



Siegrunen

THE WAFFEN-SS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



The Dutch SS Volunteer Gerardus Mooymann, the first non-German SS man to be awarded the Knight's Cross. He personally destroyed 17 Soviet tanks (13 in one day) in February

1943 on the Leningrad Front. Here he receives congratulations from other Dutch comrades during a visit to Berlin.

[via Kenneth Nieman]

In 1980, the U.S. Justice Department (if you can call it that), dropped its deportation case against a former member of the Waffen-SS from the North Caucasus region of the Soviet Union named Tscherim Soobzokov. Soobzokov had been accused of all sorts of "war crimes," including "mass murder" by the New York Times newspaper, a "Nazi" hunter, a journalist and several other people. He subsequently sued all of the above and won a very large out-of-court settlement.

At the time of his victory over the "Justice" Department, Soobzokov had the following to say: "I was never afraid because I knew I was innocent. But with all the expense, the time, and the pressure, I would be foolish if I were not relieved. It's not so easy in the great United States to convict a guy who is innocent." No, as it turns out it's much easier just to kill them; Soobzokov was murdered by a terror bomb in the summer of 1985 after years of terrorist harassment. The event received a little play in the press but was quickly dropped. A few days later an elderly Latvian refugee barely escaped being murdered in the same manner. Some groups and individuals all but took credit for both occurrences, yet as almost always happens in these cases, the authorities remained "baffled" and without suspects.

Such acts of domestic terror, increasingly frequent in recent years against individuals and publishers who may have somehow upset or challenged the "establishment" line on events that transpired over 40 years ago on another continent, usually are met with complete indifference by law enforcement and political officials, who to date have not made much effort to really bring the perpetrators to justice. Although when Americans are victimized by certain types of overseas "terrorists" you can bet that these otherwise mute politicians will begin howling in frenzy.

The U.S. is not unique in its lack of enthusiasm in pursuing certain domestic terrorists; one only has to recall the complete apathy of the government of France following the murder of former Standartenfuehrer Jochen Peiper in that country in 1976. Although the criminals involved left a trail wide enough to drive a diesel truck over, none were ever apprehended.

Tragically the domestic terrorism in the U.S. against former members of the Waffen-SS in particular has almost been officially sanctioned and certainly encouraged by the "Nazi" hunting Office of Special Investigations of the "Justice" Department. This outfit operates as a special privilege secret police force, using techniques common to their counterparts in any one of the Communist-ruled nations. It uses information provided to it from the Soviet secret police in its efforts to prosecute American citizens. The Soviets provided the OSI a whole "criminal" file on Tscherim Soobzokov, but unfortunately it couldn't be used by our commisars. Not because it was a complete work of fiction with fabricated (and clearly wrong) dates), but because the crimes Soobzokov was charged with, political "hooliganism" and "recalcitrance" are not yet recognized as crimes by the U.S. Judicial system. So the OSI commisars were left gritting their teeth over this case, but the people they inspired went right ahead with their attacks on Soobzokov, eventually killing him.

The tragic death of Tscherim Soobzokov is a direct result of the malicious hate campaign instigated and directed by the OSI and its media accomplices, who brought their devious methods to a hysterical peak at the time of the "Bitburg affair." It is not yet clear how much longer such nefarious activities will be tolerated by the American people. But it is clear that if we are to avoid the totalitarian crackdown presaged by the OSI and its evil allies something must be done soon.

SIEGRUNEN / Volume 7 Number 2 / Whole Number 38

April-June 1985

EDITOR

Richard Landwehr

Associate Editor

Gustav Juergens

Staff Artist and Contributing Editor

Ramiro Bujeiro

Contributing Editors

Carlos Caballero

Steve Kane

Ray Merriam

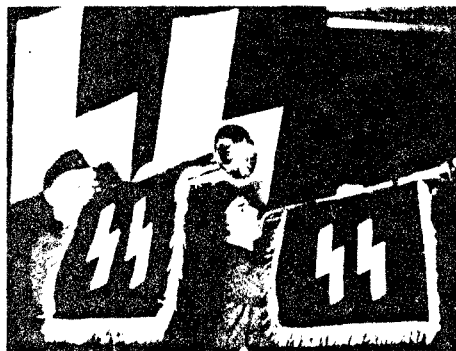
SIEGRUNEN (ISSN 0733-0367) is published by
International Graphics Corp., Bennington VT

Copyright ©1985 by Richard Landwehr Jr.

Subscription rate for four issues: \$20.00 (outside the U.S., add \$2.50 for surface mail postage). Single copy: \$5.00 (outside U.S. add 75¢ for surface mail postage).

Contributions: Manuscripts, photographs, drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Siegrunen, Box 512, Glendale OR 97442, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient return postage. Any material accepted for publication is subject to revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SIEGRUNEN. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs and artwork should be credited and accompanied by captions. All manuscripts are considered contributions to SIEGRUNEN.

Advertising (subject to editor's approval) in SIEGRUNEN is available at the following rates: Full page, \$80.00; Half page, \$40.00; Quarter page, \$20.00; Eighth page, \$10.00; Short classifieds, \$5.00. A 20% discount will be allowed for multiple insertions.



A Note From The Publisher

All orders for SIEGRUNEN merchandise and renewals must be sent to the Editor, Richard Landwehr.

Address Corrections should also be sent to the Editor, as soon as your new address is known. Also, it is very important that you include your old address . . . the mailing list is kept in ZIP Code order, and if your new address has a different ZIP Code, we simply cannot easily locate your old address to remove it from the list and replace it with your new one. This could cause delays and even loss of SIEGRUNEN issues due you.

Should an issue be mailed to your old address and it is returned, you will be required to pay all forwarding and return postage charges (which we have already had to pay the post office), plus a \$1.00 remailing fee before we can mail that issue to your correct address. NOTE: Even a change in an apartment number—even if you remain in the same building!—will now have postage due, etc., charges added by the post office.

Every time we mail out an issue to the subscribers, several come back with incorrect addresses. Most we eventually are able to re-mail to the subscriber at their correct address, but some "lost" subscribers are just never located. You can avoid missing any issues by giving us any change in your address as soon as possible.

Foreign subscribers are listed alphabetically, so we can more easily locate you on the mailing list to change your address, but it is still a good idea to include your old address as well.



SS-Gruppenführer Hermann Priess, the long-time commander of the 3rd SS Pz. Div. "Totenkopf" and the 1st SS Panzer Corps and a holder of the Swords and Oakleaves to the Knight's Cross, died on 2 February 1985 at the age of 83. He was one of the great figures in the history of the Waffen-SS.



STILL AVAILABLE FROM SIEGRUNEN AT THIS TIME

SIEGRUNEN Back Issues
Numbers 1-27 at \$2.50 each
Nos. 28 & 29 (book format editions) at \$6.50 each
Nos. 30-37 (current magazine format) at \$5.00 each

SIEGRUNEN BULLETIN Back Issues
[really the same as the early SIEGRUNEN issues]
Numbers 1-8 at \$1.50 each

SIEGRUNEN ANTHOLOGY
\$2.50

SIEGRUNEN NEWSLETTERS
Numbers 1-4 at \$1.00 each

Waffen-SS Personality Profiles
\$1.00

Wallonien
28th SS Division
\$6.00

NARVA 1944
[III. SS Pz. Corps]
\$9.95

LIONS OF FLANDERS
[Flemish Waffen-SS]
\$14.95

DEATHSHEAD
["Totenkopf" Div. in France]
\$10.00

SS War Songs and Marches
[LP or cassette]
\$9.95 + \$2.00 shipping

EPIC:
The Story of the Waffen-SS
by Leon Degrelle
\$4.00 + \$1.00 shipping

CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA
The Waffen-SS on the Eastern Front
by Leon Degrelle
A massive classic in English for the first time
\$17.95 + \$1.00 shipping

[SR No. 28 and LIONS are both in limited supply!]

Order From:

Richard Landwehr
Box 512
Glendale OR 97442

> CLASSIFIEDS <

Erik Rundkvist, Emag 68, 121 57 Johanneshov, Sweden is interested in contacting Waffen-SS collectors in the U.S. and Canada. [38]

Mark C. Yerger, 431 College Ave., Lancaster PA 17603 is researching and writing an English language history of the "Das Reich" Division and needs documents and photos pertaining to the division, and in particular its personalities and unit commanders. [38]

MILITARY BOOKLIST issued quarterly, over 600 titles per issue. Send \$1.00 for four issues to **THE COLLECTOR**, 36 The Colonade, Piece Hall, Halifax HX1 1RS, West Yorkshire, great britain. [39]

BUMPER STICKERS! Any message printed! \$2.00! T-Shirts! SS Runes or Thor's Hammer! \$7.95 each! P.W., Dept. SR, P.O. Box 709, Prudenville MI 48651. [41]



WAFFEN-SS BOOKS

TULLE AND ORADOUR

A Franco-German Tragedy

by Otto Weidinger • 62pp • English text • privately printed.

Otto Weidinger, a recipient of the Swords and Oakleaves to the Knight's Cross and last commander of SS Panzergrenadier Rgt 4 "Der Fuehrer," is one of the great war heroes and military historians of our time. He has never dodged a difficult situation in his life and for the last 30 years or so he has worked ceaselessly to try and present a full and objective story of the alleged Waffen-SS "war crimes" at Tulle and Oradour in France in June 1944.

He has finally been able to produce, for the first time in the English language, a comprehensive yet concise review of what happened, explaining very clearly all sides of the story. It should forever dispell the myth that these incidents constituted "war crimes" on the part of the Germans. They were tragic reprisals that resulted due to even more tragic and barbaric acts on the part of the so-called French "Resistance," an organization which was dominated, oddly enough, by a coalition of French, Spanish and foreign communists and criminals, and was never representative of the French people as a whole.

Herr Weidinger spells out everything that happened on both sides in graphic detail and leaves you to figure out who were the true "war criminals." He lists all of the facts about the Oradour incident in particular that are always omitted by the U.S. media; i.e., the unintentional death of the women and children in the church due to the explosion of hidden terrorist munitions, the efforts by SS troops to rescue them, etc. Frankly this book should be distributed as widely as possible in the English-speaking world, and I truly hope that some means can be found to do so.

Nobody, including Herr Weidinger, can speak with full approval of the means used by the Germans to combat the vicious, unethical actions of the "Allied"-backed terrorists, but the fact remains that utterly drastic action had to be taken to remove these predators from the field during the first days of the battle for Normandy. The terrorists preyed on the weakest elements of the German armed forces; supply troops, Red Cross hospital columns, and assorted individuals and unprotected convoys. They murdered everyone they caught, often after horrendous torture, then obscenely mutilated the remains besides. But after the reprisals at Tulle and Oradour the "resistance" abruptly shut down its operations and was never again a serious factor during the struggle for Normandy.

It is a sad truism that military reprisals are usually very effective in the short term, but harmful in the long run due to the lingering resentment engendered. Tulle and Oradour were inevitable incidents that proved the validity of the above; nobody wanted them to happen but there was no choice. And at last, for the first time, the truth about what did take place can be made known to the general public. More information on the availability of this book will be listed in SR in the future.

AN DEUTSCHER SEITE

Internationale Freiwillige von Wehrmacht und Waffen-SS

by Hans-Werner Neulen • Universitas Verlag, Munich • 1985 • 518pp • dozens of photos, maps and charts • German text.

For the first time an objective book has appeared that fully describes and chronicles the formation and deployment of non-German military volunteers in the German armed forces. Every country and nationality is thoroughly dealt with and special emphasis is given to the political background involved and the motivation of the volunteers. Herr Neulen has covered a very complex subject with admirable clarity, fairness and detail. The photographs are exceptional, including the first I have ever seen of Romanian Waffen-SS volunteers at their training camp in the winter of 1944/45. Much new and valuable information is brought to the surface including the story (and photo) of the "unknown" Swiss Knight's Cross holder, Peter Renold.

All told this is an excellent volume that is highly recommended. It can be obtained from The History Bookshop in London at a reasonable price (see their ad elsewhere in this issue). One can only hope that someday this sees an English-language edition as well.

CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA

The Waffen-SS On The Eastern Front

by Leon Degrelle • published by the Institute for Historical Review • 1985 • 353pp • frontispiece and dust jacket photos • available at \$17.95 + \$1.00 postage from SIEGRUNEN.

Just about any words I can say about this title would be superfluous. This is the classic memoir of warfare on the Eastern Front written by one of the greatest men of our time, whose political and military career was nothing short of extraordinary.

Anyone reading SIEGRUNEN should, of course, have this book. It has long been one of my dreams to see this volume in particular made available in an English-language edition and

DIE GENERALE DER WAFFEN SS

320 pages, 100 photos, German text. The Waffen-SS generals, from Brigadefuehrer to Oberstgruppenfuehrer. Includes war service, commands, decorations & awards, etc. etc. (available this Fall). \$33.00

DRAMA ZWISCHEN BUDAPEST u WIEN

672 pages, 35 photos, maps, reproductions of operational orders, etc. Orders of battle, officers, unit strengths, etc. German text. The 1945 battles of the 6th SS Pz. Army in the defense of the Reich between Budapest & Vienna. \$45.00

MELDUNGEN AUS DEM REICH

17 volumes. 6,740 pages. German text. The secret SD/SS reports on all aspects of Germany & German life in WWII. The set \$57.00

POSTCARDS OF WOLFGANG WILLRICH

72 pages, 32 color ills., 173 B&W ills. English/German text. The cards of Willrich, one of the foremost military artists of Germany of WWII. This book includes a listing of all known cards published. A PRIVATE LIMITED EDITION, EACH COPY NUMBERED. \$13.25

ROMMEL u die GEHEIMDIENSTE IN NORDAFRIKA 1941-1943

241 pages, 252 photos, 4 maps, German text. The secret intelligence war in the North African Campaign, many unusual & interesting photos of equipment, etc. \$28.00

DIE TRAGER DES DEUTSCHEN KREUZES IN GOLD VOLUME II

450 pages. German text. This volume includes the Holders of the German Cross in Gold & Silver of the Waffen-SS, as well as the Kriegsmarine & Luftwaffe. \$32.95 [Volume I is also available which lists the Army recipients, at the same price.]

RANGLISTE DER GENERALE DER DEUTSCHEN LUFT-WAFFE, nach dem Stand vom 20 April 1945

200 pages. German text. \$21.00

DIE II PANZER DIVISION

550 pages, 1,200 photos. German text. A photo book of the famous 'Phantom Division.' \$37.00

DER FREIWILLIGE

The Magazine of the H.I.A.G., the association of former members of the Waffen-SS. Includes accounts of battles, biographical information, etc. German text.

Annual subscription \$24.95

All the books are priced postpaid.

For a copy of our GERMAN & EUROPEAN AXIS WWII ARMED FORCES BOOK CATALOGUE, includes Waffen-SS unit photo histories, battles, biographies, battles & campaigns, weapons & equipment, send \$2.00 and we will AIRMAIL you a copy by return.

THE HISTORY BOOKSHOP

2 The Broadway
Friern Barnet Road
London N11 3DU
GREAT BRITAIN

such is now the case. The prose is vivid, relentless, gripping and occasionally quite graphic (Degrelle minces no words for anyone with tender sensibilities), and will force you to "live" the reality of the Eastern Front as it actually was. This work has been called "Homeric" in scope and it is truly that; Degrelle has a unique appreciation of life and beauty even amidst death and destruction and it shines through in no uncertain terms.

Degrelle is unabashed and unapologetic. He is convinced of the rightness of his deeds and those of his soldiers and he sums up his feelings with unequivocal eloquence right at the end of his work:

"I remained, a witness to my soldier's deeds. I could defend them from the lies of adversaries insensible to heroism. I could tell of their epic on the Donets and the Don, in the Caucasus and at Cherkassy, in Estonia, at Stargard, on the Oder.

"One day the sacred names of our dead would be repeated with pride. Our people, hearing these tales of glory, would feel their blood quicken. And they would know their sons.

"Certainly we had been beaten. We had been dispersed and pursued to the four corners of the world.

"But we could look to the future with heads held high. History weighs the merit of men. Above worldly baseness, we had offered our youth against total immolation. We had fought for Europe, its faith, its civilization. We had reached the very height of sincerity and sacrifice. Sooner or later Europe and the world would have to recognize the justice of our cause and the purity of our gift.

"For hate dies, dies suffocated by its own stupidity and mediocrity, but grandeur is eternal.

"And we lived in grandeur."

What more can I add to that? In a world seemingly dominated by moral cowards and ethical pygmies, Leon Degrelle stands as a giant among men. The book also has a useful glossary, footnotes and an excellent introduction by Ted O'Keefe. Absolutely recommended.



A Waffen-SS machine gun team in position near Caen, France, 27 July 1944. [via Kenneth Nieman]



Die SS "Tante Friede"

compiled, translated and illustrated by B. L. Williams • private printing • available from Globe Militaria, RFD 1, Box 269, Keene NH 03431 at \$22.50 postpaid.

This is a surprisingly good reworking of a Waffen-SS soldier's handbook (commonly referred to as "Tante Friede" or "Aunt Friede"), and delves into almost every basic detail of military life and training that one could think of. The author knows his stuff and has a very favorable and knowledgeable attitude towards the Waffen-SS as well. There is an immense amount of profusely illustrated material (with much on tactics, weapons usage and general survivalism from the German perspective), detailed in a very interesting manner. I learned quite a bit from this book and anyone interested in the "basics" with emphasis on how the Waffen-SS handled them is advised to obtain this volume. Recommended.

Panzer Grenadiere

der Panzerdivision "Wiking" im Bild

assembled by the Veteran's Association of the "Westland" Regiment • 1984 • Price: in the \$30.00 range from many militia book dealers.

"Panzer Grenadiere" is the latest massive photo/text history from Munin-Verlag, the publishing house of the W-SS veteran's association. Aside from the usual magnificent assembly of photographs there is an extensive text in German and in English, the latter language being particularly well-written since the translation work was done by an Englishman. Much of the history is concerned with the SS Panzergrenadier Rgt. "Westland" but the other "Wiking" units are given good coverage as well. An exceptional book, of value to anyone interested in the Waffen-SS with much new material and no language barriers to overcome.

DIE FLUGABWEHRVERBAENDE DER WAFEN-SS

by Hans Stoeber • Verlag K.W. Schuetz, West Germany • 1984 • 608pp • 120 + photos, numerous charts, line illustrations, etc.

This is a massive documentary history of every independent air defense (Flak) component of the Waffen-SS ranging from Corps and Divisional detachments to training and reserve batteries and regiments. The author has assembled a gargantuan set of facts pertaining to the structures and battle actions of the SS Flak units, along with information on the commanders and distinguished personalities involved. He also covers the weapons themselves in some detail. Certainly a very valuable reference work as far as SIEGRUNEN is concerned and probably a good buy for most people seriously interested in the Waffen-SS. The price tag is about \$25.00 U.S. Available from The History Bookshop in London.

"PANZER GRENADIERE"

mentioned above can be obtained for \$30.00 from:

John Fedorowicz
267 Whitegates Cr.

Winnipeg MB R3K 1L2 CANADA



"Sepp" Dietrich and his "boys," 1st SS Division.

THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II

By Wulf Schuldes

"Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light."
George Washington

"Truth does not have to ask anyone's permission!"
Arthur Schopenhauer

Introduction

The purpose of this essay is to inform the general public about important events and depict the real forces which altered the course of history. In order to arrive at a more balanced perspective, I have referred to newly published source materials from both sides of the conflict. My essay differs from the old established "black-and-white" picture insofar that it attempts to describe what really happened.

Retrospect

Since World War II was a continuation of World War I, we should reflect upon the outbreak and ending World War I first. The three moving forces which triggered World War I were:

- 1) The rising Pan-Slavism in Russia and in the smaller Slavic nations.
- 2) Britain's unwillingness to meet the German industrial and commercial enterprises on the world market in free competition.
- 3) France seeking revenge for its lost war of 1870-71, which was started by Napoleon III but won by Prussia.

Beginning in 1904, Germany was increasingly surrounded by a number of treaties directed against her. The alliance of France-Russia-Britain was well knit long before the spark was lit in Sarajevo. The Triple Entente, being aware of their superiority, were very optimistic. For Austria-Germany it was a fight for survival, from the first day on. Austria-Germany had 6.1 million men in uniform, while the Triple Entente had 9.9 million men. Germany's navy with 1.2 million tons was greatly outnumbered by the 3.3 million tons of Britain, France and Russia.

In 1918, in good faith of Wilson's "Fourteen Points," (a propaganda ploy the Western Democracies had no intention of implementing) Germany laid down its arms. Brushing their promises aside, the victors proceeded in taking revenge for the fact that Germany had not been defeated on the battlefield.

At the treaties of Versailles and St. Germain (1919), large portions of German and Austrian territories with their German inhabitants were handed over to the victors. Unstable countries such as Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia were created. Poland received a large part of Germany with 2.2 million inhabitants. The area was handed over despite the fact, that 85% of the population voted to stay with the German Reich (30 March 1921). This high percentage is even more remarkable, when we consider that Germany was a defeated country and that Poland employed scare-tactics and outright terrorism to intimidate the voters prior to the election. This terrorism was tolerated and encouraged by the French troops under General LeRonde who was assigned to supervise the elections.¹

Taking into account that Poland had received so many minorities at Versailles, the dictators of the treaty felt somehow responsible and forced Poland *against her vehement protests* to sign a 'minority protection act.' As agreed, the League of Nations should have provided effective protection under this act, but failed to do so. The Poles sneered at all agreements.

The effect of one single year of Polish brutality on the

native population was devastating. There was a mass exodus of German speaking natives, many of them with Polish family names.

Not being satisfied with the large area Poland had received at the Treaty of Versailles, they also wanted to take over the German colonies.² Poland considered herself an equal of England and France.

Sensible men like the English Premier Lloyd George and the French Marshall Foch realized the injustice which the Polish 'corridor' represented (dissecting Germany). But none of these warnings influence the League of Nations in any way. This assembly saw their *raison d'être* solely in the execution of the dictate of Versailles.

Francesco Nitti, the Italian Prime Minister (1919-20) wrote: "But these treaties, born in hatred, almost exclusively by the will of France (Clemenceau), and that will was only to humble Germany, to choke and dissect her."³

The League of Nations consistently denied Germany equal rights and rejected all six German disarmament recommendations during the period of 1932-35. As a result, Germany introduced military draft service and renounced the Versailles armament limitations on 16 March 1935.

The well-known British historian, A.J.P. Taylor wrote in his monumental book, *The Origins of the Second World War*: "The French had fired the starting-pistol for the arms race."⁴

Hitler made one more offer for arms limitation: "This undeniably demonstrates our goodwill and desire to avoid an unlimited race for re-armament."⁵

Two Interesting Notes

A Jewish newspaper in Paris (*Le Droit de Vivre*) admitted in 1937: "Hitler does not want war, but we will force it on him!"

Winthrop Aldrich, General Director of the Chase National Bank announced after returning from a "fact-finding-mission" in Europe: "England will create a political situation which will force Hitler to take up arms."⁶

Poland's Attitude towards her Minorities 1919-39

During the negotiations for the treaty of Versailles, the Poles demanded the use of the German City of Danzig. They claimed, that the Polish foreign trade could not function without the Danzig harbor.

In 1920, Danzig was severed from the German Republic, cynically declared a 'Free City' and the harbor facilities handed over to Polish control. *In spite of this*, Poland enlarged the harbor of Polish Dgingen, thus diverting away 66% of the normal traffic from Danzig. To further bankrupt the economy of Danzig, Poland quadrupled the number of Polish custom personnel in Danzig still on the German payroll.

The City of Danzig was forced to pay 3 million Guilders for a Polish ammunition dump which was built with the blessings of the 'neutral' League of Nations.

The large territories which Poland had received in 1919 had only wetted her appetite. Constant cries for more German land were heard: from the schools and public media.

Through 'Land Reform' Poland expropriated 750,000 hectar (1.85 million acres) of German land.

Germans were 'fair game' and could not find protection by the Policy Police. Murder and torture were common place.⁷

Between 1919-39, Polish schools, newspapers and radio broadcasts preached twenty years of hatred; a massive Government inspired Polandization effort!⁸

Manchester Guardian 17 October 1930: "The Polish terror in the Ukraine is worse than anything in Europe!"
 Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

Manchester Guardian 14 December 1931: "The aim of the Polish politics is the disappearance of the national minorities on paper and in reality."

Winston Churchill (24 November 1932) in the House of Commons: "If the British Government really wished to act in favour of promoting peace, then she should take over the leadership and should on her side bring up the question of Danzig and the Corridor, as long as the victor nations are still in the superior. If these questions are not solved, no hope for lasting peace can be expected."

By August 1939, 76,535 Germans had fled Poland. 4,000 had been killed, some of them tortured and mutilated.⁹ The total figure of German civilian victims prior to and during the Polish campaign is estimated at 20,000 of which 12,500 are confirmed by name.¹⁰

Hitler's consiliatory offers were laughed at and taken as a sign of weakness.

A German offer to enter into negotiations was answered by Poland with a threat of war.¹¹

President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared in his New Year Message (4 January 1939) that the USA will act with: "...methods short of war." He strengthened the war policy in London and Paris and urged the Poles through his special ambassador William Bullitt: "Do not yield an inch!" A very strange attitude for an American president, whom the news media depicted as working toward peace.

Spring of 1939

23 March 1939. Poland had partially mobilized her army.

Hitler reacted calmly in order to avoid driving the Poles into the hands of the British. He did not counter this provocation with a military counter-measure. Hitler refrained from supporting the Ukrainian freedom movement. On the diplomatic front Germany agreed on independent Czech and Polish states and supported neutral and Vatican efforts for peace.

Germany sought an extension of the German-Polish non-aggression pact for an additional 25 years.

26 March 1939. Poland, through Ambassador Lipski rejected German proposals for negotiations and threatened war.

28 March 1939. The Polish army newspaper *Polska Zbryja* in an article "We are prepared": "...that the Poles, different to the Czechs, have no feeling of inferiority towards the powerful nations of the world, the number of foreign divisions does not frighten the Poles..." (Germany had fewer divisions at that time anyway).

The Last Few Days

Poland totally mobilized without a protest from neither Britain nor France (29-30 August).

Musolini proposed an international conference to be held on 5 September 1939.

Colonel Beck, Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, did not want any kind of negotiations. He feared that a compromise could have been reached with Hitler. And that England would have forced Poland to accept such a compromise.

Hitler had actually planned his counter-measure on 26 August, but postponed his date in the vain hope that negotiations be given *another chance*. On 29 August he made his last offer on the diplomatic front, — he demanded:

Freedom for Danzig.

An extra-territorial road-and-rail link through the corridor.

Internationally supervised elections in the 'corridor' within a year. Exchange of small pockets of population on an even basis as a result of such an election.

This message was intercepted by Winston Churchill. When Chamberlain finally heard of it through a German radio broadcast, he expressed in the House of Commons: "This is the first time I heard about it!"¹²

Hitler bitterly complained to Henderson (British Ambassador in Berlin), that the "British Government does not give a damn whether or nor German civilians are being murdered in Poland."

Lord Halifax on 30 August 1939 finally asked the Poles to stop the persecution. The reaction by Beck: "Without being authorized by the Polish Government...the Polish Foreign Minister forbids the British Government to express views and opinions about Polish problems."¹³

31 August 1939

The situation was very tense! During the last weeks Poles had repeatedly fired at German civilian air planes. Pot shots and machine gun fire rang across the border into Danzig.¹⁴

Britain had approved of Poland's general mobilization. Encouraged by England, France, and the United States, Poland ran the risk of war.

Poland had instructed its ambassador in Berlin, Lipski, to ask for 'talks,' but under no circumstances should he enter into any *realistic* conversation. Lipski had no authority to negotiate.

Goering did everything possible in his power to avoid a war. He realized that the generals were afraid of war and that the German economy was in no shape for a war. Since England had rejected Hitler's plan to send Goering to London, Goering had



Waffen-SS anti-tank gunners of SS-Standarte "Germania" move their PaK in Holland, 13 May 1940.



A column of vehicles from the SS "Totenkopf" Panzer Division move through Joigny, France, 17 June 1940.

At the late hour of 2115 hours, "Radio Germany" broadcasted the much publicized "Final Offer" for the last time.

At 2300 hours "Radio Warsaw" answered by calling it an "insolent proposal," it rejected any form of negotiations, sneered at the useless waiting by the "New Huns," and declared that Poland's answer can only be a *military* one!

Hitler had swallowed all the humiliations he could possibly take (although some 'historians' have argued that he should have shown *more* patience). The following morning, German troops entered Poland. The Polish cavalry never made it across the border in the direction of Berlin, as they had so often threatened.

2 September 1939

The Polish Marshall Rydz-Smigly realized that the war would be lost and started negotiations at once. But the British Government declared immediately that this must never happen and repeated its determination to help Poland with all its powers.

Germany continued her efforts toward peace. Dr. Fritz Hesse, the German Press Attache in London, was given *full authority* to negotiate. He contacted Sir Horace Wilson in the Foreign Office, invited him to Berlin and presented the German proposals.

Germany is willing to withdraw her troops.

Germany will pay for damages.

Both points under the condition that England accepts the role of negotiator and occupies the area to protect the German minority from Polish terror.

Sir Horace, acting with full authority for the British Government, answered:

"*Too late!* France has now shown her willingness to enter the war (the French leaders learned that Italy will remain neutral). Secondly, Winston Churchill had joined the cabinet and thus the switches had been set for war! England can not tolerate another power on the continent because she would either perish or lose the basis on which her empire and world prestige are built."

"With this answer, Sir Horace was exceptionally blunt. For Britain, the issue was not whether the German minority in Poland was in the jaws of a vice, but whether Germany was on the verge of becoming a strong military power and an able industrial competitor."¹⁶

At 0900 hours on 3 September 1939, Henderson submitted Britain's "two-hour ultimatum" in Berlin. At 1130 hours Henderson said to Ribbentrop: "We are now at war!"

When Hitler was informed by Ribbentrop, he was flabbergasted. All he could say was: "Now what?"

The war was made possible by England's *cartel-blanche* to Poland, by England's rejection of Musolini's plan for an international conference to be held on 5 September 1939 and by England's rejection of all German efforts for an immediate cease-fire.

Although there are rumors that English money supported the Polish terrorists before the outbreak of the war, Poland's army never received as much as a single bullet from Britain.

After the Polish campaign had ended, Hitler made another generous offer: to withdraw the German troops and hold internationally supervised elections in the German areas of Poland. This offer too, was rejected.

It must be noted that when the Soviet Union invaded Poland on 17 September 1939 (as a result of the German-Russian Pact signed on 23 August 1939) England and France were mute on this annexation of Polish territory. Furthermore, Britain and France tolerated the Soviet attack on Finland on 30 November 1939 and the occupation of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina in the year of 1940. In other words, even though Stalin occupied 450,000 square kilometers of land with a 21 million population by the end of June 1940, a declaration of war was not made by Britain.

(1) Max Schwarte: *Geschichte des Weltkrieges*, Berlin 1932; George Franz-Willing: *Der Zweite Weltkrieg*, Druffel-Verlag Leoni 1980

(2) Document on British Foreign Policy 1919-39, Vol. IV Document 189 and 306.

(3) Francesco Nitte: *The Decadence of Europe*, Ryerson 1923, Toronto.

(4) A.J.P. Taylor: *The Origins of the Second World War*, Hamish Hamilton, 1961.

(5) *Ibid.*

(6) Alfred Lueckenhaus: *Von Draussen gesehen*, Duesseldorf 1955.

(7) *Deutsches Weissbuch 1939* (German White Book).

(8) *Ibid.*

(9) Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden, *Vertreibungsverluste*, p. 285.

(10) Seraphim, Maurach, Wolfrum: *Ostwaerts der Oder-Neisse*, p. 43.

(11) *Deutsches Weissbuch No. 2*, p. 208.

(12) *British Blue Book*, No. 105.

(13) Michael Freund: *"Weltgeschichte der Gegenwart in Dokumenten 1938 1939"* Vol. III, p. 348, Freiburg 1954-56.

(14) *Deutsches Weissbuch No. 2*, p. 208.

(15) Document on British Foreign Policy 1919-39, Vol. VII, Doc. 589.

(16) Fritz Hesse: *Das Vorspiel zum Kreige*, Druffel-Verlag Leoni, 1979; Hitler and the English, London, 1954.

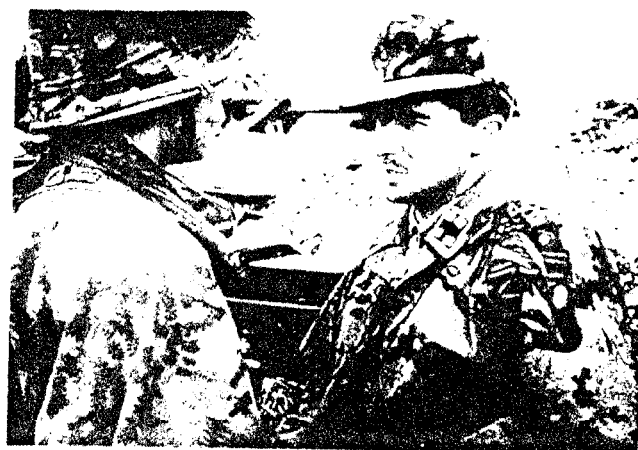
Extensive Listings of Waffen-SS Books at competitive prices are available from:

John Fedorowicz

267 Whitegates Cr.

Winnipeg MB R3K 1L2 CANADA

Send \$1.00 for lists.



A Waffen-SS soldier is decorated at the front lines by his commander.

SS FLAK DETACHMENT 16

16th SS Division "Reichsfuehrer-SS"

On 11 September 1942 around 300 officers, NCOs and men from the SS Flak Replacement Detachment in Arolsen were shipped off to Zhitomir where they were to form the SS Flak Detachment of the Command Staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS (Himmler). This was the largest send off of troops from Arolsen since the "Germania" SS Rgt. left the town at the beginning of World War Two. The Flak troops were accompanied to the railroad station by a military band and large numbers of local well-wishers turned out as well. As a final touch the troop train was decked out in bouquets of flowers.

The rail journey took the SS men through Saxony and Silesia to Cracow in the Generalgouvernement, a trip that took five days to accomplish. On 20 September, Zhitomir was reached and the Flak troops were quartered in a barracks that formerly was utilized by Soviet officer cadets. At this time the command structure of the embryonic unit stood as follows:

Commander: Hstuf. Fend

Adjutants and Ordnance Officers: Ustuf. Stern, Ustuf. Allenstein

Battery Commander: Hstuf. Hieber

Platoon Leaders: Ustuf. Gullasch, Ustuf. Weber

In Zhitomir the unit continued its training and formation process. On 2 November 1942 it was sent by rail back to Rastenburg in East Prussia, where it was situated in the vicinity of the Fuehrer's HQ. Extensive weapons drills and infantry training now took place. In December 1942 a "Flak Combat Troop" was formed from the detachment under Hstuf. Hieber and was sent to the Eastern Front for deployment.

In the meantime, 75 NCOs from the Police Escort Battalion "Heinrich" [a Himmler bodyguard unit?], were attached to what was left of the Flak detachment for Flak training purposes. Ustuf. Stern supervised general and heavy Flak training while the light Flak gun training came under Ustuf. Gullasch. Many more Police officers and NCOs were eventually sent to the unit for instruction. Supplementary training was provided by Luftwaffe Flak units stationed in East Prussia.

In January 1943 the nascent detachment was once again transferred, this time to Welhau, East Prussia, which it reached

via road and rail. Here, more Waffen-SS recruits from Bruenn and Warsaw were trained. The arming and equipping of the unit was also now fully completed. The Police Flak training course was terminated at the end of February 1943 and the Police troops were given equivalent ranks in the Waffen-SS and simply kept on with the detachment. In the course of February the unit was broken down into the following elements for future deployment:

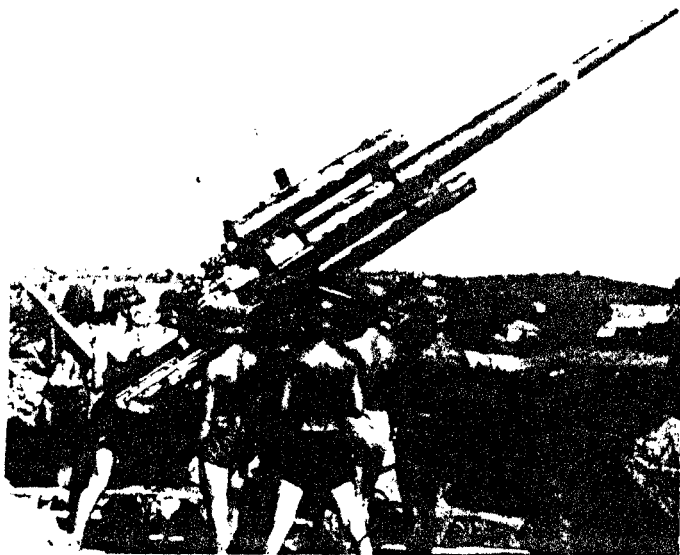
1. SS Flak Detachment Command Staff I/"RF-SS" under Hstuf. Hallman.
2. SS Flak Detachment Command Staff II/"RF-SS" under Hstuf. Dr. Frank.
3. Flak unit of the Sturmbrigade (Assigned to the new SS-Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" and later the nucleus for SS Flak Detachment 16 "RF-SS").

On 28 February 1943, a heavy Flak battery from the designated SS Flak Detachment Command Staff I under Ustuf. Stern was sent by rail to join the Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" in the Loudeac region of western France. On the way there it had a 12-hour stopover in Berlin and the soldiers were let out on leave -- "on their honor" -- for that period of time.

This battery reported in to the Sturmbrigade commander, Stubaf. Gesele on 8 March 1943 and its quarters were established in La Cheze. For the Flak troops, infantry training and instruction in the use of their weapons in ground fighting, now went on at a rapid clip. Special commandos were set up to secure the needed supplies and equipment for the Flak detachment and the first halftrack trucks used to pull the Flak guns arrived, which permitted the drivers to begin their training. Hstuf. Dr. Warninghoff soon arrived from the SS Main Office in Berlin to take over the heavy battery and in the course of March it was shifted to the town of La Motte in the same general area.

In May 1943 all members of the Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" took part in marksmanship exercises at the troop training grounds near Rennes, which were reviewed by Gen. Marcks, commander of the 82nd Army Corps. On 20 June 1943 the Sturmbrigade was placed on emergency alert and then mobilized for action. It was rushed by express train through France to Italy, crossing the frontier on the 22nd. The disembarkation area for most of the "RF-SS" Flak detachment was around Massa and Livorno, while the heavy battery was unloaded in the early morning of 22 June in St. Stefano to the south of La Spezia.

At the beginning of July 1943 the Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" began to expand and as a consequence the Flak unit was also enlarged. The new detachment consisted of three heavy and one



2./SS Flak Det. 16/"RF-SS" in Corsica.



"RF-SS" Flak battery being transported in Corsica.

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014
 One of the heavy Flak batteries was sent to the island of Corsica on 1 July 1943. The men went by air in Ju 52's from the airfield at Casalecchio while the equipment, supplies and weapons were transported on the ship "Champagne."

The "88" gun battery was put into position to the south of Bastia where it maintained contacts with an Italian 7.5 cm medium Flak battery. A second "88" battery was later sent to Zerubia in the middle of mountainous country, where it proved nearly impossible to deploy for the job required of it. However, on the basis of orders issued by the Italian commandant of Corsica, most elements of the Sturmbrigade were eventually removed from the interior of the island. On 8 August 1943, 2nd Battery was relocated to Bonifacio to cover the harbor on the southern tip of the island and the channel to Sardinia.

The battery's firing positions were located upon a steep cliff (about 70 meters above the sea), due east of the city. Third Battery, led by Ostuf. Fuersniss, was also now sent to Bonifacio from its initial positions on the Gulf of Portoveccio. The mission of both these heavy Flak batteries was to guard the harbor against sea and air attack and keep open a secure passage for the 90th Panzergrenadier Div. which had to be pulled back from Sardinia to Corsica following the Italian capitulation.

Second Battery/"RF-SS" Flak disarmed three Italian Flak batteries that were located near its positions. From 18 to 20 August 1943, Stubaf. Otto Skorzeny included members of the "RF-SS" Flak Detachment in the planning for his first Mussolini rescue attempt. However, these plans were scuttled when it was learned that the Duce had been moved by his captors. Skorzeny then carried out the successful Gran Sasso mission in September.

September 9, 1943 was a memorable day for the Waffen-SS Flak arm. On this day two Italian destroyers fired on the German transport ships that were ferrying members of the 90th Pz.Gr. Div. from Sardinia to Corsica. The gunners from 2./SS Flak "RF-SS" fired back and when the smoke and flames died down on the next day one Italian destroyer and been sunk and the other damaged beyond repair (this one would be scuttled). This unique achievement subsequently received mention in the Wehrmacht war communique.

On 11 September a large number of Italian Air Force planes that were en route to Sicily attempted an overflight of Corsica. The light Flak platoons from 2nd and 3rd Batteries/Flak "RF-SS" opened fire and immediately knocked five of the Italian planes out of the sky and followed up with a sixth one soon afterwards. The other planes of the air wing rapidly dispersed! On 15 September, the "RF-SS" heavy Flak batteries gave up their positions to units coming in from Sardinia. In the morning the entire Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" went into readiness for an

attack against the hold out Italian garrison in Bastia.

Supported by light, vehicle mounted Flak, assault guns and close support artillery, the two "RF-SS" infantry battalions secured Bastia in a whirlwind assault. Afterwards a defensive perimeter had to be built up around the town as large numbers of Italian troops had been dispersed into the interior of the island. The "RF-SS Flak Detachment deployed a 2 cm battery in the Bastia harbor, a 3.7 cam battery at the airport and its 2nd and 3rd Heavy Batteries to the north and south of the city. Several enemy air attacks on the harbor, city and airfield ensued but were driven off.

Late in September the evacuation of Corsica began. Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" was the last German unit to leave, moving out from all of its positions by 4 October 1943. The troop transport ships came under weak enemy air attacks but no damage or losses transpired. Second Battery/"RF-SS" Flak was then sent to Trieste for reformation while the Staff Battery and 1st Battery were moved into billets at Russi near Ravenna. In the course of October, 2nd Battery was sent from Trieste to Imola. On 6 October the superlative performance of the Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" under the leadership of Stubaf. Gesele was specifically praised in the Wehrmacht communique.

In November 1943 the "RF-SS" Flak Detachment was sent in a motorized convoy from the east coast of Italy to Teramo and from there through the Apennine Mountains to Tivoli near Rome. Third Battery was assigned to defend a nearby air base for a fighter wing. Late in the month all motorized elements of the Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" were assembled in Rome for a last parade march past the brigade commander before the dissolution of the unit and its conversion into the "RF-SS" Division.

The "RF-SS" Flak batteries were put into position around Bracciano and were then held in readiness for ground attacks near Cerceteri and Civitavecchio. Following this interval the batteries were transported by rail from Rome to Poncedera and were then situated near Livorno and Viareggio. The American air activity was quite lively here and many planes were shot down.

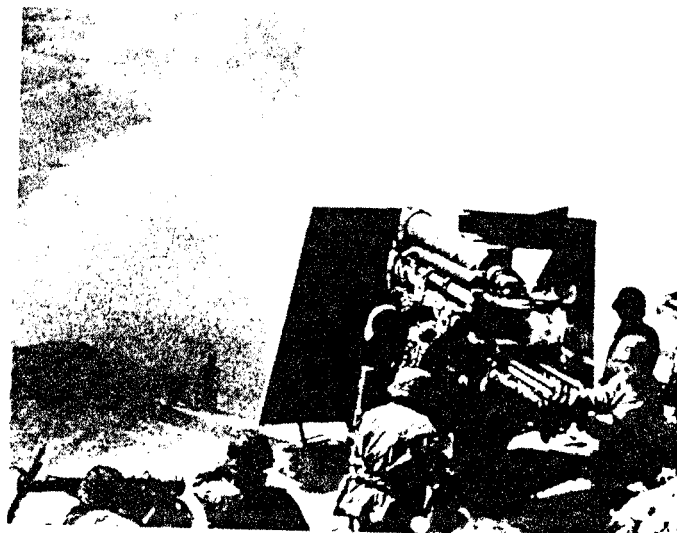
In December 1943 the entire Sturmbrigade "RF-SS" was transported to Laibach (Slovenia) for transformation into the 16th SS Panzergrenadier Division. The Flak Detachment "RF-SS" was to be utilized as the nucleus for the new SS Flak Det. 16 and the 14th Flak Companies of the 35th and 36th SS Panzergrenadier Regiments. The latter two companies were organized to contain a strength of two officers/36 NCOs/160 men, but each of them frequently exceeded their limits. They were both armed with twelve 2 cm light Flak guns propelled by Italian vehicles.

The 14./SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 35 was commanded by Hstuf. Hipp while 14./SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 36 had the following command structure:

Commander: Hstuf. Debus



2 cm Flak in ground fighting.



"88" Flak in ground fighting.

Platoon Leaders: Ustuf. Schiffman, Oscha. Kuestner, Oscha. Steiblmueeller, Ustuf. Hirschfeld, Oscha. Dietz, Oscha. Reiske, Oscha. Boehnke, Ustuf. Schinner

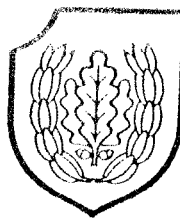
From February 1944 until May 1945 these Flak companies saw continuous ground and air action.

During the first phase of the 16th SS Division's formation, 1st and 2nd Batteries/SS Flak Det. 16 were placed into firing positions around a key bridge on the outskirts of Laibach which was continuously being threatened by the enemy. They promptly shot down three bombers and the pressure eased up. A 2 cm light Flak battery under Ustuf. Gullasch was attached to the SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 36 which was sent in battle-group form to the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead in Italy in February 1944. It was promptly involved in heavy fighting.

On 8 March 1944 the rest of the "RF-SS" Flak Detachment was sent via rail to the Wiener Neustadt-Baden area near Vienna, and there the assembled officers were given a briefing on what was expected of them by the divisional commander, Gruf. Max Simon. On 29 March part of the "RF-SS" Division, including the 3rd and 4th Flak Batteries, was sent to Pyspukladeny in Hungary, to continue training.

The entire 16th SS Div. was sent back to Italy on troop trains on 20 May 1944. SS Flak Det. 16 was next deployed in the area east of Livorno and worked in conjunction with the Luftwaffe Flak Det. 264. The SS range finders helped the Luftwaffe gunners shoot down several bombers. There was a significant amount of enemy air activity here, mostly directed at the Pisa Bridge. Despite continuous "Thunderbolt" attacks, little damage was sustained by the bridge and the light Flak platoons shot down quite a few planes without taking any losses.

In July 1944 the "RF-SS" Div. was at the Cecina Front, with the SS Recce Det. 16 and the SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 35 deployed for action in the frontlines. The SS Flak companies remained around Pisa and Massa and provided cover for the "Gothic Line." Third Battery was used to protect vital factories. A number of "Jabo" attacks on its positions caused little damage and a few planes were brought down.



RF-SS Division emblem.

On 2 September 1944 an advance detachment from the Flak detachment travelled through partisan country to the new divisional sector at San Marcello. Some personnel and material losses were caused by terrorist ambushes. Flak firing positions were then assumed near Poretta Terme with 3rd Battery going to Vergato. The detachment was now deployed along with SS Artillery Rgt. 16 for ground-support action. Numerous losses were taken to a vicious communist band known as the "Stella Rossa" ("Red Star") Brigade, which was subsequently wiped out by Stubaf. Reder's SS Recce Det. 16.

In October and November 1944 the Flak detachment guarded numerous sites around Sasso-Marconi and protected another important bridge from "Jabo" attacks. There were also several ground support actions, positional changes and bridge destruction operations for the unit. Part of a Luftwaffe Flak detachment was subordinated to the "RF-SS" Flak during this time.

On 18 December 1944 the "RF-SS" Div. relocated to the Lake Comaccio region and the Flak detachment was sent to Argenta and Conselice. In January 1945, 14./SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 36 received a consignment of six 7.5 cm anti-tank guns and was converted into the "heavy weapons" company for the regiment. The company's strength stood at two officers, 40 NCOs and 190 men.

In February 1945 the "RF-SS" Div. was pulled out of the front sector between Ravenna and Ferrara and began a motorized march back to and across the Po River. Enemy airplanes carried out persistent harassing attacks that led to heavy losses in men and material. North of the Po the men of the 16th SS Div. were loaded onto trains bound for Hungary where they would come



2 cm self-propelled Flak.

under the jurisdiction of SS District 20. The 16th SS Panzer Army, for the benefit of "Allied" intelligence, the "RF-SS" Div. was disguised as the "Formation Staff and Replenishment Group for the 13th SS Division," during the course of the transfer operation. The division was soon caught up in the bloody retrograde fighting from Hungary back into Austria along the course of the Mur River.

In May 1945, after destroying all heavy weapons and equipment, SS Flak Det. 16 marched back through the Klagenfurt-Judenburg area in Austria, headed for the "Allied" lines. It was intercepted in the small village of St. Andra by a partisan group of unknown derivation which proceeded to divest the men of their remaining sidearms. After that the SS men were released and they went into British captivity near Klagenfurt. Part of the unit was then sent to a POW camp in Sicily.

In the course of its history, SS Flak Det. 16 "RF-SS" was credited with shooting down 48 airplanes (Liberators, Lightnings, Thunderbolts and scout planes). It also sunk two destroyers, the only Flak element in the German armed forces

known to have accomplished that feat! The command structure of SS Flak Det. 16 was as follows:

Commanders: Hstuf. Dr. Warninghoff

Commanders: Hstuf. Hieber

Adjutants: Ostuf. Krasowski

Adjutants: Ostuf. Rieck

Medical Officers: Ostuf. Dr. Vellguth

Medical Officers: Ostuf. Dr. Vetter

Motor Vehicle-Transport Officer: Ustuf. Thennhausen

IVa: Ostuf. Kujath

Staff Battery: Ostuf. Ertl

1st Battery (3.7 cm): Ostuf. Wirges

2nd Battery (8.8 cm): Hstuf. Dr. Warninghoff

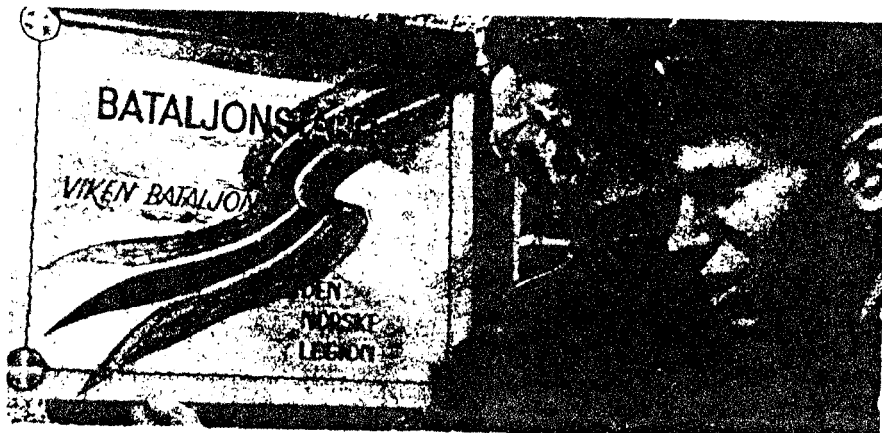
2nd Battery (8.8 cm): Ostuf. Vysek

2nd Battery (8.8 cm): Ostuf. Stern

3rd Battery (8.8 cm): Hstuf. Fuerniss

4th Battery (8.8 cm): Ostuf. Lebsanft

Light Artillery Column: Ostuf. Hossfeld



Soldiers of the Norwegian Legion.

[See the forthcoming book:
FRONTFIGHTERS: THE NORWEGIAN
LEGION OF THE WAFEN-SS
by Richard Landwehr.
Price: \$15.00.]



47th cook training course at the Dachau W-SS Culinary School,
20 April-17 May 1944.

THE WAFFEN-SS HIGH MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

The SS High Mountain School was established in Neustift in the Stubai Valley of Tyrol on 15 September 1942. It consisted of a staff and a training group which was divided into the following instruction categories: mountain officer command training, mountain-jaeger NCO training, mountain engineering, mountain communications, mountain medical services and mountain supply transport training.

In April 1944 the school was expanded through the addition of another three training groups. II. Group was designated the SS Mountain Warfare School and it was established as a separate facility, with a reinforced training company, at Predazzo. III. Group was devoted to mountain marksmanship and sharpshooter training, while the IV. Group was organized into a mountain officer's training school. All of these segments were subordinated, however, to the main institution at Neustift.

Parts of the SS High Mountain School were mobilized for the first time in September 1943 for use in the disarming of Italian troops near the Reschen Pass and the towns of Mals, Schlanders and Meran. Later on, parts of the Neustift facility had to be deployed in the field again, this time to fight partisans in the area around the Tonale Pass, Sondrio and Lake Como. The SS Mountain Warfare School in Predazzo (which was situated in the Fleims Valley of South Tyrol), was likewise eventually sent into action, first fighting around the Rolle Pass. In 1945 the entire SS Mountain Warfare School was organized into a Kampfgruppe to defend against the "Allied" advance in the Salurn area. This task force eventually went into American captivity.

In April 1945, a major portion of the Neustift facility was commandeered by the Gauleiter for Tyrol and the instructors and trainees were formed into battlegroups that were deployed around Scharnitz and Seefeld. They eventually fell back on Neustift where they surrendered to American forces on 3 May 1945. The only commander of the SS High Mountain School and its branches was Standartenfuehrer Eberhard von Quirsfeld, who held this position from 15 September 1942 to May 1945. He died on 28 June 1983 at the age of 84.

A good many officers, NCOs and specialists from the SS Mountain Divisions "Nord," "Prinz Eugen," "Handschar," "Skanderbeg," "Kama" and "Karstjaeger," underwent a part of their training at the Waffen-SS High Mountain School.



Waffen-SS trooper at the SS High Mountain School.



On the march at the SS High Mountain School.



Mortar training at the SS High Mountain School.



Training exercise at the SS High Mountain School.

THE MILITARY BAND OF SS REGIMENT "DEUTSCHLAND"

The band of the SS-Standarte "Deutschland" was formed in Munich in November 1934 and was given the initial numerical designation of I./SS/1. (the last I. referring to the Standarte). The barracks for the band was established in an old hospital building on the Josefspitalstrasse. Placed in charge of constructing the band from 36 volunteer musicians was SS-Ustuf. Gustav-Adolf Bunge. In a short time the band was expanded to 45 men. The musicians had to undergo an abbreviated six-week military training course before being allowed to serve with the band.

In the mornings the bandsmen rehearsed together and in the afternoons they practiced individually. During evening hours, public concerts were usually held, quite often in beer cellars that were run by well-known breweries. It was a common practice at the time for German military orchestras to put in an appearance at such facilities. Along with their band duties, the SS musicians were trained as medics. The "Deutschland" band also participated in the changing of the guard ceremonies at the Feldherrnhalle and gave concerts at the Munich-Hellabrunn zoo and over the local Munich radio station. These were well received by the local citizens. In its special concerts the band played symphonic, dance and popular music. The "Deutschland" band also took part in all of the official state celebrations and parades that were held in Munich.

In 1937 the band went on a concert tour of the Rhineland and performed with great success in the cities of Heidelberg, Darmstadt, Worms and Mainz. In the same year the band was sent on a "strength through joy" cruise to Norway on the passenger ship "Monte Sarmiento."

After the peaceful occupations of the Sudetenland, Austria and Bohemia-Moravia, the "Deutschland" band held concerts in Iglau, Kufstein and Prague. Shortly before the outbreak of war, the bandsmen were transferred to East Prussia and took part in the Polish campaign as a medical detachment with the SS Rgt. "Deutschland." In a small town near Sierce, part of the band element was ambushed from behind by Polish stragglers and eight of the SS musicians were killed. Their bodies were found gruesomely mutilated. On 13 September 1939, SS-Hscha. Hermann Schuster took command of the band after Hstuf. Bunge was sent back to Munich to form a "Deutschland" reserve band, so that the regiment would always have musical representatives in Munich even if it was dispatched to some distant front.

In 1940 the original band took part in the French Campaign with the SS-VT Div. and upon reaching the border with Spain, held a special concert for friendly Spaniards. Over the next several months the "Deutschland" musicians spent time in Hilversum, Amsterdam, Belgium, the Banat, Romania (Temesvar), Hungary, Belgrade and Gallsbach in Austria. At the beginning of the Russian Campaign the band was sent to Pulari in Poland where it was dissolved. The musicians were subsequently attached to the various "Deutschland" companies as medics and their instruments were put into storage. Just before this transpired there was one further change of command when Hstuf. Laubmann replaced Hscha. Schuster who had been transferred to the Waffen-SS HQ staff band in Berlin.

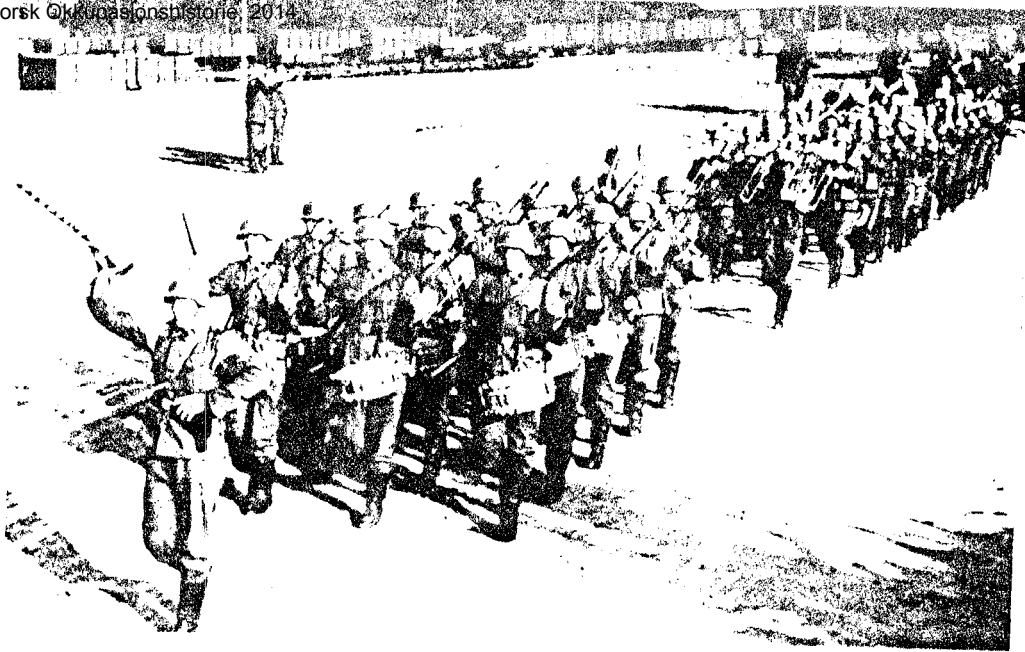
The official march of the "Deutschland" Regiment, which its band often played, was the "Parade March of the Tall Fellows" (PARADEMARSCH DER LANGEN KERLS) by Marc Roland, which was derived from a 1930s motion picture and had no particular historical origin. The successor to the old "Deutschland" band, was the Musikorps E./SS-"Deutschland," capably led by Hstuf. Bunge in Munich. It carried out its duties in the Bavarian capitol and in cities throughout the Reich, including Berlin, Augsburgs, Berchtesgaden, Bad Toelz, and even Cracow.

Radio concerts were also conducted in Munich and Prague. In the fall of 1940, the reserve band was stationed in Prague with the Replacement Battalion of the Rgt. "Deutschland." It had a special band platform at the Hus Memorial before the national museum on the Wenzel Square. In 1941, the band returned to Munich where it became the musical representative of the SS Artillery Replacement Rgt. that was established in that city after the E./Btl./SS-"D" Rgt. was disbanded.

In 1943, the band became a temporary transfer unit for SS musicians under the guidance of the musical inspectorate of the SS Main Office. Bandsmen were trained in Munich before being sent to join other Waffen-SS units. The band's strength at this time was over 100 men. During 1944, the SS AER (Artillery Ersatz Rgt.) left Munich, but the band stayed behind and was now attached to the SS Flak Training and Reserve Detachment. In 1945, before the city fell to the Americans, the band was finally evacuated from Munich and ultimately dissolved once and for all.



Fife and drum corps and band of II./"Deutschland."



"Deutschland" band leading the regiment back from maneuvers.



Trumpeter Corps of the SS Signals Detachment in Berlin.

THE BAND AND DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS OF THE SS-STANDARTE "GERMANIA"

In August 1934, SS-Ostuf. August Nickel who was serving with I./SS-Stan. "Germania" in Hamburg-Veddel, was assigned the task of forming a drum and bugle corps for the battalion. He started out with eight volunteer musicians and in a short time this grew into a full-scale military band consisting of 40 men along with a separate drum and bugle corps with 12 drummers and 12 horn players. It spoke highly for the expertise of Ostuf. Nickel and his drum and bugle corps leader, SS-Uscha. Osna-bruegge, that their musical units in Hamburg were soon called upon to perform numerous concerts and appear at many functions both large and small throughout Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein.

The military march adopted for the "Germania" SS Regiment was Leonard's famous "Alexandermarsch," and the regimental bands played this piece more times than they could count. The I./SS-"Germania" band became a popular fixture on Hamburg Radio and also represented the battalion at official ceremonies in Nuremberg, Munich and Berlin. The musicians accompanied their battalion during the marches into Austria, the Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia. Their status was usually that of an auxiliary one and when war came most W-SS musicians were pressed into additional service as medical orderlies. The I./SS-"G" band held bandstand concerts at festivals in even the smallest communities and was always well received by the public.

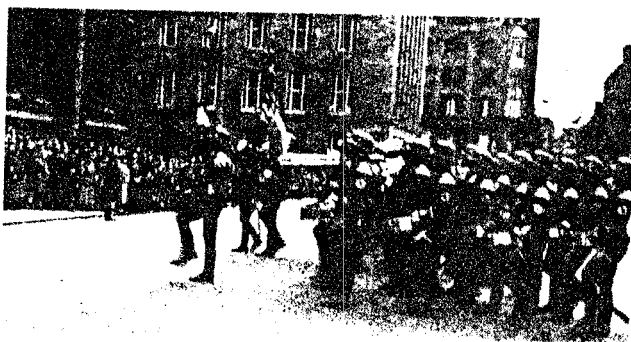
In 1937, Hstuf. Edgar Siedentopf took charge of the I./"Germania" band, changing places with Hstuf. Nickel who took over the II./SS-"G" band that Siedentopf had formed in Arolsen in September 1935. The band of II./"Germania" consisted of 38 musicians with a 24 man drum and bugle corps ensemble under Hscha. Oettinger. It performed its musical duties in Arolsen and

the surrounding environs. This band received special recognition for its participation in War Memorial Day ceremonies in Kassel and as a ship's orchestra on the passenger liner "Monte Olivia" during a "Strength-through-Joy" cruise of the Norwegian fiords in 1937. Later on the band held numerous "good will" concerts in the newly occupied territories in Austria, The Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia.

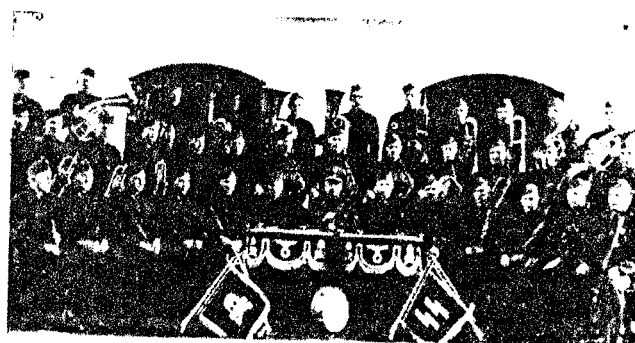
The II./SS-"G" band was next stationed with the SS Guard Regiment in Prague and became a popular musical participant in programs on that city's radio station.

The third musical unit of the "Germania" Regiment was the band of the III. Sturmabann (Btl.) which was formed in the middle of April 1935 in Wolterdingen near Soltau and came under the leadership of Ostuf. Max Pausch. Not too much has been recorded about this unit's activities but it was a participant at Reich Party Day ceremonies in Nuremberg and at National Farm Day festivities in Goslar. After military occupation duties in 1938/39, the band was stationed in Prague in April 1939. The leader of the III./SS-"G" drum and bugle corps was Oscha. Paul Mietbke who would later take over the same duties with I./SS-"G" in Hamburg. His successor was Oscha (?) Leonhardt.

In 1941, Stuf. Edgar Siedentopf took charge of the "Music School of the Waffen-SS" in Braunschweig, he died in Wundesheim in 1953. Hstuf. August Nickel was next given the job of constructing a band for the SS Artillery Rgt. 5 (which actually became the SS Artillery Rgt. 2 of the "Das Reich" Division), in Westphalia in early 1940. The subsequent career of Hstuf. Max Pausch is not known, but all three bandmasters played an important role in the development of the morale-boosting military music service of the Waffen-SS.



Band of I./"Germania" in Hamburg.



Band of II./"Germania" at Arolsen.

The Band of the SS Artillery Regiment 5

In February 1940, the former bandmaster of the SS Rgt. "Germania," Hstuf. August Nickel, was given the job of constructing a band for the SS Artillery Rgt. 5 in Luedinghausen, Westphalia. The nucleus of the new band consisted of instrumentalists from the bands of the SS Regiments "Germania" and "Deutschland" (Ellwangen) and the SS Engineer Btl. in Dresden. Under Nickel's experienced leadership the new musical assemblage was functioning efficiently in very short order.

During the Western Campaign of 1940, the SS Art. Rgt. 5 was assigned to the SS-"V" Division and the bandsmen served as military policemen. During breaks in the combat action they put on concerts for the troops. At the end of the hostilities the SS Artillery Musicians were sent to Amersfoort in the Netherlands for occupation duties and military activities. In the fall of 1940 Hstuf. Nickel took his men on a very successful concert tour of

the regiment's former billeting area in Muensterland, with trips to Arolsen, Korbach and Bad Wildungen. Back in Holland the band made radio broadcasts and musical recordings in Hilversum.

By 1941 the band had become the "official" SS Artillery Music Corps and much of its 52 member strong contingent was being siphoned off to provide musicians for new Waffen-SS units. At the end of 1941 the SS Artillery Band was sent to Lublin and from here it went to Oslo, Norway in February 1942. It now served for a time as a band for the Scandinavian SS Volunteer Rgt. "Nordland" before orders arrived transferring the bandsmen to the SS Mountain Division "Nord" in Finland. Here the musicians had to exchange their instruments for machine-pistols and if the band functioned any longer it did so at a strictly informal level.

SS-KAMPFGRUPPE DIV. "BOHEMIA-MORAVIA"

In late February and early March 1945, the Waffen SS commander-in-chief for the Protectorate of Bohemia Moravia, SS-Brigadefuehrer Karl Graf von Pueckler-Burghaus, began ordering the mobilization of SS security, training and replacement troops stationed in the territory. The massive Waffen-SS training grounds at Beneschau near Prague, which provided facilities for artillery, panzergrenadier and engineer schools, now had to begin the process of forming the training personnel and students into front line battle groups. Part of the Beneschau (or Bohemia) complex was the SS Panzergrenadier School at Kienschlag, which since the 17th of February 1945 had been under the supervision of SS Brigfhr. August Wilhelm Trabandt (former CO of the 18th SS Div. "Horst Wessel"). He was now instructed to reform his training regiment into a combat ready battle group of roughly brigade strength with the addition of an engineer battalion and an artillery detachment.

In the course of March, Trabandt succeeded in putting together a three battalion grenadier regiment, drawing the personnel from Kienschlag and other facilities in the area. The engineer battalion for Kampfgruppe "Trabandt" was drawn from the SS Combat Engineer School at Hradischko. The artillery detachment seems to have been formed from part of the SS Artillery School I at Glau Trebbin, which had begun mobilizing in late March 1945. It consisted of two field howitzer batteries and a rocket mortar element containing two truck-mounted multi-barreled units. The detachment commander was SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer Dr. Arthur Curtis.

Simultaneously, the remainder of the staff and students affiliated with the Kienschlag facility were also formed into another battle group that came under the command of the school's instructional commandant, SS-Ostufst. Rudolf Konopaki. This unit was based on the members of a Hitler Youth military training camp in Bohemia and their instruction cadre which had come from Kienschlag. Part of the SS Grenadier Training and Replacement Bn. 10 at Bruenn (Brno) was also used in this formation which was referred to as SS-Regimental Kampfgruppe "Konopaki." It was subordinated to KGr. "Trabandt" in April 1945.

On 9 April 1945, SS-KGr. "Trabandt" was transported by truck to the Zistersdorf area on the Austrian border where it was attached to the 8th Army of Army Group South. It was ordered to prepare for an attack aimed at eliminating a Soviet bridgehead over the March River—an action that never seems to have developed.

In the meantime, Brigfhr. Pueckler-Burghaus was busy putting together two further regimental battle groups, named appropriately "Bohemia" and "Moravia," from Waffen SS troops stationed in the Protectorate. These two battle groups were supposed to combine with KGr. "Trabandt" to form two brigades (again named "Bohemia" and "Moravia"), which were to serve as the basis for a new SS division. From all available evidence, the "Bohemia" Rgt. never actually linked up with KGr. "Trabandt," but remained 250 kms away from it in the vicinity of Prague through the first part of May 1945. But the "Moravia" Rgt. had joined KGr. "Trabandt" by mid April, and was in the vicinity of Furth, Lower Austria by 16 April 1945. The only part of the new division to ever be grouped together properly was the headquarters staff (essentially just the command post of KGr. "Trabandt"), which would be classified as a "reserve" formation in the ranks of 8th Army.

The only additional reinforcement sent to KGr. "Trabandt" was the Kampfgruppe "Schulze," consisting of 4th Co. SS-Pz.Gr. T & R Bn. 2 (actually a replacement unit for the 2nd SS Pz.Div. "Das Reich") from Prag Rusin, and a number of officer cadets from SS Junkerschule "Prag." This task force was sent to Mistelbach, Austria (near Zistersdorf) via a motorized convoy on 10 April 1945.

Despite the wide separation of the various units, the formation of the "Bohemia Moravia" SS Div. was well underway by the second half of April. Germans were not the only nationality in the division; at the Bohemia Troop Training Grounds several units of the Slovakian Army and the Slovak Hlinka Guard Militia were incorporated into the Waffen-SS during April 1945 and found their way into the new division. The initial divisional order-of-battle looked like this:

Divisional Staff at Zistersdorf (actually, the staff of SS KGr. "Trabandt")

1st Grenadier Rgt. (KGr. "Trabandt")

2nd Grenadier Rgt. ("Bohemia" [in Prague])

3rd Grenadier Rgt. ("Moravia")



SS-Staf. Karl Schlamelcher, CO of SS Artillery Rgt. "Bohemia-Moravia."



SS-Staf. Wolfgang Joerchel, CO of SS-Rgt. "Bohemia."





Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie 2014. SS-Ostuf. 1909
Marmagen. Fekr.-Dep. "Boehmen-Machren.
MIA 5 May 1945 Teinitz.



GOLANBECK, Guenther. 25 919. SS-Utscha
21 March 1923. SS-Junkerschule Prag (13.
Lehrgang, I. Lehrgruppe). MIA.



SCHARENBERG, Wolfgang. 22 378. SS-
Junker. 1920, Rostock. SS-Art.-Schule
Beneschau? MIA 4 May 1945 Prag-
Beneschau.

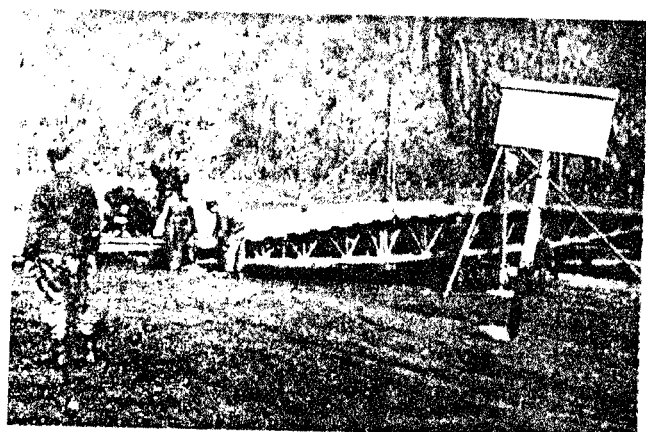
Danube near Vienna, Gross Tajax and Krems. The Battle-Group Rgt. "Konopaki" appears to have veered off from the remainder of KGr. "Trabandt" towards the end of April and was reported at Znaim, south of Bruenn and then in the Budweis area of the Sudetenland. On 20 April a combat detachment assigned to KGr. "Trabandt" from the SS Artillery School I (Glatz), led by SS-Obersturmfuehrer Landrock, was engaged against enemy tank forces around Siethen. During the evacuation of the town, 12 badly wounded soldiers had to be left behind and they were promptly murdered by the communists.

At the beginning of May 1945, the southern part of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Div. was deployed around Krems on the Danube. On 8 and 9 May, Brigfhr. Trabandt made the decision to release all of the Russian prisoners that had been taken and head for the American lines. The surrender of this part of the division was accepted by U.S. troops at Gallneukirchen on 10 May 1945. On the very next day the disarmed Waffen-SS men were turned over to the Soviets at Pregarten. The result was a tragedy for the "Bohemia-Moravia" Division. Brigfhr. Trabandt and thousands of his soldiers wound up in distant parts of the Gulag system. Trabandt returned home 9 1/2 years later but not many of his men ever made it back.

The "northern" branch of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Div. led by Staf. Schlammelcher, and consisting of the regimental artillery group, the 2nd Grenadier Rgt. and the bicycle and signals detachments, found itself fighting Czech partisans around Prague during the first days of May 1945. It was not an easy struggle and German soldiers and civilian who fell into the hands of the terrorist "freedom fighters" were invariably tortured and killed. This is what happened to Staf. Joerchel, Brigfhr. Pueckler-Burghaus and the Estonian Waffen-Ostuf. Maitla, among others. The "Allied" atrocities committed in Prague were of a particular bestial nature, but needless to say no one was ever asked to account for those "war crimes"!

After the capitulation, the northern portion of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Div. together with the SS Panzergrenadier Rgt. 4 "Der Fuehrer" of the "Das Reich" Div., had the responsibility for escorting some of the 280,000 German civilians who were attempting to escape the Protectorate, back to the Reich. Most of these people, including many weaponless soldiers, were able to cross the demarcation lines at Strakowitz.

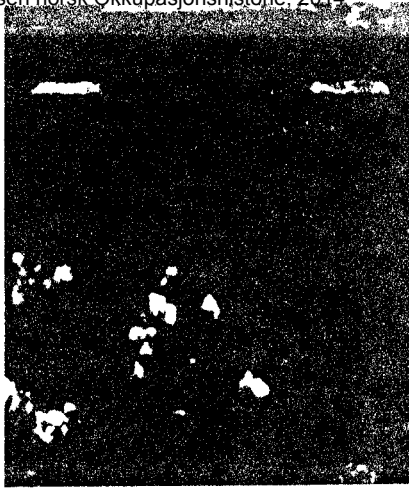
The rest of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Div. which was serving



Bridging column from SS Eng.Bn. "Hradischko."



Flamethrowers from SS-Engineer Bn. "Hradischko,"
"Bohemia-Moravia" Division.



Grave marker of two members of SS-Rgt. "Moravia" killed in the early morning of 16 April 1945 at Hill 408 near Riad, Lower Austria. Ustuf. Carstensen was a company commander.

Battle Group Rgt "Konopaki" (at Zistersdorf)
 Battle-Group "Schulze" (at Mistelbach)
 Engineer Bn. (KGr. "Trabandt")
 Bicycle Reconnaissance Detachment (KGr. "Bohemia-Moravia" [in Prague])
 Signals Detachment (KGr. "Bohemia-Moravia" [in Prague])
 Artillery Detachment "Trabandt" (at Zistersdorf)
 Artillery Regimental Battle-Group "Bohemia-Moravia" (Prague)

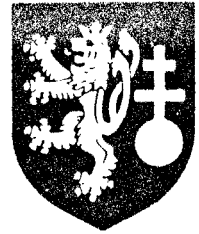
Strength: 8,000 to 10,000 men all ranks.

The commander of the 2nd Reinforced Grenadier Rgt. was SS-Standartenführer Wolfgang Joerchel (formerly CO of SS Rgt. 48 "General Seyffardt"/"Nederland" Brigade). This unit was formed from portions of the SS Junkerschule "Prag" and the SS Infantry Replacement Rgt. "Prag" and remained in the vicinity of Prague throughout April 1945.

The divisional bicycle recce detachment, known as the SS Radfahr Abteilung "Koerner," was formed at the SS Artillery School II in Beneschau under a tactical instructor, SS-Hauptsturmführer Koerner. It contained four squadrons of roughly company size each. On 30 April it was sent to Prague with its



Brigfhr. Karl Graf von Pueckler-Burghaus W-SS C-in-C Prague.



SS-Freiwilligen Div. Kampfgruppe BOHMEN-MAHREN (Bohemia-Moravia)

Emblem: The coat-of-arms of Bohemia and Moravia. This Division was formed in the last weeks of the war from the SS KGr. "Bohmen-Mahren" which had contained smaller battle groups formed from various W-SS training schools and replacement units in the Protectorate. The new Division was never numbered but contained three infantry and one artillery regiments and was a full-strength unit.

supply column remaining in the garden of Konopish Castle at Beneschau. The detachment orderly officer was SS Standartenoberjunker Helmut Sieben.

The divisional signals detachment seems to have been formed around the signals battery of the SS Artillery T & R Rgt in Prague, and came under the command of Hstuf. Gonschor. The regimental artillery group consisted of 26 highly mixed batteries under the command of SS-Staf. Karl Schlamelcher, who was also the commandant of the SS Artillery School II at Beneschau. This element of the division also remained around Prague and Staf. Schlamelcher was effectively the commander of the "northern" half of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Division.

By late April the Austrian portion of the division, including the 1st Grenadier Rgt., was seeing very heavy defensive action against the Soviets, first at Zistersdorf then to the south of the



Brigfhr. August-Wilhelm Trabandt.

ing soldiers and civilians. But it was a risky proposition getting through them. The first "Bohemia-Moravia" divisional elements managed to slip through but it was too late for many of the follow-up columns that were being led by the senior officers. The Russians reacted to the breakthroughs by rapidly plugging up the holes in their positions and a sizeable part of the division was captured. These unfortunate soldiers were first sent to the Platna POW Camp and then gradually dispersed to far flung slave labor camps.

The whole story of the "Bohemia-Moravia" Div. from beginning to end was one of unavoidable confusion. It was the

shortest lived division of the Waffen SS and as far as is known, was never assigned any specific unit numbers. The divisional ID sign was supposed to have been the coat-of-arms for Bohemia and Moravia. In a number of post-war histories this unit has been confused with the 31st SS Grenadier Div. "Batschka," but there were no connections between the two formations. "Bohemia Moravia" was a unique division in its own right that made its own important contributions in the last critical days of the war. It is not an understatement to say that the lives of many thousands of people were owed to the brave soldiers of this division.



The Flemish SS volunteer Leon de Wit.



Commemorative card issued to members of 2nd SS Brigade who served on the Leningrad Front, Winter 1942-43.

THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE 13. WAFFEN-GEIRGS-DIVISION-DER-SS "HANDSCHAR" (kroatische Nr. 1)

Titles: [German designation]

10 February 1943 to 2 July 1943—

Kroatische SS-Freiwilligen-Division

2 July 1943 to October 1943—

Kroatische SS-Freiwilligen-Geirgs-Division

October 1943 to 15 May 1944—

13. SS-Freiwilligen-b.h. Geirgs-Division (Kroatien)

[Note: "b.h." refers to Bosnia-Herzegovina]

15 May 1944 to May 1945—

13. Waffen-Geirgs-Division-der-SS (kroatische Nr. 1)

Divisional Structure

Summer to Winter 1943

[Field Post Numbers]

Divisional Staff	57 400
Croatian SS Volunteer Jaeger Rgt. 1	
Regimental Staff	59 054
I. Battalion with 1st-6th Companies	57 130
II. Battalion with 7th-12th Companies	56 013
III. Battalion	59 583
IV. Battalion	57 295
Croatian SS Volunteer Jaeger Rgt. 2	
Regimental Staff	57 374
I. Battalion with 1st-6th Companies	56 239
II. Battalion with 7th-12th Companies	59 128
III. Battalion	57 872
IV. Battalion	56 156
Croatian SS Cavalry Detachment*	
Staff and two Squadrons	56 798
Croatian SS Motorcycle Battalion*	
Staff and three Companies	56 491
Croatian SS Bicycle Battalion*	
Staff and three Companies	58 907
Croatian SS Armored Detachment*	
Staff and one Company	57 983
Croatian SS Anti-tank Detachment	
Staff and three Companies	58 861
Croatian SS Volunteer Mountain Artillery Regiment	
Staff	59 297
I. Detachment	57 452
II. Detachment	56 388
III. Detachment	59 136
IV. Detachment	57 822
Croatian SS Flak Detachment	58 056
Croatian SS Engineer Battalion	56 975
Croatian SS Signals Detachment	
Staff and three Companies	58 229

During a divisional realignment the planned but never formed



"Handschar" soldiers on the march.

cavalry detachment, motorcycle battalion, bicycle battalion and armored detachment were scrapped and the intended personnel were utilized in the new reconnaissance detachment and armored recce platoon. The field post numbers remained the same, with the new recce units adopting those intended for the above defunct elements. A new replacement battalion was added and received the FP number of 22 367.

Divisional Structure

Spring 1944

Divisional staff with band and other elements

SS Volunteer Mountain Jaeger Rgt. 27 with Staff units and three battalions of four companies each



13th SS Division commander, Brigfhr. Sauberzweig bestows decorations.



"Handschar" soldiers at rest.



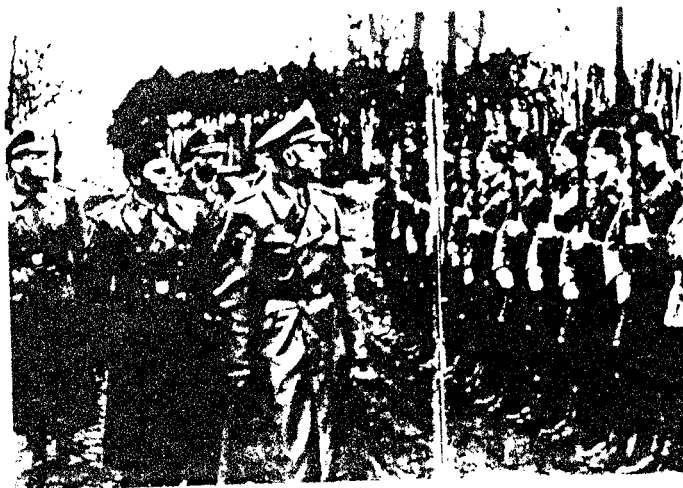
"Handschar" collar patch

"Handschar" ID sign





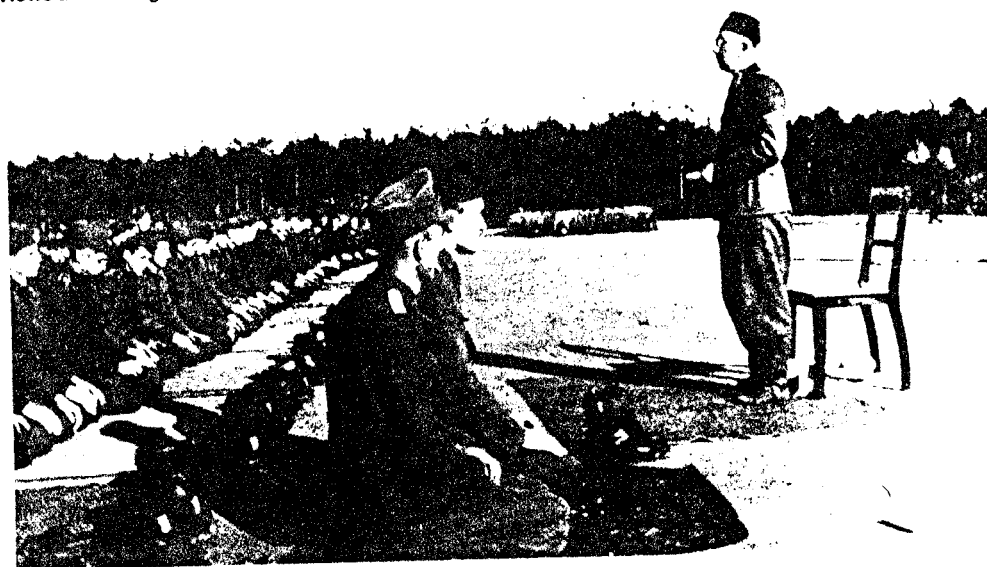
Inspection by the Grand Mufti.



Inspection by RF-SS Himmler.



The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem reviews an honor guard.



Religious service of the "Handschar" Division.

SS Volunteer Mountain Artillery Rgt. 13 with staff battery and four detachments

SS Volunteer Flak Detachment 13

SS Mountain Jaeger Training and Replacement Battalion 13

In the course of the year the "Handschar" units were further reorganized and streamlined. Eventually the division trimmed out about half of its personnel (chiefly Croat Moslems) of which there was an excessive amount, to achieve maximum combat efficiency.

Final Divisional Structure	[FP Numbers]
Divisional Staff	57 400
Waffen-Gebirgs-Jaeger Rgt. der SS 27	
Staff	59 054
I. Battalion with 1st-6th Companies	57 130
II. Battalion with 7th-12th Companies	56 013
III. Battalion	
Waffen-Gebirgs-Jaeger Rgt. der SS 28	
Staff	57 347
I. Battalion	48 004
II. Battalion	59 128
III. Battalion	57 872
SS Reconnaissance Detachment 13	58 907
SS Anti-tank Detachment 13	58 861
SS Mountain Artillery Rgt. 13	
Staff	59 297
I. Detachment	57 452

II. Detachment	56 388
III. Detachment	59 136
IV. Detachment	57 822
SS Flak Company 13	37 265
SS Engineer Battalion 13	56 975
SS Signals Detachment 13	58 229
SS Mountain Jaeger Training and Replacement Battalion 13	22 367

Divisional Supply Office 13

SS Administrative Battalion 13

SS Medical Battalion 13

Some of the above elements may have been reduced or eliminated during the final months of the war.

Divisional Strengths	[where recorded]	Total
31 December 1943		
360 officers / 1,931 NCOs / 18,774 men		21,065
30 June 1944		
391 officers / 2,244 NCOs / 16,501 men		19,136
20 September 1944		
346 officers / 1,950 NCOs / 15,811 men		18,520
October 1944 to May 1945		
Approximately 10,000 men all ranks		

Divisional Commanders

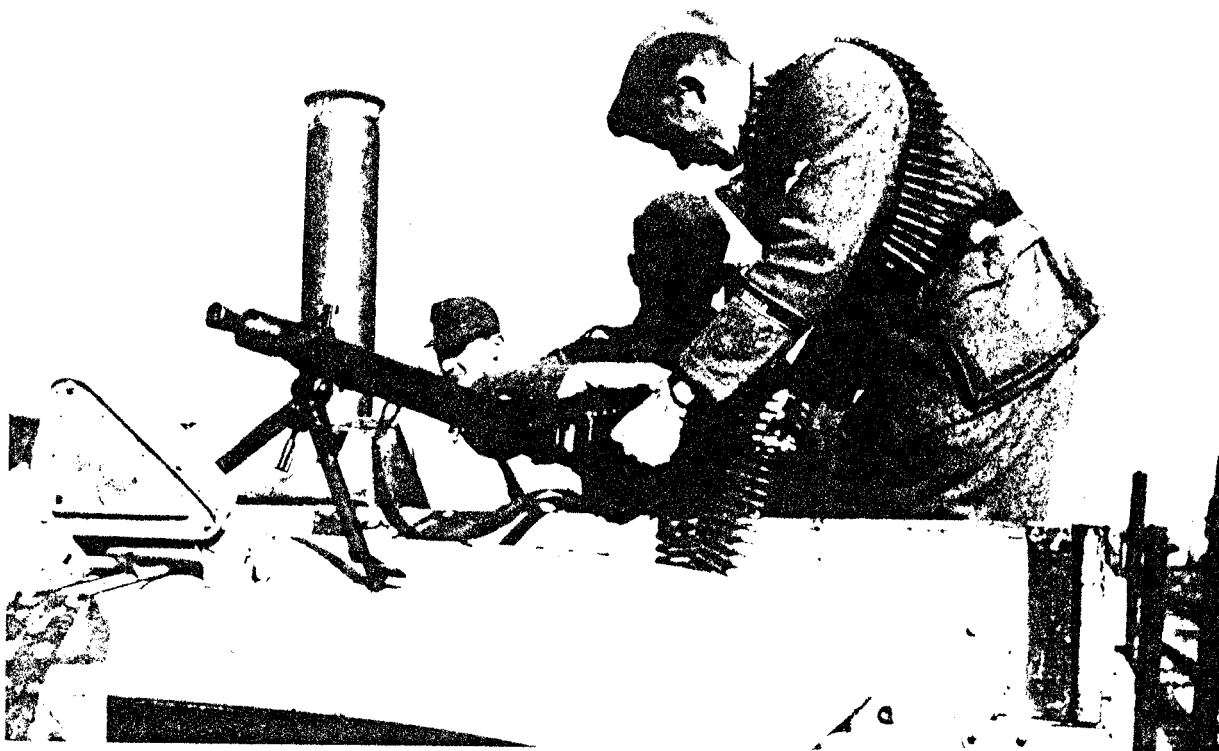
At the beginning of formation in 1943 to the middle of 1943:

Standartenfuehrer von Obwurzer

Mid-1943 to mid-1944: Brigadefuehrer Sauberzweig

Mid-1944 to May 1945: Oberfuehrer [then (on 30 January 1945)

Brigadefuehrer] Desiderius Hampel



Protecting a train transported "cook wagon" with a light machine gun (MG 42).

SS FLAK DETACHMENT 13

13. Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS "Handschar" (Croatia Nr. 1) SS-Corps Flak Detachment 509 IX. SS Mountain Corps

SS Flak Detachment 13 was assembled during the time period from July to September 1943, using nucleus personnel from the SS Flak Replacement Detachment at Arolsen. The formation process began around Mende in France and later switched to the SS training grounds at Neuhammer, near Sagan in Silesia. The officer and NCO corps consisted chiefly of Reich Germans and ethnic Germans from Yugoslavia and Romania. A few of the latter group had been officers/NCOs in the old Austro-Hungarian Imperial Army.

The majority of the men for the unit were Moslem volunteers from Bosnia. The first detachment CO was Waffen-Ostufaf. Biscevic, who was also a Moslem and a former Imperial Army officer. The unit also had its own religious leader or Imam attached to it. After achieving a satisfactory level of arming and equipping the detachment was sent back to Croatia in October 1943 and attached to the XXXIV. Army Corps. Why it was not sent to the V. SS Mountain Corps, which was in the same area and to which the "Handschar" Div. was attached, remains a mystery. The Moslem SS Flak troops first saw action in the combat area assigned to the 7th SS Mountain Div. "Prinz Eugen" which at the time was near Caplnia on the Neretwa River to the south of Mostar. In the weeks that followed the detachment was used against both ground and air targets near Tzla and while guarding a bridge at Bjeljina on the Save River.

On 1 March 1944, Hstuf. Daumer arrived from Arolsen to take charge of the unit. He replaced Waf.-Ostufaf. Biscevic who was sent to the divisional staff (and/or "kicked upstairs"!). The new commander sought to increase the efficiency of the detachment by replacing each departing or transferred officer and NCO with a German from the Reich. With the establishment of the new IX. SS Mountain Corps (supposedly for the two Croatian SS divisions—13th "Handschar" and 23rd "Kama"), SS Flak Detachment 13 was assigned to it and converted into the SS Corps Flak Det. 509. The only exception here was the 2 cm light Flak battery from the unit which was sent to the SS Anti-tank Det. 13 of the "Handschar" Division.

In practice the Flak detachment never left the "Handschar" Div., and kept fighting alongside of it and the "P.E." Div. and Sturmbrigade "von Rudow" in Yugoslavia. Later in the year it



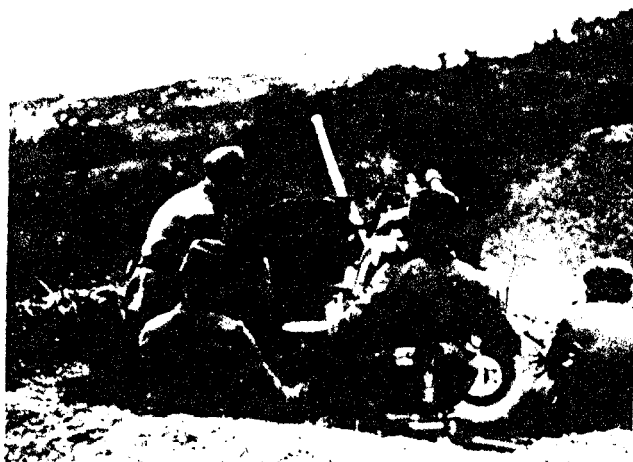
Waffen-Ostufaf. Hussein Biscevic, first CO of SS Flak Det. 13/ "Handschar."

joined in the withdrawal fighting to Vinkovci and battled enemy bridgeheads at Vokuwar and Opatovic on the Danube while serving the SS-Police Battlegroup "Doerner." Even though it was used largely for ground support the unit had managed to bring down ten planes by this time.

Instead of accompanying the staff of IX. SS Mountain Corps to Budapest, SS Corps Flak Det. 509 stayed on with the "Handschar" Div. and in February 1945 was situated near Lake Balaton in Hungary. It became heavily engaged in ground and air actions around Kaposvar and Nagykaniza and some of the batteries were positioned primarily for anti-tank defense. The detachment was reinforced in this area by a Hungarian 5 cm Flak battery which especially distinguished itself in the ground fighting.

At the end of February 1945 the detachment had a rear area collection station in Caktonya-Kackovec, while the staff was situated in Osurgo and 2nd Battery was Gyekenyes. By mid-March the whole unit had fallen back on Nagykaniza where an important railroad station and junction was drawing the attention of enemy flyers. No planes were shot down but no losses were taken either and the rail supply lines remained open.

Shortly before Easter 1945 the detachment, along with the "Handschar" Div., began to retreat towards the Reich border



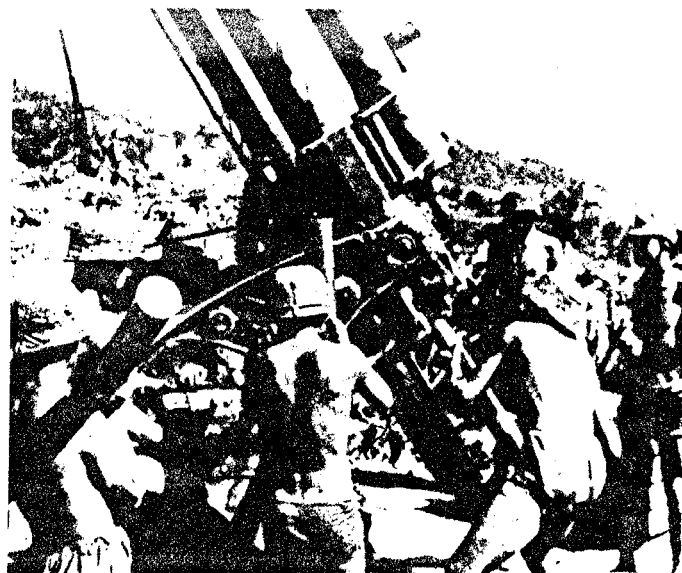
2 cm Flak, "Handschar" Div., with befuzzed Moslem gunners.



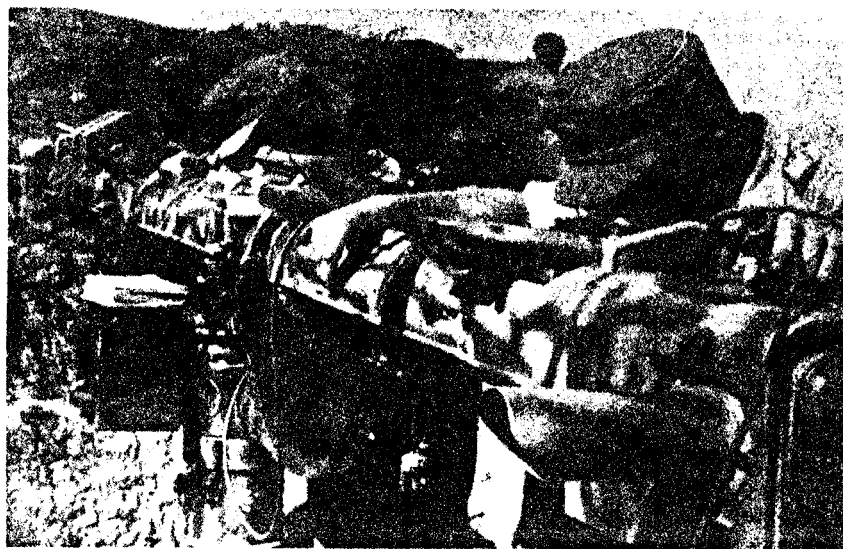
2 cm light Flak (3rd Battery) officers, "Handschar" Division.



2 cm Flak from "Handschar."



1st Battery "88" Flak, Division "Handschar."



Heavy Flak range finders, 13.SS Div. "Handschar."

defensive positions near the Austrian frontier. The unit's 3.7 cm battery reached the readiness positions to the east of Marburg without incident but it was a different story for the 8.8 cm battery. This was viciously and savagely attacked during the retreat and the commander, Ostuf. Bernardy was killed with his adjutant (chief battery officer) Ustuf. Loeber being mortally wounded. Ostuf. Hasenauer took charge and miraculously managed to get the rest of the battery back down the route of withdrawal without any further losses. Both of the above mentioned batteries soon occupied Reich border positions around Pettar-Friedau to the east of Marburg on the Drau (Drava). This area remained relatively calm until the last days of the war and no air attacks were reported.

On 5 May 1945, SS Flak Det. 13/509 marched into British captivity at St. Veit. Only the discipline and determination of the men saved them from falling into the hands of Tito's butchers and certain death. After the capitulation the "Handschar" Flak troops were first held in Mahrenberg and then later dispersed to POW camps in Italy.

Command Structure for SS Flak Detachment 13/509

Commander: Waffen-Ostuf. Biscevic
Commander: Hstuf. Daumer (as of 1 March 1944)
Adjutant: Ostuf. Kaase
Transport Officer: Ostuf. Hanke
Supply Officer: Ostuf. Wolff
1st Battery (8.8 cm Flak): Hstuf. Jentsch
1st Battery (8.8 cm Flak): Ostuf. Bernardy (KIA)
1st Battery (8.8 cm Flak): Ostuf. Hasenauer
Chief Battery Officer: Ustuf. Loeber (KIA)
2nd Battery (3.7 cm Flak): Ostuf. Schmee
3rd Battery (2 cm Flak) [later 3./SS Anti-tank Det. 13: Ostuf. Holz
2 cm Flak Platoon: Ostuf. May (KIA)
Light Flak Platoon [reinforcement for 1st Battery]: Hscha. Huebner
Staff Sergeant: Hscha. Kuer
Staff Sergeant: Ustuf. Henning (?)
Unit Field Post Number: 58 056

The "Handschar" Div. also maintained a divisional Flak company after the transfer of the detachment to IX. SS Corps. Its Field Post number was 37 265.

THE SS FLAK DETACHMENT 22

22ND SS VOLUNTEER CAVALRY DIVISION "MARIA THERESIA"

The Flak (air defense) Detachment of the 22nd SS Cav.Div. "Maria Theresia" was formed in June and July 1944 around Patka and Stuhlweissenberg in Hungary. The nucleus cadres came from experienced German troops serving with the SS Flak Training and Replacement Rgt. in Munich and the SS Flak Detachment 8/8th SS Cav.Div. "Florian Geyer." However, over 85% of the personnel were European volunteers; chiefly ethnic Germans from southeastern Europe along with contingents of Hungarians and Ukrainians. The total strength of the unit stood at nine officers and 528 NCOs and men. The detachment commander was Hstuf. Harry Weckmann, who had formerly led 2nd Battery/SS Flak Det.8/Div. "FG" (3.7 cm medium Flak). He was the recipient of the Silver Close Combat Clasp, which had been awarded in July 1943.

In September 1944, SS Flak Det. 22 together with other parts of the "MT" Div. was rushed into action on the Romanian border. Although not yet fully trained, portions of all four of the unit's batteries took part in heavy defensive fighting against the advancing Soviet forces. Inexperience may have accounted for some of the detachment's stiff losses during this time. In the course of the month SS Flak Det.22 lost 15 men killed, 21 wounded and four missing. It also had an "88" Flak gun and attached tractor truck destroyed along with a 2 cm single barrel Flak gun, two trucks and two motorcycles. On the plus side the detachment knocked out two enemy tanks and 15 trucks and vehicles. The unit performed well enough under fire to secure the award of the German Cross in Gold for its CO, Hstuf. Weckmann.

During the first part of the battle for Budapest, SS Flak Det. 22 was deployed in the eastern part of the city (Pest), with 3rd Battery (light Flak) defending the eastern railroad station for 12 days with its two 2 cm Flak guns. These were used almost exclusively against enemy infantry attacks but even then the positions changed hands several times during this period. During this fighting the detachment adjutant, Ostuf. Guendisch was killed. On 4 January 1945, one of 3rd Battery's guns had to be destroyed due to lack of ammunition and the crew converted into infantry. On 6 January all members of the detachment crossed over the Danube to new positions in Buda to the west. It was noted by a member of the Flak detachment that nearly all the division's rations now stemmed from the 16 horses that each of the "Maria Theresia" Regiments slaughtered daily.

By the evening of the Budapest breakout attempt on 11 February 1945, SS Flak Det.22 had taken the following losses (killed or wounded) during the defense of the city: two officers, seven NCOs and 194 men out of some 500 troops deployed. In terms of equipment, 18 Flak guns and 38 trucks belonging to the detachment had been destroyed either intentionally or by enemy fire. During the siege the unit had accounted for two enemy fighter planes shot down, seven tanks destroyed and three field pieces and 53 trucks and vehicles knocked out.

At 2100 hrs. on the night of 11 February, the detachment's survivors assembled for their breakout effort at a subway tunnel entrance that led to Castle Hill in Buda and was located not far from the Elizabeth Bridge. Thirty minutes later the men jumped off into the attack in an effort to cut their way through the first of three fortified enemy lines that lay in the hills on Margaret Island. The Russians were ready and waiting, and like every other unit trying to get out of the city, SS Flak Det.22 was quickly cut to pieces. After severe losses had been taken, the survivors reassembled in small, isolated groups, many of which fought their way through the first communist positions. But that's about as far as they got. Efforts to crack the secondary line generally collapsed and by the morning of 13 February nearly all of the members of the detachment who were still

alive in the Budapest suburbs went into Soviet captivity. The only officer observed among them was Ostuf. Sluyter, CO of the Staff Battery. Hstuf. Weckmann was listed as killed-in-action.

On 14 February 1945, one officer (Ostuf. Klauss) and four NCOs from the SS Cav.Div. Flak Detachments 8 and 22 reported into the reserve hospital at the "Archduke Johann" Hotel in Semmering. They were the only ones from their units to make it back to the main German lines. From SS Flak Det. 22/"MT" only one man, Uscha. Gronarth, escaped from Budapest. Every one else in the unit had either been killed or captured. It has been said that no Flak detachment in the Waffen-SS was so completely obliterated.

A short time later the remnants of the SS Flak Detachments 8 and 22 were assigned on paper to form the new SS Flak Det. 32/32nd SS Grenadier Div. "30 Januar." with formation to commence immediately in the Beneschau training grounds in Bohemia-Moravia. The detachment's CO was Ostuf. Klauss from the 8th SS Cav.Div. and the entire initial strength of his command consisted only of the four SS Cav. Flak NCOs who had gotten out of Budapest with him! Needless to say the unit was never fully formed.

Order of Battle

SS Flak Detachment 22/22nd SS Cav.Div. "MT"

Commander: Hstuf. Weckmann, KIA

Adjutant: Ostuf. Guendisch, KIA

Medical Officer: Ostuf. Dr. Ahlbeck (stayed behind in Budapest)

Administrative Officer: Ostuf. Bayer

Fire Coordinators: Oscha. Konrad, Oscha. Pilz

Chief Range Finder: Oscha. Kuepker

Staff Sergeant: Hscha. Seitz

Staff Battery: Ostuf. Sluyter, FP Nr. 19 168 A, five officers/142 NCOs and men; four 2 cm single Flak guns, two Flak MG 151/2, 15 vehicles.

Hostler (horse attendant): Oscha. Kaulbach

1st Battery: Ostuf. Thaidigsmann, FP Nr. 19 168 B, two officers, 128 NCOs and men; four 8.8 cm Flak guns, one single 2 cm Flak gun, two Flak MG 151/2, 21 vehicles.

2nd Battery: Ostuf. Frentzel, FP Nr. 19 168 C, one officer, 126 NCOs and men; two 3.7 cm single Flak guns, two 3.7 cm combined Flak guns, one Flak MG 151/2, 12 vehicles.

1st Platoon (Ukrainian): Uscha. Loppa

2nd Platoon (Hungarian): Oscha. Udvarkely

3rd Platoon (Batschka/Banat ethnic-German): Oscha. Riedl (also a translator)

3rd Battery: commander unknown, FP Nr. 19 168 D, one officer, 132 NCOs and men; six 2 cm single Flak guns, two Flak MG 151/2, 10 vehicles.

One Light Flak Column: details unknown. []





WAFFEN-SS PERSONALITY PROFILE



SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer
HENRI FENET

Henri Joseph Fenet was born on 11 July 1919 in Ceyzerat, Department of Ain, France. The outbreak of World War II found Fenet studying literature at the Sorbonne University in Paris and he immediately decided to enlist in the French Army. By May 1940 he held an officer's commission (Lieutenant) and he participated in many battles during the "shooting" war against the Germans, in the course of which he was twice wounded and decorated with the Croix de Guerre for bravery.

After being released from a POW camp on 29 November 1942, Fenet returned home to join the "Milice Francais" led by Joseph Darnand. The "Milice" was a militia force recruited to battle the communist underground terrorist threat in Vichy, France. In October 1943, Fenet volunteered for the Waffen-SS and was promptly sent to the SS-Junkerschule "Toelz" for an abbreviated training course (January-March 1944). On 20 March, Fenet received the rank of Obersturmfuehrer in the Waffen-SS which was equivalent to his old French Army rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was also named to command the 3rd Com-



The French SS Knight's Cross holder, Hstuf. Henri Fenet (third from right).

pany of the 8th SS Storm Brigade "Frankreich." In late July 1944, Fenet's company along with I.Bn./"Frankreich" was sent to the Eastern Front in Poland. In the course of August it was heavily engaged in the Carpathian Mountains and in the Vistula River basin. The French volunteers fought alongside the soldiers of the 18th SS Div. "Horst Wessel" and proved their mettle in several fierce engagements which caused devastating casualties. Henri Fenet was honored for his leadership efforts at this time by the bestowal of the Iron Cross, 2nd Class on 22 August 1944. The actual "Frankreich" Brigade losses during the Polish fighting were as follows: out of 17 officers, 7 were killed and 8 were wounded; out of about 1,000 men from the reinforced battalion (which had been dubbed SS Bn. 8 "Frankreich"), 90 were killed, 660 were wounded and 40 were missing.

In September 1944, Fenet and his company were sent to the SS Troop Training Grounds in Konitz, West Prussia where they were to join thousands of other French recruits in the formation of the 33rd SS Volunteer Grenadier Division "Charlemagne." After a short time the French volunteers were sent to the SS Training Grounds at Wildflecken near Fulda where full divisional formation got underway. The personnel came from the following sources:

- 1,200 from the French Volunteer Legion (LVI) that served with the German Army.
- 1,100 from the 8th SS Storm Brigade "Frankreich."
- 1,800 from the "Milice" that had fled France.
- 1,200 from the French contingent in the German Navy.
- 2,300 from the NS Transport Corps, Organization "Totd" (military construction service) and new civilian volunteers.
- Total: 7,600 men.

Ostuf. Fenet was immediately assigned to command I.Bn./SS Rgt. 57/"Charlemagne," which was based on survivors from the brigade.

*Pour Sygrounen
in kameradschaftlicher
Verbindlichkeit
Henri Fenet*

Hstuf. Fenet's autograph for SR.

In February/March 1945, the "Charlemagne" Div. was heavily engaged in Pomerania. Fenet's battalion was constantly in the frontlines and it gave an excellent account of itself. In early March the French SS division was surrounded by the Soviets and splintered into fragments. Ostuf. Fenet managed to lead his battalion back to the main German lines intact, for which feat he was promoted to Hauptsturmfuehrer and awarded the Iron Cross, 1st Class. But 4,000 of his French comrades would not be so lucky—they lost their lives in the "hell of Pomerania."

On 24 April 1945, Hstuf. Fenet led a volunteer assault battalion from the "Charlemagne" Rgt. that had been reconstructed from the shattered division, into Berlin where it was attached to the 11th SS Panzergrenadier Div. "Nordland." During the battle for the German capital the French volunteers put up a truly heroic resistance in Neukoeln, on the La Belle-

Althaus, Heinrichstrassen. They fought on to the last round of ammunition on the last day of the battle, destroying 62 Russian tanks in the process. Many times they were engaged in vicious hand-to-hand combat. At the end of April, four members of "Charlemagne" were awarded the Knight's Cross by Brigfhr. Dr. Krukenberg, the "Nordland" commander. They were:

Hstuf. Henri Fenet

Hstuf. Wilhelm Weber (German)

Oscha. Apollot, KIA

Uscha. Eugen Vaulot, KIA

The latter two men were killed in the fighting and never had their decorations confirmed. On 2 May 1945, most of the surviving Frenchmen (about three dozen out of an original total of 350), went into Soviet captivity near the Air Ministry building. Hstuf. Fenet had been badly wounded in the last days of the battle and he was first sent to a hospital before being imprisoned in Soviet and French POW/labor camps and prisons. After a long period of confinement in his homeland, Fenet was finally released. He still remains true to the principals that guided him in the Waffen-SS and in recent years has been a courageous and articulate spokesman for the thousands of European volunteers that served along with him and he has appeared in several documentary films and television programs.

SS-Brigadefuehrer OTTO KUMM

Otto Kumm was born on 1 October 1909 in Hamburg, son of a salesman. He attended secondary school until 1 April 1916 in Hamburg-Hamm, continuing on in an upper school until 31 March 1925. From 1 April 1925 until 31 March 1929 he trained as a typesetter and worked in this profession until 1 June 1934 when he entered the SS-Verfuegungstruppe.

On 1 July 1934, Kumm began his recruit training with I./SS-Standarte "Germania." In very short order he became a platoon leader with 3./"Germania," and on 1 February 1935 he was named to command 4th Machine Gun Co./"Germania." To facilitate this task, Kumm went to a company commander's training course held at the Army infantry school in Doberitz in July/August 1935. In February/March 1936, Kumm attended a training class at the military transport school in Forst/Lausitz. He was promoted to Hauptsturmfuehrer in September 1936. From December 1936 until March 1938 he served as the commander of 2./"Deutschland."

In March 1938, Hstuf. Kumm was placed in charge of 10th Co./"Der Fuehrer" Rgt. stationed in Klagenfurt, Austria, later taking over 12th Company. Upon completing a battalion commander's training course at the Grafenwoehr training camp in Bavaria, Kumm was immediately placed in charge of III./"DF" with the rank of Sturmbannfuehrer, effective 13 May 1940. He led this battalion with great success in the second phase of the French Campaign, winning both classes of the Iron Cross in the process.

Stubaf. Kumm remained in command of III./"DF" during the opening stages of the war with Russia in 1941. Then on 12 July 1941 he took over the entire "Der Fuehrer" Regiment from Oberfhr. Georg Keppler. In all of the battles of the "Das Reich" Division for the remainder of the year the regiment performed brilliantly and Stubaf. Kumm was decorated with the German Cross in Gold.

Then in January 1942 came the greatest testing that the "DF" Regiment would ever receive. The Soviets had launched a winter counteroffensive with fresh troops recalled from Siberia that carried them through the Valdai Hills and Rzhez. This attack in conjunction with another offensive around Vjasma-Gschatzk had left the German 9th Army largely cut off and encircled. An important element in the German defense was the "Das Reich" SS Division which had almost burnt itself out in an extreme effort to take Moscow during the preceeding autumn. In horrible weather with temperatures dropping to -40 C, Obersturmbannfuehrer Kumm's "Der Fuehrer" Rgt. was sent on a 120 km march to plug up a hole in the northern portion of 9th Army's lines.

In several days of very difficult fighting near Rzhev, "Der Fuehrer" with the help of assorted other units was able to regain the main battle lines, slicing off a supply road for Russian troops further to the west in the process. This made the regiment a prime target for Red counterattacks, which were not long in coming!

Four Soviet rifle divisions and two tank brigades were flung up against the regimental positions in ceaseless day and night attacks. With the temperatures dropping as low as -54 C, the struggle of the "DF" Regiment soon became a saga of heroic dimensions. The SS men were ordered to hold onto their positions at all costs, and this they did without hesitation. Everyone was thrown into the battle from the C.O. down to the company clerks. Again and again there was hand-to-hand fighting in the foxholes and bunkers, and more than once the enemy broke through the first line of defenses to besiege the regimental command post. When that happened all of the staff members, including Ostubaf. Kumm, took up their carbines and went to work and each enemy breakthrough was sealed off.

But there were fewer and fewer men to man the 5 km long regimental front and the situation became increasingly precarious. Several times the last hope rested with the Stukas, who were called upon to make occasional dive-bombing attacks. At any rate, "Der Fuehrer" held its lines until the attacking forces were totally obliterated, leaving thousands of their dead stacked up in front of the SS positions. It had been an epic battle which forever solidified the combat reputation of the Waffen-SS.

The final chapter in this heroic episode took place at the HQ of 9th Army where Ostubaf. Kumm went to report in to Generaloberst Model on 18 February 1942.

Model spoke to Kumm: "I know that your regiment has gone through a great deal Kumm, but I just can't do without it. How strong is it now?"

Kumm walked over to a window and pointed outside: "Herr Generaloberst there is my regiment drawn up on parade."

Model looked out and saw a skimpy line of 35 SS men standing in the snow. Thirty-five men out of 1,800! Nothing could speak more eloquently of the heroism and sacrifice of the SS Rgt. "Der Fuehrer." In the course of their recent struggle the men of the regiment had also knocked out 24 enemy tanks, most at close range. The deeds spoke for themselves and Otto Kumm was awarded the Knight's Cross on 16 February 1942.

During the battle to regain Kharkov a year later, Kumm was again at the head of his regiment, leading it time and again in hard close combat. In two separate instances, the "DF" Rgt. cut off and destroyed far superior Soviet forces, acts which led directly to the reconquest of Kharkov. As a result of the overwhelming successes of his command, Otto Kumm became the 221st recipient of the Oakleaves to the Knight's Cross on 6 April 1943.

In the summer of that same year, Standartenfuehrer Kumm was assigned to the V. SS Mountain Corps (7th and 13th SS Mtn. Divisions) in Yugoslavia and became the Corps' chief-of-staff. In 1944 he became the commander of the 7th SS Mtn. Div. "Prinz Eugen" with the rank of Oberfuehrer. It was the most critical time in the division's history; Tito's terrorists were swarming through the mountains of eastern Serbia and Soviet and Bulgarian forces were on the way. "Prinz Eugen" was fully caught up in the maelstrom and frequently had to battle enemy elements on all sides, but it never once faltered and its soldiers performed magnificently. They continually repulsed the foe and kept open the supply and withdrawal routes to the lower Balkans. Even though weakened by non-stop combat, Div. "PE" held on to a bridgehead on the Ibar River for six weeks, thus enabling much of Army Group Loehr from Greece to retreat to the main German lines.

While serving as a rearguard during the pullback to Cacak and then to the Drina and Save Rivers, "Prinz Eugen" counter-attacked many times to free German Army units from enemy entrapments. As a result of the division's superlative achievements, Otto Kumm became the 138th recipient of the Swords to the Oakleaves of the Knight's Cross on 17 March 1945. In the meantime he had been promoted to Brigadefuehrer and assigned

to centralise the German **Stilleen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014** on 6 February 1943. He held this appointment to the capitulation in May 1945 when he went into American captivity near Hallein, Austria. Kumm was not released until 14 October 1947.

After the war Otto Kumm worked for several years as a commercial artist before becoming the production manager for a printing and engraving firm in Offenburg, Baden. He is the author of the definitive history of the 7th SS Mtn. Div., **VORWAERTS PRINZ EUGEN!** and its companion photo volume, and he still remains active in Waffen-SS veterans affairs.



**SS-Unterscharfuehrer
GISELHER RENTSCH**

Giselher Rentsch was all of 15 years old when he volunteered to serve in the Waffen-SS and he was accepted only because of the intervention of the "Fuehrer and Reichschancellor" who approved of his youthful idealism and granted his request. His recruit training time was spent with II./SS Training Rgt. "Prag" under the regimental commander, Ostubaf. Deutsch.

After serving for a time at the front, Rentsch was made an Unterscharfuehrer on 1 March 1943 at the age of 16, thus becoming the youngest NCO in the entire German Army! He served with the 6th Co./SS-Rgt. "Der Fuehrer" of the "Das Reich" Division during the defensive fighting for Kharkov and the later Bjelgorod (Kursk) offensive and the battles on the Mius River. In the winter of 1943/1944 he was with the command of Hstuf. Lex from the SS Panzerkampfgruppe "Das Reich" that fought stubborn battles for Schepetovka and Stara Konstantinov. During this time he suffered his fifth battle wound that would leave him temporarily disabled. He also received several battlefield decorations, including the Iron Cross, 1st Class.

Because of his wound disability, Rentsch was assigned to the SS Main Office in Berlin where he worked on formulating re-

cruiting standards for the 12th SS Panzer Div. "Hitler Jugend" with the Reich Youth Minister. During the battle for Berlin, Rentsch was reactivated for duty and served during the fighting as a battalion adjutant. Following his post-war confinement, Giselher Rentsch moved to South Africa where he became a farmer.

**SS-Ostuf.
HANS KEIL**

SS-Ostuf. Hans Keil was born on 6 November 1913. He was an early recruit for the "Leibstandarte"; joining the regiment in Juterbog in July 1933. From 1934 on he served with the 8th Machine Gun Company of the "LAH"; transferring to an 8-cm heavy mortar platoon on 1 July 1939. He served for some time as a military trainer. In the course of the war he won both classes of the Iron Cross and was wounded on several occasions, sometimes seriously. His last command was 8th Heavy Weapons Company/SS-Panzergrenadier Rgt. 2/1st SS Panzer Division "LSSAH." Hans Keil died on 9 June 1978 after suffering through a long illness.



**SS-Unterscharfuehrer
ALFONS DE BRABANDER**

Alfons de Brabander was one of the most decorated Flemish Waffen-SS volunteers. Born in 1920, he spent much of his youth in America before returning to Flanders (Belgium) just prior to the outbreak of World War II. He soon became active in the Flemish nationalist movement. In 1940 he became one of the early volunteers for the militant Flemish "Black Brigade," a patriotic militia organization. He soon came into conflict with some of the "Black Brigade" leadership and transferred his loyalty to the new branch of the Germanic SS in Flanders.

In August 1940 de Brabander became one of the early Belgian volunteers for the Waffen-SS, although he was not called up for duty until October 1940. At that time he was sent to the German recruit training school in Sennheim, Alsace. After completing basic training he was assigned to the "Westland" Rgt. of the new "Wiking" Div. along with many other Flemish and Dutch volunteers. De Brabander accompanied the "Wiking" Div. into Russia in the summer of 1941 and quickly proved himself to be an adept and courageous soldier in numerous hard battles. Along with some other Flemings he transferred into the "Langemarck" "Schnell" (and/or Motorcycle) Rgt. of the 2nd SS Div. "Das Reich" in 1942. Once again he proved his worth on the battlefield and won the full respect of his German comrades. Alfons de Brabander was killed-in-action near Kharkov on 5 February 1943; he was 23 years old. In 18 months of continuous combat action in Russia he had been awarded both classes of the Iron Cross, the silver Assault Badge and the Wound Badge in bronze. An energetic, unselfish, fearless man, de Brabander typified the high caliber European volunteers that served in the ranks of the Waffen-SS.

SS-Uscha./Junker
HANS WARNITZ

SS-Uscha./Junker Hans Warnitz was born on 3 March 1924 in Frankfurt-am-Main. In March 1945 he was sent from the SS-Junkerschule at Klagenfurt to Lieberose on the Oder Front, where he was posted to the SS Replacement Battalion 35, which either was part of the 35th SS Polizei Division (which was in the same general area) or was the successor to the SS Grenadier Training and Replacement Bn. 35 that had been stationed in Konitz. At any rate Warnitz served as a trainer for new recruits and replacements coming into the battalion. He was last heard from during the war in early April 1945.

Warnitz apparently went into Soviet captivity on or about 22 April 1945 in the vicinity of Halbe, where the V. and XI. SS Corps were trying to desperately break out of an encirclement. He was later traced to the Soviet Gulags at Noginsk near Moscow and Schachty, where he worked as a forced mine laborer. All contact was lost with him in December 1949.

**SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer
BRUNO HINZ**

Bruno Hinz was born on 25 August 1915 in Petersdorf near Nordhausen, the son of farmer Otto Hinz. After completing secondary school in 1930, he was trained in cabinet making and stayed on for several years working with his instructor. In 1936, Hinz joined the Reich Labor Service in Wolnzach, Upper Bavaria. During his stay here he proved himself to be an excellent athlete and along with four of his comrades from a 15-man group, he decided to volunteer for the SS-Verfuegungstruppe.

On 1 October 1936 Hinz was attached to the SS-Standarte "Deutschland" in Munich. He served with the 10th Company of this regiment during its occupation operations in Austria, the Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia. During the Western Campaign of 1940 he was badly wounded and was decorated with the Iron Cross, 2nd Class and promoted to Unterscharfuehrer. Following his recovery, Hinz was posted to the "Deutschland" replacement battalion, in which he served from December 1940 through March 1941. From 1 April to 30 September 1941 he attended a wartime officer's training class at the SS Junkerschule "Braunschweig."

Upon graduation, Hinz was sent to the SS Rgt. "Westland" of the "Wiking" Division on the southern part of the Eastern Front. As an "officer designate" during his post-Junkerschule probationary period, he first served as a platoon leader. On 20 January 1942 his ranking as an Untersturmfuehrer (2nd Lt.) came through. Over the next several months in hard combat, Hinz soon proved himself to be a superior officer. He was wounded several times and decorated with the Iron Cross, 1st Class and at the beginning of May 1943 he received the prestigious German Cross in Gold.

In September 1943, Hinz's weakened company from the "Westland" Rgt. helped cover the withdrawal of the "Wiking" Division near Valki. When the Soviets attempted to break through the German lines with a powerful tank and infantry force, Hinz led his command in a counterattack and engaged the foe in desperate close combat. After being dealt severe losses the enemy withdrew, but there was very little left of Company "Hinz" and its commander was down with a life-threatening lung wound. Still the company had successfully defended the only tank bridge available to the "Wiking" Division and had kept the lines of retreat open. For this achievement Bruno Hinz would be given the Knight's Cross on 2 December 1943. In the meantime, he underwent surgery several times at the hands of the renowned surgeon, Prof. Sauerbruch. Hinz then underwent a convalescence of nearly six months. In the interim he was promoted to Obersturmfuehrer (1st Lt.) on 9 November 1943.

Upon his recovery, Hinz was appointed commander of 2nd Co./SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 38 of the newly formed 17th SS Div. "GvB," on 10 February 1944. Hinz next distinguished himself during the battle for Normandy around St. Lo in July 1944. He led his company in a counterattack that severed the spearhead of an enemy tank assault force. Dug-in in hedgehog positions, Hinz and his men blocked the advance of the foe for two days

while absorbing a heavy artillery shelling and aerial bombardment. When the time came to relocate, Hinz and a rear guard successfully held back the enemy while all of the wounded were evacuated across marshy ground. Hinz's actions had blunted a major enemy offensive and resulted in the award of the Oakleaves to him on 23 August 1944.

After the healing of yet another war wound, Hinz was posted as an instructor to the SS JS "Toelz" in addition to receiving a promotion to Hauptsturmfuehrer (Captain) on 9 November 1944. On 20 January 1945 he was sent back to the "GvB" Division where he served as a battalion CO until the end of the war. All-in-all, Hinz was wounded nine times during the war, several times seriously. Along with his other decorations he had been awarded the Wound Badge in Gold and the Close Combat Clasp in Gold. Bruno Hinz died prematurely in Munich on 28 February 1968 due to complications from his wartime lung injury.

**SS-Unterscharfuehrer
JULES HEEMAN**

Jules Heeman was born in Anderlecht, Belgium on 24 November 1919. A long-time Flemish nationalist and patriot he volunteered for the Waffen-SS and served with distinction in the 6th SS Storm Brigade "Langemarck," surviving its bloody battles near Jampol and Stara Konstantinov. For his performance in combat he was decorated with the Iron Cross, 2nd Class, the silver Wound Badge, the silver Close-Combat Clasp and the silver Tollenaere Loyalty Badge given only to Flemings.

In May 1944 Heeman was promoted to Uscha. and in July he accompanied I./"Langemarck" on its journey to the Narva Front. In the course of violent fighting on 29 July 1944, Jules Heeman was killed-in-action near "Orphanage" Hill. He was posthumously recommended for the Iron Cross, 1st Class. Along with many of his comrades, Uscha. Heeman was buried with honor at the cemetery of the 4th SS Brigade "Nederland" at Jevu, Estonia on the Gulf of Finland about 15 km to the west of Narva.

An SS Special Deployment Battalion was said to have been formed at the Berlin-Lichtertfelder barracks in 1942 and was supposed to have been sent through Kiev to Stalingrad in the autumn of that year. It subsequently was destroyed in the fighting for that city. Unfortunately the very existence of this unit has yet to be verified; it would have been the only W-SS element to have served with 6th Army in Stalingrad.

Faithful Unto Death



The body of Hstuf. Graf being guarded by his dog "Tirras."

It was 23 September 1942 on the northern most part of the SS Mountain Division "Nord's" front in Finland near Kaprolat Hill. A guard outpost on this hill occupied by part of IV Platoon /2nd Company/SS Recce Detachment "Nord" had come under Soviet attack and was soon encircled. Communications with the company command post were cut off, and worry began to set in. The reserve platoon was alerted and a combat task force was assembled for a possible relief effort under the Swiss Hauptsturmfuehrer Graf. It soon set out for the beleaguered outpost.

On the way to the trapped SS men a messenger dog was intercepted. In a capsule on his collar a note was found which read as follows: "We are besieged by a Russian company. Two dead, four wounded. Reinforcements needed fast. Ebeling." (Oberjunker Ebeling was the leader of the 18 man troop that was at the outpost.) As the relief platoon closed in on Kaprolat Hill the bodies of dead Russians could be seen through the morning fog. Then enemy movement was discerned. Hstuf. Graf waved his men forward on the attack, but the Reds were well concealed in the thick forest and made difficult targets. A violent fire-fight developed, then the Soviets, led by a Commisar, counter-attacked shouting: "Uraah!"

Hstuf. Graf fell to the ground firing his machine-pistol and his top sergeant went into position next to him with a machine gun. After awhile the sergeant could no longer hear the chattering bursts from his CO's MP. He looked around and saw him laying prone with a bloody head wound. Using an improvised stretcher, Graf was carried back to the company command post. The Russian threat had been thwarted, but it was too late for Hstuf. Graf. This former Captain on the Swiss General Staff and son of a Swiss forester had been killed in his first battlefield action.

His body was laid out for burial next to the command post and that's when a problem set in. Graf's faithful shepard dog "Tirras" immediately took up sentry duty over the body. No one could come close to it without the dog attacking them. It was a touching but sad situation with only one way out: the poor beast had to be shot. A short time later, Hstuf. Graf and his loyal pet were buried side-by-side in the lonely Karelian forest. Only a few days before Graf had been overheard talking to his dog: "Tirras, when I'm no longer around, your name will never more be called." Perhaps it was a premonition of both of their fates!



"Wiking" Div. commander—Felix Steiner (left)—and Artillery Commander—Gille (right).

The SS Regiment "Moravia" in the Krems Bridgehead

From 14 April to 7 May 1945, the Krems Bridgehead in Austria was defended in part by the SS Regiment "Moravia" from the SS Kampfgruppe Division "Bohemia-Moravia." The regimental CO was Stubaf. Siegmann. The main battle lines at the time ran right through the town of Kuffern. The entire bridgehead front ran from Oberwoelbing through Niederwoelbing and included the towns of Kuffern, Theyern, Nussdorf and Wetterkreuz by Hollenburg.

SS Rgt. "Moravia" was deployed in the Oberwoelbing sector to the north of Theyern. The boundaries of I. and II. Battalions/ "Moravia" intersected near Kuffern but most of the town lay in I. Battalion's zone of operation. The commander of this battalion was Hstuf. Jaeger, who had formerly been a tactical instructor at the SS-Junkerschule "Prag."

On 7 May 1945 the Rgt. "Moravia" evacuated the bridgehead without enemy pressure and crossed the Danube River at Krems with all of its equipment and wounded. But it is known that 97 wounded Waffen-SS men fell into Soviet hands at Kuffern and were murdered on the spot. There is a strong possibility that these soldiers were members of the SS Field Replacement Battalion 2, which was defending the Kuffern sector on 15/16 April 1945 when the communists temporarily overran the town. They were thrown out on 16 April by the soldiers of SS Rgt. "Moravia." As could be expected the Kuffern POW massacre somehow escaped the notice of the post-war "war crimes" investigators! □

An Occurance in Hungary with the SS Police Division

On 23 October 1944, Stubaf. Etthofer's SS Panzer Detachment 4 from the 4th SS Police Division spearheaded a counterattack which broke through some Soviet positions near Kenderes, Hungary. So great was the enemy surprise and panic that an entire supply dump and motor vehicle park was captured intact.

As the SS Panzergrenadiers began inspecting their spoils they discovered to their surprise a 3.5 ton Opel Blitz truck with SS license plates right in the midst of a group of Soviet vehicles. Still on the fenders were tactical signs of the "Wallonien" Brigade or the "Wiking" Division--the exact markings were forgotten by the witnesses. A member of SS Panzer Det. 4,

Heinrich Wiechmann, immediately recognized the truck as one he had driven while serving with 2nd Co./SS Panzer Det. 4 (when it was an assault gun detachment), which had been assigned to the SS Sturmbrigade "Wallonien" earlier in the year.

During the attempted (and largely successful) breakout from the Cherkassy Pocket in February 1944, Wiechmann had abandoned his vehicle to proceed on foot. Now when he checked the glove compartment of the truck that had been recovered he found his personal papers were still there, undisturbed, right where he had left them eight months before! □

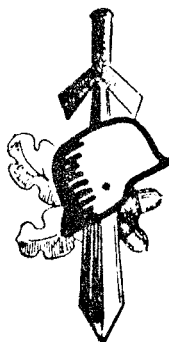


Pets of the "Reich" Division.

WAFFEN-SS MISCELLANY



AANDENKEN
AAN
PIETER BIESMANS
29 Augustus 1919 — 23 Maart 1943
Gevallen in Rusland, «Voor: Ouder & Heerd»



Gedenk in uw gebeden de ziel van hem
die viel in den strijd tegen het goddeloze
Bolsjevisme

PIETER BIESMANS

Stormman bij 't Vlaamsch Legeen
lid van het V.N.V. en der Z.B.

geboren te Waltwilder, den 29 Augustus 1919 en
gesneuveld te Krasnab (Rusland) den 23 Maart 1943

- Degeen die strijdt voor een rechtvaardige zaak,
strijdt voor God zelf, de eeuwige zaligheid wordt
zijn belooning zoo hij valt op het veld van eer.
- Vlaanderen bloedt en lijdt om dezen edelen zoon,
die Waarheid en Recht had begrepen en met heilige
'thoogste offer bracht: z'n jong leven!
- Hij herinnerde zich de woorden door Z.H. den
Paus gesproken in 1937: «het Kommunisme is 'n
dodelende pest, die heimelijk doortruikt tot in 't
morg van de samenleving».
- Hij wist dat priesters hadden aangeschreeven tot
«goed en bloed voor de eer van G.H.»
- Hij heeft zijn bloed gegeven. God zal hem ter
zendvondig loonen.
- Zijn teerghede, onbegrip, broeders, en zo toe-
moede hij nu verder in besitting nemen van 't
den Hooge.
- Door zijn voorbeeld van dienftoewijding en
van strijdvoudigheid en opoffering, zal men van
denken voor eeuwig in eere bewaard blijven.
- Kameraden, allen die met en naast hem zijn
hebt, treurt niet, het is Gods wil. Handeldelers
naar zijn eigen woorden: «Vol, handelen, bijt
alles, tot de Landzege».

Hij ruste in Vrede

Onze Lieve Vrouw van Vlaanderen sticht hem bij

Druk J. Simoons, Brizen

Original obituary notice for a member of Legion "Flandern"
killed at Krasny-Bor.

In early February 1945, some members of the SS Administrative School at Arolsen were formed into a battlegroup and sent to reinforce SS Grenadier Rgt. 88 ("Becker") of the 32nd SS Division "30 Januar" on the Oder River Front.

On 25 March 1945, the entire remaining portion of the SS Administrative School "Arolsen" was grouped into the following battalion strength battle-groups:

I Bn. KGr. "Dungmann," II Bn. KGr. "Thoele," III Bn. KGr. "Braunagle."

These ad hoc battalions were sent into action separately in the Marburg-Frankenburg-Korbach-Brilon area. It is thought that they may have eventually joined the SS Panzer Brigade "Westfalen," which fought on the Western Front in 1945. The accompanying photo shows Ostuf. Heinz Karting from the SS-Kampfgruppe "Dungmann" who was listed as missing-in-action at Frankenberg Eder on 29 March 1945. [See next issue.]

SS-Kampfgruppe "Spaeth" was formed late in the war from the SS Guard Btl. 1 in Berlin and took part in the defensive fighting for Fortress Kuestrin; its ultimate fate is unknown.

While in action near Wasserburg on 2 May 1945, a battalion from the Replacement Army led by Oberst Hermann Fritz was attached to the 38th SS Division "Nibelungen."

The man who formed the 38th SS Division "Nibelungen," Ostuf. Richard Schulze-Kossens, took command of a regiment in the 38th SS Division when Brigfhr. Lammerding assumed the divisional reins.

The SS Heimatschutz Slowakei (SS Homeland Guard Slovakia) was formed late in the war and ended up around Pregarten in

Austria at the capitulation. The 7th Co. in this unit was known as Kompanie "Tyrnau." So far little information has turned up about this little-known outfit.

10th Company/SS-Pz.Gr.Rgt.4 "Der Fuehrer" twice had the tragic distinction of being wiped out to the last man! The first time it was fully destroyed in hand-to-hand combat with Soviet soldiers near Rzhev in February 1942. The second occurrence took place in West Wall bunkers on 15/16 September 1944, which were assailed by a superior American force equipped with flame throwers. Both times the men of the company put up such a fierce resistance that the resulting enemy breakthroughs were weak and short-lived. As a result of its records of complete and total sacrifice, 10th Company/"Der Fuehrer" was honored in a Wehrmacht Communique on 18 October 1944, which was broadcast throughout Germany.

The SS Polizei Rgt. 50, led by Major Foerster was said to have fought on the Pomeranian Front in 1945 in the area around Schoeningen and Rosow.

The 7th SS Assault Gun Company of the 6th SS Stormbrigade "Langemarck" held its first postwar reunion on 26 February 1983 in Ghent, Belgium. Around 35 surviving veterans attended including the last company commander, Gust Heyerick, who gave a brief eulogy for the many members of the company who fell in battle.

American Volunteers in the Waffen-SS: As of 1 May 1940, eight Americans of German ancestry were on duty with the Waffen-SS; two were in the SS-VT Division, three were in the SS-

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014.
 "Totenkopf" Standarten and three were in the SS-"Polizei" Division. Five other Americans not of German descent but of related "Germanic" ancestry were serving with the SS-"Totenkopf" Division. It is not known how many more joined in the period of time from May 1940 to December 1941, but it is likely that several more did.



SS Oberschuetze Rene Vanhecke was born in Menen, Belgium on 7 April 1922. He served as a member of the SS Disciplinary Company "Chlum" on the Narva Front, and while performing duty as a messenger, became missing in action. The photo dates from 20 April 1942.

Some 150 Flemish SS men were said to have served with Ostufab. Skorzeny's SS-Jagdverbande 502, a quasi-commando unit.

In the fall of 1943 a contingent of 25 men who had been serving with the Legion "Flandern" and earlier the Rgt. "Nordwest," were sent to the SS NCO Training School at Lauenburg in Pomerania. They were assigned to the 2nd Training Company at the school. Later they were sent back to the "Langemarck" Brigade to participate in its battles on the Ukrainian Front.

SS Engineer Battalion 27: On the Oder River Front in April 1945, the SS Eng. Bn. 27/"Langemarck" Div. consisted of a few understrength companies. One of them was a light bridge building company that had been trained at the SS combat engineer school in Pikowitz. It was now converted into a panzergrenadier company for use as a divisional reserve. The battalion was 90% Flemish and 10% German in composition, with the latter being mostly NCOs. The engineer company led by Ustuf. Heyp consisted to a large extent of Flemish factory workers in Germany who joined the Waffen-SS en masse on 6 November 1944.

Company "Heyp" was assigned the defense of a triangular area from Penkun to Kasekan to the Randower bridge. The main enemy threat here was supposed to come from Russian infiltrators and paratroopers who were supposed to have been dropped nearby. The company set up a number of defensive outposts manned by a few men each, each of which was separated from the next by from 1 to 2 km distance. It was a very flimsy arrangement that fortunately was never really put to the test. The company was caught up with the rest of "Langemarck" in the retreat through Prenzlau to Schwerin, where it surrendered to the British on 2 May 1945.

SS Hstuf. Wilhelm Rehmann, the commander of the "Langemarck" battle-group on the Narva Front and later I./SS-Rgt. 67/27th SS Div., was born on 15 March 1912 and died on 7 April 1975.

Of the 420 original Flemish volunteers in the SS Rgt. "Nordwest," who comprised three companies of the regiment, 160 were eventually killed in action and another 36 died in captivity after the war. Virtually all the rest were wounded, many several times over!



A number of Flemish Hitler Youth served with the 12th SS Panzer Div. "Hitler Jugend" in Normandy and afterwards. The photo shows a squad of young Flemish volunteers on duty with the SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 26/"HJ" Division in 1944.



SS-Brigadefuehrer Joachim Ziegler, the commander of the 11th SS Volunteer Panzergrenadier Div. "Nordland" who was cashiered during the battle for Berlin, was an experienced regular Army officer. Prior to the war he had served as a Captain in the Panzer Regiment 5 of the 3rd (Neuruppin) Panzer Div. and ironically, the General officer who eventually relieved him of command of "Nordland" as garrison commander of Berlin, Gen. Weidling, served with Ziegler in the same division as commander of its artillery regiment.

Following the Western Campaign of 1940, Ziegler underwent training as a general staff officer and was subsequently attached to the HQ Command of III. (Brandenburg) Panzer Corps. In late 1942/early 1943 this Corps was directed by SS-Gruppenfuehrer Felix Steiner (formerly of the SS Div. "Wiking") during the German withdrawal from the Caucasus Mountains to Rostov. During this time Ziegler proved himself to be an indispensable staff officer to Steiner. So in the summer of 1943 when Steiner was placed in charge of forming the III. SS Panzer Corps (Germanic) he requested the transfer of Ziegler to the Waffen-SS and had him appointed chief-of-staff of the new SS Corps.

The working relationship between Steiner and Ziegler remained a good one during the hard battles on the Oranienbaum and Narva Fronts. But when SS-Brigfhr. Fritz von Scholz was killed leading the "Nordland" Div. near Narva in July 1944, Joachim Ziegler was the logical choice to succeed him. He subsequently led "Nordland" with skill and courage in Kurland and Pomerania and was decorated with the Knight's Cross. When the "Nordland" Div. was ordered into Berlin in April 1945, Ziegler did not want to comply. For one thing he wished to remain with Steiner's III. SS Panzer Corps which had been re-routed to the north of the city, and for another he had no illusions about the feasibility of defending the German Hauptstadt for long. Along with Steiner, Ziegler retained the illusion that the Western "Allies" were the only hope of saving Europe from communist dominion and both men had convinced themselves that if they offered their European volunteer forces to the "Allies" for use against the Soviets, all might be saved. They were dead wrong about the "Allied" intentions of course; the "Allies" would treat all Waffen-SS personnel as criminals and fully cooperate in the Bolshevization of half of the continent!

Still, Brigfhr. Ziegler did not want to see his command use-

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

lessly destroyed in Berlin before it could join the "Allies" in a great anti-communist crusade, so when "Nordland" became ensnarled in Berlin, Ziegler literally gave up the ghost and fell into a deep despondency. He had to be replaced by Brigfhr. Krukenberg from the "Charlemagne" Div. and was sent to the Fuehrer Bunker under "house arrest." On the night of 1/2 May 1945, Ziegler joined in with everyone else trying to fight their way out of the city and took charge of a small battle-group. His tragic story came to an abrupt conclusion when he was killed in action during a breakout effort.



Vets from the SS NCO School Arnhem revisit their battlefield in Holland in 1976. Former SS-Brigfhr. Heinz Harmel is fifth from the left.

Training Company Commanders at the SS NCO School Arnhem (Holland):

- 1st Co.: Oskar Pahnke
- Platoon Leader/1st Co.: Friedrich Wilhelm Voigt
- 2nd Co.: Heinrich Oelkers
- 4th Co.: Heinrich Steingrube
- Ordnance Officer: Erwin Heck

The SS NCO School at Arnhem, Holland was mobilized on 17 September 1944 to meet the Allied invasion of the area. It constituted a part of an emergency SS Regiment led by Standartenfuehrer Michael Lippert which was assigned to the Corps von Tettau under Gen.Lt. von Tettau, the Wehrmacht C-in-C "Netherlands." The SS NCO School was organized into a combat battalion led by Hstuf. Oelkers. Its mission was to continuously attack the "Allied" airborne troops in their drop zone and hinder their advance towards the Arnhem Bridge. The SS Rgt'l Kampfgruppe HQ was located at the medical clinic in Heesum.

Waffen-SS Elements in the Osnabrueck Area, Late 1944/Early 1945 (including Muensterland-Emsland):

1. The 5th SS Construction Brigade Staff was known to have been located in Osnabrueck, but is said to have relocated to the Suedharz-Thuringen region.
2. A tank destruction company under Ostuf. Kaemmler was deployed on the Dortmund-Ems Canal near Rheine.
3. An SS battalion was serving with a regimental Kampfgruppe led by a Major Dunker in Beckum.
4. An unknown SS emergency unit was stationed in Freckenhorst.
5. The town battle "commandant" at Versmold was Hstuf. Nicolussi-Leck, a Knight's Cross holder from the "Wiking" Division.
6. A special-use SS Police Battalion assigned to the command of the Higher SS and Police Leader "West" and led by Stubaf. Sprengmann, counterattacked towards Halle through Werther on the night of 2/3 April 1945.
7. SS Kampfgruppe "Reinhold" led by Ostuf. Reinhold was deployed in the Kampfgruppe "Doerneschlucht," which was composed chiefly of members of the Army reserve officer's Training Course IV at Detmold.

A battle-group from the SS Foreign Volunteer Training Camp

at Sennheim was formed in September 1944. On 19 November it was in action on the Huening Canal in Hardtwald, Upper Alsace. In the fighting the entire leadership of the battle group was killed, and many of the wounded men were sent to the hospital in Muehlhausen.

Second Co./SS Replacement Battalion "Der Fuehrer," stationed in Graz Wetzelsdorf, Austria, trained 220 Norwegian SS volunteers in February-March 1941 and another 100 Norwegians and 100 Danes during the period from May to August 1941. All of these Scandinavian recruits were subsequently posted to the SS Division "Wiking."

III.Bn./SS-KGr. "Ney" (Hungarian) served with the 3rd SS Panzer Div. "Totenkopf" at the end of March 1945 in western Hungary and later fought around Vienna and Wiener Neustadt.

On 11 June 1944, to the west of Venoix near Caen, a platoon leader from the Divisional Escort Co. of the 12th SS Div "Hitler Jugend," Oscha. Heinz Wigand and one of his squad leaders prevented the further mistreatment of a downed British "Spitfire" pilot by turning their weapons on those responsible and advising them to desist.

As of 14 May 1945, 30,000 Waffen-SS POWs were being used as forced laborers in "reconstruction" work in France. On 15 May 1945, the commanding officer of the Greek Waffen-SS volunteers (said to have numbered around 2,000) was executed by the new government in Athens. And on this same day in Holland, 8,000 disarmed Dutch members of the 34th SS Div. "Landstorm Nederland" were charged automatically with "war crimes" and thrown into a special concentration camp that would prove to be brutally run and administered. In Amsterdam fully 1,000 Dutch National Socialists were arrested by "special decree" of the terrorists (ex-Dutch "resistance fighters") who had been placed in charge of the Dutch government.

On 17 May 1945 the Dutch sent 120,000 German soldiers in Holland back to Emden in Germany but they retained 2,000 to 3,000 German SS men as "war criminals." These soldiers had served with the "LN" Division, on the staff of the W SS C-in-C "Netherlands," on the staff of the HSSuPF "Netherlands" and in the SD (Security Service). At least three of these men are still locked up in Holland to this very day.

On 5 June 1945, two former Hitler Youth members, aged 16 and 17, were executed by U.S. soldiers. Their crime: they had been found guilty of "spying" on 29 March 1945 and despite the fact the war had ended with the Germans utterly defeated the commander of the American 9th Army refused to commute the death sentence given to these teenage boys, and publicly upheld the shameful verdict!



WEAPONS AND WARFARE: A History of the Profession, 2014

now in its second year of publication! In the first 12 issues there were almost 500 pages packed with dozens of articles covering many aspects of the history of "weapons and warfare." Plus the many columns providing you with information, sources, and viewpoints of all kinds.

And 1986 will be even better for the readers of **WEAPONS AND WARFARE Monthly**! You will continue to read and learn about the history of warfare as well as the weapons and the tactics it was fought with. From the earliest times up to the present, **W&WM** covers it all for you. (Emphasis is on the 20th century, especially World War Two.) And all viewpoints.

Read about what it was like to be there, in articles often written by those who actually experienced it. Much of the material is written by veterans and others who were there, as well as the trained historian and the dedicated enthusiast/hobbyist.

All this provides you with the most interesting, highly readable, authoritative and accurate material you will find in print in a publication of this type.

And **W&WM** doesn't stop there: Every issue is also loaded with reviews of books, magazines, organizations, hobby products and more that you should know about in "Pass in Review." You'll be given the latest news on all sorts of goings on around the world, including details of veterans reunions, all kinds of meetings and conventions, and more.

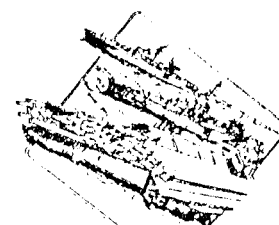
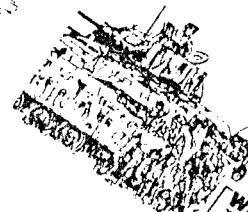
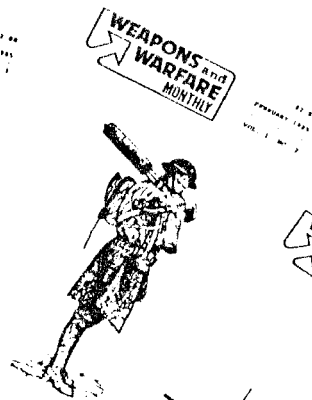
For the latest on what's happening around the world in the military, there's "G2" by Robert C. Smith. He will keep you current on the latest weapons systems, hot spots, conflicts, and other significant news you should be aware of.

In addition, there are other regular or semi-regular departments: Personality Profiles, Glossary, Ponderable Quotes, Dis'n'Data, Humor, and, of course, Mail Call.

W&WM is a forum open to all readers - your views and comments are always welcomed and as many as possible that have merit will be published.

W&WM contains illustrative material such as photos, scale drawings, maps, camouflage & markings views, sketches, etc.

W&WM is not sold over the counter. It is available only by mail subscription.



FREE GIFT!

Order your subscription from this ad and you will receive a FREE gift (worth at least \$2.00). In addition, you will also receive our current **W&WP** catalog and other sales literature with many more products and publications for you.

GUARANTEE

W&WM service is guaranteed to be to your satisfaction, or upon written request you will receive a refund for all unmailed issues.

Single copy: U.S., \$2.00
Foreign, \$2.50

One year subscription: U.S., \$20.00
[12 issues] Foreign, \$25.00

All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis: i.e., January through December. No matter when you subscribe, you receive all the issues for that year. If you did not subscribe in 1985, you missed a lot of quality reading material. Back issues for 1985 cost \$4.00 each, or \$44.00 for the year; as a special offer to **SIEGRUNEN** readers, if you subscribe for 1986, you can get the entire 1985 run of issues for only \$22.00. This offer is good only until 1 April 1986. Subscribe NOW . . . TODAY . . . THIS MINUTE!!

Why are YOU waiting?
Subscribe today . . .
and start enjoying your hobby more!

Make your check or money order payable to and sent it to:

Weapons and Warfare Press
218-X3A Beech Street
Bennington VT 05201