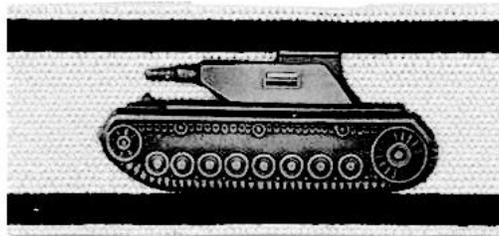
(3). This award is worn above the left breast pocket.

Limited to members of rank of Rottenfuhrer or higher. May only be worn if less than 2 members currently wear this award, may only be worn to two events out of the year.

Valorous/Meritorious Awards and Criteria:

General Guidelines: For members to be nominated and selected for any valorous award, they must perform an act of heroism, and survive the act for at least 30 minutes after it happened. Someone must also be a witness to the heroic act, whom only the witnesses may nominate a member for an award. Upon nomination, the Field Commander will ask for a detailed, written report of the event to document it. Upon completion, the unit will hold a vote to approve the award. Unless otherwise stated, the vote will be a majority vote. There is no limit on how many valor awards may be issued. However, there are limits on how many members can wear a certain valor award at a given time.

Tank Destruction Badge –

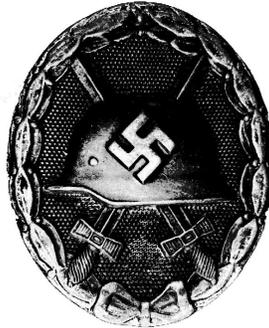


(1). The Tank Destruction Badge was instituted by Hitler on March 9, 1942 to honor individuals who single handedly destroyed an enemy tank with hand held explosives. This award was made retroactive to the beginning of the invasion of the Soviet Union (June 22, 1941). The badge was historically awarded for "single handed destruction of an enemy tank or armored vehicle with only hand held weapons (hand grenade, panzerfaust, satchel charge etc.). For every destroyed tank a special badge will be awarded."

(2). The Tank Destruction Badge shall be awarded to soldiers who single-handedly destroy an enemy armored vehicle with a hand-held weapon (hand grenade, panzerfaust/panzerschreck, satchel charge etc.), at close range and survive the action. This must be witnessed by at least two other members/participants who can confirm the kill to unit leadership. If a group destroys a tank, only 2 men of the group may be awarded the award. Can only be awarded once per event.

(3). This award is worn high on the right arm.

'Verwundetenabzeichen' Wound Badge (Black, Silver and Gold) –



(1). Historically, this badge was first awarded by Kaiser Wilhelm II on 3 March 1918 to soldiers of the Imperial German Army who had suffered frostbite or received wounds in action. It was intended to serve "as a mark of honor for all who have risked their lives for the Fatherland and have been wounded or maimed." The badge was awarded in three grades, Black, Silver and Gold with the following criteria:

(1a). Black (3rd class), awarded for those wounded once or twice by hostile action (including air raids), or frostbitten in the line of duty.

(1b). Silver (2nd class) awarded for being wounded three or four times, or suffering loss of a hand, foot or eye from hostile action (also partial loss of hearing), facial disfigurement or brain damage as a result of hostile action.

(1c). Gold (1st class, which could be awarded posthumously) awarded for suffering five or more wounds, total blindness, "loss of manhood", or severe brain damage as a result of hostile actions.

(2). Since the wound badge is not an award Der Jungsturm wishes to actively encourage ACTUALLY earning, but still desires to represent the award amongst the collective unit impression, members will be eligible for this award on an individual impression basis and the following criteria (if applicable):

(2a). Any member with prior military service who has received a Purple Heart medal (or any foreign equivalent) for wounds suffered in/related to combat, shall be automatically eligible for this badge in the appropriate grade should they desire to wear it.

(2b). Wound badges shall also be awarded for actual injuries sustained at events that require medical attention beyond basic first aid (i.e. Hospital/ER). The severity and number of injuries will determine the grade. *Note: Again, the group DOES NOT encourage members to actively try to earn Wound Badges!

(3). This award is worn on the left breast pocket.

Eisernes Kreuz II. Klasse (Iron Cross 2. Class) –



(1). First instituted by Prussia's King Friedrich Wilhelm III on March 10, 1813, the Iron Cross was intended as a temporary award for efforts against Napoleon. Three classes of the award were created; Second, First and Grand Cross with the awarding process supposedly blind to Prussia's then very class conscious society. This non-distinction of social rank is what set the Iron Cross apart from contemporary awards issued by other royal houses. It was considered that a general and private both affected the outcome of a battle, parted only by their individual realms of responsibility. This rare logic of the time dictated that the Iron Cross would be awarded democratically, with all ranks eligible for a one-in-the-same class of awards. On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler reinstated the Iron Cross in its original three classes; with the addition of the Knight's Cross. The official criteria for the award were:

(1a). "a single act of bravery in the face of the enemy,"

(1b). or "actions that were clearly above and beyond the call of duty."

(2). This award shall be presented to soldiers who perform above and beyond the call of duty during tactical reenactments or who contribute decisively to the unit's success in a particularly significant way during reenacted combat scenarios. Any member of Der Jungsturm may nominate another member (or any member of an allied unit) but this nomination must be confirmed and brought to unit vote by the acting unit field commander/ranking leader. Confirmation voting for the award requires a majority of members present to vote in favor of the nomination.

(3). This award is worn as a ribbon either on the second buttonhole of the Bluse or on a bar above the left breast pocket.

May only be worn if less than half of current group members currently possess this award.

Eisernes Kreuz I. Klasse (Iron Cross 1. Class) –



(1). The 1st Class of the Iron Cross was presented more scarcely, and logically held a correspondingly higher level of stature than the Second Class. In order to receive the Iron Cross 1st Class, Heer and Waffen SS men would have to perform three to four further acts of courage further from the one that earned him the 2nd Class. Of course these were only guidelines, and a single act of great importance or a long steady career could earn the individual the Cross. Between 300,000 and 575,000 Iron Cross 1st Class were awarded during World War II.

(2). Soldiers will be eligible to receive this award after being nominated for qualifying action(s) once they have previously earned the Iron Cross Second Class. Generally the same criteria for nomination apply, and the Iron Cross First Class is only awarded to holders of the Second Class for subsequent actions. Upon nomination, the unit field commander will be responsible for bringing the award to a unit vote requiring a majority in favor for confirmation.

(3). This award is worn on the left breast pocket.

Limited to members who are the rank of Gefreiter or higher. May only be worn if less than one-quarter of EKII bearers wear this award.

Ritterkreuz (Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross)-



(1). Historically, The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross was instituted by Adolf Hitler at the outbreak of World War II on September 1st, 1939. This grade of the Iron Cross replaced the Pour Le Merite, Imperial Germany's highest award for valor. Unlike the "Blue Max" which only Officers were eligible for, the Knights Cross was awarded regardless of rank. The Knight's Cross was to be awarded for acts of ultimate bravery in the face of the enemy, or successful actions above and beyond the German Cross in Gold and Iron Cross 1st Class. The award was also extended to foreign nationals fighting with the Wehrmacht or SS (42 awarded). Only 7,318 Knight's Crosses (of all grades) were awarded during the war and thus was Germany's most prestigious award.

(2). The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross shall be awarded to soldiers who display ultimate acts of bravery or exceptionally meritorious command ability (superior to the requirements of the Iron Cross First Class and/or the German Cross in Gold [independent]), and go above and beyond the normal expectations for valor in service to the unit. Exceptionally commendable service to the unit or actions that go far above and beyond other types of meritorious awards can also qualify for nomination.

(2a). The nominee must be a holder of the Iron Cross 1st Class or the action must be so significant that it would concurrently qualify for, at minimum the Iron Cross 1st Class.

(2b). This award is intended to be rare and will be the hardest to achieve as a member of Der Jungsturm. Nominations will be scrutinized with the utmost care and attention to historical references in order to ensure the

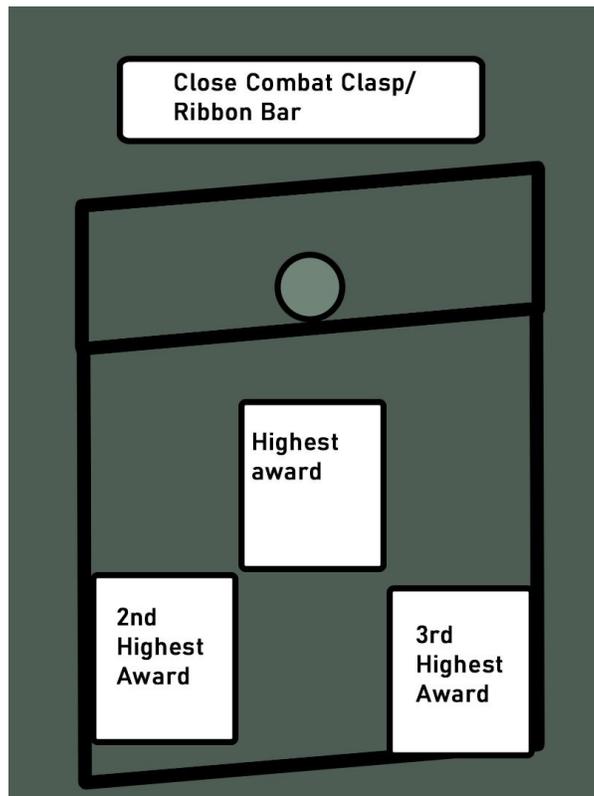
award will enhance the overall unit impression in addition to acknowledging the individual's exceptionally outstanding actions/service.

(2c). Upon nomination, and after unanimous (100%) confirmation vote of unit leadership, the unit president is the only member authorized to bring this award to a written/secret ballot unit vote. The award will be confirmed by a 3/4 unit vote in favor. This award will require unanimous (100%) approval from unit leadership, confirmation by a 3/4 unit vote and will be rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Limited to members with the rank of Rottenfuhrer or higher. May only be worn to one event per year, by each individual who possesses the award.

Award Placement Guide

How to wear awards: Below is a picture describing the placement of awards on the left breast pocket. Only may awards be worn in the white boxes. If there are more awards than the number of boxes, only the highest of those awards are placed.



Award Ranking List - The following awards to be worn on the left breast pocket in order of importance are as follows: EKI, Wound Badge, IAB, Sports Badge.

Limitations on Wearing of Awards - In order to prevent members from wearing 'too much' as one particular rank, Der Jungsturm has a limit on the amount of awards one can wear on their uniform based on their rank.

Grenadier: May wear up to one valor award plus any participatory awards earned.

Obergrenadier: May wear up to two (2) valor awards plus any participatory awards earned.

Sturmmann: May wear up to two (2) valor awards plus any participatory awards earned.

Rottenfuhrer/Unterscharfuhrer: May wear up to three (3) valor awards plus any participatory awards earned.

Oberscharfuhrer/Hauptscharfuhrer: May wear up to four (4) valor awards plus any participatory awards earned.

References – Citations and history compiled from articles listed on wehrmacht-awards.com, feldgrau.com and axishistory.com.

Awards from other units

If a member has earned awards via another reenactment unit, unit leadership will review the circumstances surrounding how the award was earned and will compare the other unit's standards to the unit's. If the circumstances for the award are close enough to be acceptable in the unit, unit leadership may approve the wear of those particular awards. If an award does not get approval for wear on the basis of the unit standard, then the award may not be worn and must be re-earned within the unit. Awards that are accepted to be worn must still follow the award limitations rule.