



### **original SS, Waffen-SS & Police literature & memorabilia**

Offered in this category is rare original SS, Waffen-SS & Nazi Police literature and memorabilia, everything with a full money back guarantee for authenticity.

The origins of the Waffen-SS ("Armed SS"), the combat arm of the Schutzstaffel ("SS"), can be traced back to the creation of a group of 200 men who were to act as Adolf Hitler's body guard in the early 1920s (the initial guard consisted of only eight men). The SA had grown so large that Hitler felt the need of an armed escort that was totally dedicated to him and the Schutzstaffel (SS) or "protection squad" was created. In addition to its police powers, the SS comprised a group of armed men that were used for security and ceremonial purposes. This organization was called the SS-Verfügungstruppe. Hitler's protection squad, known as the Stabwache, was part of the SS-Verfügungstruppe. This protection squad had been created in March 1933 and was the foundation of the 1. SS Panzer Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler" (LSSAH).

In 1935 the SS-Verfügungstruppen were formed into a military unit. The SS-Verfügungstruppen and the Totenkopf formations were the ground stones of the future Waffen-SS divisions. It is mostly recognized by historians that Waffen-SS divisions were characterized by extremely high unit morale and combat ability. From 1940 on, under Himmler's directive the Waffen-SS was expanded to SS controlled foreign legions. By the end of the World War Two, almost 2/3 of the Waffen-SS members were non-German. French and Spanish SS volunteers, together with the remnants of the 11.SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer Grenadier-Division Nordland were the final defense of the Reichstag in Berlin in 1945.

The Waffen-SS which had their origins in the group of 200 men was in the end an army of 38 combat divisions with over 950,000 men. In contrast to military wing, the Waffen-SS was the black-uniformed Allgemeine-SS, the political wing of the SS. The SS was regarded as an elite unit, the Nazi party's "Praetorian Guard," with all SS personnel selected on the principles of racial purity and unconditional loyalty to the Führer and the Nazi Party. The SS uniforms were designed and made by Hugo Boss, a large and well known manufacturer of men's clothing that is still in business today. The more the Nazi party monopolized the political power in Germany, key government functions such as law enforcement were absorbed into the SS and in 1935 Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler was appointed chief of the German Police. Since 1935 the SS also controlled the Lebensborn e.V., an organization which promoted the purity of blood and other racial matters, even before the Nazis came to power. Under the direct supervision of Himmler Lebensborn homes were established for Aryan mothers (married and unmarried) where they could give birth to their children.

In 1935 Heinrich Himmler also set up an ancestral heritage foundation, the Deutsches Ahnenerbe with Professor Walter Wüst as its titular president. This was a society concerned with prehistory and became a vast study group with expeditions to Tibet and actual occult studies and medical experiments.

To maintain the political power of the Nazi party, the SS was also given authority to establish and run the Sicherheitsdienst (SD or Security / Intelligence Service) and the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo or Secret Police) which had their headquarters in the Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse in Berlin. In 1931, Himmler gave Reinhard Heydrich the assignment to build an intelligence and security service inside the SS, which became the Sicherheitsdienst (SD). In 1934 Adolf Hitler had given the SS jurisdiction over all

concentration camps. Prior to that the concentration camps were under control of the SA. Before 1932, the SS wore the same uniform as the SA, with the exception for a black tie and a black cap with a Totenkopf, (skull and bones "death's head") symbol on it. Later, they adopted a black uniform and then, just before the war, a dove-grey uniform. The Waffen-SS wore a Feldgrau (field-grey) uniform similar to the regular army, or Reichsheer, later Wehrmacht. During the war, Waffen-SS units wore a wide range of camouflage uniforms (Platanenmuster, Telo Mimetico, Erbsenmuster etc.), while their field-grey uniforms became largely indistinguishable from those of the Heer, except for the insignia. In 1945, the SS adopted the Leibermuster, a pattern that inspired many forms of modern battle dress. The motto of the SS was "Meine Ehre heißt Treue ("My Honor Is Loyalty.") The SS rank system was unique in that it did not copy the terms used in other branches of the Wehrmacht, but instead used the ranks established by the SA. The SS leaders were Julius Schreck (1925–1926), Joseph Berchtold (1926–1927), Erhard Heiden (1927–1929), Heinrich Himmler (1929–1945) and for a very short time Karl Hanke (1945).