

# Verwundeten-Abzeichen 20. Juli 1944

## The 20th of July 1944 Wound Badge

Gold

Silver

Black

This badge was initiated by Adolf Hitler following the unsuccessful murder attempt on him at his military headquarters at Rastenberg in East Prussia.

This decoration was a private issue piece, a gift from Hitler to those of his co-workers who were wounded. Those who were killed outright or who died as a result of their wounds got posthumous presentations.

There were twenty four presentations made. This badge was manufactured only by the Berlin firm of C.E. Juncker, who made 100 silver castings, out of which forty eight were presented (each recipient got two copies) The design was approved by Hitler, a master copy was made by Juncker and from this, by the lost wax process, the one hundred copies were made.

There were three different classes, based on the issuance of a previous badge (the new badge was one grade higher than an earlier issue) These cast badges were of 800 fine silver and were marked with the silver content and the company markings of Juncker.

Up until 1943, Juncker used the Lieferungs number of the Ordens Gemeinschaft which was L/12 and after that, the Presidential Chancellery number of '2' was used. Because these were hand cast and finished, either maker mark could be used and known originals have both.

All taken from the same pattern, these badges were 37 mm wide and 44 mm high with identical tapered pins. The black issue badge had a chemically blackened wreath, lettering and helmet; the silver badge was entirely silver and the gold badge had a gold wreath, lettering and helmet.

Initially, all of the Juncker badges were silver and the colors were added later before issuance.

This badge is not considered to be an actual military award but an honorarium. Juncker prepared several variant patterns for this piece but only one pattern was actually approved by Hitler and made for issuance.

Photos of original badges from the Ailsby collection.



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