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THE "NORDLAND" DIVISION FLAK UNITS

SS-Flak Abteilung 11
(Field Post Nrs. 43 111 A-E)

14. (Flak) Company, SS-Panzer
Regiment 23 "Norge"
(Field Post Nr. 33 725)

14. (Flak) Company, SS-Panzer
Grenadier Regiment 24 "Danmark"
(Field Post Nr. 35 637)

Flak Platoon, SS-Artillery Regiment
11
(Field Post Nr. 42 973)

COMMAND ROSTER

SS-Flak Abteilung 11

Commanders

Ostuf. Walter Ploew
Stubaf. Emil Kurz

Adjutants

Ustuf. Adam Dietrichm
Ustuf. Georg Anweiler

Signals Officer

Hscha. Schneidemeier

Supply Officer

Ostuf. Heinz Schneider (also
commanding officer of the Staff
Battery)

Ordnance Officer

Ostuf. Besch

Weapons Master

Ostuf. Fred Prescher

1st Battery

Hstuf. Leubem
Hstuf. Wirth

2nd Battery

Hstuf. Delfs

3rd Battery

Hstuf. Mende

4th Battery

Hstuf. Holzboog

14., "Norge"

Ostuf. Hoechstam
Ostuf. Petersen
Ustuf. Bruenestedt

SS-Flak Abteilung 11 was
assembled on the SS Troop Training
Grounds "Ayr-North" in East Prussia



SS-Stubaf. Walter Ploew, commanding
officer, SS Flak Abteilung 11
"Nordland."

on 1 December 1943. The detachment officers came largely from the SS Flak Training and Replacement Regiment in Munich, while the NCO's and men came from other parts of the "Nordland" and "Wiking" Divisions. Numerous nationalities were represented in the ranks, including "Reich" Germans, Balkan ethnic-Germans, Dutchmen, Flemings, Norwegians and Swiss. Many of the ethnic-Germans had served as NCO's in the Romanian Army and after some retraining, were accorded the equivalents of their old ranks. Some of the Dutch volunteers were Royal Dutch Army veterans who had seen action in assorted small colonial wars, and were thus considered combat experienced. About a third of the men in the "Norge" and "Danmark" Flak Batteries were Scandinavian volunteers. The regimental Flak units had been formed along with the "Nordland" Division in Grafenwoehr, Bavaria, in May 1943, and would be with "Nordland" from beginning to end.

At the end of February 1944, SS-Flak Abteilung 11 left East Prussia by rail to join the rest of the "Nordland" Division at Narva, Estonia. While enroute the troop train derailed due to what was probably partisan sabotage, causing great damage and injury. Practically all of the Flak detachment's

weaponry and equipment were lost in the incident and most of the officers were injured as well. Several weeks would pass before the unit would be considered fit for duty again. In the meantime it was shipped by rail back to the Ayr Camp "South" for refitting.

In mid-April 1944 the "Nordland" Flak troops started out for the front again, arriving at Narva in the latter part of the month. Fortunately this was the "slack" season for combat due to the heavy rains and resultant mud, so the Flak batteries had a chance to become acclimated to the frontline situation. Initially the batteries were based in villages around the town of Taps, being deployed in the protection of bridges and artillery firing positions.

In early May 1944, the "Nordland" Flak batteries (three 88 mm batteries, one 3.7 cm battery, and a mixed staff battery - each 88 battery also had attached platoons of 2 cm Flak), were deployed for air defense and ground support actions in the Narva bridgehead on the east bank of the Narva River. Among other things they were responsible for protecting the essential bridge and river crossings over the river between the twin fortresses of Hermannsburg and Ivangorod.

Towards the end of July 1944, Narva was abandoned for the Tannenberg defensive line about 30 km to the west. Hstuf. Holzboog's 4. Battery, SS-Flak 11, was given the job of covering the withdrawal of the heavy artillery and the rearguard elements of SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment 49 "De Ruyter" from the neighboring "Nederland" Brigade. In the process of carrying out its mission, the battery was cut off by advance Red Army forces and had to fight its way back to the new main German lines via a circuitous route through the swamps and backwoods. Oftentimes the gun crews had to clear small Soviet elements out of the way with their infantry weapons so that the retreat could proceed. In the end, Holzboog's battery reached safety after two arduous days of struggle.

"Nordland's" Flak batteries were then used in both frontline ground defense and rear area air defense positions during the fierce battles for the Tannenberg line. In the intense fighting that ran over the next couple of weeks the gunners



"Nordland" commanding officer, *Gruf.* Fritz von Scholz, decorating *Stubaf.* Ploew with the Iron Cross, 2nd Class.



"Nordland" *Flak* on the Narva Front, early 1944.

downed no fewer than 20 enemy aircraft, mostly fighter-bombers. The 4th Battery, which was utilized in the defense of the hard-pressed Grenadier and Orphanage Hills, took heavy losses in the fighting but also seriously hindered the advance of the foe and as a result received a special commendation from III. *SS Panzer Corps* (Germanic) commander, *Gruf.* Steiner.

In the further retrograde combat that took place during the relocation from Estonia to Latvia, *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 served with a battle-group from the East Prussian 21st Infantry Division. The unit's actions during this time were acknowledged by the 21st Infantry Division's commanding officer who personally awarded the German Cross in Gold to both *Ostuf.* Ploew and *Hstuf.* Holzboog. The detachment rejoined the rest of the "Nordland" Division in the Doblen area of Latvia and played its role in helping man a "strong-point" defensive line which was in place until a permanent front could be established in Kurland. The detachment was used for air defense duties around the key Latvian port city of Liepaja (Libau), which served as the supply terminal for Army Group "Kurland."

During the critical Third Battle of Kurland in December 1944, *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 lent support to the VI. Latvian *SS Army Corps* and the 19th Latvian *SS Division* by successfully blunting an enemy advance on Frauenberg. Despite taking high losses during this engagement, the detachment was able

to destroy numerous enemy tanks and won a personal commendation from VI. *SS Corps* commanding general, *Ogruf.* Walter Krueger.

In early February 1945, *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 was shipped from the port of Libau to Stettin, Germany, with the rest of the "Nordland" Division. Upon reaching Jakobshagen, the detachment was briefly overhauled and received a new commander, *Stubaf.* Emil Kurz, who had previously commanded *SS-Flak Abteilung* "B," *SS-Kommando* "Obersalzburg." On 2 March 1945, *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 joined the 3. Company, *SS Engineer Battalion* 11, and part of II. Battalion, *SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment* 49 "DeR" in driving off a strong Soviet armored attack near Jakobshagen. The "Nordland" *Flak* gunners disposed of ten of the attacking 20 enemy tanks.

Since it now proved impossible any longer to construct cohesive defensive lines in the face of superior enemy forces, what followed were a number of desperate holding actions. The *Flak* detachment joined the partially formed *SS-Panzer Regiment* 11 under *Ostuf.* Kausch in defensive battles near Sassenburg and Rossow. On 7 March 1945, the detachment was heavily engaged along both sides of the Autobahn near Hinzendorf with the *SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment* 23 "Norge." The *Flak* gunners claimed several more enemy tanks in this action, but towards midnight the town had to be abandoned to the Reds. The "Nordland" '88' guns covered the subsequent withdrawal towards Augustwalde, accurately blasting the

Soviet spearhead.

On the next day the Reds launched a cavalry attack on the "Nordland" positions which was easily shattered by the *SS* grenadiers supported by 14. (*Flak*) Company, *SS Regiment* 24 "Danmark." No further protracted defensive effort was made until the "Nordland" troops reached Stettin on the Oder River. After a brief but violent stand at Hohenkrug, the divisional units retreated down *Reich Highway* 104 to the outskirts of Altdamm (south of Stettin), which were reached in the night of 14/15 March. Here a fortified bridgehead was constructed on the east bank of the Oder, and the *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 troops were deployed in the portion of the frontlines running towards Gollnow as infantrymen. After several days of truly heroic effort the bridgehead had to be abandoned. In the night of 19/20 March, the "Nordland" *Flak* troops in conjunction with combat engineers from Regiment "Danmark," served as a rearguard for the withdrawal of German forces from the Altdamm bridgehead to the west bank of the Oder.

Once behind the Oder River line, the badly depleted "Nordland" and "Nederland" Divisions began to rebuild and re-equip in an effort to get back to minimum combat strength. For awhile, the enemy pressure abated and *SS-Flak Abteilung* 11 was reformed in the Schwedt-Angermünde area where it served as a reserve element of III. *SS Panzer Corps* (Germanic). On 15 April 1945, the "Nordland" *Flak* batteries were sent

into combat against Soviet forces that were attempting to break out from the Wriezen bridgehead on the west bank of the Oder. They destroyed a number of tanks in difficult fighting.

The great Soviet "final offensive" began on 16 April, and the "Nordland" Division was forced slowly back towards Berlin. The *Flak* detachment held on to Straussberg on 17/18 April, where one of its '88' batteries knocked out three Soviet tanks that were trying to take the airfield. The "Nordland" Division was then ordered to fall back into Berlin to defend the city. The *Flak* troops were deployed first at Karlshorst and then on 22 April at Adlershof where they repulsed a Soviet armored attack from the direction of Eichwalde. As ammunition ran out the big guns were "spiked" and the crews became

infantrymen. The remnants of the detachment then fought in Neukoelln and on the Hasenheide before taking up the defense of the Tempelhof airfield.

On 30 April 1945, "Nordland" *Flak* gunners expended their last shells and destroyed one final tank at Tempelhof. The guns were then destroyed by hand grenades and the surviving 63 members of *SS-Flak Abteilung 11* were formed into an infantry battle-group under *Hstuf*. Holzboog. These men joined in the general breakout attempt at the Weidendammer bridge in the night on 1/2 May 1945. Few, if any, got out of the city. The survivors were largely captured and shipped off to Siberia and only a handful were to return home from this captivity some ten years later.

THE TALLY SHEET

In its year or so at the front, *SS-Flak Abteilung 11* accounted for more than 30 enemy aircraft and an equal number of enemy tanks. It also helped to break up or drive off countless Soviet ground attacks. The *Flak* companies (Nr. 14) with the "Danmark" and "Norge" Regiments, unlike the divisional *Flak* detachment, had served with "Nordland" from the start at Grafenwoehr through its sojourns in Croatia (autumn 1943), at the Oranienbaum and Narva Fronts, and in Latvia and Pomerania. They were used extensively against Soviet tank forces, but also provided air defense. In the brutal fighting in Latvia alone, 14. Battery, "Norge," shot down 14 Red aircraft but was nearly wiped out itself.



WAFFEN-SS MISCELLANY

At the end of January 1945, Waldemar Schink (or possibly Sinkus), was assigned to I. Battalion, *SS Penal Regiment "Kaltfofen,"* as a medical doctor. Schink was born in Mariampol on 20 July 1919 and spoke Russian, German, and Lithuanian fluently. While in action near Dirschau-Peplin, Schink's unit was hard hit by the Soviets and the 1st Company was totally overrun; most of its members were taken prisoner then liquidated in cold blood by the Reds. The 2nd and 3rd Companies, I. "Kaltfofen," were able to re-group and reach the town of Praust. They later participated in the defense of Banzig.

SS-Regiment "Kaltfofen" (commanded by *Stufabf.* Hansheinrich Kaltfofen, born 25 April 1909; *SS Nr.* 22,226) also included regular *SS* replacements, including soldiers returning from leaves that could not rejoin their original units. Part of the Latvian *SS* Replacement Battalion 15 also served with this regiment in the waning days of the war. When *SS-Regiment "Kaltfofen"* capitulated to the Red Army in the Danzig area, Waldemar Schink (who had earned a field promotion to *Untersturmfuehrer*), entered Soviet captivity. He was last seen at the Vorkuta slave labor camp later in 1945, and more than likely perished there or

elsewhere in the Gulag.

Hstuf. Peter Reese (born 24 January 1914; *SS Nr.* 257,860), was the commander of 10th Company, *SS-Panzer*

Grenadier Regiment 6 "Theodor Eicke", Division "Totenkopf." He was killed in action in the "Wet Triangle" of the Vistula River near Warsaw in Poland on 5 August 1944.



Flemish volunteers in 8 Company, *SS-Standarte "Nordwest,"* Hamburg, 1941.

THE "SWEDISH COMPANY"

3./SS ARMORED RECCE DET. 11/"NORDLAND"

From 1943-45, 3rd Company of the Recce Detachment of the "Nordland" Division bore the sobriquet, "The Swedish Company," chiefly because it contained a nearly all-Swedish platoon (IV. Platoon), and had Estonian ethnic-Swedes scattered throughout the company along with either a Swedish company commander or Swedish officers attached to the company. In format the company consisted of three light armored scout car platoons and the IV. (heavy) Platoon, whose armored vehicles had heavy machine guns mounted upon them.

Almost all Swedish in composition, IV. Platoon consisted of one or two officers, five NCOs and 30 to 35 men. Its first commander was Oscha. Walter Nilsson, was KIA on 25 January 1944 near Rogovitzky. Four Swedish officers eventually served with IV. Platoon, and two of them were also killed-in-action.

Much of 3rd Company was composed of ethnic-Germans from Romania, and there were concentrations of other Scandinavians and Swiss in it and the detachment as a whole. In early September 1944, the Swedish crew of an armored personnel carrier from 3rd Company (Sven Alm, Markus Ledin and Ingemar Johansson), were repairing the motor of their broken-down vehicle in a concealed position near Dorpat, Estonia when they noticed Soviet motorized forces bypassing them. They went on with their work and in a few hours had the motor operating again, but it then proved impossible to make any further contact with their unit. So they traveled by night in their vehicle through Soviet occupied territory until they eventually reached the Estonian coast. Here the trio was able to secure civilian clothes and a fishing boat which they used to take them safely across the Baltic to Sweden, thus escaping both Soviet captivity and the travails of the rest of the war.

One of the Swedish officers killed with 3rd Company was Ustuf. Rune Ahlgren, who had broken off his officer's training course at the War College in Stockholm to join the Waffen-SS. He fell near Duna, Latvia on 30 October 1944 and was buried in the outskirts of the town. Another Swedish officer who had spent some time with the company

at Narva, Ustuf. Thorkel Tillmann, was KIA near Cheux in Normandy on 20 July 1944 while attached to the staff of an SS Panzer Corps as a war correspondent. During the final battles of the "Nordland" Division in Berlin the surviving members of the "Swedish Company" generally



Ustuf. Sven Erik Olsson, Swedish radioman with the "Nordland" Division.



Swedish SS volunteers with the "Nordland" Division on the Narva Front.



"Nordland" medical officers; a Swedish SS doctor is on the right (note armshield!).

fought on foot as infantrymen. At least some members of the company, including its long-time commander, Hans-Gösta Pehrsson utilized a Swedish armshield in the national colors of blue and yellow.

Reported Numbers of Swedish Volunteers in the Waffen-SS

One hundred and one as of 31 January 1944 (from a speech by Ogruf. Berger; out of this total nine had been killed and seven wounded).

One hundred and thirty (David Littlejohn in Foreign Legions of the Third Reich, Volume 3).

One hundred and fifty (as of October 1943 according to the head of Germanic Volunteer recruiting, the Swiss Ostabst. Dr. Franz Riedweg).

One hundred and seventy-five (as of 25 July 1942 according to H. Picker in Hitler's Table Talk).

Three hundred and fifteen as of 31 October 1944 (from

an unpublished biography of Ogruf. Gottlob Berger by Robert Kuebler - this is close to the "usual" estimates by assorted Waffen-SS historians).

Swedish Casualties in the Waffen-SS

About 30 to 45 killed. Lennert Westberg, who is probably the most accurate among those who have written about the Swedish volunteers lists 130 survivors out of an estimated 175 Swedes in the Waffen-SS.

Additional Material on Swedish Volunteers

See articles by Lennert Westberg on the Swedish Waffen-SS in the Deutsches Soldatenjahrbuch for 1984, 1985, and 1986, and Der Freiwillige magazine for September and October 1984. Also see the chapter on Sweden in An Deutscher Seite by Hans Werner Neulen.



Anti-tank gunners from the SS-Totenkopf Division in combat during a defensive engagement.

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The Flemish volunteer Jan Rampelberg from Londerzeel was killed in action at Kharkov in early 1943 while serving with SS Panzer Regiment 2/"Das Reich" Division. Two other Flemish volunteers with the same unit, Marcel Vercauter from Oostende and a medic named De Clercq from Ghent, were both murdered by French terrorists (i.e., "partisans"), in France in 1944.

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Jacques Th. Kuiper, a former Dutch Army Captain and pilot, was a long-time member of the Dutch National Socialist movement, and during the war years served with the N.S.B. Labor Service and the Landwacht Nederland (a Waffen-SS run home-guard militia). During the winter of 1944/45 he was the Landwacht commandant in Amsterdam. Because the severity of the winter weather and the shortages that affected much of the Netherlands at the time, it was not uncommon for civilians to pilfer motor oil for heating purposes from German tanker trucks and other vehicles. Although this probably constituted "sabotage," Kuiper instructed his Landwacht patrols

to turn a "blind eye" to this practice whenever possible.

Of course the post-war "liberation" government in Holland demonstrated no gratitude whatsoever for this and Kuiper was treated to a long and brutal imprisonment. After his release he left for a new life in South Africa and he died there on 13 April 1986.

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The Flemish volunteer officer Hstuf. Rafael de Wolf, born 30 June 1904 in Antwerp, was an art professor who taught at a school for war-disabled Waffen-SS veterans that was set up by the SS Main Office in Graz, Austria. De Wolf was last heard from in Graz at the end of the war.

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Denis Smits, a former member of the Germanic SS in Flanders, the SS Guard "St. Truiden" and the Waffen-SS who survived the brutal post-war concentration camp at Beverlo, Belgium, died on 8 January 1972. He was only 50 years old. His credo in life was to: "Fight for a free Flanders, within a free Germany, within a free Europe."

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Photo of a special holiday mess night at the staff of V. SS Mountain Corps. An unidentified Oberführer (possibly Corps' Artillery Commander Martin Konradt), sits on the right. Second from the left is Franz Maurice, who transferred into the Waffen-SS and served with V. SS Corps staff in November 1944.



WAFFEN-SS PERSONALITY PROFILE



SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer
HANS-GOESTA PEHRSSON

Hans-Goesta Pehrsson was born in Karlskrona, Sweden in 1910; he was a chemist by profession. In July 1941 he volunteered for service with the Freikorps Danmark and ended up on the Lake Ilmen front as an NCO and commander of a machine gun platoon. In 1943 he attended and graduated from the SS-Junkerschule Toelz and was posted to 3rd Company ("Swedish Company")/SS Armored Recce Detachment 11/11th SS Division "Nordland," where he served initially as a platoon leader.

On 30 January 1944, both Pehrsson and the 3rd Co. commander, Ostuf. Walter Kaiser, were wounded to the east of Narva, Estonia, and command of the company and platoons passed over entirely to NCOs. A few days earlier on 25 January, the leader of IV. Platoon/3rd Co. (virtually all-Swedish in composition), Oberscharfuehrer Walter Nilsson, was killed near Rogovitzky during the elocation of the "Nordland" Div. from the Oranienbaum Pocket to the Narva River.

Upon the death of Ostuf. Kaiser on 19 April 1944 at Narva, Ostuf. Pehrsson assumed command of 3rd Company, temporarily relinquishing it in July 1944 to the German Ostuf. Hermann Ahrens from the "Wiking" Division. Ahrens was subsequently killed-in-action on or about 29 July 1944 in the vicinity of Ponomonok, Estonia and Pehrsson had to rush back to again take over the company. He would hold command more or less continuously until the end of the war.

In May/June 1944, Pehrsson (who had already privately conceded that the war was lost), helped some young and demoralized Swedish and Estonian ethnic Swedes in his company desert to Sweden so that their attitude would not permeate the company and so that they would not be punished by the Germans as well had they been caught trying to desert on their own.

At Preekuln in Kurland, Latvia in October 1944, Ostuf. Pehrsson and 12 men of his command counterattacked a strong Soviet force that had penetrated the "Nordland" lines, and not only managed to regain the old positions but capture some 100 enemy soldiers as well. After the

action, Pehrsson noticed that his company was out of liquid refreshments, so he radioed the following message to Stubaf. Rudolf Saalbach, the detachment commander: "Positions retaken. If you don't bring a crate of Schnaps over here pronto the positions will be abandoned!" Saalbach responded by personally bringing over the liquor and in turn advising Pehrsson that he was now obligated to hold the lines for as long as required.

As it turned out, Ostuf. Pehrsson and his handful of soldiers managed to hold on to the main positions for the next eight days, despite extreme enemy pressure and constant fighting. A measure of the defensive effort that was put out could be seen in the seven T-34 tanks that the SS men knocked out in close combat before the bunker line. For his deeds during this time period, Ostuf. Pehrsson was mentioned in the Wehrmacht Roll of Honor and decorated with the coveted Honor Roll Clasp on 25 December 1944.

On 15 April 1945, Hans-Goesta Pehrsson was promoted to Hauptsturmfuehrer and made Ic (intelligence officer) on the staff of the "Nordland" Division under Brigadefuehrer Ziegler, while still retaining command of what was left of his old company. On 27 April 1945, during the height of the battle for Berlin, Hstuf. Pehrsson and part of his 3rd Co./SS Recce Det. 11, including three armored cars, were sent to the Reichschancellery where they were assigned to the staff of Brigfhr. Moehnke, who was trying to coordinate the defense of the city center. During the general escape attempt at the Weiden-dammer bridge on the night of 1/2 May, Hstuf. Pehrsson and his Swedish driver were both wounded when their vehicle took a direct hit from enemy tank guns and they were later captured by the Soviets. In June 1945, Pehrsson had recovered from his wounding and during a lapse in security, managed to escape from captivity and eventually return to Sweden. He died there in Stockholm in 1974, following a long illness.

Hstuf. Pehrsson was an officer who was well respected and trusted by his men. Although obviously sympathetic to the objectives of Germany in regards to international communism, he was far from a political fanatic and proved to be a natural soldier and leader. On the other hand he was not much of an athlete and he was remembered by a comrade as fairly ineffectual in the daily soccer matches that were held when the "Nordland" recce detachment was at rest behind the lines.

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For my fallen friend L. Ferdinand Troxler Graf von Frickenstaufen; these words by the Swedish SS war correspondent, Obersturmfuehrer Hans-Casper Krueger speak for you as well, RL

To:
Walter Nilsson - Comrade And Countryman!
Fallen At Narva

by H.C. Krueger

Flowers I had none, nor time to twine a wreath of furbush to adorn your grave. Words would have sounded idle and hollow - you were a man of action, so I could but undo my steel helmet and softly speak the words carved on the simple birch cross:

"Walter Nilsson - SS Oberscharfuehrer"

As I spoke your name, I thought of the words: "So many an Iron Cross on brave men's chests and so many a wooden cross at the wayside bear witness of bravery and sacrifice."

"Brave and helpful," so had the other Swedish volunteers described you, "blond and blue-eyed, always gay and cheerful." I had never met you but had often heard of you, and your friends never tired of telling about you, so I got to know you though you were no more. "Were no more" - how could I assert such a thing? Of course you were still among us, as long as you lived in the hearts and thoughts of your comrades in arms.

You came from the North of Sweden and had together with other Teutonic volunteers, joined the ranks of SS Division "Nordland," consisting of Germans, Danes, Norwegians and Swedes. You had also fought together with Flemish and Dutch Brigades and when your hour struck you did not die for one country alone but for a unity of Nordic States - a unity we all dreamt and longed for.

Here you rested now, so far away from the land of your forefathers, and before I continued on my way, I wanted to leave something with you; flowers I had none, nor time to twine a wreath, but in a pocket I found a coin from the reign of Oscar II with the motto: "For the welfare of the brother-countries," meaning at that time, Sweden and Norway. I thought not only of these two nations but of the sons of all the Teutonic nations who fought here against the onset of the Asiatic hordes, so I knelt and pressed the coin, as a last greeting, into the frozen earth.

You fell at Narva, this Narva where the greatest victory in Swedish history was won. For you, "Narva" was more than but a name from the school books. For you, it was an obligation. You knew, you came from the same stock as the men who here once stood firm against the threat from the East. You had realized that only through struggle and sacrifice in the present, a link in the chain of time can be forged which connects the past with the future.

"Life is eternal and mighty and cruel and joy cold. Nothing am I but my race and my root and my tribe is everything."

For you, these words of the poet Bertil Gripenberg had meant a reality and you had caught their deeper sense.

From whatever distant Valhalla my friend and comrade, L.F., watches down from, I hope I will always prove faithful to the enormous trust and support that he gave me. More than anyone else, he kept SR going on course when things began to falter. He truly belonged at Uspenkaja with all the other brave Vikings. I will not forget him; may our spiritual solidarity always continue. RL §

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