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# National Socialist Motor Corps

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **National Socialist Motor Corps** (**German: *Nationalsozialistisches Kraftfahrkorps*, NSKK**)<sup>[1]</sup>, also known as the *National Socialist Drivers Corps*, was a **paramilitary** organization of the **Nazi Party** that existed from 1931 to 1945. The group was a successor organization to the older **National Socialist Automobile Corps**, which had existed since the beginning of 1930. It was headed by **Adolf Hühnlein** from 1934. After Hühnlein's death in 1942 **Erwin Krauss** took over his position as *Korpsführer* (Corps Leader).

The National Socialist Motor Corps was the smallest of the Nazi Party organizations and had originally been formed as a motorized corps of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA). In 1934, the group had a membership of approximately ten thousand and was separated from the SA to become an independent organization. This action may have saved the NSKK from extinction, as shortly thereafter the SA suffered a major purge during the **Night of the Long Knives**.

The primary aim of the NSKK was to educate its members in motoring skills. They were mainly trained in the operation and maintenance of high performance motorcycles and automobiles. In the mid-1930s, the NSKK also served as a roadside assistance group, comparable to the modern-day **American Automobile Association** or the British **Automobile Association**.

Membership in the NSKK did not require any knowledge of automobiles and the group was known to accept persons for membership without **drivers' licenses**. It was thought that training in the NSKK would make up for any previous lack of knowledge. The NSKK did, however, adhere to Nazi racial doctrine and screened its members for **Aryan** qualities. The NSKK was also a paramilitary organization with its own **system of paramilitary ranks**. From 1935 onward, the NSKK also provided training for Panzer crews of the German Army.<sup>[1]</sup>

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the National Socialist Motor Corps became a target of the **Wehrmacht** for recruitment, since NSKK members possessed knowledge of motorized transport, whereas the bulk of the Wehrmacht relied on **horses**. Most NSKK members thereafter joined the regular military, serving in the transport corps of the various service branches.

In 1945, the NSKK was disbanded and the group was declared a "condemned organization" at the **Nuremberg Trials** (although not a **criminal one**). This was due in part to the NSKK's origins in the SA and its doctrine of racial superiority required from its members.

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- <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> McNab 2011, p. 45.

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- Bedurftig, Friedemann, and Christian Zenter (1985). *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*.
- McNab, Chris (2011). *Hitler's Masterplan*. Amber Books Ltd. ISBN 978-1907446962.

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