



Reichscommissar for occupied Norway, Terboven, Higher SS and Police Leader Rediess and Vidkun Quisling, February 1942.

HISTORY OF THE NORWEGIAN SS

Motto: Min Ære er Troskap

Germany invaded Norway on April 9th, 1940, and in September of that year Josef Terboven was appointed Reichscommissar. Under him and representing the SS in occupied Norway came a "Higher SS and Police Leader", at first SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Weitzel, but soon after replaced by SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Wilhelm Rediess ("Der Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer beim Reichskommissar für die besetzten norwegischen Gebiete").

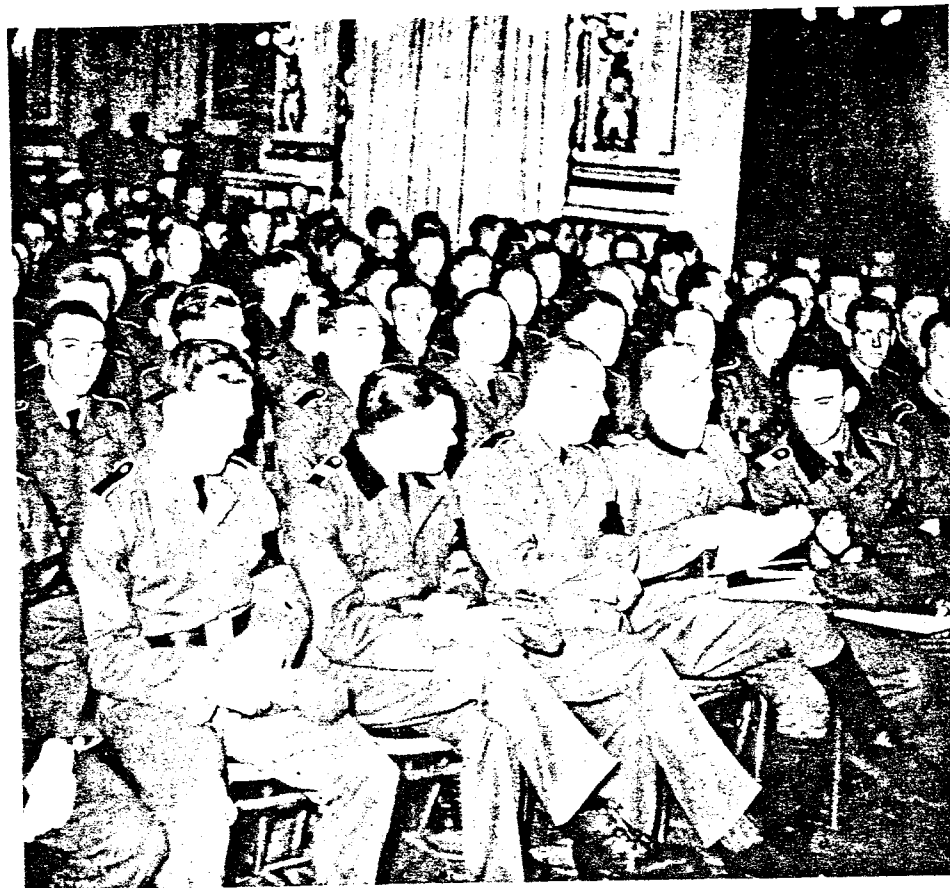
Vidkun Abraham Lauritz Quisling (born 1887) was the Norwegian Minister of Defence in the Agrarian Government, but when this fell in 1933 he formed a fascist-style political party called the Nasjonal Samling ("N.S."—"National Union"). This party with its para-military troops the Hird (similar to the S.A. of the N.S.D.A.P. in Germany) was consequently in existence when the Germans invaded. Quisling was believed to have been a party to the German invasion, and the regime he proclaimed upon their arrival so incensed the Norwegian people that it lasted only a week. Quisling still continued to lead his Nasjonal Samling, however, which was the only political party permitted in Norway by the occupying forces. Reichscommissar Terboven was extremely hostile to Quisling and as unco-operative as possible, but on Hitler's orders did help him to build up the strength of the N.S. The success of Quisling's efforts can be seen from the increase in N.S. membership from 6,000 in September 1940 to its peak of between 45,000 and 60,000 in early 1943. Under occupation the Nasjonal Samling grew and with it the Hird, which was by then outfitted with uniforms and insignia similar to the German S.A. There was, however, no Norwegian political SS organization such as already had been formed in Holland and Flanders, as Quisling was very much against the idea. For despite his shortcomings, Quisling was fanatically pro-Norwegian and he rightly saw in the political SS a movement towards a Great German Reich, and a threat to Norway of being incorporated into it as a mere district (Gau). But whereas Quisling was against the formation of a Norwegian political SS, Himmler, his "Higher

strongly in favour of it.

Quisling and Terboven fought bitterly and the latter did all in his power to diminish the importance of Quisling and his Nasjonal Samling. One of Terboven's attempts was even to replace Quisling as "Fører" (leader) of the N.S. in June 1940 by his old friend from the Saar, Chief of Police Jonas Lie (born 1899), who although not a member of the party was a strong sympathizer. It was only through the diplomacy of one of Quisling's best friends, Albert Viljam Hagelin, that the plan failed for Hagelin stated (quite without foundation) that Quisling had appointed him as deputy leader of the N.S. and that he should therefore take over the leadership and not Lie.

This rivalry between Terboven and Quisling continued and in mid-1941 Terboven and Lie once again got together and set about the formation of a Norwegian political SS contingent behind Quisling's back. According to subsequent N.S. propaganda it was at a meeting of the 7th Hird Regiment "Viking" in Oslo on May 16th, 1941, that the creation of such a unit was first suggested, and it was a suggestion that apparently met with some enthusiasm, for a number of the Hird men present declared themselves willing to join at once. They had not long to wait, for just one week later (on May 21st, 1941) a Norwegian political SS formation was established and called "Norway's SS" ("Norges SS"). On that day Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler flew in to Oslo where he was met by Reichscommissar Terboven, a disgruntled Quisling, and a number of senior SS and Wehrmacht officers, and then taken to the Nasjonal Samling's Party House.

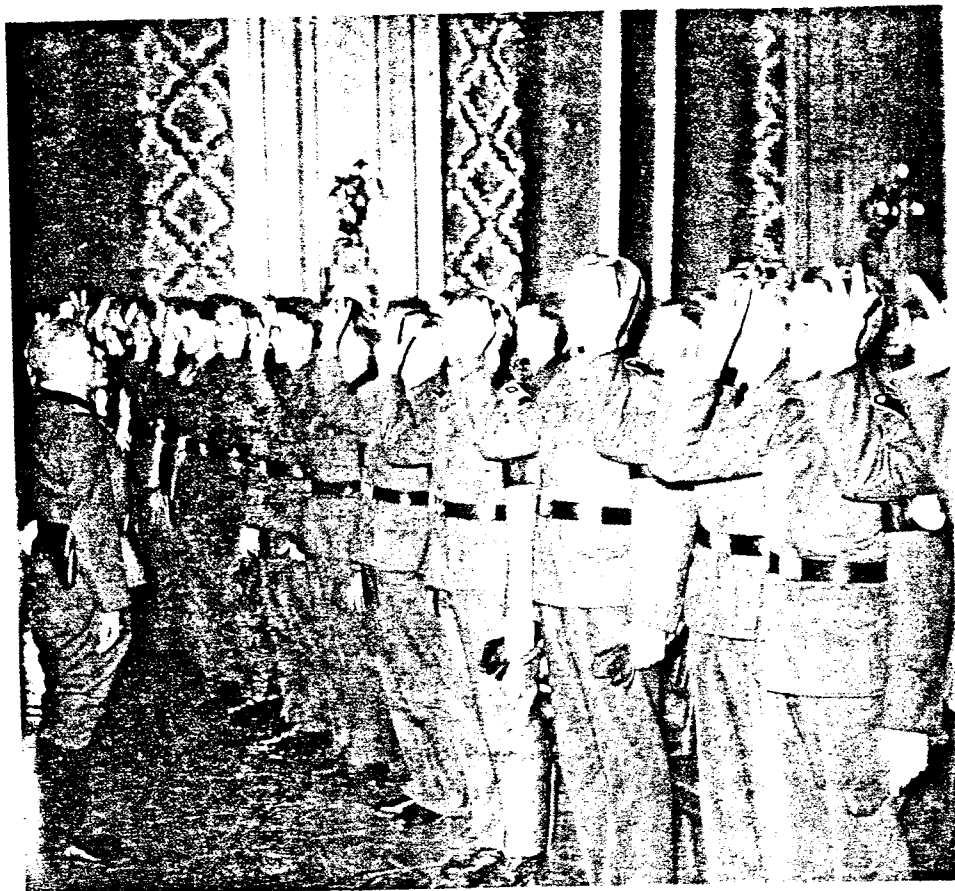
The ceremony opened with a speech by the Rikshird's Chief of Staff, Orvar Sæther, who spoke to his former Hird men that had volunteered to be the first aspirants of the new Norwegian SS. He explained how they were about to join SS comrades from all the other Germanic



Jonas Lie and members of the Norwegian SS, May 1941.



Members of the Norwegian SS and Quisling.



Members of the Norwegian SS swear the oath of allegiance to Hitler and Quisling, May 1941.

countries, and how their role was to protect and safeguard the future of the Germanic race.

Once Sæther had handed over his Hird men to the SS, Heinrich Himmler took the stand and described to them the development of the SS in Germany from its establishment in 1925 until the present day, and also how the SS stood as a guarantee for the future of the Germanic communities. Having referred to the achievements of the Norwegian volunteers in the SS-Regiment "Nordland" (then serving with the "Wiking" division of the Waffen-SS) which had been raised in January 1941 from Norwegian and Danish volunteers, Himmler stated that the formation of the Norges SS was a new and important step forward for the Germanic community. The honour for its foundation, he told his audience, would fall upon Norway.

Himmler then appointed cabinet minister and Norwegian Chief of Police Jonas Lie as SS-standartfører and leader of the Norwegian SS (as has been seen above, Lie was an old friend of Terboven, and had been chosen by him to found and recruit for the Norwegian SS—Lie was a sympathizer of the N.S. but not a party member and was a man disliked and distrusted by Quisling). The oath of allegiance was taken by Lie, who then administered it to his men, and was given to both Hitler and Quisling.

Immediately after the ceremony the new SS aspirants travelled to the SS school at Elverum, where they received a beginners' course lasting six weeks.

To sum up, although the Norwegian SS was created as a subdivision of the Nasjonal Samling it was strongly opposed by Quisling, and recruiting by Jonas Lie was at first carried on behind Quisling's back, and later in direct defiance to his orders. Loyal N.S. members were urged to oppose Lie's recruiting drive and this met with partial success at first, but the Norwegian SS was too strongly backed by both Lie's State Police and Terboven's Reichscommissariat to be blocked in this way. Whether

Quisling liked it or not, and he certainly did not, the political SS had arrived in Norway and there it was to stay until the very end of the war. On May 11th, 1941, the Department of Justice issued an order in which it outlined the rights the participant in the SS had with respect to his previous civilian work and his pay in civilian life.

On June 22nd, 1941, Germany and her allies attacked the Soviet Union and the Norwegian SS was presented with an ideal opportunity to further its anti-Communist and pan-Germanic convictions. Upon the declaration of war with Russia some 85% of the Norwegian SS under sveitfører Captain Berg, as well as their leader Jonas Lie, volunteered for the Norwegian Volunteer SS Legion ("Frv. Legion 'Norwegen'", or "Den norske Legion"), and almost all were eventually promoted to officer or N.C.O. rank. (NOTE: Some confusion existed in contemporary Norwegian publications as to the exact number of Norwegian SS men that volunteered for the Legion. Of the original 130 members—and one report even gives this as 151—some sources state that 85% joined, whereas others give 85 men.) The Norwegian SS thereby provided five company commanders, one of whom had been killed and two wounded before the end of 1943. In fact the majority of the leaders of the Legion were drawn from the Norwegian SS.

On February 1st, 1942, Vidkun Quisling was appointed Minister President of Norway, and his personal power and that of his Nasjonal Samling and its para-military organizations was increased from that date, for he was no longer the leader of a political party tolerated by the Germans—he was the leader of the Norwegian Government.

Fourteen months after its establishment the title "Norges SS" was altered on July 21st, 1942, to "Germanske SS Norge" ("Germanic SS Norway") by a Party Order signed by Quisling. This document is worthy of full translation:

"Party Order of the Germanic SS Norway dated July 21st, 1942.

On May 21st, 1941, the "Norges SS" was established. In addition to the rules and regulations laid down at the time the following new rules and regulations are established:

1. The name "Norges SS" shall be changed to "Germanske SS Norge".
2. "Germanske SS Norge" is a National Socialist military organization which shall consist of men of Nordic race and mentality. It is an independent subdivision of the Nasjonal Samling, which is directly subordinated to the N. S. Fører (leader of the N.S., i.e. Quisling) and is responsible to him. It is at the same time a subdivision of the Greater Germanic SS and shall contribute its part to pointing out before the Germanic people the road to a new future and create the foundation for a Germanic peoples' association.
3. The following may be accepted as members of the "Germanske SS Norge" if they otherwise comply with the conditions covering membership in the SS:
 - a) male members of the Nasjonal Samling
 - b) Norwegian citizens who have served at least one year in the Waffen-SS or in the Norwegian Volunteer Legion ("Den norske Legion")
 - c) other Norwegian citizens provided that the General Secretariat of the Nasjonal Samling approves their application.
4. The transfer of the various subdivisions and special organizations of the Nasjonal Samling to the "Germanske SS Norge" or vice versa may be effected to the extent as may be deemed necessary. In any event the consent of the Fører to the special organization or subdivision must be secured covering the proposed transfer.
5. Members of the SS cannot at the same time belong to the Rikshird or NSUF. An exception to this rule is made in regard to Party officials and leaders in the mentioned special organizations.

Oslo, July 21st, 1942.

(Signed) Quisling

R. J. FUGLESANG (signed)"

Apart from the racial and political requirements, volunteers for the Germanske SS Norge had to be between 17 and 40 years of age and not less than 1.70 meters in height.

It is interesting to note that the formation of the Norwegian political SS, in contrast to the other three branches of the Germanic SS, paralleled on the surface at least that of the Allgemeine-SS in Germany, for the SS in both cases was an élite force created within—and later taken from—the original party para-military organization (the S.A. in Germany and the Hird in Norway). Evidence of the strong connections between Hird and Norwegian SS can be found in the fact that for some time they shared the same newspaper—"Hirdmannen" ("The Hird Man"). For from the issue dated May 24th, 1941, to that of April 4th, 1942, "Hirdmannen" was sub-titled "—Kamporgan for Rikshird og Norges SS" ("—combat journal for the National Hird and the Norwegian SS"). It was over a year after the formation of the Norwegian SS that they founded their own newspaper, and the first issue of "Germaneren—Kamporgan for Germanske SS Norge" appeared on July 25th, 1942.

As the war progressed and the Axis powers' chances of victory faded the Norwegian SS was used more as a front line formation than the political organization that it had been intended for. It has been seen that as Germany went to war with the Soviet Union the majority of the original members of the Norwegian SS volunteered for service in the Norwegian Volunteer Legion—this was to be the first of many such contributions. On March 11th, 1943, members of the Germanske SS Norge joined SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Norge". Soon afterwards the Germanske SS Norge formed a full company of their own to fight on the Eastern Front, and this paraded before Quisling on May 6th, 1943, under the command of SS-Obersturmführer and Deputy Leader of the Germanske SS Norge Olaf Lindvig (he had been appointed as such on March 13th, 1943). On May 20th, 1943, Jonas Lie was

awarded the SS-Totenkopfring by Himmler. On August 16th, 1943, after the "SS Day in Oslo" (SS-Dagen, 14th-15th August) Quisling spoke to units of the Norwegian SS on parade at Slottsplassen, and on the following day (August 17th) the Norwegian SS, together with the Police, National Hird and Quisling's bodyguard (Førergard) were integrated into the Norwegian armed forces. (NOTE: According to Keesing's the law was dated August 14th, 1943).

The total strength of the Norwegian SS at September 30th, 1944 was 1,247, of which 330 were at the front, 245 in the police, and 511 in emergency units. Thus the Norwegian SS then consisted of only 161 men, but with 3,422 Aiding Members ("S.M.") and 9,137 subscribers to their newspaper "Germaneren".

For some time Himmler thought that Lie was leading the Norwegian SS in a somewhat disinterested manner and was not giving this task the attention and devotion it deserved. He therefore replaced Lie on January 1st, 1945, by Sverre Riisnæs.

On March 1st, 1945, Olaf Lindvig (then an SS-Hauptsturmführer) again took up the post of Chief of Staff of the Norwegian SS ("Stabsleder G.SS.N"), which had previously been held by Leif Schjøren.

In May 1945 Norway was liberated by the Allies, and the German capitulation was broadcast on the 7th. Two days later Terboven and Rediess drank large quantities of akevitt and beer and committed suicide by sitting down on a land mine in a bunker on the Crown Prince's property. Jonas Lie also consumed more akevitt than was good for



Lapel badge worn with civilian dress by members of the Norwegian SS.

him, for it induced a heart-attack and he died of malarial shock. Vidkun Quisling declined offers of escape and, unlike Terboven, Rediess and Lie, refused to commit suicide and stood trial for treason. He was executed on October 24th, 1945.

OPPLÆRING

Training

SS-Skole Elverum was opened on the day of the foundation of the Norwegian SS, May 21st, 1941, and the first batch of volunteer aspirants went there directly for a six weeks' course. In August 1942 SS the Kongsvinger Fortress was opened as a school for the Germanske Norge and in that month forty-two recruits were admitted. The course lasted four weeks and the instruction comprised both military and political subjects. On October 16th, 1942, more SS men were admitted to what is assumed to have been the second course. In December 1942 a third course was held which was subdivided into three parts, comprising a short course for front line soldiers; a non-commissioned officers' course for SS men; and a recruiting course. An officer from Vest-Opland named K. Sveen was in charge of these courses.

While not actually attending training courses members of the Norwegian SS continued their normal civilian activities. They were trained within their local SS-Storm during off-hours each Wednesday evening and every second Sunday.

In 1942 a riding school for the Germanske SS Norge ("SS-Rideskolen") was opened in Oslo at Drammensvegen 1. It was commanded by Major Henschien and a Herr Dryander was "Leiter des Rennstalles". Based upon this SS riding school a cavalry section of the Norwegian SS was formed under Major Henschien with twenty horses. In September 1942 a riding meeting for Norwegian and German SS was held at Porsgrunn, and Major Henschien, Captain Waksvik, Bernt Anker and Dryander took part. Mention has also been found of the "Norges Rideskole" at Vinderen (Hippodromen), in connection with the Germanske SS Norge.

- SS SCHOOLS:** a) SS-Skole Elverum
b) SS-Skole Kongsvinger Festning

- c) SS-Rideskole, Drammensvegen 1, Oslo
d) Norges Rideskole, Vinderen (Hippodromen), Oslo

ORGANISASJON

Organization

The complexity of the Staff of the Norwegian SS at first increased as the organization itself grew and eventually decreased as the war drew to a close and more desk-bound members were called to the front. To illustrate this fact the organization of the Staff is set out below at three different dates:

1942:

- KONTOR:** Drammensvegen 1, Oslo
Office:
SJEF: Minister Jonas Lie, Akersgt. 44, Oslo
Commander:
STEDFORTREDER: SS-stormfører O. Lindvik
Substitute:

Ref. "N. S. Årbok 1942", published 1943, p. 40.

1943:

- SJEF:** SS-standartfører Jonas Lie
Commander:
HOVEDSTABEN: Oslo, Drammensvegen 105
H.Q. Staff:
STABSLEDER: Leif Schjøren
Chief of Staff:
ADJUTANT: SS-stormfører Hallvard Svelle

Adjutant:

PRESSE- OG PROPAGANDA:

- Press & Propaganda:** SS-neststandartfører Sverre Riisnæs

ORGANISASJONSAVDELINGEN:

- Organization Section:** SS-stormfører Hallvard Svelle

- ØKONOMIAVDELINGEN:** SS-mann, advokat Arne Schultz

Economics Section:

- PERSONALAVDELINGEN:** SS-lagfører Karl G. Blomfeldt

Personnel Section:

STABSLÆGEN: SS-neststormfører Johan Fasting
Staff Doctor:
IDRETTSLEDEREN: SS-nestlagfører Bertel Paaske
Sport Leader:
FORVALTNINGSLEDEREN:
Administration Leader: SS-nestlagfører Rolf Woye Pedersen
KULTUR OG RADIO: SS-nesttroppfører Karl Aagaard(-) Østvig
Culture & Radio:
JURIDISK RÅDGIVER: SS-nesttroppfører, høyesterettsdommer
Legal Consultant: Arvid Vasbotten
"GERMANEREN" OG SKOLEHEFTENE:
"Germaneren" & school journals:
 SS-nestlagfører Egil Holst Torkildsen
STØTTENDE MEDLEMMER:
Aiding members: Mari Selle
NORGES RIDESKOLE: Vinderen (Hippodromen), Oslo
Norwegian Riding School:
"GERMANEREN": Akersgaten 8, Oslo
SS-SKOLE: Kongsvinger Festning (Fortress)
SS-School:

Ref. "N. S. Årbok 1944", published 1943, p. 72.

NOTE: In addition to the above, the following relevant entries are to be found in "Germaneren" dated January 30th, 1943:

HOVEDKONTORET: Colbjørnsensgt. 1
Head Office:
SS-RIDESKOLEN: Drammensvegen 1
SS Riding School:

1945:

HOVEDSTABEN: Drammensvegen 105, Oslo
H.Q. Staff:

STABSLEDER
Chief of Staff

ADJUTANT
Adjutant

ORGANISASJONSAVDELINGEN
Organization Section

PERSONALAVDELINGEN
Personnel Section

ØKONOMIAVDELINGEN
Economics Section

STABSLÆGEN
Staff Doctor

IDRETTSLEDEREN
Sport Leader

FORVALTNINGSLEDEREN
Administration Leader

RESEPSJONEN
Reception

"Germaneren": Akersgt. 8, Oslo

SS-SKOLEN Kongsvinger Festning (Fortress)

SS School

Ref. "Nasjonal Samling Telefonliste og Adressebok", Januar 1945

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Norwegian SS was subdivided into units in exactly the same manner as the Allgemeine-SS in Germany, but of course on a much smaller scale, and a comparison between the two can be seen from the following chart:

Germanske SS Norge	Allgemeine-SS	English Equivalent
Standart	Standart	Regiment
Stormbann/Fylking	Sturmabann	Battalion
Storm	Sturm	Company
Tropp	Trupp	Platoon
Lag	Schar	Squad
Rode	Rotte	File

The following comments can be made on the units of the Norwegian SS :

Standart: Although the rank of SS-standartfører was held, there do not appear to have been any units of this size in the Norwegian SS.

Stormbann: Also referred to as a Fylking, only one is recorded and that SS-Stormbann Oslo-Akershus (possibly the result of a fusion of SS-Storm Oslo with SS-Storm Akershus). Theoretically an SS-Stormbann could contain up to 4 SS-Stormer.

Storm: The basic local unit of the Norwegian SS which was established as a volunteer unit. It was commanded by an SS-Stormfører and carried the name of the district. Late in the war an attempt was made to number each SS-Storm and that of Greater Oslo received the number "1". The others, however, do not appear to have been so

numbered. The SS-Storm contained 3 or 4 Tropper and combined all the units of a Fylke.

Tropp: The Tropp was commanded by a Troppfører and although in theory it could contain 3 or 4 Lag, in practice it contained only 3. It was arranged that the leader of the Tropp and the leaders of the subordinate Lag should as far as possible live in the same district.

Lag: Commanded by a Lagfører who should, as far as possible, live in the same district as his Troppfører. It contained 9 men.

Rode: 3 men.

As with the complexity of the Staff organization, that of the district units increased as the Norwegian SS grew and decreased as the war came to an end and its members were drawn into the Waffen-SS, or killed. Thus SS-Stormer that are listed in 1943 were reduced to non-specified formations or had ceased to exist at all by 1945. The situation was aggravated further by the reorganisation of the N.S. districts on October 29th, 1943. Below is a composite listing of all recorded local units :

SS-STORMBANN OSLO-AKERSHUS

Possibly the successor formation of both SS-Storm 1, Stor Oslo, and SS-Storm Akershus, it was listed in January 1943. Its address was Drammensvegen 1, Oslo.

SS-STORMER

SS Companies

SS-STORM	NS FYLKESORGANISASJON
SS-Company	NS District
1*	—
AGDER†	F.O. 9 Agder
AKERSHUS	F.O. 1 Aust-Viken
AUST-AGDER†	F.O. 9 Agder
BERGEN‡	—

SS-STORMFØRER	ADRESS
Company Commander	Address
—	—
?	Ostre Strandgt. 61
Gunnar Theodorsen	?
Emil Bruun Evers	?
Trygve Gårbo (fung.)	?
—	—

BUSKERUD	F.O. 3 Vest-Viken	Peter Thomas Sandborg Dagfinn Henriksen (fung.)	Haugesgt. 17, Drammen
HEDMARK§	F.O. 4 Hedmark	Sverre Lie	Grønnegt. 1, Hamar
HORDALAND‡	F.O. 12 Bergen og Hordaland	Richard Clason	?
MØRE OG ROMSDAL	F.O. 15 Møre og Romsdal	Frithjof Sanner	?
NORDLAND	F.O. 18 Nordland	Eilif Spjeldnes	?
NORD-TRØNDELAG	F.O. 17 Nord-Trøndelag	Hans Petter Hoff/Knut Solberg Kristian Solem (fung.)	?
OPLAND§	F.O. 4 Hedmark og Opland F.O. 5 Opland	Sverre Lie	?
OSLO*	F.O. 2 Stor-Oslo	Arne Juel Odde Kjell Kracht Hallvard Svelle	Drammensvegen 105 Oslo
ROGALAND	F.O. 11 Rogaland	Olav. B. Haugland	Kongsgt. 18
STOR-OSLO*	—	—	—
SØR-TRØNDELAG	F.O. 16 Sør-Trøndelag	Hans Petter Hoff/Knut Solberg Sverre Klungtveit (fung.)	?
TELEMARK	F.O. 8 Telemark	Arne Stridsklev (fung.)	Hesselberggaten 2, Skien
VEST-AGDER†	F.O. 9 Agder	Mathias Jacobsen	?
VESTFOLD	F.O. 3 Vest-Viken	Herman Bay Halvor Nygård	Kammegt. 4, Tønsberg
ØSTFOLD	F.O. 1 Aust-Viken	Gunnar Lindblom	?

*SS-Storm Oslo was eventually renamed SS-Storm 1, Stor-Oslo (Greater Oslo), and at times was known as SS-Storm Stor-Oslo. It was the first formed SS company and was originally commanded by Police Lieutenant Arne Juel Odde. It contained 3 Tropper.

†At one time there was just one SS company in N.S. District 9, called "Agder"; at another there were two—"Aust-Agder" and "Vest-Agder".

‡The name "Bergen" appeared on an SS company flag (see p. 49), yet although Norway's second largest town, no company has been found bearing this name. The 12th N.S. District included Bergen and Hordaland, and although the SS company formed there carried the second name, the first appears to have been used on the flag.

§Originally N.S. District 4 included both Hedmark and Opland, but in accordance with the regional reorganisation law of October 29th, 1943, Opland was made into a separate District and numbered 5.

NOTE: The 13th, 19th and 20th N.S. Districts appear never to have contained formations of the Norwegian SS.

STØTTENDE MEDLEMMER

Aiding members

Norwegians were able to become aiding members of the Germanske SS Norge ("Støttende Medlemmer" or "S.M.") and in return for their minimum monthly contribution of one Kroner to the funds of the Norwegian SS they were given a silver and black enamel pin bearing their "S.M." number on the reverse. The total number of Norwegian aiding members is not known, but there were 3,422 of them on the 30th September 1944. Their representative on the Staff of the Norwegian SS was Mari Selle.



Lapel badge for Aiding Members (S.M.) of the Norwegian SS.

THE FIRST PATTERN UNIFORM

The 130 volunteers for the Norwegian SS that assembled at the Nasjonal Samling's Party House on May 21st, 1941, wore German Army field grey uniforms, with German SS belts, Hird shoulder straps and brassards. None of the volunteers wore collar patches. The newness of the shoulder straps suggest that they were specially made in one batch and issued with the uniforms, and it is therefore probable that while they followed the style of the Hird rank strap, they used white and silver piping and braid in place of red and gold. Jonas Lie wore shoulder straps of a Hird regimental commander (Regimentfører) which corresponded with his new appointment as SS-standartfører of the Norwegian SS.

Lie wore a field grey SS leaders' cap with the SS version of the national emblem (Hoheitsabzeichen) replaced by the emblem of the Nasjonal Samling ("Solørn", or "N.S.-riksørn"). The volunteers wore field grey field caps with a white metal button in front (which may have had the skull on it) and the emblem of the Nasjonal Samling, machine embroidered in grey silk on a black cloth base, on the left side.

This uniform was worn until replaced on, or shortly before September 25th, 1942, by the black service uniform of the German General SS.

THE BLACK SERVICE UNIFORM

Worn in public for the first time on September 25th, 1942, this uniform corresponded exactly with that worn by the German General SS, and may even have been of German manufacture. The Norwegian uniform will be described only insofar as it differs from the German one. A certain national identity was retained by the Norwegian SS in the wearing of the mountain instead of the peaked cap. The German mountain cap which they adopted was very similar to the cap of the Norwegian Army, which is still worn today.

SS TJENESTE JAKKE

SS Service tunic

As German.

SS TJENESTE VÅPENFRAKK

SS Service overcoat

As German.

SS RIDEBUKSE

SS Breeches

As German.

SS SKIBUKSE

SS Ski trousers

As well as black breeches, the Norwegian SS wore long black trousers as issued to the General SS for skiing (see Volume 1, p. 63). These had two slanting side pockets with buttoned flaps, a watch pocket and two back pockets with buttoned flaps. The trousers were fastened at the ankle.

SS SKYGGELUE

SS Ski cap

Unlike the other three branches of the Germanic SS and the General SS itself, the Norwegian SS were not issued with a peaked cap, but wore a black cloth ski cap (referred to as the "alpejegermodell") on all occasions. Black cloth cap with matching peak and flap fastened in front with two small white metal buttons. The only badge on this cap was the woven silk skull worn in front. Leaders seem to have worn the same cap as the other ranks.

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SS Steel helmet

The German 1935 model steel helmet sprayed black was used by the Norwegian SS, and it also appears that the field grey German Army helmets complete with the Army eagle (Hoheitsabzeichen) were worn as issued.

SS SKOTØY

SS Footwear

- Black boots
- Black lace-up ankle boots
- Black lace-up ski boots
- Black lace-up shoes

SS HANSKER

SS Gloves

- Black leather
- White cloth

SS UNDERTØY

SS Underwear

- Brown shirt
- White shirt
- Black tie

SS LÆRTØY

SS Leatherwear

Black leather belt and cross strap with nickel plated two pronged belt buckle and single pronged cross strap buckle. The German SS belt and buckle is also known to have been worn, and as it was referred to as the "belt buckle for the whole Germanic SS" in an order from Himmler dated June 23rd, 1942, it may have been introduced for the entire Germanic SS about that time.

SS TJENESTE DOLK

SS Service dagger

The Chief of Staff of the Norwegian SS is known to have worn the 1936 model SS service dagger. An example with the Norwegian version of the SS civilian badge on the top of the grip does exist.



SS-standartfører Jonas Lie (here just back from the Eastern Front and in Waffen-SS uniform), with members of the Norwegian SS and Police, March 1943.

SS DISTINKSJONER**SS Badges of rank**

From the date of foundation on May 21st, 1941, until the introduction in September 1942 of the German SS system, Hird rank insignia was worn. Following the Hird system, badges of rank appeared on both shoulder straps only and consisted of silver braid bars of different widths for commissioned, and white tape bars of different widths for non-commissioned ranks. From September 1942 the Norwegian SS wore German SS badges of rank.

SS KOMMANDOSPEIL**SS Collar patches**

Rank was shown on the left collar patch in the usual way, but all ranks wore the circular swastika ("SS-solhjulet"—literally "SS sun wheel") on the right patch. Thus the unit within the Norwegian SS was not shown on the right collar patch as in the Dutch and Flemish branches, but then this is not surprising as the Norwegian SS never constituted a full regiment. The Chief of Staff of the Norwegian SS ("Stabsleder i GSSN") held no official rank and wore the circular swastika on both collar patches.

SS GRADER**SS Ranks**

The final ranks of the Norwegian SS were based on those of the German General SS, but unlike those of the Norwegian Waffen-SS they were expressed in Norwegian and not German. At first the Norwegian SS used the rank insignia of the Hird (from which it was formed) and it is therefore possible that they used the same titles. The following chart compares Hird and Norwegian SS rank titles with those of the German General SS. Rank titles were exact translations (although a little out of sequence) into Norwegian of the original German. But unlike the ranks of the General SS those of the Norwegian SS did not start with a capital letter.

No.	HIRD	NORGES SS/GSSN	ALLGEMEINE- SS
1	Hirdmann	SS-mann	SS-Mann
2	Nestspeider	SS-stormmann	SS-Sturmmann
3	Speider	SS-rodefører	SS-Rottenführer
4	Nestlagfører	SS-nestlagfører	SS-Unterschar- führer
5	Lagfører	SS-lagfører	SS-Scharführer
6	Kommandersers- jant/Furer	SS-nesttroppfører	SS-Oberschar- führer
7	Troppfører	SS-troppfører	SS-Hauptschar- führer
8	Nestsveitfører	SS-neststormfører	SS-Untersturm- führer
9	Sveitfører	SS-stormfører	SS-Obersturm- führer
10	—	SS-hovedsmann	SS-Hauptsturm- führer
11	Fylkingfører	SS-stormbannfører	SS-Sturmbann- führer
12	Nestregiment- fører	SS-neststandart- fører	SS-Obersturmbann- führer
13	Regimentfører	SS-standartfører	SS-Standarten- führer
14	—	SS-nestbrigade- fører	SS-Oberführer
15	—	SS-brigadefører	SS-Brigadeführer
—	Stabsjef	Stabsleder	—

