



### **original Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD) literature and memorabilia**

Offered in this category is original Third Reich literature and memorabilia from and about the Reichsarbeitsdienst (Reich Labor Service or RAD)

The German Reichsarbeitsdienst (RAD or Reich Labor Service) was formed in July of 1934 with Konstantin Hierl, a high ranking member of the NSDAP, appointed as the head of this new national organization. On June 26th, 1935, the Reich Labor Service Law was passed in which service in the Reichsarbeitsdienst for 6 months' time was made mandatory and nation-wide. The RAD was no longer a party organization, it was made a Supreme Reich Authority and full-fledged state organization equal to the other Reich ministries. Previous to the Reich Labor Service Law, a law was passed in which military service was also made mandatory. Together, the two laws created a centralized, national and mandatory system in which all males between the ages 18 and 25 would first enter labor service for a period of 6 months and afterwards would enter service for two years in one of the branches of the Wehrmacht - the German armed forces.

The RAD was initially a party organization and not a part of the German armed forces. There was some confusion regarding the RAD which resulted from a move in 1938 in which the Reichsarbeitsdienst and the Organization Todt (another labor organization) were directed to support the Wehrmacht in various auxiliary tasks - a task they would perform throughout World War Two. The Reichsarbeitsdienst was actually known as a Wehrmachtsgefolge (armed forces auxiliary). What this meant was that the RAD was deemed an important auxiliary organization to the smooth operations of the regular armed forces. Although later in WWII they were even allowed to carry weapons, they were never actually a part of the official armed forces, a status reserved exclusively for the Heer, Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine, and tactically, the Waffen-SS. The Reichsarbeitsdienst was disbanded with the end of the Third Reich on May 8, 1945.