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Oberscharführer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Oberscharführer was a **Nazi Party** paramilitary rank that existed between 1932 and 1945.^[1] Translated as “senior squad leader”, *Oberscharführer* was first used as a rank of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA) and was created due to an expansion of the enlisted positions required by growing SA membership in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The SA rank of *Oberscharführer* was senior to *Scharführer* and junior to the rank of *Truppführer*.^[2]

Since early ranks of the *Schutzstaffel* (SS) were identical to the ranks of SA, *Oberscharführer* was created as an SS rank at the same time the position was created within the SA. Initially, the rank of *SS-Oberscharführer* was equal to its SA counterpart; however, this changed in 1934 following the *Night of the Long Knives*.^[1]

At that time, the SS rank system was reorganized and several new ranks established with older SA titles discontinued. The rank of *SS-Oberscharführer* was therefore “bumped up” and became equal to an *SA-Truppführer*. The insignia for the SS rank was changed, as well, becoming two silver collar pips in contrast to the SA insignia for *Oberscharführer* which was a single collar pip with silver stripe.^[3]

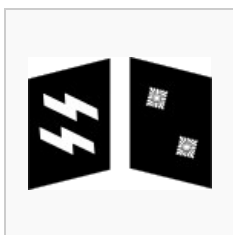
Within the SA, an *Oberscharführer* was typically a squad leader, answering to a platoon non-commissioned officer. The responsibilities varied across a wider range in the SS, in particular between an *Oberscharführer* in the *Allgemeine SS* (general SS) and one holding the same position in the *Waffen-SS* (armed SS).

After 1938, when the SS adopted field grey uniforms as the standard duty attire, *SS-Oberscharführer* displayed the shoulder insignia of a *Wehrmacht Feldwebel*. The rank of *SS-Oberscharführer* was junior to *SS-Hauptscharführer*.^[4]

Insignia of rank *Oberscharführer* of the *Waffen-SS*



Shoulder strap
SS-Oberscharführe
(SS-Standartenjunker)



Gorget patches



Military camouflage



SS executioner Oberscharführer Erich Bauer



Oberscharführer of the *Waffen-SS* (Kurt Sametreiter)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Junior rank Scharführer | SS rank Oberscharführer | Senior rank Hauptscharführer |
| Junior rank Scharführer | SA rank Oberscharführer | Senior rank Truppführer (SA) |

See also [\[edit\]](#)

- Table of ranks and insignia of the *Waffen-SS*

Notes [\[edit\]](#)

- ^a ^b McNab 2009, pp. 29, 30.
- [^] McNab 2009, p. 29.
- [^] Flaherty 2004, p. 148.
- [^] McNab 2009, p. 30.

Bibliography [\[edit\]](#)

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