

## The Germanic Proficiency Badge

Die Germanische Leistungsrunne



This decoration was instituted on August 15, 1943, by Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler “as an incentive for physical exercise and development of military awareness in the Germanic community.”

This was intended for so-called “Germanic volunteers” (i.e., Dutch, Norwegian and Danish) in the Waffen-SS

The decoration was presented in two classes, bronze and silver.

The required achievement testing covered physical and mental combat preparation to include the 100 meter relay, rope climbing and 110 meter assault advance with hand grenades, a 2000 meter cross country run and a 30 km march.

The first presentation of this award was made by Himmler on February 16, 1944 at the SS-Training Camp at Avegoot in the Netherlands.

It was worn on the left breast pocket of the military uniform.

The badge, only manufactured in Kremnitz in Slovakia, was originally in bronze and later in zinc and plated bronze or silver..

It was 30 mm in diameter, the width of the arms was 8 mm. The enameled SS runes were 5 mm wide and 32 mm high. These runes were affixed to the badge by pins which were flattened on the reverse.

There were no marks of any kind on original badges.

Postwar copies carry 'RZM' and 'M 001' stampings.

This badge was presented with a document