

Hermann Göring Feldherrnhalle Dagger

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Genuine SA-FHH dagger with anodised rose gold effect finish and special hangers

The SA-Feldherrnhalle Leader's Dagger was authorized in 1937 for senior officers of the SA-Regiment *Feldherrnhalle* and selected staff officers of the Oberste SA-Führung. Designed by Paul Casberg, the daggers were produced by the Solingen firm of Eickhorn. Original SA-FHH daggers are numbered. Some collectors estimate that there are perhaps fifteen in regular circulation in collecting circles, with several more in collections and a few in Russia. The highest known number is 51. Casberg incorporated elements of the Army Officer's dagger design with the standard SA dagger.

The dagger was 45 cm in length. The scabbard, crossguard and pommel were made of high quality aluminum, which was considered a semi-precious metal on a par with silver in those days. These fittings were anodised, with a matt finish resembling the pink hue of rose gold. Any such fittings with a silver-plated finish or made of any other metal indicate a 1960s or 1970s fake. The grips were in Bakelite or wood. The detailing on the fittings was of a very high standard. The blade was similar to that of the Army Officer dagger and bore the Eickhorn 35 logo. Genuine scabbards have a die flaw to the pebbling that occurs on both sides.



SA-FHH dagger grips in wood

A special presentation version was apparently commissioned for SA-Stabschef Viktor Lütze. According to several dealers and collectors who have examined this dagger, the grips were of wood and the fittings were of steel and fire-gilded. Others describe the crossguard and pommel as made of plated brass or bronze and the scabbard of steel. Another presentation version was given to the Italian General Russo. This had ivory grips and is said to be in a Canadian collection. A similar dagger was made for Hermann Göring to mark his birthday appointment by Lütze as honorary Commander of the SA-Regiment *Feldherrnhalle* on 12.1.1937. And how, after more than six decades, Hermann Göring's SA-Feldherrnhalle presentation dagger has surfaced in a New England auction house.



Hermann Göring's SA-FHH dagger?

Leo Legare Auctioneers of Pelham, New Hampshire described this amazing find in their sale catalog: *"Among the highlights of this September sale will be a Feldherrnhalle Dagger with presentation to Hermann Göring 12 Januar 1937, gold wash hilt with ivory grips, damask blade with "Alles fur Deutschland" one side and presentation on reverse. A prominent WWII figure, Hermann Göring (or Goering) commanded the German Luftwaffe (air force) and was second only to Adolf Hitler in the hierarchy of the Nazi Party. 'This Göring dagger is a one-of-a-kind piece of world history,' said Leo Legare auctioneer, 'in amazing condition, the high quality dress dagger is beautifully crafted.'" The dagger is in a fitted SA-FHH dagger case bearing Eickhorn's logo.*

der SA-Standarte Feldherrenhalle
Hermann Göring - 12. Januar 1937



The complete inscription reads: *Dem Oberbefehlshaber der SA-Standarte Feldherrnhalle Hermann Göring 12. Januar 1937 Viktor Lütze.* Historians of the period would know that *SA-Standarte Feldherrnhalle* had ceased to exist in June 1936, becoming the SA-Regiment *Feldherrnhalle* before the SA-FHH dagger was even designed. Hermann Göring, who counted the rank of *SA-Obergruppenführer* amongst his many titles, could not have been the *Oberbefehlshaber* of any SA unit because that was reserved for the *SA-Stabschef*, who was Lütze. However, Göring ended up in overall charge of some of the members of SA-Rgt *Feldherrnhalle*. In September 1938, Göring pulled strings to have the regiment placed under Wehrmacht control. Most of SA-Rgt FHH formed the cadre of *Luftlande-Regiment Feldherrnhalle* and were trained as glider assault troops. Many of them ended up in *Fallschirmjäger-Regiment 2*. The rest of the old regiment were used as cadre for the Army's 120th and 271st Infantry Regiments.

German-speakers might have wondered why *Feldherrnhalle* was misspelt as *Feldherrenhalle*. An educated man like Göring would certainly have noticed it. It would have been a scandal. Collectors viewing the photographs posted on the Leo Legare website might have wondered how a cold shunt forging flaw materialized in a damascene blade. Others might have wondered about the Indian as opposed to African ivory used for the grip.

Knowledgeable collectors suggested that the true value of an ordinary SA-FHH dagger without its hangers would be in the region of \$50,000 to \$60,000. The dealer offering \$60,000 for a special award version stands to make a hefty profit if either the Hermann Göring or the General Russo SA-FHH presentation daggers surface. An original SA-FHH dagger with its hangers and a cracked Bakelite grip was sold in 2009 for €54,000 against an asking price of €60,000. In the past few years, a number of SA-FHH daggers have surfaced, often posted on forums run by consortiums of American dealers, like the www.germandaggers.com website. German Daggers Dot Com was managed for years by Craig Gottlieb and financed by a group of dealers not known for their honesty. German Daggers Dot runs an GD/MAX approval scheme for any dealer willing to pay for their stamp of approval. Walking around the MAX Show in 2005, I counted no less than seven SA-FHH daggers offered by dealers who were all GD/MAX-approved.

In 2010, an SA-FHH dagger appeared out of the woodwork, posted on the www.germandaggers.com forum by a man seeking information about it. A number of well-known collectors indicated that they believed it to be a genuine piece rather than one of the "excellent copies" mentioned in the above advertisement. The poster, who said he was expecting a visit from a top dealer, was offered \$30,000 and €30,000, equating to \$37,000 at the time, by two forum members. He subsequently said that the dagger was no longer for sale. Like other genuine SA-FHH daggers that have come to light in the past few years, this dagger has not been seen since. It is said that they have all been sold to Russian and Chinese collectors. However, sources within the militaria trade in the United States suggest that the genuine SA-FHH daggers never reached Moscow, St Petersburg, Beijing or Shanghai. The luckless Russian and Chinese collectors received well-made 1960s and 1970s fakes, so well-made that even recognized specialists like the British author Frederick Stephens have warned collectors to be especially wary of them.

Contacted by telephone after the September 1st auction, Leo Legare Auctioneers have not confirmed if the alleged Göring *SA-Feldherrnhalle* dagger was sold or withdrawn from the sale. Nor did their representative wish to discuss the provenance of the dagger and the identity of the vendor. So where is the Hermann Göring SA-FHH presentation dagger now? On its way to one of the more gullible Russian and Chinese millionaires who have been eagerly buying such treasures as Hermann Göring's

formal *Großkreuz* document and cassette, Albert Keßelring's field marshal's baton or Adolf Hitler's bronze art-deco desktop writing stand?