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Third Reich

Commemorative Issues - 1945



Very little was left of Hitler's Third Reich by January 1945, but the stamp at upper left was issued on January 6 to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of Municipal Law in Oldenburg. Depicted on the stamp is Count Anton Günther von Oldenburg (1603-1667).

The stamp at upper right was issued in February 1945 to commemorate the Proclamation of the Volkssturm (People's Army) in East Prussia to fight the Russians.

The Volkssturm was a German national militia of the last months of World War II. It was founded on Adolf Hitler's orders on October 18, 1944 and conscripted males between the ages of 16 to 60 that were not already serving in some military capacity.



The two stamps shown above were the FINAL ISSUE of the Third Reich. They were issued on April 20, 1945, and were on sale only in Berlin for a few days before the fall of the city.

The two stamps were issued to commemorate the 12th Anniversary of the Assumption of Power by the Nazis. The stamp at above right depicts an Elite Storm Trooper (SS) and the stamp at above left depicts a Storm Trooper / Military Police Officer (SA). They also exist imperforate and are worth about the same as the mint perforated stamps.

In mid-April 1945, most Berliners were either fleeing, hiding, dying, or already deceased. As the city was completely surrounded by Allied armies, even if someone wanted to mail a letter, there was no way for it to be sent anywhere. In the ensuing battle, the city of Berlin was COMPLETELY demolished.

Used copies of these stamps do exist, but they are exceedingly rare. Certification is mandatory for any used examples being offered for sale.





The stamps shown above are facsimiles on card of two issues that were planned for May 1945. The originals were imperforate, ungummed, and they were printed in dark rose red and in brownish lilac. These planned postage stamp issues were printed at the government printing offices in Vienna, but they were never delivered to the postal service in Berlin, due to the collapse and surrender of the German Reich.

The stamp shown at the left was to have commemorated the Motor Corps (NSKK), and the stamp shown on the right was to have commemorated the Flying Corps (NSFK).

The cartons of printed stamps were discovered by Allied forces in Vienna after the end of World War II, but they were all destroyed. A few loose stamps from the cartons did escape destruction, probably via the pockets of Allied soldiers returning home after the war, and they are prized philatelic rarities today. In the Michel Catalog, they are valued at €24,000 each.

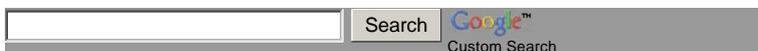


General Jodl Signing the Article of Surrender
May 7, 1945

On April 30, 1945, with the Russian army being only 500 meters away from his command bunker in Berlin, Adolph Hitler committed suicide, by a gunshot wound to the head. He and his wife, Eva Braun, were later cremated outside the entrance to the bunker.

On May 7, 1945, in Rheims, France, General Alfred Jodl, on behalf of Grand Admiral Karl Donitz, the new Reich President, signed the document of surrender, and **the Third Reich and the War in Europe came to an end!**

[Return to Third Reich from Commemorative Issues - 1945](#)



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