

The Last Set of Stamps Designed for the Third Reich

By Stan Cronwall

Recently, a U.K. auction house, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA), offered just for the asking a FREE set of mint single Third Reich "Storm Trooper" stamps with ads in both Linn's and the APS *American Philatelist* magazine.

This was a clever marketing tool most probably intended to both increase their base of bidders in the U.S. and at the same time hopefully to get more collectors and their estate planners to consider UPA when disposing of their philatelic material

For reference, the Scott Catalogs show these as Germany B 292 and B 293 often described as Nazi Party Formations.



B 292 and B 293

B 292 featured SA (Sturmabteilung) also known as "Brownshirts" were organized originally to maintain order at Party Meetings.

B 293 showed a SS (Schutzstaffel) defence eschelon man. These were created to be personal body guards for Hitler to obey any order implicitly and without question. Twenty members from each city were selected with the first group from Munich. Later they were developed into the "Blackshirts" with two separate areas of responsibility – the Waffen (armed) SS military formations and the Allgemeine (General) SS providing concentration camps administrations and guards, and performing other administrative functions.

Used or on cover examples of these are very problematical due to extensive forgeries.

Originally these were to be issued as a set of five (four decreed) in honor of various Party Formations as reported in Postal Decree No. 31/1945 "New special stamps. On the occasion of the 30th January 1945 (Hitler's anniversary as Chancellor), Reichspost will issue four stamps of 12pf plus 38pf with allegorical designs of institutions of the Party: NSFK, NSKK, SS and SA. The design for the NSFK is by graphician H. Zeiler, Berlin-Charlottenburg. The NSKK after a painting by Theo Matejko Berlin designed by the graphician W. Wieland, Cologne. The SS designed by the painter E. Meerwald, Berlin-Wilmersdorf. The SA designed by painter Renne Ahrle, Berlin-Wilmersdorf."

The war in Europe was grinding down. Two postal decrees were amended to meet the existing circumstances. The SA and SS stamps were issued as Party Formation commemoratives on the occasion of Hitler's birthday April 20, 1945. They were valid only until May 1945.

Two of the remaining stamps in the Party Formation series were prepared to be issued to all post offices, but were never issued.

The NSKK (National Socialist Motor Corps) was fully trained to drive anything on wheels. (We need to remember that in the years leading up to WW II, only a small percentage of people in Germany knew how to drive any kind of motorized vehicle) The NSKK provided first class mechanics, and driving instructors were appointed from their ranks to teach driving and administer driving tests. Special units of the Hitler Youth (Youth Motor Corps) trained to become NSKK members and were under the jurisdiction of the NSKK. This corps acted as traffic police at Party Rallies, as well as organized car races and rallies. When called up to service, members automatically went into the Tank Corps (Panzers).



This illustration of the NSKK stamp¹ shows an NSKK man in the center, a Tank Corps (Panzer) man to his right, and a Youth Motor Corps (Hitler Youth) on his left.

The NSFK (National Socialist Flying Corps) was another special Party unit with a section in the Hitler Youth called the Youth Flying Corps. Training was given in glider flying was given. Examinations and licenses were also given. Only after becoming a glider pilot could one become eligible to become an airplane pilot. (Remember that in the early days of the Third Reich before Hitler revoked the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was not allowed to have an air force) The NSFK became the unofficial German air force. When the Luftwaffe was established, the NSFK provided the basis of the manpower. The NSFK continued to operate aimed mainly on the young. On being called up, NSFK members automatically entered the Luftwaffe.



This illustration of the NSFK stamp¹ depicts a glider.

Very few copies of these stamps exist. All are believed to have come from proof sheets that were “liberated” from the Reichspost printing office in Vienna. Proof sheets are also rare.

All of the stamps are without gum and most are imperforate.

1. *The Philately of the Third Reich Germany 1933-1945*, Robert W. Jones, © 2011 MAR Publishing, Broomfield, CO, page 288.

Stan Cronwall is a member and his collecting interests include Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collects U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards; Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA); U.S Naval Covers; DDR stamps; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.