



Imperial German Orders, Medals & Decorations

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The German Eagle Order (some interesting examples)

Even though I am a serious collector of Imperial German order decorations, I still like to point out some facts on the German Eagle Order. This order may be the only decoration during this period, that gets close to the marksmanship of decorations of the period before 1918. Yet a silver gilt made order, it is still of highest quality and very attractive. It also was awarded to non Germans only.

Check out those pretty pieces (*click on picture for an enlarged image*):



"Deutscher Adler Orden Grosskreuz"
German Eagle Order Grand Cross

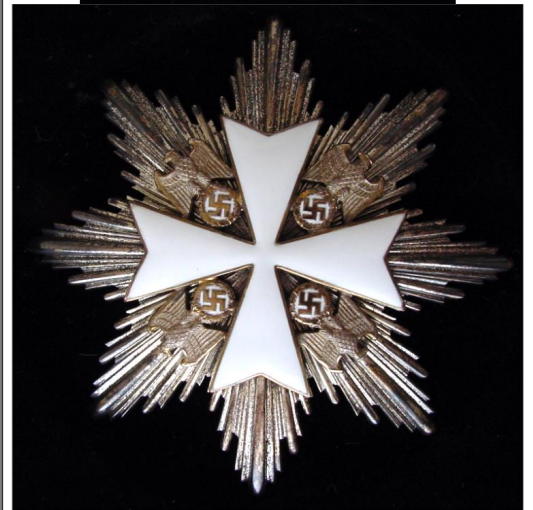
The star shows the marks "900" on its needle, the cross "900" on its ring.

[click here for the reverse](#)



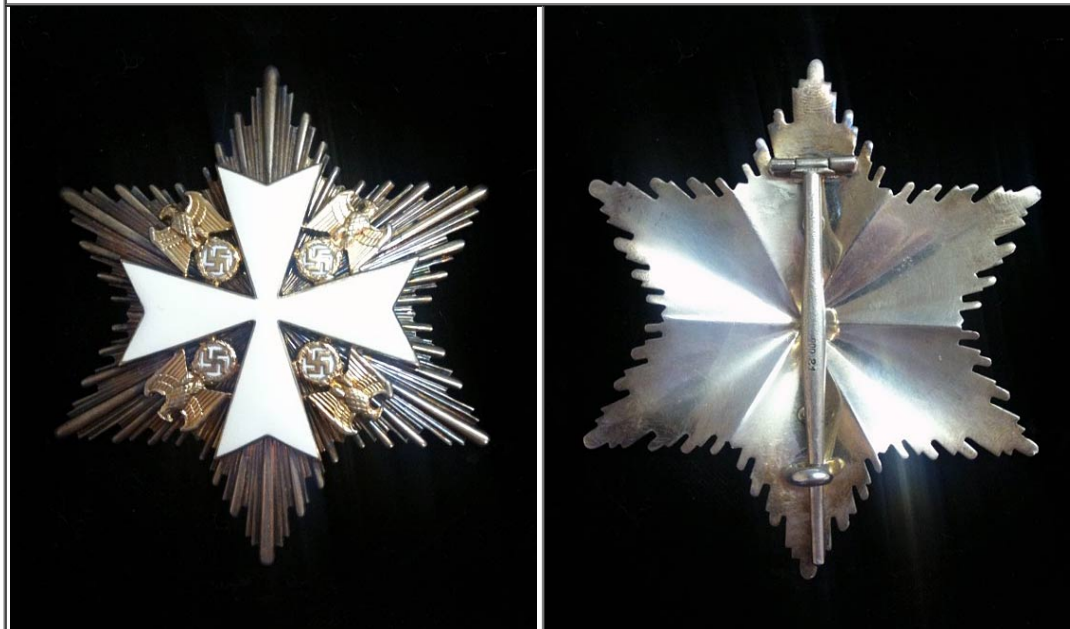
"Deutscher Adler Orden 1.Klasse"
German Eagle Order 1st Class

Only awarded between December 27, 1943 to the end. The latest addition to the order is quite rare. The Eagles are silver with a golden rim on cross and star, despite to being completely gilt as on all other grades. The star shows the marks "900 21" on its needle.





"Verdienstkreuz des Deutschen Adlerordens mit dem Stern"
 Merit Cross of the German Eagle Order with the Star
 This set was only awarded between May 1, 1937, until April 20, 1939.
 The so called 1st model is extremely rare.
 Both pieces are marked "800", the star also shows the punch mark "Silber"



Star to the German Eagle Order 2nd class. Needle with typical marking "900" "21"

The Order of the German Eagle was a diplomatic and honorary award given to prominent foreigners, particularly diplomats, who were considered sympathetic to Nazism. In addition to awards to non-Germans, the Reich Foreign Minister and the Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia received a 'Special Degree' (Sonderstufe), with identical insignia to the Grand Cross of the Order. Accordingly, Foreign Minister Constantin von Neurath, received the

Special Degree of the Order, with a further award to Joachim von Ribbentrop on his appointment as Foreign Minister in 1938

The Cross is based on the Maltese Cross with German Eagles at each corner carrying a swastika. For military recipients the Order also featured crossed swords. The cross was suspended from a 46 mm red ribbon with stripes in black, red and white. The award, in the first two classes, also came in the form of a silver or gold eight pointed star, with corresponding white Maltese Cross and gold eagles centered. The overall appearance and name of the Order was an imitation of the Prussian Order of the Black Eagle and Order of the Red Eagle.

From 1937 to 1943 the order was presented in six classes:

- Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle with star (Grosskreuz des Deutschen Adlerordens)
- Order of the German Eagle with Star (Deutscher Adlerorden mit Stern)
- Order of the German Eagle 1st Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Erste Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 2nd Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Zweite Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 3rd Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Dritte Stufe)
- German Medal of Merit (Deutsche Verdienstmedaille)

A unique Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle in Gold with Diamonds (Grosskreuz des Deutschen Adlerordens in Gold und Brillanten) was also awarded to Benito Mussolini on 25 September 1937.

On 27 December 1943 the Order was reorganised into nine classes:

- Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle in Gold with Star (Goldenes Grosskreuz des Deutschen Adlerordens)
- Grand Cross of the Order of the German Eagle with Star (Grosskreuz des Deutschen Adlerordens)
- Order of the German Eagle 1st Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Erste Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 2nd Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Zweite Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 3rd Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Dritte Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 4th Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Vierte Stufe)
- Order of the German Eagle 5th Class (Deutscher Adlerorden, Fünfte Stufe)
- Silver Medal of Merit (Silberne Verdienstmedaille)
- Bronze Medal of Merit (Bronzene Verdienstmedaille)

Today's Bundesverdienstorden is certainly a descendent of the German Eagle Order.

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