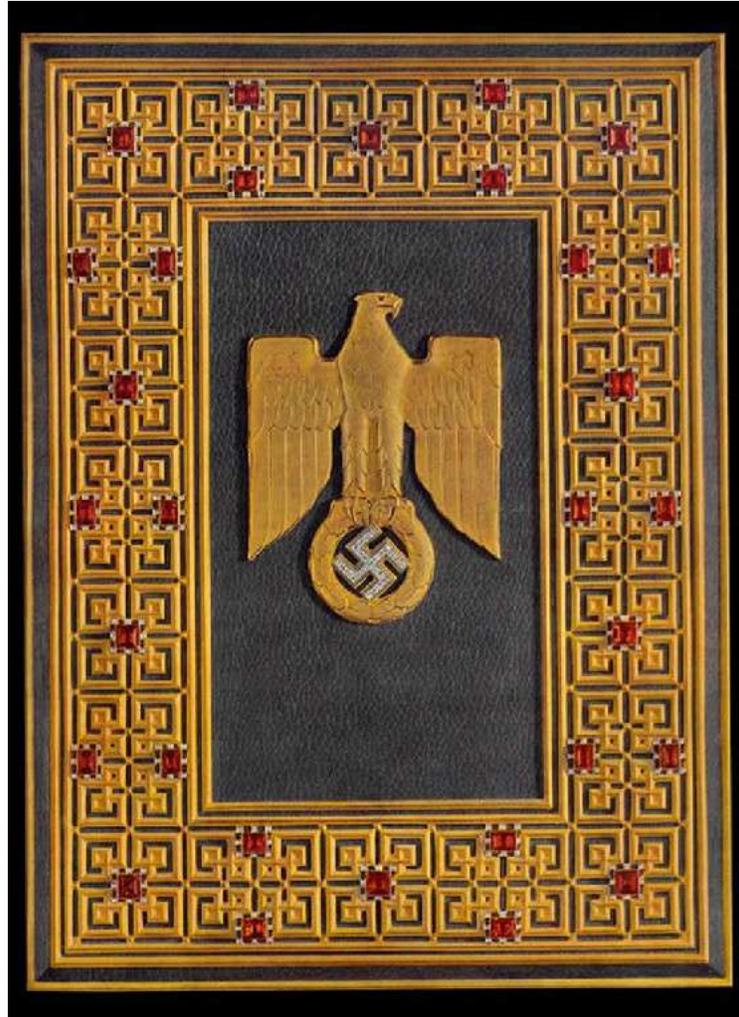


Großkreuz des Eisernen Kreuzes Besitz Urkunde





IM NAMEN
DES DEUTSCHEN VOLKES
VERLEIHE ICH
DEM REICHSMARSCHALL
HERMANN GÖRING
DAS GROSSKREUZ
DES EISERNEN KREUZES

FÜHRERHAUPTQUARTIER
DEN 19. JULI 1940

DER FÜHRER
UND OBERSTE BEFEHLSHABER
DER WEHRMACHT



Instituted by Adolf Hitler on September 1, 1939

The Grand Cross of the Iron Cross was “approximately double the size of the Iron Cross 1st Class.” It was originally planned to issue this decoration with a gold, instead of silver, rim but this did not receive final approval from Hitler. The Grand Cross was presented to Hermann Göring on July 19, 1940 and the same time of his promotion from *Generalfeldmarschall* to *Reichsmarschall*. The Grand Cross was 63.3 mm wide, height with the ring was 71 mm and the width of the silver rim was 5.5 mm. The weight of the original presentation piece was 57 grams. The ribbon was 57 mm in width, un-watered silk with a cinnabar red center, two each white side stripes of 8mm width with black outer stripes of 6.5mm width. This Cross was manufactured only by the Berlin medal firm of C,E, Juncker and carried the silver hallmark of ‘800’ and the LDO number of ‘L/12’ on the upper rim. Göring also had made up a special copy with a black onyx center and a platinum rim. Initially, it was planned to issue the Grand Cross with a gold instead of silver rim and at the same time, issue it with a Star (often called the Blücher Stern after its first recipient in 1812) such as the one issued to GFM von Hindenburg during the First World War. One star only was manufactured by the Juncker firm as a pattern and shown to Hitler who rejected it, as well as the concept of a gold rim. This unique sample unauthorized Star measured 3½ inches across and the Iron Cross was 1 ¾ inches across. The star to the Grand Cross, three

German Crosses with Diamonds (only) and the jeweled, cased Social Welfare Special Grade with diamonds, were found in a safe at Schloss Klessheim near Salzburg by U.S. Army investigators are all now in the U.S. Army museum at West Point, New York. The Juncker firm made up four samples of the Grand Cross of which one was presented but this decoration was never issued further during the progress of the war.

Goering only had his neck grade Grand Cross when he surrendered.

The presentation document was prepared, at Hitler's instructions, by Professor Gerdy Troost. The parchment document was hand lettered in raised gold script by Franziska Kobell and her co-workers. The actual cassette was made by the Munich bookbinding firm of Frieda Thiersch while the gold work was done by the goldsmiths Franz and Professor Hermann Wandinger. The Grand Cross document case was in *Luftwaffe* blue-grey Maroquin and the fittings were fire-gilt and set with gold topaz, surrounded with genuine diamonds.

The document was hand-signed by Adolf Hitler.

A copy of this document was made for the trade by an Italian firm in the late '70s and the original is presently in a German state military museum.

References:

- Reichsgestezblatt, Teil I-Berlin, den 2. September, 1939-Nr. 159 Pages 1573-1576 with 3 illustrations
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