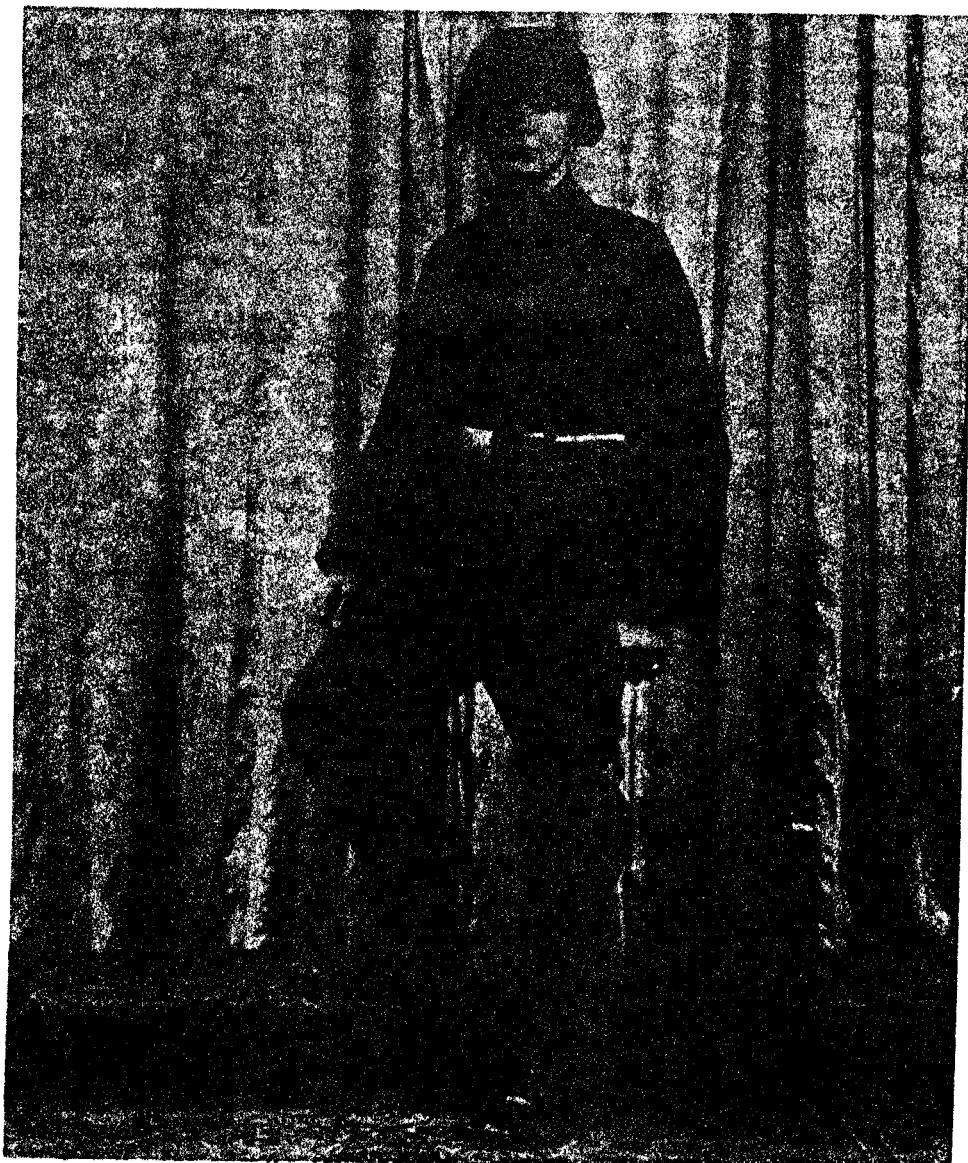




Siegrunen

THE WAFFEN-SS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

118225



Teenage volunteer of the 12th SS Panzer Division "Hitler Jugend" in France, 1944.

WORLD WAR II HISTORY COMES ALIVE ...

Anthology Series

This new series of booklets will actually have a magazine-style format: numerous articles, plus snippets of information, book reviews, letters to the editor, etc.—all focusing on a particular subject.

We have quite a bit of material available for publication in this series, especially on World War II and other 20th Century subjects, including Warplanes, Warships, AFVs and other Military Vehicles, Infantry Weapons, etc.

Many are nearing completion and a few are listed here; as more are completed and published, they will be listed in future Monographs Lists—be sure to get each List so you don't miss anything!

World War II Anthology No. 5: The War In The Pacific. This edition includes the following articles on the Pacific Theater in World War II: O'Callahan of the FRANKLIN by Michael D. Hull (Navy chaplain who won Medal of Honor for his heroism after kamikaze attack on the famous carrier); Mindanao by Col. Conrad H. Lanza, U.S. Army (detailed study of the island, how best to invade it, etc.; map); Jap Spy At Pearl Harbor by Jules Archer (Takeo Yoshikawa, his efforts at spying in Pearl Harbor for the Japanese attack; photo); Forgotten Warriors In The South Pacific: Flying PBYS With VP-14, 1941-1942 by Murray Hanson (author's personal account as a PB-5 pilot); The Jungle Slaughterhouse Of Guadalcanal by William Marshall (the hell of the Canal); The Way Of War On Guadalcanal by Darrell S. Stiffler (detailed analysis of the forces, tactics, weapons, supply, disease, morale, intelligence, etc.); Massacre At Milne Bay as told to William Marshall (personal account by a member of 43rd Engineers, U.S. Army); The Nip Killers Of Attu: The U.S. 7th Infantry Division In The Pacific by William Marshall. 50pp, 8 1/2"x11" (1988). #M-57. \$5.00

World War II Anthology No. 3: Eastern Front. This edition includes the following articles on the Russo-German War: Attack On A Fortified City: Brest Litovsk, Byelorussia, 1941 by Professor Dr. Rudolf Gschöpf (account of 45. Infanterie-division at the start of the Russian Campaign, June 1941; author was division chaplain; map); The "Charlemagne" Division In Pomerania, February-March 1945 by Richard Landwehr (French Waffen-SS division; 3 insignia ill., partial command roster); German Winter Units At Stalingrad by David Parham (TO&E of special units created for winter fighting at Stalingrad); The Romanians And The Struggle For The Crimea, 1941-1944 by Richard T. Barnes (map, chronology); Collapse In The East by Robert C. Smith (beginning of the end for Germany in the East; map); America, The Nazi-Soviet Pact And The Origins Of World War II by Dr. Peter H. Buckingham (detailed accounting of America's part in one of the strangest "alliances" ever); The Greatest Intelligence Coup ... ? by S. Frederick Kerns (how the Germans used the Soviets own ploy to precipitate the purges by Stalin of

the Soviet Army); Last Gasp Of The Waffen-SS: Operations In Hungary And Austria, December 1944 To May 1945 by Steven Kane (5 maps). 50pp, 8 1/2"x11" (1988). #M-45. \$5.00

List Of Military And Armored Fighting Vehicles Photographs In The World War II Collection Of Seized Enemy Records Group RG-242-GAP In The National Archives compiled by Ray Price and the Staff of Weapons and Warfare Press. Provides identification numbers and brief details of over 1,400 photos of tanks, self-propelled weapons, and other tracked, semi-tracked and wheeled military vehicles of German, British, French, Soviet, Italian, Polish, Belgian, Hungarian, Czech and Finnish vehicles, plus U.S. vehicles in British and Soviet service. Without this work, only a visit to the National Archives could locate this material. 37pp, 8 1/2"x11", second edition (1986). #M-14. \$5.75

Department of the Army HISTORICAL STUDIES (DA Pamphlet No. 20- series)

A number of the titles originally published in this series in the years after World War II have been reprinted by the USGPO recently. Original editions are hard to come by today and have commanded premium prices when they are available, as they are much sought after due to their extensive use of original source material (captured documents, interviews with German participants, etc.). These are quality, softcover bound reprints (not photocopies!). We have space here to list only a few of those available; there are also many other USGPO publications on WWII (and other periods) that are available. Send a large self-addressed stamped envelope for further listings (foreign, send two IRC's or U.S. \$1.00).

Combat In Russian Forests And Swamps. Describes the principles of combat in the woodlands and swamps of European Russia during World War II. 48pp, plate, 1986 reprint of 1951 edition). #S/N 008-029-00143-8. \$3.00

German Armored Traffic Control During The Russian Campaign. 49pp, 9 maps, 1984 reprint of 1952 edition. #S/N 008-020-00989-0. \$3.75

German Campaign In Poland (1939). Details German military operations against Poland. 141pp, ill., 3 plates, 8 maps, 1979 reprint of 1956 edition (clothbound). #S/N 008-020-00555-0. \$19.50

German Campaigns In The Balkans (Spring 1941). Describes the German campaigns in the Balkans and the seizure of Crete. 170pp, ill., 41 plates, 1986 reprint of 1953 edition. #S/N 008-029-00151-9. \$9.95

German Northern Theater Of Operations, 1940-45. 342pp, ill., 10 maps, 1976 reprint of 1959 edition (clothbound). #S/N 008-020-00549-5. \$18.50

Military Improvisations During The Russian Campaign. Improvisation was used to deal with a growing Red army, while German forces and supplies were decreasing. 118pp, ill., 1986 reprint of 1951 edition. #S/N 008-029-00142-0. \$6.00

Terrain Factors In The Russian Campaign. Describes geographic features, problems encountered, and methods of dealing with them. 67pp, ill., 1 plate, 1986 reprint of 1951 edition. #S/N 008-029-00144-6. \$3.75

How To Order

- > 1. Use a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to print (in BLOCK letters, or type) your name and address. Whenever possible we use United Parcel Service (UPS) and we would appreciate your providing us with an address they can deliver to.
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If you have any questions, etc., and desire a response, you must include a large #10 self-addressed stamped envelope for the reply

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you must send a large self-addressed stamped envelope. (Foreign, instead of the LSASE, please send two IRC's, or a U.S. dollar bill, or equivalent in U.S. mint postage stamps.)

Thank You!

Your support is always greatly appreciated. And I would certainly appreciate your telling your friends about W&WP and its publications for the discriminating military history enthusiast.

SS-TOTENKOPF STANDARTE 13

This Deathhead regiment was formed in the spring of 1940, based upon troops from the dissolved SS-"T" Standarte 5 "Dietrich Eckardt," which was the last of the peacetime Deathhead regiments. At the beginning of May 1940, SS-"T" Stan. 13 was stationed in Austria with the Staff and I. and II. Battalions in Vienna and the III. Bn. (in formation) situated in Linz. As of 28 July 1940 the Standarte contained 29 officers, 315 NCOs, and 1,365 men for a total strength of 1,709 troops. Effective 15 August 1940, SS-"T"-Stan. 13 was dissolved and its soldiers sent elsewhere. §

II. Bn., Staff, 5th-8th Companies [37 959A-E]
III. Bn., Staff, 9th-12th Companies [41 399 A-E]
13th Company [44 673]
14th Company [35 749]
Signals Company [46 594]
Medical Company [46 742]
Ambulance Platoon [47 122]
Maintenance Platoon [47 466]

§

SS-TOTENKOPF STANDARTE 15

This Deathhead regiment was formed in East Prussia in the spring of 1940, with the Staff and I. and II. Battalions located in Plock. At the beginning of May 1940, only a nucleus element existed for II. Bn. and the initial formation of III. Bn. was still being attempted. As of 28 July 1940 unit strength stood at 30 officers, 165 NCOs, and 1,289 men for a total of 1,484 all ranks. On 12 September 1940 the Standarte was ordered reformed as a Waffen-SS infantry regiment. Because it lacked motorization and was still not fully formed the regiment was dissolved shortly afterwards with most of the personnel being assigned to other SS units. SS-IR 15 remained on the roll books, however, and a small formation staff contingent stayed intact until 1 September 1942 when it was officially decided to terminate the regiment. §

SS-TOTENKOPF STANDARTE 14

This Deathhead regiment was intended for occupation duties in Denmark. It began forming in April 1940 at Welmer-Buchenwald, incorporating the personnel from the following units:

II./SS-"T" Stan. 9 (in Bohemia-Moravia)
III./SS-"T" Stan. 6 (in Norway)
IV./SS-"T" Rekruten Stan./Dachau

As of 28 July 1940, SS-"T" Stan. 14 had the following troop strengths: 40 officers, 392 NCOs, and 1,755 men, for a total of 2,187 troops.

On 12 September 1940, SS-"T"-Stan. 14 was ordered to reorganize itself as a Waffen-SS infantry regiment (essentially just a change in unit/sub-unit nomenclature), and heretofore became SS-Inf. Rgt. 14. In December 1940 it was ordered to Holland rather than Denmark, to relieve SS-IR 11 and take up coastal guard duties. In the Netherlands the regiment was situated as follows:

HQ Staff, Signals Platoon, Band, Motor Pool and 9th Company in Zandvoort
I. Bn. in Arnheim
II. Bn. in Haarlem
III. Bn. in Hemstede, Aerdenhout and Breda

The regiment came under the control of the W-SS C-in-C "Northwest" (Low Countries). In April 1941, SS-IR 14 became a component regiment of the 2nd SS Infantry Brigade. At this time it had the following structure and Field Post numbers:

Staff, Signals Platoon, Motorcycle Platoon, Band [32 539]
I. Bn., Staff, 1st-4th Companies [33 504 A-E]

SS-TOTENKOPF STANDARTEN 16 AND 17

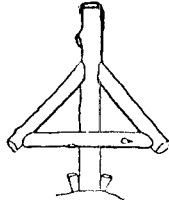
SS-"T"-Standarte 16 began forming in Prague in April/May 1940. It drew its personnel from III. Bn./SS-"T"-Rekruten Standarte/Dachau and from the remnants of the I. and IV. Battalions from the SS-"T" Rekruten Standarte. The latter two battalions were slowly filled out with replacements. SS-"T"-Standarte 16 itself was formed for security duties in and around Prague, succeeding the SS-"T"-Standarte 6 which had been transferred from Prague to Norway.

In early May 1940, the regimental staff and I. Bn. were situated in Prague, while the II. and III. Battalions were still only represented by nucleus contingents. As of 28 July 1940, unit strength stood at 33 officers, 304 NCOs and 1,672 men, for a total of 2,009 all ranks. SS-"T"-Stan. 16 was dissolved on 15 August 1940 with its personnel being sent to other SS units.

A brief attempt was made to form the SS-"T"-Standarte 17 in the summer of 1940, but it never really got off the ground and the project was soon cancelled. §

rer-SS where he served as deputy commander of the Replacement Army (Volkssturm). Shortly before the end of the war he was assigned to Army Group Northwest under Field Marshall Ernst Busch. Ogruf. Curt von Gottberg did not choose to go into enemy captivity and took his own life in May 1945 in Schleswig-Holstein. As a high-

ranking SS officer who had held various important positions he would no doubt have been treated as a "war criminal" and probably executed after a show trial. Von Gottberg was a highly competent and brave official and field commander who fully enjoyed the respect and affection of his subordinates. §



Albert Janssens was born on 12 November 1916; he was the son of a laborer. A Flemish nationalist and anti-communist idealist he joined the Waffen-SS in 1941 and was killed-in-action while serving with the SS Legion "Flanders" near Novograd on 29 January 1942. ***

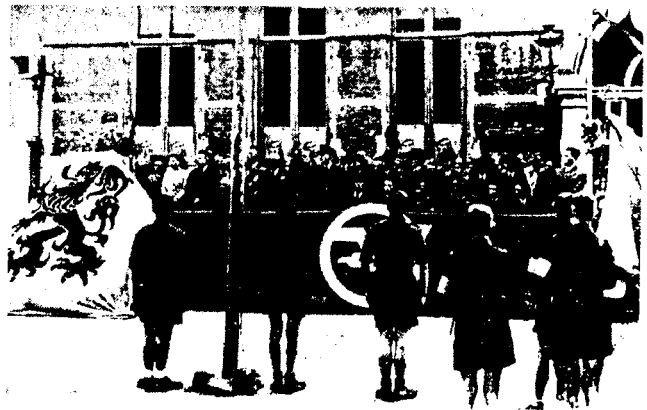


SS-Hauptsturmführer Werner Strecker (SS Nr. 309187) was born on 28 April 1918 and was a volunteer for the pre-war SS-Verfügungstruppe who later served as a staff officer with 5. SS Panzer Division "Wiking." After

his release from post-war confinement he attempted to get into private business. Strecker was a founder of the Waffen-SS veterans' self-help organization in Stuttgart at a meeting held in the Hotel Fuerstenhof in 1950 that was also attended by former SS-Oberst-Gruf. Paul Hausser.

With the formation of the new Bundeswehr (Army), Strecker applied for admission, stressing his background as a former career officer. He was accepted with the rank of Major. Most of his career with the Bundeswehr was spent as a General Staff Officer. He was not ashamed of his links to the Waffen-SS and attended the funerals of old comrades and commanders in uniform. Werner Strecker died shortly before his retirement from the Bundeswehr on 28 May 1974. He held the rank of Oberst (Colonel) at the time.

PHOTO: Werner Strecker (right) at the funeral of SS-Oberst-Gruf. Paul Hausser in Ludwigsburg on 28 December 1972.



Photos (above and below) showing the dedication of the Youth Home "Werner Audenaert" in Flanders, May 1942. Among those attending the ceremony were (from left to right in photo below) the Flemish Waffen-SS volunteers Verguld, Verbeek, Deschamp, and Lefebvre.





WAFFEN-SS PERSONALITY PROFILE



SS-Obergruppenfuehrer
CURT VON GOTTBERG

Curt von Gottberg was born in Prussian Wilten, Friedland District, East Prussia on 11 February 1896. He came from a well-to-do land-owning family. He completed his secondary schooling at the Wilhelms-Gymnasium in Koenigsberg in 1914 and on 2 August of that year volunteered for the Dragoon Cavalry Regiment "Graf Wrangel" in Koenigsberg. In 1915 he transferred into the elite 1st Guard Infantry Regiment at Potsdam. Von Gottberg then saw considerable combat action and was badly wounded on the Western Front in 1917.

In 1920, Curt von Gottberg left the army with the rank of Oberleutnant (1st Lieutenant) and began a civilian career in agriculture on his family estate. He eventually tired of this and from 1928 to 1933 worked at other enterprises. In 1932 he became a member of the NSDAP (Nr. 948,753) and the SS (Nr. 45,923) and a year later, with the advent of the National Socialist government, he was able to resume his military career. With the rank of SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer he became the first commander of the Armed SS Battalion in Ellwangen in 1933. This unit later became a part of the famous "Deutschland" Regiment and most of its early officers would go on to prominent wartime commands (Herbert Otto Gille, Valter Ploew, Hans Fortenbacher, among others).

In 1934 von Gottberg was promoted to SS-Sturmbannfuehrer and the following year relinquished his battalion command for other duties within the Armed SS. His career was threatened in 1936 when he lost his lower left leg in a car-related accident. After recuperating he was taken out of the field service and assigned office administrative jobs. By 1937 he had been promoted to SS-Standartenfuehrer and had become the chief of the Race and Resettlement (RuSHA) Office in Berlin. This agency was responsible for the betterment of the Germanic race and the settlement of frontier areas and territories in the east. In March 1939 he established and led a related office in Prague. Promotion came swiftly, first to SS-Oberfuehrer, then on 20 April 1941 to SS-Brigadenfuehrer. He was then given command of another SS office in Berlin.

Tired of being left out of the military end of things, Ogruf. von Gottberg volunteered for service on the Eastern Front in January 1942. He was first placed in charge of anti-partisan operations in a portion of Byelo-

ruссия (Weissruthenia) and by 1943 became the Higher SS and Police Leader for the entire region with the rank of SS-Gruppenfuehrer. His successes in the field brought him the award of the German Cross in Gold in the same year.

With the assassination of Reichscommissar Kube in Minsk in September 1943, von Gottberg's duties were expanded. In addition to becoming temporary administrator of Weissruthenia, he also had to raise more security forces from rear area troops to deal with the increasing terrorist menace. In 1944 he organized and led a brigade-size battlegroup of the Waffen-SS and Polizei in Byelorussia. SS-Kampfgruppe "Von Gottberg" distinguished itself in battles against the Red partisans and fought with sacrificial courage during the massive Soviet breakthrough in the area of Army Group Center in June-July 1944. The battlegroup was particularly effective in keeping open the critical crossings over the Beresina and Njemen Rivers for retreating German troops. As a result, Ogruf. von Gottberg received the Knight's Cross for the valiant actions of his command on 30 June 1944. This was followed by a swift promotion to SS-Obergruppenfuehrer on 11 July 1944.



On 1 August 1944, Ogruf. von Gottberg was recalled to Germany to assemble a staff and Corps' troops for the newly authorized XII. SS Army Corps in the Army Command Area VIII. He was subsequently named Corps' commander on 7 August 1944. Consisting largely of troops from broken or decimated Army divisions, XII. SS Corps was soon rushed to the Eastern Front for emergency deployment. It would never contain any large-scale Waffen-SS units. In September 1944, the Corps was shifted back across Europe to the border with Holland and on 18 October 1944, Ogruf. von Gottberg had to take a leave of command due to a severe illness.

Following a two-month hospital stay, von Gottberg found himself reassigned to the staff of the Reichsfuehr-



WAFFEN-SS BOOKS

Short Notice

A Series of Quick Book Reviews

RATINGS

- **** Excellent
- *** Very Good
- ** Good
- * Average, Mediocre
- 0 Poor

NEDERLANDSE VRIJWILLIGERS IN EUROPESE KRIJGSDIENST 1940-45

Deel I: De Landstorm Nederland (34.SS Division)

by Jan Vincx and Viktor Schotanius. ****

This is a top-of-the-line production; part of what is likely to now be a four-volume history of the Dutch Waffen-SS. Loaded with rare facts, photos, illustrations, charts, maps, and tables. Dutch text, but easy to follow the main points. A "must have" volume for those interested in the European Volunteers of the Waffen-SS. See the Munoz Books ad in this issue. An in-depth review will appear next issue.

ARDENNES 1944

Peiper and Skorzeny

by Jean-Paul Pallud (Osprey Elite Series). **

A concise and informative 64-page paperback covering 150.Pz.Bde. (Skorzeny) and SS-Kampfgruppe "Peiper" during the Ardennes Offensive. Easy to follow with excellent photos and 12 pages of color paintings. Worthwhile, with objective text.

DIE 1.SS-PANZER-DIVISION "LEIBSTANDARTE"

and

DIE 12.SS-PANZER-DIVISION "HJ"

both by Herbert Walther (Podzun-Pallas Verlag). ***

These are two fine pictorial works with German text of these elite divisions. It looks like about half the photos are relatively "fresh" or "new" in each of these 120-page hardback books. The "HJ" book has the slight advantage with 16 pages of color plates, including many rare color photos. Both are recommended! (Available for \$52.00 postpaid for both from: Military History Shop, Inc., 110 W. State St., Kennet Sq. PA 19348.)

THE ALLGEMEINE SS

and

GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

(published by World War II Investigator Ltd., 68 Staines Rd., Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3LF, GREAT BRITAIN; write for brochure) *

These are exact duplicates of SHAEF secret intelligence reports published in late 1944 or early 1945. Much information for the specialist but also a great deal of wild inaccuracy and generally goofy claims (particularly in CONCENTRATION CAMPS), which will be examined in far more detail in a coming issue. Basically these are historical curiosities whose greatest value lies in evaluating the mentality of the people who put these together. As can be expected the general text has a very leftist political slant which gives a pretty good idea of the U.S. (and "Allied") wartime objectives. Historical revisionists should have a good time with GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS with its numerous claims about facilities and

"gas chambers" where they certainly didn't exist! This one is sure to create more problems for the "atrocity" propagandists.

OTTO WEIDINGER

by Mark C. Yerger (Fedorowicz Pub.). ***

A fine biography of Ostufaf. Otto Weidinger, the highly decorated commander of the "Der Fuehrer" Regiment. Many fresh photos and much new information. Perfect bound format; an improvement in content and quality over the Paul Hausser monograph. Available for \$17 postpaid from SIEGRUNEN.

Also now on hand:

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

The Ukrainian Volunteer Division of the Waffen-SS

by Richard Landwehr (2nd Edition). No rating for obvious reasons.

Unfortunately the only corrections added were to various Ukrainian names scattered throughout the text and maps. Most of my corrections and additions therefore will have to be published in SR. Still, a little sharper printing job than the first time, with better quality paper and finer photo detail. Also, it still has that tremendous Ramiro Bujeiro color cover. Available in hardback only from SIEGRUNEN at \$24.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. Auto-graphed on request.

COMING SOON

Yet another fine article by the prolific Antonio Munoz. This time on 21.WGDdSS "Skanderbeg" (Albanian Nr. 1); more valuable information in addition to what has appeared previously in SR #36. Watch for it!

ALSO COMING SOON ...

SS-Sturmjaeger Regiment "Bobruisk" and Spanish Volunteers of the Waffen-SS.

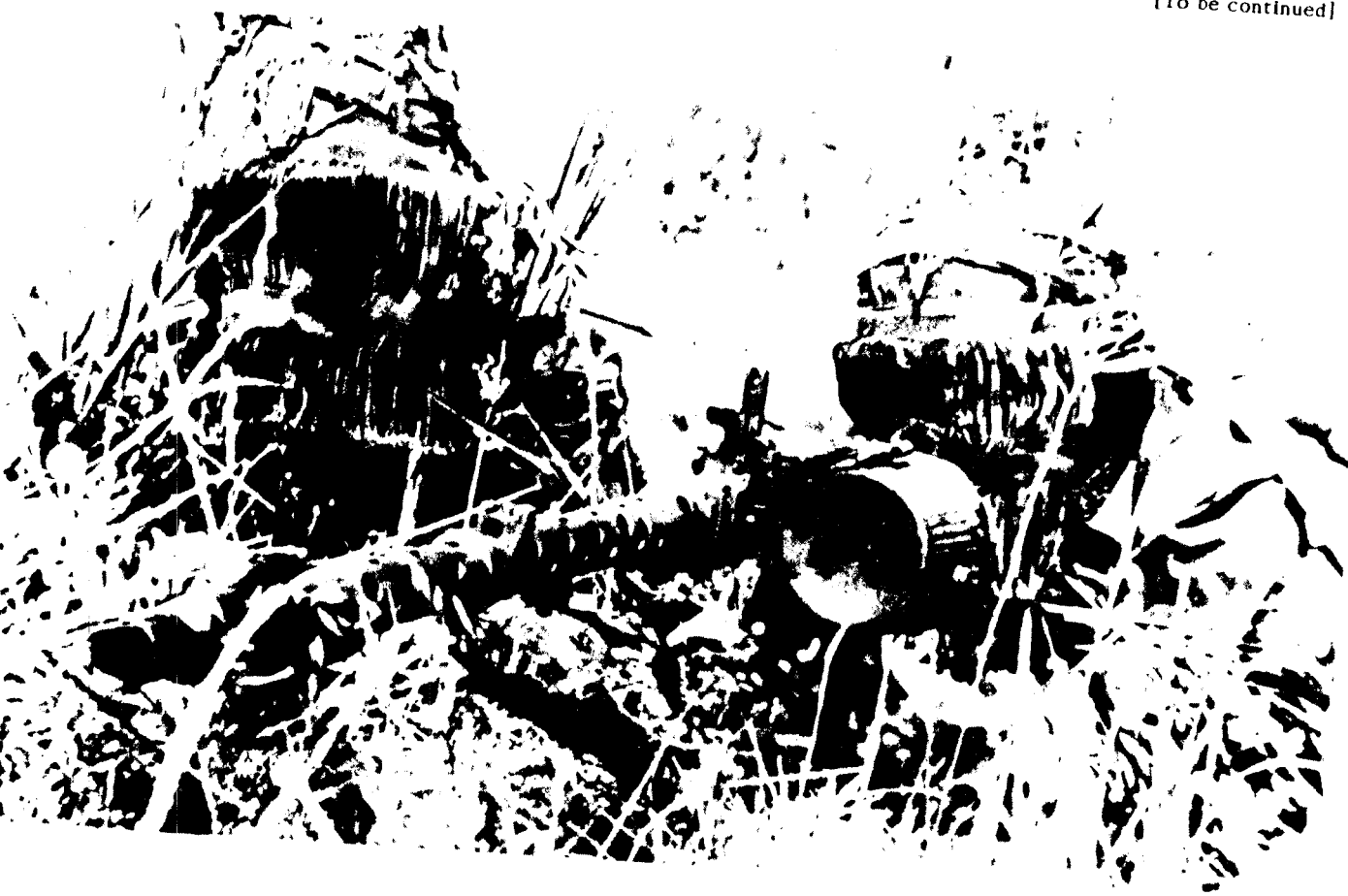
On 17 April 1945, three columns of German POWs were being marched down the road from Langzenn to Farnbach in the Furth District by American soldiers. At Veitsbronn, two of the POWs (both teenagers) were identified by guards as Waffen-SS men and were led off the road and taken to a nearby sandpit where they were both shot and left to die. One of the two made a feeble attempt to bandage his wounds before he perished, while the other managed to write down the address of his father. He was later identified as SS-Kanonier Ewald Rohe, born 4 August 1927, who had been in training with the SS Flak T & R Rgt. in Munich before the unit was organized into SS-Kampfgruppe "Dirnagel" during the last weeks of the war.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1st Parachute Rifle Company | (164 men) |
| Company Headquarters | 36 men |
| Signals Section | 11 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| 2nd Parachute Rifle Company | (164 men) |
| Company Headquarters | 36 men |
| Signals Section | 11 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| 3rd Parachute Rifle Company | (164 men) |
| Company Headquarters | 36 men |
| Signals Section | 11 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 39 men |
| Training Parachute Rifle Company | (181 men) |
| Company Headquarters | 40 men |
| Signals Section | 12 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 43 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 43 men |
| Parachute Rifle Platoon | 43 men |
| TOTAL | (1,140 men) |

The basic difference between the SS-Fallschirmjaeger-Bataillon and the regular Luftwaffe parachute battalion

lay in the relatively self-contained structure of the SS unit. The SS para battalion had its own training company, something which was not organic to the Luftwaffe para battalion. While the Luftwaffe unit had 138 men in the battalion headquarters, the SS para battalion had 267 men. Again, because the unit was self-contained, more personnel were needed for the battalion support services. The Heavy Weapons Company of the SS para battalion was a hybrid. The Luftwaffe para battalion either had a parachute machine gun company of 205 men, or a 120 mm mortar company of 163 men. While the Luftwaffe Parachute Machine Gun Company had a table of organization strength of two light 75 mm anti-tank guns, the SS unit had four. In addition, the SS parachute unit had two flamethrowers, something which was missing in the Luftwaffe para battalion, but was available in the Luftwaffe parachute division. An interesting thing was an organic demi-platoon (17 men) which was found in all of the Luftwaffe parachute companies. These were men that were in training, and could be called for in case of an emergency. Finally, the SS parachute training company was basically a para rifle company, but somewhat overstrength. The Heavy Weapons Company of the SS para battalion was the 4th Company of the battalion. Since the training company was eventually dropped at Drvar, the SS-Fallschirmjaeger-Bataillon 500 employed a total of five parachute companies there (one Heavy Weapons, and four Rifle Companies). By 1945, the training company had ceased to exist. The Heavy Weapons Company was now split up amongst the rifle companies for support. This was basically what happened at Drvar as was its purpose.

[To be continued]



open fire with machine guns, shooting 51 of the escapees and driving the rest back into the camp.

The area south of Kampol, east of Voronesh and NE of Dibovitschi was fully secured and mopped up. In the process a number of chests of artillery ammo, aerial bombs, explosives, mines, weapons and gas mask filters were found and picked up.

2nd SS Bde.: Four partisan hunting commandos from SS-IR 4 located and destroyed a partisan encampment. SS-Flak Det. "Ost" drove off a tank-supported enemy attack and knocked out one light tank, one field piece, one mortar and one machine gun nest. Later on two platoons of the brigade's 3.7 cm Flak turned back an enemy infantry attack that was supported by two tanks. One SS man was killed in this fighting.

SS Cav. Bde.: SS Cav. Rgt. 1 was in Jetkino with SS Cav. Rgt. 2 in Toropez and the Motorcycle Recce Det. in Bibjerevo. The Toropez-Rzhev road was fully secured and a partisan strongpoint in the Berjosa Valley was destroyed with 85 partisans and attached civilians apprehended.

12 November: 1st SS Bde.: The forest near Gutty was cleared and mopping-up began to the east of Boronesh. Seventeen prisoners were taken in this area. During the previous night the guard posts at the Schuavka POW camp were shot at with pistols. As a reprisal 50 prisoners were executed and rations were withheld for three days. Partisans again destroyed the brigade's telephone lines.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 enlarged its security sector on the orders of I. Army Corps and undertook flank protection duties for the 54th Inf. Division. As usual, partisans were also battled. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" undertook a major operation against terrorists in the area ranging from Radofinnikovka through Gorka. SS Flak Det. "Ost" guarded the air space over Krasny-Bor and Ishora and fought against enemy infantry targets. Two enemy planes were driven off damaged and one field piece was silenced.

SS Cav. Bde.: Mop-up and scout troop operations continued through the Berjosa Valley. Twenty partisans and people with them were apprehended.

13 November: 1st SS Bde.: A reconnaissance began to the north of Putivl, the east of Voronesh and north of Bubzwitschi, otherwise there was nothing new to report.

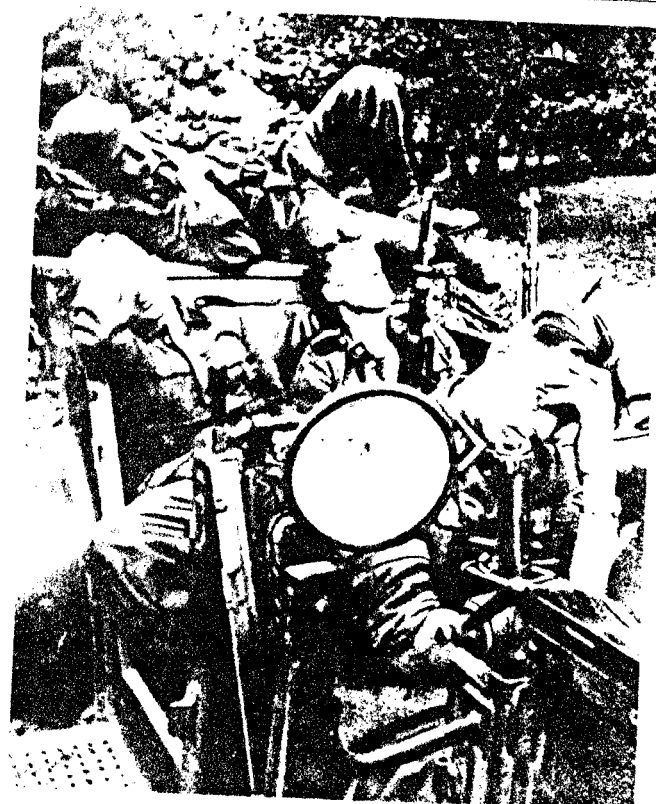
2nd SS Bde.: Operations of the previous day still in effect.

The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" sent a search commando to Ussaditsche, and surprised some partisans, three of whom were shot while attempting to flee. The 3./Escort Bn. (Flak) stationed at Tossno shot down a Russian bomber and a Rata aircraft at 1415 hours. SS Flak Det. "Ost" also shot down a bomber and the Flak platoon from 13./SS-IR 4 knocked down another two enemy planes for good measure.

SS Cav. Bde.: SS Cav. Rgt. 1 was in Jetkino, SS Cav. Rgt. 2 was in Toropez and the Bicycle Recce Det. was in Beburjevo. The brigade also fully secured the Toropez-Rzhev road (again!) and captured 105 partisans.

14 November: 1st SS Bde.: Mopping-up continued to the east of Dubovititschi, the east of Voronesh and to the south and SE of Jampol, as well as to the south of Mukovo and east of Putivl. During operations around Voroff a well-equipped, dug-in partisan force was encountered and a violent clash took place. One bunker was taken in close-combat and a Red Army major (a regimental commander) was captured with two of his men. Another strong terrorist band was confronted 10 kms NW of Romny and in this battle 17 partisans were killed and 42 were captured. The booty taken consisted of 30 rifles and one machine gun. One SS NCO (an Unterscharfuehrer) was killed in this action.

2nd SS Bde.: The unit order-of-battle and strength roster was recorded on this day as follows:



SS Brigade troops pause for rest.

| | Officers | Officer Candidates | NCOs | Men |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|------|------|
| Staff Co. | 26 | 0 | 37 | 124 |
| Signals Co. | 3 | 0 | 17 | 192 |
| Medical Co. | 5 | 4 | 22 | 114 |
| Ambulance Plat. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Motorcycle Plat. | 2 | 0 | 11 | 96 |
| Maintenance Co. | 1 | 0 | 17 | 68 |
| Military Police | 1 | 0 | 23 | 22 |
| Field Post Office | 3 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Light Transport Col. | 1 | 0 | 5 | 28 |
| 2nd SS Military | | | | |
| Geology Co. | 2 | 0 | 8 | 82 |
| Escort Bn. "RF-SS" | 23 | 1 | 78 | 633 |
| SS Flak Det. "Ost" | 24 | 0 | 85 | 692 |
| SS-IR 4 (Mot.) | 87 | 2 | 485 | 2268 |
| TOTALS: | 178 | 8 | 795 | 4345 |

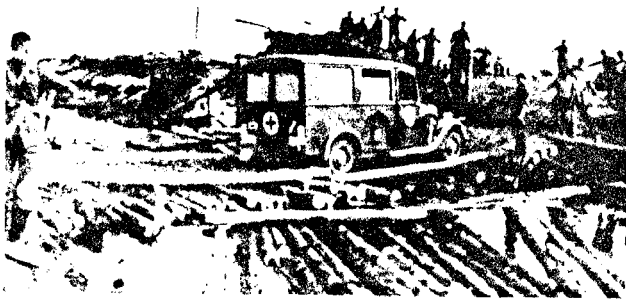
Total Brigade Strength: 5,326 (authorized strength: 7,301)

The brigade's authorized strength breakdown was as follows: 246 officers, 1,308 NCOs, 5,747 men.

Actual Operational Strength on 14 November 1941:

| | Officers | NCOs | Men | Vehicles |
|--------------------|----------|------|-------|----------|
| Brig. Staff Co. | 24 | 34 | 110 | 95 |
| Signals Co. | 3 | 16 | 181 | 66 |
| Motorcycle Plat. | | | | |
| (Reinforced) | 1 | 11 | 97 | 30 |
| SS-IR 4 | 70 | 408 | 1,896 | 588 |
| Escort Bn. "RF-SS" | 14 | 61 | 535 | 210 |
| SS-Flak Det. "Ost" | 20 | 74 | 634 | 214 |
| TOTALS: | 132 | 604 | 3,453 | 1,203 |

Total Brigade Operational Strength: 4,189



Ambulance of the SS Cavalry Brigade.

On the battlefield, an advance post of 5./SS-IR 4 near Kjarbussjelje was attacked but successfully drove off the enemy. Four enemy overflights were fought off by the brigade Flak. An enemy "Rata" fighter plane strafed small group from the brigade field post office which was enroute from Vyriza to Tossno and one truck was damaged. At 0115 hrs. the staff HQ of the Escort Bn. "RF-SS" accidentally caught fire and burned down. The battalion commander's personal clothing and gear were lost as were the clerical supplies and the personal belongings of the clerical personnel.

SS Cav. Bde.: Main operations in the Berjosa Valley were completed.

Also on this day, the Reichsfuehrer-SS made some important decisions involving his command staff troops. SS-IR 4 was ordered to disengage shortly and begin a land march to Krakau for refitting. The following units from the SS Cav. Bde. were also ordered withdrawn from the front for refitting: SS Cav. Rgt. 1, the Mounted Artillery Det., and the Engineer Company. All were to be dispatched to Warsaw by rail.

15 November: 1st SS Bde.: Military operations to the east of Tarny in the vicinity of Jampol and Voronesh continued as planned. Partisans were active in the entire area. About 30 km to the east of Tarny a Russian airplane landed and was captured intact by brigade members, but the pilot had managed to flee. A total of ten partisans were captured and 19 more were killed in battle.

2nd SS Bde.: The arrival of the SS Legion "Flandern" with 1,114 men of all ranks was reported. It was to serve as the replacement for the SS-IR 4, which had not yet disengaged. The Legion's advance commando had reached Shdestvenno (28 km SW of Krasnovardaisk).

SS Cav. Bde.: Did not report in on this day.

On the orders of the SS Main Operational Office, the Military Geology Co. of the Field Staff of the RF-SS was to be expanded into a battalion.

16 November: 1st SS Bde.: The area around Klimovka, Voronesh, to the north of Schostka, to the west of Novgorod-Seversky and to the south of Putivl was reconnoitered and cleared of the foe. After an intense exchange of fire, a terrorist attack on the railroad security outpost to the NE of Schuravka was shattered. Seven of the enemy were killed in the fight and 17 others were rounded up and captured.

2nd SS Bde.: In the sector of HL/SS-IR 4 to the north of Baraki, a 20-man enemy force was destroyed in a brief firefight; some of the terrorists managed to flee. SS Flak Det. "Ost" drove off an enemy air attack, recording two "hits" in the process, while the Flak Battery of the Escort Bn. dispersed six overflights. During two bombing raids on Tossno the Reds dropped nine fragmentation bombs on the railroad station and rail lines.

SS Cav. Bde.: One hundred seventy-six terrorists were captured in actions to the north of Jetkino and in the

Berjosa Valley.

17 November: 1st SS Bde.: A reconnaissance in depth continued in the vicinity of Voronesh, and to the south of Putivl and Voronesh. A major from the 189th Russian Rifle Div. was captured in Krovolez. A large-scale breakout attempt from the POW camp south of Schurovka was put down and 20 more terrorists were apprehended.

2nd SS Bde.: Legion "Flandern" arrived at its designated billets in Tarrassovo. SS-IR 4 battled partisans on the supply road to the 11th Inf. Division. Two deserters came over and four partisans were killed. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" ended its main anti-partisan operation after killing eight Red Army soldiers and two terrorists and burning down many houses, including three large barracks buildings near Rado-Pinnikova, which the partisans had been using.

SS Cav. Bde.: The contents of an enemy ammo dump discovered on 15 November were inventoried as follows:

400 kg of explosives

several chests of explosive "caps"

950,000 rounds of infantry ammo

1,200 rounds of heavy mortar projectiles

Reconnaissance activities were continuing.

18 November: 1st SS Bde.: Recce and mop-up actions were in progress in the area 40 km SW of Novgorod-Seversky, 20 km south of Gluchov, to the NW of Voronesh and to the SW of Putivl. On the Voronesh-Gluchov road a truck from the brigade was shot up by terrorists and the back-up driver was badly wounded. The foe managed to get away.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 undertook road, rail and flank guard duties with the 124th Inf. Division. One partisan hunting commando was dispatched towards Pjendikova and Bjelova. An enemy scouting party near Maluska was largely destroyed. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" fought off two overflights, while the SS Flak Det. "Ost" effectively shelled Russian machine gun positions and bunkers at Kolpinskaja-Kolonija with 2 cm and 3.7 cm Flak. The Tossno railroad station was twice attacked by enemy bombers.

SS Cav. Bde.: Security duties and local recce missions were carried out.

19 November: Command Order Nr. 41 (effective 3 December 1941) was issued directing the following unit relocations:

Field Command Staff Reichsfuehrer-SS to Schroettersburg;

Supply Service for the above to Plonsk;

The administrative staff for the above to Sicherberg;

The overall command detachment for the above to remain at Arys (Camp-South) until further notice.

1st SS Bde.: The guard posts at the POW camp south of Schuravka were fired upon once again by pistols from within the camp and another serious breakout attempt was put down. A partisan weapons/ammo dump was secured by troops in the field yielding five heavy machine guns, four light mortars, 3,000 rounds of assorted ammo, and 20 hand grenades. The regiments now returned to their previous sectors.

2nd SS Bde.: The brigade HQ relocated to Tarrassova. SS-IR 4 and the Escort Bn. continued on with their previously assigned missions. SS Flak Det. "Ost" provided protective fire for I.R. 409 and shelled ground with good results, breaking up some enemy jumping-off positions in the process. All told for the day, seven partisans were killed while two SS men were wounded.

SS Cav. Bde.: Security, guard duties and local scouting continued.

20 November: 1st SS Bde.: An armored car was attacked and disabled by partisans to the north of Gluchov and the driver and his back-up were killed in a firefight. Partisans also attacked two VW Kubelwagens with machine guns and rifles NW of Gluchov, but no damage was done.

To the west of Voronesh a partisan formation was caught assembling and was almost totally destroyed

in a violent battle. Thanks to alert sentries, an enemy attempt to blow up a stretch of the Voronesh-Gluchov rail line was thwarted. The guards at the Schurovka POW camp again came under pistol fire. Total enemy casualties on this day numbered 33, while 1st SS Bde. lost two men killed and another wounded.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 reported killing three partisans. Legion "Flandern" was put to work fighting partisans and it accounted for another two. SS Flak Det. "Ost" destroyed one machine gun nest and silenced two others. Brigade losses were one killed, one wounded.

SS Cav. Bde.: Continued previous operations. One squadron was set on the march to Bassary.

21 November: 1st SS Bde.: The partisans which had attacked isolated brigade vehicles on the day before were tracked down and eliminated in a large-scale action. The terrorist stronghold was a complex of buildings 10 km east of Voronesh; this was subsequently burnt down. Mop-up parties were sent through the woods north of the Semljabke-Voronesh road and a reconnaissance was carried out to the north of Optova. No enemy movement was noticed but in the previous fighting 22 partisans had been killed and 15 captured at a loss of one SS man killed and five wounded.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 was in the vicinity of Russkovolsche, Korkino, Szusskja and Poljanka with 13. and 14./SS-IR 4 around Rosse and II. and III. Bns. relocating to the Samostje-Pjelgora area. The regiment reported killing four partisans. SS Flak Det. "Ost" fought against infantry and artillery positions and managed to silence one enemy battery, destroy one bunker and severely damage another.

SS Cav. Bde.: In operation as before.

22 November: 1st SS Bde.: Scouting parties following-up the large-scale action of the 21st discovered seven well-built, camouflaged bunkers. Included among them was a command bunker with telephones and radio sets (destroyed), a stove, sleeping quarters and telephone cable. There was room in all for around 50 men. A large quantity of German provisions were found along with German and Russian rifles. The bunkers, along with six houses used by the partisans were blown up and 87 terrorists were killed.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 surprised and eliminated an enemy scouting party north of Kjarbusjei and three partisans were killed. SS Flak Detachment "Ost" destroyed one enemy bunker and a mortar firing position.

SS Cav. Bde.: Preparations for the setting-up of strong-points to maintain rear area contacts and security in the brigade sector got underway.

23 November: 1st SS Bde.: A partisan band attacked the railroad security post northeast of Jampol but was driven off. Seven partisans in Trubtschevsk were killed, including one wearing a German Army uniform. Eight partisans were captured along with three rifles and 24,000 rounds of rifle ammunition all of which was destroyed.

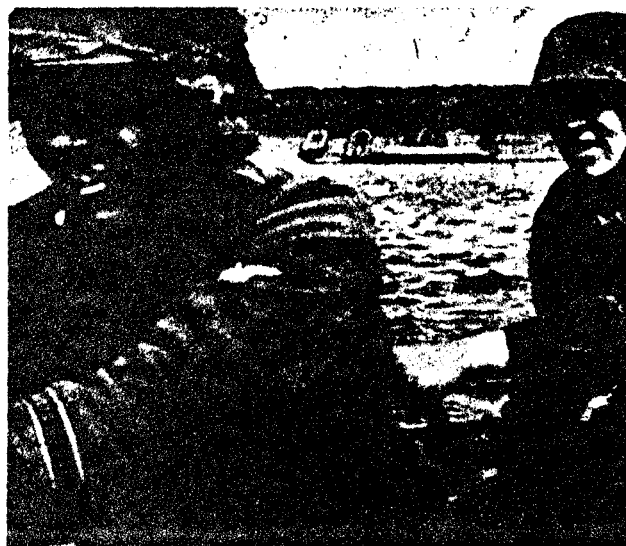
2nd SS Bde.: Previous operations continued. SS Flak Det. "Ost" again battled enemy ground positions with good effect. Two SS men were wounded.

SS Cav. Bde.: Substantial partisan activity was reported south of the Rzhev-Jetkino railroad lines. Scouting parties were sent out and two of the terrorists were apprehended.

24 November: 1st SS Bde.: A daily supply convoy of 15 vehicles was lost to partisans northwest of Putivl. Recce activity to the northeast of Putivl ended without discovering any sign of the enemy. SS Rgts. 8 and 10 moved into the extra territory that had been added to their expanded sectors. Newly erected strongpoints were occupied and three partisans were captured.

2nd SS Bde.: Previous operations continued. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" (less 3rd Flak Co.) was detached from III./SS-IR 4 and sent to Venjapolova. SS Flak Det. "Ost" silenced two enemy machine gun nests and drove away troops building up field works. Seven partisans were killed.

SS Cav. Bde.: The Bicycle Recce Det. was in Nocidova.



Combat strength scouting parties cleared the terrain to the north and south of the Jetkino-Rzhev rail line. A firefight developed between the Recce troops and partisan forces near Sechnja, 31 km east of Jetkino.

25 November: 1st SS Bde.: Partisan bands of 400-500 men were reported escorting columns of pony-drawn supply carts to the east of Schurovka. Reconnaissance to the southeast of Putivl, particularly along the Schurovka-Varoshba rail lines continued without making any contact with the foe. The area east of Schurovka and east of Putivl and Shilovka was cleared of the enemy and 41 prisoners were taken.

2nd SS Bde.: SS-IR 4 was sent off to Krakau in three staggered march columns (motorized). One platoon from 1st Battery/Det. "Ost" along with two platoons from 2./"Ost" kept up an effective fire on enemy bunkers, machine gun nests, mortar and trench positions. Partisan hunting commandos from the Legion "Flandern" reported back without any notable success.

SS Cav. Bde.: Combat strength scouting parties continued to patrol the Jetkino-Rzhev road towards Szjoly and in the direction of Semtzy.

26 November: 1st SS Bde.: A Russian captain from their 8th Div. was captured by SS scouts to the west of Krolevez. Continued reconnaissance east of Shvaravka, east of Putivl and southwest of Optvo continued on without enemy contact.

2nd SS Bde.: Operations in progress as before. SS Flak Det. "Ost" fired on enemy bunkers and machine gun positions. As a result of this fire, high flames were seen rising up on the other side indicating that a munitions storage area was hit. But the Soviets responded in kind with a very accurate fire that destroyed two of the "Ost" 3.7 cm guns and killed one SS man and wounded two others. One case of combat fatigue was also noted.

SS Cav. Bde.: Partisan movements in a westerly direction to the south and north of the Toropez-Rzhev road between Jetkino and Rzhev, were largely shut down.

27 November: 1st SS Bde.: Partisan groups were reported in the direction of Sevedina Buda and Voronesh but none were located by scouting parties that had been sent out to the north of Voroshba and Putivl. The monitoring of civilian traffic on the Krolevez-Gluchov road was implemented.

2nd SS Bde.: The 4th Light Flak Battery from the Field Command Staff Flak Det. "RF-SS" was incorporated into the brigade, becoming 10./2nd SS Bde. in the unit structure. It was deployed for the air security over Tossno. Flak Det. "Ost" was again in action in ground fighting and air defense. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" cleared out

the terrain in its assigned security sector around Poystje-
Olono. Legion "Flandern" and the brigade motorcycle
platoon were sent out on a search and destroy mission
to the Konduja area where partisans had been reported.

Towards 1100 hrs., the Escort Bn. "RF-SS" along with
part of Legion "Flandern" came under attack by enemy
planes who strafed them with machine guns and dropped
fragmentation bombs. However, no losses were reported.
A tally revealed that the Bde. Flak elements had now
shot down 17 enemy aircraft since first going into action.

SS Cav. Bde.: A supply section was lost to the terrorists.
In continuing actions 16 partisans were killed and three
rifles and one heavy machine gun were seized. Partisan
billets near Semmtzy were also secured.

28 November: 1st SS Bde.: To the west of Trubtschevsk,
seven partisans (including some higher officers) were
apprehended. During a mopping-up to the north and north-
west of Gluchov, ten more terrorists were captured.
Strong partisan formations were reported in the vicinity
by residents of Trubtschevsk. Recce parties continued
on to the east of Gluchov but the enemy was not located.

2nd SS Infantry Brigade Strength Roster for 28 November
1941:

| | Officers | Officer Candidates | NCOs | Men |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Staff Co. | 24 | 0 | 37 | 128 |
| Signals Co. | 4 | 0 | 17 | 193 |
| Medical Co. | 9 | 1 | 22 | 135 |
| Motorcycle Pl. | 2 | 0 | 11 | 97 |
| Maintenance Co. | 1 | 0 | 18 | 69 |
| Field Post Office | 3 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Light Transport Column | 1 | 0 | 4 | 30 |
| Light Supply Column | 1 | 0 | 6 | 36 |
| 2nd Military Geology Co. | 2 | 0 | 8 | 82 |
| Escort Bn. "RF-SS" | 23 | 0 | 80 | 658 |
| Flak Det. "Ost" | 25 | 0 | 88 | 677 |
| Legion "Flandern" | 25 | 2 | 79 | 1010 |
| Totals: | 120 | 3 | 377 | 3121 |

Total Brigade Strength: 3,621

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Operational Strength of 2nd SS Brigade on 28 November 1941:

| | Officers | NCOs | Men | Vehicles |
|--------------------|----------|------|------|----------|
| Staff Co. | 20 | 32 | 118 | 95 |
| Signals Co. | 3 | 15 | 169 | 66 |
| Motorcycle Co. | 1 | 7 | 84 | 35 |
| Escort Bn. "RF-SS" | 17 | 58 | 519 | 197 |
| Flak Det. "Ost" | 20 | 76 | 617 | 209 |
| Legion "Flandern" | 25 | 68 | 922 | 140 |
| Totals: | 86 | 256 | 2449 | 742 |

Total Operational Strength: 2,791

2nd SS Bde.: This was a day of heavy action. In the
early morning the enemy attacked the sector of IR 409
east of the "October" Highway. The positions of SS Flak
Det. "Ost" came under stiff artillery fire for the entire
night. At 0330 hrs. the foe had broken through the main
lines and managed to extend his penetration to a depth
of 500 m by 0700. A counterattack at 0730 was given
good support by the "Ost" batteries.

A Flak gun from 3./"Ost" had fallen into enemy hands
but the SS gunners picked up their rifles and retook it
in hand-to-hand combat. A renewed Soviet attack with
tank support at 1300 hrs. bogged down in the stubborn
German defensive fire. The artillery firing continued
throughout the entire day. Detachment "Ost" kept up
a steady shelling of the enemy positions. The Soviet
losses that could be ascertained amounted to 279 killed
and 40 captured with one tank destroyed.

Three kilometers to the north of Pogosse, the Escort
Bn. "RF-SS" attacked a 40-man enemy group and drove
them back into a Russian minefield in which they lost
three men killed and nine wounded. During their flight
out of the minefield they were observed dragging still
more casualties with them. In this clash the Escort Bn.
lost one killed and seven wounded (including three officers)
and had another badly wounded man carried off by the
enemy. The determined defensive effort of SS Flak Det.
"Ost" received mention in a Wehrmacht Communique
honoring the actions of XXVIII. Army Corps.

SS Cav. Bde.: Winter strongpoints were prepared and
scout operations continued as planned yielding another
10 partisan captives.

29 November: 1st SS Bde.: A well constructed partisan
strongpoint based around several houses, was found 20
km northeast of Gluchov. Anti-tank guns were used to
destroy the complex; the shelling caused the wooden
buildings to catch fire and burn down. During a recce
mission around Seredina-Buda, a terrorist group was
discovered and eliminated northwest of Putivl. Elsewhere
no enemy activity was noticed, either by the deployed
scout troops or by the traffic control elements.

In the battle near Seredina-Buda, 13 partisans were
killed and six others were captured along with 11 rifles.

2nd SS Bde.: SS Flak Det. "Ost" fought against ground
and air targets and played a prominent role in throwing
back three enemy assaults on the lines of IR 409. The
fire from the detachment dealt the enemy heavy losses
and knocked out a T-32 tank.

The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" destroyed some ground bunkers
and an abandoned partisan camp. The light Flak Battery/
2nd SS Bde. and 3.(Flak)/Escort Bn. secured the air defense
of Tossno. Two men from Det. "Ost" were wounded in
the day's fighting.

SS Cav. Bde.: A partisan camp near Tschisstova was
destroyed. Nineteen partisans and two Red Army men
were killed. Forty hunting weapons and 13 army rifles
were confiscated. One SS cavalryman was killed, one
was missing, and two were wounded.

30 November: 1st SS Bde.: A partisan band was wiped
out in the course of mopping-up operations around Grom-
jatsch. Twenty-five partisans and two riflemen were
apprehended.

2nd SS Bde.: SS Flak Det. "Ost" put up a good defensive fire against enemy attacks throughout the course of the day. The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" destroyed a forest bunker in its security sector along with some other facilities that partisans had been using for overnight quarters. "Search-and-Destroy" parties from the Legion "Flandern" and the Bde. Motorcycle Platoon destroyed some partisan strongpoints and killed one terrorist.

SS Cav. Bde.: Prepared strongpoints for rear area security duties were occupied. A 2-cm Flak battery joined the brigade. Scout troop activities and preparation for an anti-partisan sweep in the area southeast of Semtzy were carried out. One SS cavalryman was wounded and four partisans were killed.

1 December: 1st SS Bde.: A partisan band of about 100-150 men was discovered to be dug-in in well-built fortified positions 21 km southwest of Siminnovka. In a violent firefight 40 of the terrorists were killed while the brigade lost three SS men killed and another eight wounded (including two officers). Terrorist groups to the north of Trub-shevsk and to the north of Pogav were captured intact. Sixty-eight armed partisans to the south of Gremjatsch were surprised and captured en masse. One particularly infamous partisan officer was taken in this batch. Another 13 terrorists were caught around Pogorelzy. A reconnaissance party dispatched to the west of Pogorelzy observed a mounted partisan scout troop in operation.

An action began against a major bandit concentration 12 km northwest of Putivl (Vorgoff, Novostelovka) but it met very hard resistance. The partisans were in possession of a medium German tank and violent fighting was still in progress at day's end. The known enemy losses by actual count amounted to 73 killed and 93 captured.

2nd SS Bde.: The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" eliminated six partisans in the Olomno security area at Pogostje. The 3rd (Flak) Co./Escort Bn. "RF-SS" drove off several enemy planes over Tosno - six hits on aircraft were observed. SS Flak Det. "Ost" silenced an enemy light artillery gun and fought off ground and air attacks, but the detachment lost a 2 cm Flak piece to a direct hit from an aerial bomb.

There was an intense enemy attack with tank support from the Vyborgskaja bridgehead before the lines of I. Army Corps. Some 25 Soviet tanks were knocked out in the fighting. The XXVIII. Army Corps was heavily shelled and this included the positions of SS Flak Det. "Ost" in particular. There was very lively enemy air activity all day. Brigade losses amounted to ten men wounded.

SS Cav. Bde.: The new 2 cm Flak battery was set on the march to Jetkino to reinforce the strongpoint there. Hunting commandos were sent out through the woods southwest of Jetkino and southeast of Semtzy. Their objective: to destroy a partisan encampment and radio transmitter located about 52 kms south of Basary.

2 December: 1st SS Bde.: A scout troop discovered a detachment of Russian stragglers in the strength of 500 to 800 men in a forest 25 kms southwest of Semionovka. The area was quickly sealed off. A strong partisan force of about 150 men overran the brigade strongpoint at Pogorelzy during the proceeding night. The motorpool facility there was put to the torch and six vehicles were destroyed. Three SS men were killed and another six wounded.

2nd SS Bde.: SS Flak Det. "Ost" began a positional change, shifting its 2nd and 3rd Batteries to Krasny Bor. The Escort Bn. destroyed five earthen bunkers in its security area that had been used as partisan strongpoints. An attack on XXVIII. Army Corps was driven off with high losses to the enemy.

SS Cav. Bde.: The Signals Co. set out on a land march to Warsaw.

3 December: 1st SS Bde.: A 150 man strong terrorist band broke into the town of Orivnovka (30 km west of

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Novgorod-Severski) and set the houses on fire. Southwest of Gramjatsch a strong partisan band was encountered and engaged in battle. During further mopping-up east of Gramjatsch 17 of the terrorists were captured. Another 50 prisoners were eventually brought in while one SS officer was killed.

2nd SS Bde.: The search commandos sent out by Legion "Flandern" and the Bde. motorcycle platoon returned to quarters after five days of operating in the field against the terrorists. Many partisan strongpoints and isolated villages which they operated out of were destroyed. Every combat engagement was eventually broken off by the terrorists as they attempted to elude the SS troops. The brigade was now attached to XXXX. Army Corps for supply purposes.

SS Cav. Bde.: Partisans attacked the supply column of the Bicycle Recce Det. towards Bibjerevo and set three trucks on fire. One SS NCO was killed in the attack and three men were wounded. Seventeen of the terrorists were killed. The 2 cm Flak Battery arrived in Melivoda.

4 December: The "open" (non-secret) Command Order #43 was issued in which the Reichsfuehrer-SS in agreement with the Army High Command, recalled the 1st SS Bde. to its deployment area and ordered it to proceed to Taganrog where it would be subordinated to the "LSSAH." The previous assignment to HSSuPF "Center" was to be abruptly terminated and while enroute to Army Group "South" the brigade was to remain incommunicado. The exact relocation date was not issued.

1st SS Bde.: Well constructed partisan winter quarters were discovered to the north of Snob along with munitions, supplies and prepared Molotov cocktails. The bunkers and the "bottle bombs" were destroyed. During a march into the Esma area, substantial partisan forces were encountered and a battle raged in which two SS men were killed and two more wounded. In the end, 28 of the terrorists were captured.

2nd SS Bde.: At 1115 hrs., Red Army soldiers launched a raid into the Escort Bn. "RF-SS" security zone 9 km west of Olomno; a company of the Escort Bn. along with a part of Legion "Flandern" counterattacked. In the course of fierce fighting the enemy was routed but six Flemish SS men were killed and three more were wounded. The Escort Bn. lost one killed and three wounded.

SS Cav. Bde.: The security forces along the Toropez-Rzhev road were reinforced and ten partisans were captured.

5 December: 1st SS Bde.: Relatively weak terrorist elements renewed their attack on the Pogorelzy strongpoint. After a brief exchange of fire the enemy was driven away. An important partisan leader was killed in Gomch. The pursuit of terrorist bands to the northeast of Gluchov was unsuccessful, but 15 partisans were captured elsewhere.

2nd SS Bde.: In the security sector of the Escort Bn. another enemy attack was made against an Army supply convoy. A follow-up pursuit action proved unsuccessful. Five Red Army men did however defect to the Escort Bn. At 1430, four enemy bombers attacked the billets of the battalion in Olomno but did only limited damage.

SS Cav. Bde.: Partisans were encountered near Ramenka and the reported terrorist base south of the Veluki-Rzhev road was attacked. In a vicious battle, 77 of the enemy were killed.

6 December: 1st SS Bde.: During a mopping-up action southwest of Simionovka well-built partisan strongpoints were taken and the band that had occupied them fled to the west. Several more houses being used as terrorist quarters were burned down. A woman in whose house the Russian Gen. Molenko had stayed was taken into custody and 24 partisans were captured.

2nd SS Bde.: The Escort Bn. had two clashes with enemy scout troops in its security area. Quite a few rounds

of enemy fire hit the quarters of the SS Flak Det. "Ost." An overflight above Krasny-Bor was alertly contested by gunners from the detachment.

SS Cav. Bde.: There was a night operation against a well dug-in partisan encampment near Chorki. A field bunker was captured in close combat. One SS man was reported killed while 78 partisans were eliminated. A machine gun from a German aircraft was found in the captured bunker along with a Russian machine-pistol, a large quantity of rifles, hand grenades, ammo and food-stuffs (including some German rations), all of which had to be destroyed due to the difficulty of transporting the booty out of the deep woods.

7 December: 1st SS Bde.: During localized mop-ups of terrorist strongpoints the following quantities of weapons and munitions were secured: 26 rifles, nine hand grenades, four chests of ammunition. Afterwards the battalions reassembled to prepare for their relocation march to Army Group "South." The commander of I. Bn./SS-IR 10 was listed as Ostubaf. Rudolf Kistler and the commander of 4th Co./I. Bn./SS-IR 10 was listed as Hstuf. Ernst Schaefer, who would go on to become a Knight's Cross holder and regimental commander (SS Pz.Gr.Rgt. 40/18th SS Div. "Horst Wessel").

2nd SS Bde.: The Escort Bn. "RF-SS" and part of Legion "Flandern" relinquished their security sector at Olomno-Pogastje to the Anti-tank Det. 563 and the Escort Bn. returned to its old quarters in Tossno. SS Flak Det. "Ost" fought against both ground and air targets as usual and in the process drove off several enemy airplanes. Once again the communists attacked at the Vyborskaja bridgehead and in the course of the night made a penetration in the German lines; a daytime counterattack eliminated it.

SS Cav. Bde.: To the south of the Semtzy-Nelidova railroad tracks, two SS Cav. battle-groups went on the attack. The enemy stubbornly defended a woodland with heavy weapons and the assault had to be broken off due to severe cold and frostbite. Eight SS men were wounded in the engagement.

8 December: 1st SS Bde.: Six partisans (including a commissar) were rounded up during a mop-up action. The battalions continued to assemble and prepare for their move on the next day. The brigade left behind reinforced companies in Shurovka and Novgorod-Sevivski to guard the POW camps and carry out general security duties.

2nd SS Bde.: Situation unchanged. The entire Neva Front to the northeast was taken over by XXVIII. Army Corps.

SS Cav. Bde.: Preparations were made to renew the attack on the strongly defended partisan encampment southwest of Nelijava. The attack went forward with difficulty, as it was virtually impossible to bring up the heavy weapons needed for support through the tangled, snow-bound forest. But in the end the mission proved largely successful. One hundred forty enemy dead were counted on the battlefield but SS losses were not recorded. Fifty-two rifles and one light mortar were captured.

9 December: A command order arrived redirecting 1st SS Bde. towards an enemy armored penetration east of Orel in the zone of Army Group "Center." The brigade was now to be attached to 2nd Army. The march route went from Konotop through Sevsck to Kromny and wound up in the area below Kromny.

1st SS Bde.: The brigade began its relocation march with the objective of reaching Kromny by 13 December.

2nd SS Bde.: At 0945 two enemy planes attacked the positions of 2nd and 3rd Batteries/Flak Det. "Ost." But when the crews ran to man their guns they were in for a surprise - they would not fire! The oil and grease in them had frozen solid. Due to the fact that the guns had been left loaded as a matter of course (to meet with an emergency), there was no practical way to throw them out without exploding the ammo! So the SS troops

had to sit out the bombardment and hope for the best. No significant damage was reported.

SS Cav. Bde.: A very successful day was had in the war against the barbaric terrorists. SS Cavalry troops left the Basary strongpoint to attack and destroy a partisan operational base at Boroj (40 km south of Semtzy). At the same time a partisan supply column consisting of ten pony sleds coming down the railroad line from the north was spotted and attacked. The column turned off for the woods but never made it; it was pursued and totally eliminated by the SS men. Attention now turned to the original objective and to the elimination of an enemy radio sender south of Basry. After further clashes with terrorists the day's operations turned out favorably. Seventy-four of the partisans had been killed and two of their heavy machine guns had been destroyed; another three heavy machine guns, 39 rifles, 300 hand grenades and 300 mines were captured.

10 December: 1st SS Bde. was on the march to 2nd Army.

2nd SS Bde.: SS Flak Det. "Ost" fought off several enemy air raids including three on Krasny Bor but little damage was done.

SS Cav. Bde.: In the Kamerka-Vorbrovka-Tatjeva area there was a skirmish with partisans. Additional search-and-destroy commandos were sent out to destroy winter camps for wandering terrorist bands. In the course of somewhat violent clashes throughout the day, 110 of the enemy were killed along with two armed women. Booty taken included three light machine guns, two machine pistols, 42 rifles, 57 hand grenades, eight chests of explosives, and 12 chests of rifle ammo. Six houses in a terrorist occupied village were put to the torch and five dugouts were blown up.

11 December: 1st SS Bde. was still in transit.

2nd SS Bde.: Weak artillery firing from the other side was reported. There was an enemy air attack on Tossno at 1500 and a direct hit was sustained by the clerical office of the SS Military Geology Co., and all of the unit's documents were destroyed. On a positive note, most of the contents of the adjacent company equipment storage shed, which also caught fire, were speedily evacuated and saved.

SS Cav. Bde.: Scout troop operations continued to the north and south of the Toropez-Rzhev road. At a point 16 km southeast of Biogerevo a reconnaissance party was engaged in a firefight with partisans in well-built positions; 17 of the foe were killed in the action.

12 December: No report from 1st SS Brigade.

2nd SS Bde.: The SS Flak Det. "Ost" fought off three air attacks on Krasny Bor. At 1240, one enemy aircraft (model SB-2 AB) was shot down. Further Soviet overflights were driven off by accurate fire. Some minor damage was inflicted to the north and northeast of Tossno.

SS Cav. Bde.: An act of sabotage against an ammo dump in Dubno was intercepted in progress before any harm was done. In the area south of Jetkino there were extensive undertakings by partisan hunting commandos. SS Cav. Rgt. 1 prepared to take over the sector of the Bicycle Recce Det., which regrouped to the east of Chohn-jetzy prior to being rushed to the frontlines of 9th Army Corps on an emergency basis. Twenty-one terrorists were killed in clashes during the day.

13 December: Nothing from 1st SS Brigade.

2nd SS Bde.: The 2nd SS Military Geology Co. (less two water purification squads), in a strength of two officers and 83 men was ordered back to Hamburg by the "RF-SS" Field Staff. Well directed fire from the Flak Det. "Ost" drove off an enemy aircraft. The 3rd Flak Co./Escort Bn. "RF-SS" fought off attacking planes over Tossno and scored two hits on an SB 42. With the approval of 18th Army Corps, the brigade ordered its fuel truck column to return to the Main Fuel Supply Center "North" at Riga to restock. After the tankers left on 14 December, the whole brigade would begin a march to winter quarters

near Tukums (70 km west of Riga in Latvia).

SS Cav. Bde.: A partisan band was destroyed in a firefight near Dnitreva, 10 km northeast of Dubno; 15 of the terrorists were killed and another ten managed to flee. Another bunch of partisans occupied the small village of Dudina, 10 km northwest of Dubno, so units of the SS Cav. Bde. were dispatched to deal with them. In close combat and hand-to-hand combat the SS men retook the town. Twenty-one terrorists were killed and a smaller number escaped. Twelve km north of Jetkino a partisan group consisting of 50 men, half of whom were armed with rifles, was apprehended.

14 December: 1st SS Bde.: SS-IR 8 was subordinated to the 56th Inf. Div. while SS-IR 10 went into Army reserve to the east of Orel.

2nd SS Bde.: The brigade motorcycle platoon began an operation against partisans some 4 km to the south of Tarassova. The enemy made two offensive efforts against the brigade lines at 0400 and 1100, but both were broken up by accurate defensive fire from SS Flak Det. "Ost."

SS Cav. Bde.: The Bicycle Recce Det. was not subordinated to the 253rd Inf. Div. as had been ordered but instead stayed in the rear area attached to 9th Army. At the direction of the commander of the 9th Army rear area, the detachment was sent off to hunt partisans to the southwest of Jetkino and SS Cav. Rgt. 1 was ordered to absorb the unit's old security zone.

15 December: 1st and 2nd SS Brigades did not report.

SS Cav. Bde.: A terrorist was caught in the act of trying to blow up the Jetkino railroad line. One enemy officer and 16 men were captured. Partisan hunting commandos were deployed for further operations.

16 December: No reports from 1st and 2nd SS Brigades.

SS Cav. Bde.: Thirty-five partisans including two officers were captured; four 7.5 cm guns were counted among the booty taken. The Red officers proved cooperative and talkative. They directed the SS cavalymen to partisan quarters southeast of Basary. The indicated encampment was located and promptly destroyed although the residents had managed to flee. However, this resulted in further dispersal of the terrorists and weakened their overall operational capabilities.

17 December: Nobody reported!

18 December: 1st SS Bde.: At 1800 on the previous day, Group "Moser" from the brigade was attached to XXXVIII. Army Corps. The reinforced II./SS-IR 10 attacked and captured Teljashyn (9 km north of Russki-Brod) without taking any losses. SS-IR 8 had a battalion situated around Russki-Brod, while the rest of the unit was sent north for an attack on Vershovje. For the first time the brigade was employed as a whole in one general area. During the night a Soviet force of 80 to 100 men tried to break into the south part of Russki-Brod but was thrown out in a lively battle.

2nd SS Bde.: The following units had reached their winter quarters as follows:

In Tukums: Brigade Staff, Field Post Office and Supply Column;

In Neumacken (6 km to the north of Tukums): Signals Co.;

In Talsen and environs: Legion "Flandern".

The brigade March Groups C and D were still on the way, having reached the Hoppendey area (100 km west of Pleskau). Left behind in Tossno was the medical company with the brigade repair company remaining in Vyritz.

SS Cav. Bde.: The march movement of the SS Cav. Rgts. back to their old area for regrouping was underway. After completing a link-up mission with XXIII. Corps, the Bicycle Recce Det. continued on back into its former territory. To the southeast of Jetkino preparations were made to meet an anticipated Red Army attack in battalion strength (four officers and 200-300 men was the usual allotment for a Soviet battalion at this time). The Dubno

19 December: 1st SS Bde.: The brigade HQ was now in Vyssokoe. About 600 stragglers attached to the brigade trickled in during the course of the day. From the morning on, hard defensive fighting was reported going on to the north of Livny.

After being reinforced, one of the brigade's battalions counterattacked the Soviets near Livny with the help of assault guns. There was a blistering battle which went back and forth, until finally the SS men broke the enemy resistance and plowed on for 3 kms through Soviet-held territory. In the course of the action, four SS men were killed and another nine wounded.

During the morning hours, SS-IR 8 found itself surrounded in Russki-Brod by an enemy force of about 1,500 men. A savage battle ensued as the communists sought to break into the town from the north. The Waffen-SS troops were able to launch an extremely effective counter-attack which flung back the enemy and inflicted heavy losses. The crisis passed when the Reds broke off the engagement.

2nd SS Bde. did not report.

SS Cav. Bde.: The brigade units were now deployed follows:

In Toropez: HQ Staff;

Around Jetkino, Toropex and Basary: SS Cav. Rgt.

1: Around Toropez, Bobjerevo and Dubno: SS Cav. Rgt.

2: Around Jetkino and in strongpoints from Chotmietzymol southwards: Bicycle Recce Detachment.

In other developments a battle-group from the Bobjerevo strongpoint attacked and destroyed a fortified partisan camp with the aid of two field artillery pieces. Partisan hunting teams intercepted a 30-man strong terrorist group that was trying again to blow up the rail lines 17 km west of Basary. The terrorists broke and fled in a northerly direction, pursued by the SS cavalrymen. Four of the brigades were killed. More bandit movement was noted around Fjedorovskaja.

20 December: 1st SS Bde.: Portions of the brigade were deployed for defense to the north and northwest of Russki-Brod, manning a 14 km long front with open flanks to the east and northeast.

2nd SS Bde.: Legion "Flandern" settled into its winter quarters as follows:

In Kandau: Staff and 1st Co.;

In Adsern (5 km south of Kandau): 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Cos.;

SS Cav. Bde.: The brigade was subordinated to 9th Army; the regiments remained in their old area.

December: No reports from 1st and 2nd SS Brigades.

SS Cav. Bde.: The reinforced Bicycle Recce Det. was deployed in the Volga positions of 253rd Inf. Div. at Spjelisharevo. Partisan fortifications, including eight bunkers, were found and destroyed 16 kms to the northeast of Bibjerovo. There was a brisk firefight in Lunovka, 12 to the north of Bibjerovo, in which an SS man was wounded and two terrorists were killed. One light machine gun, five rifles, ten hand grenades, a number of Molotov cocktails and seven sacks of meal were captured.

23 December: No reports from 1st and 2nd SS Brigades.

SS Cav. Bde.: The SS Cav. Rgt. occupied new billeting areas. Part of the reinforced Bicycle Recce Det. was still on the march to 253rd Inf. Division. There was a renewed assembling of terrorists in a previously unknown location to the southeast of Semtk.

24 December: Nobody reported in!

25 December: No reports from the 1st and 2nd SS Brigades.

SS Cav. Bde.: SS Cav. Rgt. 1 was in Basary. The SS Cav. Rgt. occupied strongpoints to protect the main railroad lines.

26 December: 1st and 2nd SS Bdes. did not report.

to advance to the frontlines. It began marching off with a long column of pony sleds for supplies in the area south and southwest of Szjelisharevo.

27 December: 1st and 2nd SS Bdes. did not report.

SS Cav. Bde.: The foremost element of the Bicycle Recce Det. reached Nishnyja-Soritz about 25 km southwest of Szjelisharevo. A captured partisan gave the information that terrorist groups were massing in the October Woods along the Moscow-Leningrad railroad line. They were being joined by dispersed Red Army soldiers.

28 December: Nobody reported.

29 December: 1st and 2nd SS Bdes. did not report.

SS Cav. Bde.: The brigade was fully outfitted with supply sleds by 9th Army Corps. SS Cav. Rgt. 1 still had not removed itself from the Velikye Luki-Rzhev rail line. SS Cav. Rgt. 2 reached Gorovasstutzky 40 km to the northeast of Dubno. The Bicycle Recce Det. reconnoitered the south point of Pjelb(?).

30 December: Nobody reported.

31 December: No reports from 1st and 2nd SS Brigades.

SS Cav. Bde.: The Bicycle Recce Det. reached Pjenno on the Volga River. A portion of SS Cav. Rgt. 1 took a troop train to Dubno before continuing the march to Lugi. Parts of SS Cav. Rgt. 2 began to reach Makareve.

At this point the intact portion of the RF-SS Command Staff war diary came to an end. This material was supposedly found in an airtight container in a Czech lake in the early 1960s, as part of an accumulation of SS documents that had been junked towards the end of the war. This extract from the war diary appears authentic but unfortunately when the discovery of this document was announced a group of "anti-Fascist" ex-"Resistance" fighters (read: "Communist Terrorists") released an assortment of other "finds" to go with it. And these documents, many of which are barely legible carbon copies, contained information designed to incriminate the Waffen-SS. They are not historically verifiable and may well have been concocted by the Czech Secret Service which was vigorously engaged in forging such documents at that time.

§

In the summer of 1944, 5th SS Div. "Wiking" still had 177 Danish volunteers in its ranks, despite the existence of SS Pz. Gr. 24 "Danmark" in the 11th SS Div. "Nordland." Later that fall, several hundred more Danes joined "Wiking" when the reformed I. Bn./"Danmark" was assigned to that division.

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The Romanian SS Tank Destroyer Rgt. 103 was part of the SS Field Replacement Bde. 103 (III. SS Panzer Corps) in April 1945. Its 1st Co. served with SS-Kampfgruppe "Harzer" (based around SS-PolizeiPanzergranadier Rgt. 8) during the final battles on the Oder Front.

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The Special Deployment Div. 610 (led by Oberst Sommer and later by Oberst Fullriede) was based on the Polizei-Jaeger Bde. 1, which consisted to a large extent of non-German speaking Romanians and Hungarians. In April 1945 this division was stationed alongside both sides of the Autobahn south of Stettin. Its HQ was in Pomellen. Division 610 along with the rest of the Special Corps "Oder" under SS-Gruf. von dem Bach-Zelewsky to which it belonged, was not considered battleworthy. On 13 April 1945, 256 of the division's Hungarian soldiers were replaced by Germans.

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THE OSTTURKISCHER WAFFENVERBAND DER SS

Antonio Munoz

Towards the end of 1943, the project of a Turkic-Moslem SS Division was seriously approached at Amt-6 of the RSHA. It seems that the nucleus for just such a division existed as an Eastern Battalion made up of Turkistani men under the able command of a Wehrmacht major. Major Meyer-Mader commanded the 450th Turkic Battalion. He had seen foreign service in China and as such was considered an expert on "eastern peoples." Meyer-Mader was approached by the SS and offered not only a commission in the Waffen-SS, but better equipment and clothing. The opportunity to better equip his men was more of an incentive for Maj. Mader than the offer of a promotion to colonel in the SS. For too long had his men been equipped with inferior Russian arms, and this played a heavy psychological detriment in the minds of the Turkistani men who had seen the superiority of German arms and felt insulted at having been given captured Russian weapons with which to use.

Major Mader accepted the commission offered to him in the hopes that the Waffen-SS could outfit his command fully with modern German weapons. Not only did the Waffen-SS fulfill its promise, but towards the end of 1943, the Battalion was up-graded to a regiment by the addition of men from prisoner of war camps and deserters from the Russian Army. The 450 Eastern Bn. was now re-designated the 450th Eastern Regiment and now contained three battalions. In March 1944, the re-designation of the unit became effective and the 450th Eastern Rgt. became the "Ostmuselmanisches SS-Regiment 1." By May 1944 the unit was involved in very heavy anti-partisan operations in Belorussia, but it suffered a great psychological blow to its men when Meyer-Mader was killed in April of that year.

Reichsfuehrer Heinrich Himmler had known of the great fighting abilities of the Turkistans. He had learned of how three battalions from Turkistan had fought to the last man in front of Stalingrad, and of how others had been destroyed in the fierce fighting retreat from the Caucasus, and even how a battalion, which had broken out of a pocket near Kharkov re-entered it in order to rescue the body of their German commander who had won the affection and respect of his men. Himmler saw all this and it impressed him so much that he considered these men worthy and capable enough to warrant the expansion of their unit. Their capabilities as anti-partisan troops had also been tried and tested, and despite the slight demoralizing effect of losing their beloved commander (Col. Mader), they had performed very well.

By mid-July, Himmler had given permission to raise other Turkic units in order to expand the SS Regiment by recruiting Turkestanis, Volga Tartars, Abzerbaijanis, and North Caucasians. In addition, two schools were set up by the German government in which religious Imam's could be trained. These two schools were located at Dresden and Göttingen. The Dresden school was intended mainly to train priests for the Waffen-SS formation and, as might be expected, its political and spiritual aims were on the lines of pan-Turkic and pan-Islamism. Thus the idea that the Waffen-SS did not tolerate religious freedoms can be laid to waste. If it did not tolerate these freedoms before, then how can we account for Catholic priests in SS uniforms with the Western volunteer formations which had been in combat since 1941?

The peculiar aspect of the "Ostturkischer Waffenverband der SS" was its distinctly pan-Turkic orientation which was advocated by Dr. Rainer Olzscha, a physician whose

interest in the east had been aroused by a professional investigation of epidemics and who later co-authored a book on Turkistan. At a time when the Waffen-SS was grasping for more manpower, they were willing to welcome pan-Turkism as a promising experiment wherein the men of Turkic background could be allowed freedoms not offered by the government in Moscow and given the chance to fight for those freedoms and the possible liberation of their homeland. In 1924 Turkistan had disappeared from Soviet maps and their various languages were forbidden. The Turkistanis above all hated the Moscow regime for imposing their collectivization methods and their repeated attempts to suppress their religion. It's no small wonder then, how six battalions of Turkistani soldiers fought to the last man in front of Berlin, knowing that all was lost and that they were dying for a lost cause. The total number of Turkistanis killed or wounded (50,000 dead, 12,000 wounded) belittles the 3,000 total desertions which took place while in the service of the Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS (all of whom, with the exception of 200, went over to anti-German/anti-Russian partisan forces).

The composition of the "Ostmuselmanisches SS-Regiment 1" was as follows: The I. Bn. contained companies 1-4, II. Bn., 5-8 companies, and III. Bn. 9-12th companies. In August, another regiment was raised and entitled "Waffen-Gebirgs Jaeger Rgt. der-SS (Tatar Nr. 1)." It contained two battalions: the I. Bn. was composed of companies 1 through 4, while the II. Bn. had companies 5-8. From August 31st, as far as it is known, to January 31st, the Waffen-Gebirgs Jaeger Rgt. der SS (Tartar Nr. 1) was listed as being under the disposal of the Higher SS and Police Leader in Hungary. Attempts were made to bring the regiment to brigade size but proved unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the Ostmuselmanisches SS-Rgt. 1 had been moved to Slovakia. It was at this time that a political error on the part of the Germans was to cause a serious political and military blow to the Turkistani movement. At the encouragement of the Ost-Ministerium, a national committee was formed under Veli Kayum Khan. The National Turkistan Unity Committee was thus formed and charged with the political and national leadership of the Turkistani volunteers. It was being run efficiently, raising the morale of the Turkic men by working on the principal of national independence for Turkistan. But then the water bag burst. It seems that some knuckleheads at the RSHA, who did not know the first thing about the Eastern people insisted that the Turkistanis be turned over to the Vlasov movement.

This threat to their independence was thought real enough and (to the eastern people of Turkistan) such an insult, that immediately one Turkistan SS officer (out of a grand total of only 23!) defected to the Slovakian partisans. He took with him 20 of his men. This former Red Army sergeant was summarily shot by the partisans, whereupon his men were ordered to join them, their dead commander being considered the "blood sacrifice" with which the Turkistan men "cleansed" themselves of their "sins." There was no turning back for them now; it was too late for the men to back out. A similar fate awaited them if they changed their minds. Most of them were turned over to the Red Army when it invaded Slovakia in 1945.

The Turkistani Committee categorically refused to be absorbed by the Vlasov movement and, seeing the effects of this policy, the SS circles of the RSHA gave



A Caucasian volunteer with officer candidate status. Note armband at bottom left.

in and dropped the idea. Thereafter the Turks were "left alone." The Ostmuselmanisches SS-Rgt. 1 was then placed in reserve far behind the 17th Army and 1st Panzer Army lines in Slovakia (at least, that was their disposition as of 2 November 1944). It was subordinated to the Higher SS and Police Leader "Slovakia." At this time, the Higher SS and Police Leader "Slovakia" also had under its command the 178th Reserve Inf. Div., the SS Bde. "Dirlewanger," the 14th Waffen Gren. Div. der SS (Galicien), the 18th SS Freiwilligen Pz. Gren. Div. "Horst Wessel," and the SS Battlegroup "Schill."

On 2 December, the Ostmuselmanisches SS-Rgt. 1 was still listed as being under the Higher SS and Police Leader "Slovakia," but by 1 March, it had been made subordinate to the 48th Volksgrenadier Div. under 8th Army control. In January, the decision had already been made to combine all eastern troops of Turkish descent into one large unit to be entitled "Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der-SS." Thus in February 1945, the Waffen-Gebirgs Jaeger Rgt. der SS (Tartar Nr. 1) was disbanded and in its place the SS Waffengruppe "Krim" was formed. It contained two battalions, I. and II., with 1-4 and 5-8 companies, respectively. In addition, an infantry gun company was formed, as well as a tank destroyer company made up of men carrying the now much tested Panzerfaust.

In March, the Ostmuselmanisches SS-Rgt. 1 was disbanded and its III. Bn. formed the basis of the SS Waffengruppe "Idel-Ural." It, too, contained two battalions, but each of them had five companies (I. Bn. had companies 1-5, and II. Bn., companies 6-10). The regimental group had no other supporting companies. The headquarters staff and I. and II. Bns. of the Ostmuselmanisches SS-Rgt. 1 were used as the cadre for the SS Waffengruppe "Turkistan." It now comprised two battalions (I. with 1-5 companies, and II. with 6-10 companies).

One source states that the Ostturkisches Waffenverbände der-SS was composed of four regiments of two battalions each. It also states that of these four regiments, one was composed of men from Turkistan; the other three being from Abzerbaijan, Volga-Ural, and Crimea, respec-

tively. This author confirms Georg Tessin's mammoth work on the German ground forces (see bibliography) on only two of the above mentioned regiments: "Turkistan" and "Crimea" ("Krim"). But I would tend to believe Mr. Tessin's contention that there were only three regiments, not only because his is the most scholarly but through my research I have come across a "Kaukasischer Waffenverbände der SS" which, according to Tessin, was formed in February 1945. This "verbände" contained four SS-Waffengruppes and were named as follows: "Armenien," "Aserbeldschan," "Georgien," and "Nordkaukasus." Each of them possessed two infantry battalions apiece. It might just be that the first author mentioned (Olaf Caroe), might have gotten one of these groups mixed up with the regiments of the Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der SS.

As far as I have been able to gather from the OKW situation maps at my disposal, as of 31 March 1945, the Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der-SS was last listed as being in 8th Army reserve northwest of Modrovka and west of Backov. The 182nd Reserve Inf. Div. is listed as having also been in 8th Army reserve and stationed immediately south of the Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der-SS. For a better point for location, the city of Vienna was directly southwest of their reserve position. This is the last known listing of this formation.

A Note On Sources

Due to its relative obscurity, there aren't that many works found in the English language which details (let alone mentions) the history of the Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der-SS. This is partly due to the short amount of time that the unit was in existence, and partly because the time of its existence were the most chaotic and destructive for the German armed forces. The records of the unit were probably destroyed during the last days of the war.

For this article I have relied mainly on four sources. Two are in the English language, and the other two are only available in German. Alexander Dallin's masterpiece,



A Turkistani volunteer. Note armband depicting a famous mosque at Samarkand.

Stiftelsen norsk Okkupasjonshistorie, 2014

German Rule In Russia, 1941-1945, has never been and will never be out-done. For my purpose, it detailed the rise of Meyer-Mader and gave the description of the formation of the 450th Turkic Bn. and its induction into the Waffen-SS and its subsequent enlargement. It also described briefly some actions it undertook during 1944.

For a deep understanding of the Turkic units under German command, Olaf Caroe's book, Soviet Empire: The Turks Of Central Asia And Stalinism, is a must. It offers only one chapter on the Second World War, but Mr. Caroe seems to get his points across with few words. It's also must reading as it details the inter-relationships which transpired between these eastern people and the German leadership. It's a sad story because it shows the great errors that were committed by the Germans and the lost opportunities to exploit the deep resentment most Russians felt about the Moscow regime. How many more Russian citizens would have sided with the German cause if their policies had been better is a question which unfortunately will never be answered, but reading this book leaves one with the impression that the end in the east might have been a lot different.

Finally, there were two German titles which offered a definite order of battle and the disposition of the Turkic units. These were two massive works, one of which is a 12-volume set of which only the last two volumes have only been printed up to now. It's entitled Der Geheimen-tagesberichte Der Deutschen Wehrmachtfuhrung Im Zweiten Weltkrieg 1939-1945. It is the Secret War Diary of the Armed Forces High Command, and it offers among many wonderful things, original and clear situation maps used by the OKW! The orders of battle are simply incredible.

Georg Tessin's massive 14-volume work on the German Armed Forces stands out as the best single source of information on the German Armed Forces. Prices will vary, so it would be wise to first shop around if you are seriously contemplating buying this set. Do not be mistaken, the price is worth the information you will find in this never-to-be-equalled work.

I would like to hear from anyone who may have any comments, suggestions (criticisms?) on this article. Perhaps Mr. Landwehr can have a few more bits of information which can be included in a future issue about the history of the Ostturkischer Waffenverbände der-SS. It seems

to me that this unit deserves more attention as it can be classified as one of the more obscure formations of the Waffen-SS. As far as I know, nothing has been written about its uniform or insignia. Lastly, I should hope that this small article was of some help to those students of the Second World War, and in particular, those interested in the history of the Waffen-SS.

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Postscript

The commander of the Ostturkischer-Waffenverband was Wilhelm "Harun-el-Rashid" Hintersatz, a former Austrian colonel, who had been on the Turkish General Staff and had worked with Enver Pasha in WWI. He had been converted to Islam during that time and had been granted the name of Harun-el-Rashid by the Sultan of Turkey. Before taking command of the Verband, he had been liaison officer between the RSHA and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (see Alexander Dallin, German Rule In Russia, 1941-45, p. 601).

The Turkic Waffen-SS officer who deserted to the Slovakian communists and was subsequently murdered by them was named Ghulam Alim according to Olaf Caroe (Soviet Empire, p. 249). In his work An Deutscher Seiter, Hans Werner Neulen states that this officer's name was Ghulam Alimov and that he deserted with 4-500 men (p. 333). So there is a question of whom to believe in this matter.

For further articles on the Ostturkischer Waffenverband and Wilhelm "Harun-el-Rashid" Hintersatz, see Siegrunen No. 32. §

An attempt was made to form a Greek Waffen-SS Legion in 1941, but a prompt, vicious communist bombing attack was made on the recruiting center in Athens causing the deaths of 72 of the initial volunteers. As a result the program was postponed until better security could be arranged and it was not until late 1943/early 1944 that large-scale recruiting got underway again. About 1,000 Greeks eventually served in the Waffen-SS including a full company which was formed and trained at the Matzkau Barracks in Danzig in 1945. It was annihilated in the subsequent defense of the city.

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As of 24 March 1945, the 13th and 16th SS Divisions in Austria had the following effective strengths:

13th Waffen-Gebirgs Div. der SS "Handschar"

9,062 troops on duty

3,770 troops combat ready

10 heavy anti-tank guns

16th SS Pz. Gren. Div. "Reichsfuehrer-SS"

9,399 troops on duty

3,134 troops combat ready

18 heavy anti-tank guns

12 assault guns (self-propelled)

On a scale of "battleworthiness" running from I. (excellent) to IV. (poor), both of these divisions officially rated a "III." This was also the case for the 2nd SS Pz. Div. "Das Reich," which while not reporting troop data, mentioned having 17 heavy anti-tank guns, seven tanks and ten assault guns at its disposal. The only division in Austria at this time to rate higher than a "III" was the 1st Mtn. Div. which came in at a "II." It had 12,301 troops on duty of whom 4,738 were combat ready, and 20 heavy anti-tank guns.

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SS-Brigadefuehrer Dr. Adolf Katz, the commander of IV. (Heavy) Detachment/SS-"Totenkopf" Artillery Rgt. 3, died on 7 May 1980 at the age of 81.

- § -

The commander of SS-Grenadier Rgt. 89 of the 28th SS Div. "Wallonien," was Stubaf. Jules Mathieu, whose photo can be found in the publication Wallonien: The History of the 28th SS Division (available from Siegrunen at \$6.00 pospaid.) It is on page 17, upper right corner; Mathieu is the third man from the right.

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SS-Sturmbannführer
THEODOR SORG

Career Outline

Born 9 November 1914.

Entered the German Police (Polizei) on 12 October 1936.

From November 1936 to 13 March 1938 he attended the Police Officers School in Fuerstenfeldbruck.

On 13 March 1938 he received the rank of Leutnant and in the same month was assigned to the Technical School in Berlin.

In September 1938 he transferred to the Protection Police (Schutzpolizei) in Vienna.

In 1939 he attended a training class at the Police Ski School in Kitzbuehel.

On 10 August 1939 Sorg was promoted to Oberleutnant.

In November 1939 he transferred into the Police Rgt. Lublin.

From 20 June 1940 to 3 April 1941, Sorg was attached to the SS Police Div. as a platoon leader (field telephone) of the Signals replacement company.

In March and April 1942 he attended a company commanders training course for Police officers at SS-Junkerschule "Toelz."

From 4 April 1941 to 25 February 1942, Sorg served as commander of 1st Co./SS Signals Det. 4/SS-Police Division.

From 25 February 1942 to 10 May 1942 he was assigned to the "Kommando Amt" of the Waffen-SS.

On 10 May 1942 Sorg assumed command of 1st Co./SS Signals Replacement Det. "Das Reich," and held this post until 31 May 1943.

From 1 June 1943 to the end of the war, Theodor Sorg was the commander of SS Signals Det. 2/"Das Reich" Division.

Ranks

Hauptmann der Schutzpolizei, 5 January 1942

SS-Untersturmfuehrer, 1 March 1939

SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer, 1 April 1942

SS-Sturmbannführer, 21 June 1944.

Decorations

Iron Cross, 2nd Class, 23 September 1941

Iron Cross, 1st Class, 9 April 1943

-Mark C. Yerger