

1: Waffen-SS divisions | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

During World War II, the Waffen-SS recruited significant numbers of non-Germans, both as volunteers and conscripts. In total some , non-Germans and ethnic Germans from outside Germany, mostly from German-occupied Europe, were recruited between and

According to the Nuremberg Trials , as well as many war crimes investigations and trials conducted since then, the SS was responsible for the vast majority of Nazi war crimes. In particular, it was the primary organization which carried out the Holocaust. Under Himmler, the SS selected its members according to the Nazi ideology. Creating elite police and military units such as the Waffen-SS , Adolf Hitler used the SS to form an order of men claimed to be superior in racial purity and ability to other Germans and national groups, a model for the Nazi vision of a master race. Most victims were Jews or of Polish or other Slavic extraction. Furthermore, the SS purge was extended to those viewed as threats to "race hygiene" or Nazi ideologyâ€”including the mentally or physically handicapped, homosexuals and political dissidents. Foreseeing defeat, a significant number of SS personnel organised their escape to South American nations. Many others were captured and prosecuted by Allied authorities at the Nuremberg Trials for war crimes, and absconding SS criminals were the targets of police forces in various Allied nations, post-war West and East Germany , Austria and Israel. In contrast to the black-uniformed Allgemeine SS the political wing of the SS , the Waffen-SS the military wing evolved into a second German army aside the Wehrmacht the regular national armed forces and operating in tandem with them; especially with the Heer German Army. Special ranks and uniforms Main article: Uniforms and insignia of the Schutzstaffel The SS was distinguished from other branches of the German military, the National Socialist Party, and German state officials by its own rank structure, unit insignia, and uniforms. They were sent east where they were used by auxiliary police units and west to be used by Germanic-SS units such as the ones in the Netherlands and Denmark. The uniforms were made by hundreds of clothing factories licensed by the RZM , including Hugo Boss , with some workers being prisoners of war forced into labour work. The SS also developed its own field uniforms. Initially these were similar to standard Wehrmacht wool uniforms but they also included reversible smocks and helmet covers printed with camouflage patterns with a brownâ€”green "spring" side and a brownâ€”brown "autumn" side. In the Waffen-SS began using a universal camouflage uniform intended to replace the wool field uniform. Ideology of the SS In contrast to the Imperial military tradition, the nature of the SS was based on an ideology where commitment, effectiveness and political reliabilityâ€”not class or educationâ€”would determine how far they succeeded in the organisation. It became a powerful tool used by Hitler and the Nazi state for political ends. The SS ideology and values of the organisation were one of the main reasons why the SS was entrusted with the execution of many Nazi atrocities and war crimes of the Nazi state. Merger with police forces Main article: Ordnungspolizei As the Nazi party monopolized political power in Germany, key government functions such as law enforcement were absorbed by the SS, while many SS organizations became de facto government agencies. To maintain the political power and security of the Nazi party and later the nation , the SS established and ran the SD Security service and took over the administration of Gestapo Secret state police , Kripo criminal investigative police , and the Orpo regular uniformed police. These actions effectively put the SS above the law. Himmler, the leader of the SS, was a chief architect of the Final Solution. Himmler was responsible for establishing and operating concentration camps and extermination camps in which millions of inmates died of systematic mass gassing, shooting, hanging, inhumane treatment, overwork, malnutrition or medical experiments. After the war, the judges of the Nuremberg Trials declared the SS and its sub-parts criminal organizations responsible for the implementation of racial policies of genocide and committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. The first group associated with SS but not known as such existed briefly in , before being disbanded and re-founded in The group was formally disbanded upon the defeat of Nazi Germany. Origins Edit The group was first formed in , as a company of the SA who were given the task of protecting senior leaders of the Nazi Party at rallies, speeches, and other public events. Commanded by Emil Maurice , and known as the Stabswache Staff Guard , the original group consisted of eight men and was

modeled after the Erhardt Naval Brigade , a violent Freikorps of the time. At that time, the Stabswache was reestablished as the man "Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler", given the task of providing personal protection for Hitler at Nazi Party functions and events. That same year, the Stosstrupp was expanded to a national level, and renamed successively the Sturmstaffel storm squadron , then the Schutzkommando protection command , and finally the Schutzstaffel SS. The new SS was delegated to be a protection company of various Nazi Party leaders throughout Germany. Development Edit The black cap with a Totenkopf of the SS Between and , the SS was considered merely a small Gruppe battalion of the SA and numbered no more than 1, personnel; by that number was down to By the end of the following year, it had over , members. In that year Himmler extended the black colour to include breeches, boots, belts, and armband edges; and in they adopted the all-black uniform, designed by Prof. Diebitsch and Walter Heck. The Waffen "armed" SS wore a field-grey feldgrau uniform similar to the regular army, or Heer. During the war, Waffen-SS units wore a wide range of items printed with camouflage patterns such as Platanenmuster, Erbsenmuster, captured Italian Telo Mimetico, etc. In , the SS adopted the Leibermuster disruptive camouflage pattern that inspired many forms of modern battle dress , although it was not widely issued before the end of the war. This was mainly done to establish the SS as being independent from the Wehrmacht, although SS ranks did generally have equivalents in the other services. Himmler, together with his right-hand man, Reinhard Heydrich , consolidated the power of the organization. In Himmler gave Heydrich the assignment to build an intelligence and security service inside the SS, which became the Sicherheitsdienst SD. Himmler also received control of the Gestapo in , and, that same year, Hitler had given the SS jurisdiction over all concentration camps. Early SS disunity Edit In its first years of existence, the SS was characterized by significant disunity both geographically within Germany as well as within the structure of the SS as a whole. In addition, prior to April , the Gestapo was a civilian state police agency outside the control of SS leadership. In some cases, it came into direct conflict with the SS and even attempted to arrest some of its members. This in contrast to the SS in southern Germany, commanded unquestionably by Heinrich Himmler and located mostly in Munich which was the location of the major Nazi political offices. The early military SS was kept quite separate from the regular SS and Dietrich introduced early regulations that the military SS answered directly to Hitler, and not Himmler, and for several months even ordered his troops to wear the black SS uniform without a swastika armband to separate the soldiers from other SS units once the black uniform had become common throughout Germany. Himmler worsened his own position when he attempted to hold a military command during the last months of the war and proved totally incompetent as a field commander.

2: "AXIS & LEGION MILITARIA" - Axis & Legion Militaria

All divisions in the Waffen-SS were ordered in a single series of numbers as formed, regardless of type. Those tagged with nationalities were at least nominally recruited from those nationalities. Many of the higher-numbered units were small battlegroups (Kampfgruppen), i.e., divisions in name only.

In the Nuremberg Trials, the Waffen-SS was condemned as part of a criminal organisation, and therefore Waffen-SS veterans were denied many of the rights afforded other German combat veterans. However the Nuremberg Trials exempted conscripts from that condemnation. The original cadre of the Waffen-SS came from the Freikorps and the Reichswehr along with various right-wing paramilitary formations. Waffen-SS men were equipped with camouflage smocks and helmet covers, a new innovation which made them easily identifiable and provided them with an edge in combat. While they received the latest in uniforms, the majority of the Waffen-SS men received second rate weapons and equipment, many formations receiving Czech and Austrian weapons and equipment. This policy continued throughout the war. Concept and Training SS combat training consisted primarily of several months of intensive basic training with three objectives; physical fitness, small-arms proficiency and political indoctrination. The training was so intensive that one in three potentials failed to pass the course. After this basic training, the recruits would be sent to either to specialist schools where they received further training in their chosen combat arm. As the war progressed and replacements were required more frequently, particularly after the expansion of the Waffen-SS following the success of the SS-Panzerkorps at Kharkov, the intensity of the training was relaxed somewhat. The process tended to produce outstanding soldiers and officers, and many of the basic tenets of Waffen-SS training are still used by many armed forces today. A strong emphasis was placed on creating a bond between the officers and men, and officer candidates were made to pass through basic training alongside the enlisted candidates. This created a mutual trust and respect between the officers and men, and meant that the relationship between these groups was very relaxed, unlike the Heer German Army, where strict discipline and a policy of separation between the officers and enlisted men existed. While it is difficult now to understand why anyone would volunteer for the Waffen-SS, during the war the organisation was presented as a multinational force protecting Europe from the evils of Communism. In addition, training emphasised unit cohesion and mutual respect between officers and men, rather than strict discipline. In the Waffen-SS, it was not a requirement to salute officers and a more casual salute was adopted the right arm raised vertically from the elbow - a relaxed version of the Heil salute. This salute is portrayed in many war films. Added to this, the practice of addressing a superior as Herr "Sir" was also forbidden, with everyone up to Himmler being addressed simply by their rank. The overall performance of the Waffen-SS had been mediocre during these campaigns. The poor initial performance of the Waffen-SS units was mainly due to the emphasis on political indoctrination rather than proper military training before the war. This was largely due to the shortage of experienced NCOs, who preferred to stay with the regular army. Despite this, the experience gained from the Polish, French and Balkan campaigns and the peculiarly egalitarian form of training soon turned Waffen-SS units into elite formations. On several occasions, the Waffen-SS was criticised by Heer commanders for their reckless disregard for casualties while taking or holding objectives. In Mid, the II. As the fronts began to crumble, the Waffen-SS divisions began increasingly to be used in a "fire-brigade" role. Held back behind the line, the divisions would be committed to counter enemy breakthroughs. As the success of the divisions increased, so too did the difficulty of the missions assigned them. In the closing months of the war, Waffen-SS formations were assigned impossible missions by Hitler, who saw them as not only exceptionally effective in combat, but also politically reliable. The commander of VI. These divisions were characterised by extremely high unit morale and combat ability, as well as commitment to the Crusade against Bolshevism and the defense of the Fatherland. While several other formations e. In spite of heavy casualties, many of the Waffen-SS units retained their reputations as crack formations until the end of the War, though the quality of formations raised late in the war was often execrable, and some of the Freiwillige troops were prone to mutiny. While volunteers from regions which had been declared Aryan were approved almost instantly, Himmler eagerly pressed for the

creation of more and more foreign units. In late 1941, the creation of a multinational SS division, the Wiking, was authorised. Steiner immersed himself in the organisation of the volunteer division, soon becoming a strong advocate for an increased number of foreign units. The Wiking was committed to combat several days after the launch of Operation Barbarossa, proving itself an impressive fighting unit. Soon, Danish, Flemish, Norwegian and Dutch freiwilligen volunteer formations were committed to combat, gradually proving their worth. Hitler however, was hesitant to allow foreign volunteers to be formed into formations based on their ethnicity, preferring that they be absorbed into multi-national divisions. Hitler feared that unless the foreign recruits were committed to the idea of a united Germania, then their reasons for fighting were suspect, and could damage the German cause. Himmler was allowed to create his new formations, but they were to be commanded by German officers and NCOs. Beginning in 1942, several new formations were formed from Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians and even Bosnians. The wearing of the SS runes on the collar was forbidden, with several of these formations wearing a national insignia instead. All non-germanic officers and men in these units had their rank prefix changed from SS to Waffen e. An example of a division der SS is the Estonian The combat ability of the divisions der SS varied greatly, with the Latvian, French and Estonian formations performing exceptionally and the Croatian and Albanian units performing poorly. While many adventurers and idealists joined the SS as part of the fight against communism, many of the later recruits joined or were conscripted for different reasons. For example, Dutchmen who joined the SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Division Landstorm Nederland were granted exemption from forced labour and provided with food, pay and accommodation. Recruits who joined for such reasons rarely proved good soldiers, and several units composed of such volunteers were involved in atrocities. Towards the end of 1944, it became apparent that numbers of volunteer recruits were inadequate to meet the needs of the German military, so conscription was introduced. Not satisfied with the growing number of volunteer formations, Himmler sought to gain control of all volunteer forces serving alongside Germany. This put the SS at odds with the Heer, as several volunteer units had been placed under Heer control e. Despite this, Himmler constantly campaigned to have all foreign volunteers fall under the SS banner. In several cases, like the ROA and the 5. SS-Freiwilligen-Sturmbrigade Wallonien he was successful, and by the last year of the war, most foreign volunteers units did fall under SS command. While several volunteer units performed poorly in combat, the majority acquitted themselves well. French and Spanish SS volunteers, along with remnants of the After the surrender, many volunteers were tried and imprisoned by their countries. In several cases, volunteers were executed. Those volunteers from the Baltic States and Ukraine could at best look forward to years spent in the gulags. To avoid this, many ex-volunteers from these regions joined underground resistance groups see Forest Brothers which were engaged fighting the Soviets until the s. Wallon volunteer leader Leon Degrelle escaped to Spain, where, despite being sentenced to death in absentia by the Belgian authorities, he lived in comfortable exile until his death in 1946. John Amery, the leader of the Britisches Freikorps , was tried and convicted of treason by the British government. He was executed in December 1946. War Crimes and Atrocities Several formations within the Waffen-SS were proven to have committed numerous war crime s, most notoriously at Oradour-sur-Glane, Marzabotto and in the Malmedy massacre. Some additional allegations have never been substantiated as many were intended to link the Waffen-SS to crimes committed by the Allgemeine-SS political SS. Perhaps the most infamous of all SS formations were the Dirlewanger and Kaminski Brigades later to become the Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS and These formations, composed mostly of ex- Einsatzgruppen , released criminals and Russian Prisoners of War and commanded by the fanatical Nazis Oskar Dirlewanger and Bronislaw Kaminski, were engaged in numerous atrocities throughout their existence. After their actions in putting down the Warsaw Uprising, Heer complaints resulted in these units being dissolved and several members including Kaminski being tried and executed for their role in several incidents. Similarly, the Waffen-Sturm-Brigade RONA has a "combat" record riddled with atrocities as well as abysmal conduct when faced with front line service. While divisions like the Nordland and Nord have virtually spotless records, most Waffen-SS divisions were involved in at least some questionable actions. The debate over the culpability of the organisation is the center of much revisionist thinking. Regardless of the record of individual combat units within the Waffen-SS, the entire organisation was declared a criminal

organization by the International Military Tribunal during the Nuremberg Trials , except conscripts, who were exempted from that judgement due to being forcibly mobilised. The actions of Himmler and the Nazi hierarchy in attaching the SS combat divisions to the same overall command of as the Allgemeine SS, Concentration Camps and Einsatzgruppen meant that such a decision was inevitable.

3: Vets of foreign SS divisions, are they entitled to a pension - Axis History Forum

Hol4 Wiki /r/Paradoxplaza Paradox Forums Teamspeak Discord. Welcome to /r/Hol4. This is a sub-reddit for Hearts of Iron 4. It is a general subreddit for the Grand Strategy Game from Paradox Interactive.

The SS tabs were either hand-embroidered or machine-woven. Both the officer and enlisted collar tabs were issued and worn by all SS men including foreign volunteers. On top is an SS officer collar tab. Next is a rare late war Dachau issue collar tab. Next is a standard BeVo style SS rune collar tab. These weave style collar tabs have distinctive white buckram shown on the back. The metal Eagle and Totenkopf insignias were attached on SS headgear. Early to mid-war insignias were die struck with hollow backs bearing two flat prongs or round pins. The badges normally bore the RZM marks as shown in the examples above. During the war the "M1" prefix was removed and only a two or three digit manufacturing code was left with the addition of a year suffix. The back shows two round copper color prongs and is marked "Ges. The background is a nice cover mailed by a volunteer in the Totenkopf SS Division. Notice the official SS seal, which is quite rare on postal covers since the Nazi national eagle was used on official seals. Unlike the volunteers in the Westland Regiment whom wore SS Collar Tabs, the volunteers in the Norwest were granted the distinction of their own special collar tab of a three-legged swastika referred as Trident sunwheel. By September the Nordwest was disbanded and its personnel distributed to their respective ethnic legion formation. Many of the transferees from the disbanded Nordwest continued to wear their Trifos Collar Tab for a time in their respective ethnic legions. The Trifos collar tab was the standard insignia issued to the "Freikorps Danmark. It was carried during the stay in Hamburg and also on arrival at the Posen-Treskau training camp in September of However it was immediately removed upon arrival to Posen and replaced by the popular SS runes. In May the Flemish Legion was disbanded. The complete collar torn off a tunic was found somewhere in the Ukraine. Has the proper stitching behind the collar with the tabs placed correctly, one of the legs of the Trifos collar tab is damage a little nevertheless very rare. With the increasing recruitment of non-Germans into the Waffen-SS after , Himmler became concerned about the use of the SS runes insignia by those not racially suitable for full SS membership, and he instructed that such recruits should wear some form of collar tab without SS runes. The SS thereafter designed and issued a range of appropriate collar tabs for its foreign volunteers, and pending the distribution of these insignia blank collar tabs were often worn in new formations as an interim measure. German SS officers and NCOs serving in foreign units were still entitled to wear the SS runes collar tabs and from July , if they chose to identify with their men they were obliged to sport the SS runes embroidered below the left breast pocket instead. Above is a scarce blank collar tab worn by most foreign volunteers and "SD" personnel. The Freikorps collar tab was issued on 28 April and worn for only 6 months. The Danish flag is embroidered on a black wool cloth. These collar tabs were probably issued in May while the regiments were in the Grafenwohr training grounds. The Sunwheel collar tab is the standard Dachau made tab. This collar tab was issued to Dutch volunteers in the "4. Next is a collar tab issued to members of the " The cornflower tab was issued in limited quantities. Next is a very rare locally made Estonian collar tab that was worn by men in the " In addition a metal type collar tab was also made and worn by Estonian volunteers. The Germans produced an Estonian version collar tab, however it was very unpopular with the troops that very few were worn. Next is a late pattern Latvian collar tab, issued and worn by volunteers in the " Idel-ural, Turkestan and Krim. By March the Aserbeidschan legion was added. In late , a special tab insignia was issued to members of the " Next is an Italian collar tab that was made for members of the " There is no indication that this tab was issued or worn.

4: How to recruit foreign SS Divisions with Himmler? :: Hearts of Iron IV General Discussions

SS: Hitler's Foreign Divisions is an in-depth examination of the approximately , foreign volunteers from German-occupied countries who opted to fight for the Third Reich as members of the Waffen-SS.

Various political goals, ideologies, and national ties often blur the lines of war. This article, using the example of foreign conscription of soldiers by Germany in World War II, seeks to illustrate this. Background While the Nazi Party stressed the racial purity of its members and the Germanic countries, this ideology was far from strict when it came to the German armed forces during World War II. While the party actively sought to erase various so-called "degenerate" social groups and races, the German armed forces, however, were actively conscripting foreign born soldiers of varying race, creed, and religion, thereby created a discrepancy. This article, exhibiting these various foreigners fighting for the German armed forces, will illustrate this discrepancy between racial policy and practice in Nazi Germany, and its extent. In the early-to-mid s, Heinrich Himmler began building a separate more militaristic arm of the Schutzstaffel SS. Called the Waffen-SS "armed"-SS , this force was, ideally, to be comprised of topnotch and crack Germanic soldiers of racially pure Aryan blood. While the case initially, after a decree by Adolf Hitler, the German armed forces began accepting foreign born soldiers. The reasons for this breakage in racial ideology are simple: Another reason was that, as the German armies began to occupy more and more countries, the Nazi High Command began to worry about the amount of military-aged foreign men forming resistance groups, and offered these men an outlet by joining the Nazi war machine. While many foreigners under Nazi control despised Naziism, they despised Communism even more, and found an outlet for this hatred in the German Armed Forces. Note the traditional Pagri turban headdress, worn by the soldiers. Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion, on maneuvers in Normandy, France preparing for the Allied landing, Spring An Indian soldier using an MG Note the patch on his forearm - a Tiger over top the Indian national colors a unit patch of the Indische Legion. Foreign Volunteers Made up from various backgrounds, foreign born soldiers hailed from countries such as India, France, Britian, the U. One of the more large foreign contingents of the German Army was the Indische Legion Indian legion , composed of Indian soldiers. In order to alleviate their hatred for British oppression, these congressmen formed an all-volunteer unit comprised of Indian soldiers, in the hopes of soon fighting the British in Europe and Africa. Muslim members of the 13th SS Division stop to pray. As the German Army entered Africa, it began conscripting Muslim volunteers. Towards the end of the war, this division was folded into the 13th SS Handschar Division, composed of Muslim Bosniaks. While the division was composed mostly of volunteers, problems of dissidence often arose, when the Muslim soldiers wanted to stop combat duties during prayer time. Interestingly, Bosniam Muslim soldiers were allowed to wear traditional Bosnian hats in conjunction with their SS uniforms. Ultimately, 20, Muslim volunteers belonged to the German armed forces, fighting mainly in Africa and Yugoslavia. Bosnian members of the 13th SS Division. Note the traditional Fezzes with German Eagle and Skull. Note also the middle-eastern scimitar swords their collar patches. A Nazi propaganda poster, urging British men to join the German military. Note the French flag patch on his forearm. The German armed forces were no strangers to allowing French and British volunteers into their ranks. Joining mostly out of a hatred for Communism, the Legion des Volontaires Legion of Volunteers was an all French volunteer unit of the German Army that hoped to fight the Soviets. They did so, as in late this unit was sent to the Eastern Front. After taking heavy losses, the unit was then re-organized in to the 33rd Waffen-SS Charlemagne Division. The German military also accepted many pro-Nazi British fascists, who were also looking to fight Communism. A British member of the Waffen-SS. Note the British flag patch on his wrist. Before the war began, many non-Communist Chinese soldiers joined the German military. As part of a German-Chinese friendship pact, large numbers of Chinese soldiers traveled to Germany in the s, where they experienced German training. While many left before the war began, many remained, and fought in the German military, albeit in supportive roles. Chiang Wei-Kuo participated in the German military entrance into Austria in , and was stationed to invade Poland, though he was recalled back to China just before the invasion began. Some Chinese troops training in Germany in the s stop to play a game of chess. And finally, a more

noteworthy story of an American volunteer in the German military is the case of Martin James Monti. Once there, Monti secretly boarded a plane to Libya, where he then stole a P Lightning and flew to Naples. Once in there, Monti defected. After traveling to Germany, Monti joined the SS, and worked in a propaganda unit. In , Monti was arrested, and charged with treason. Some of the more well-known conscript divisions was British Frei Korps free corps. It is worth noting that members of this British unit were not forced to join outright; rather, leaflets about the division were distributed around POWs camps, making the unit an all volunteer unit. After the war, many of the British members of the unit were tried with treason, though many New Zealand and Canadian members claimed they joined the unit to sabotage it. One member, John Avery, was the son of a British Member of Parliament, and was executed in by the British government. Not planned by the German government in any official capacity, the division did not see the end of the war as many American members deserted or were shot for doing so. One of the most odd stories of foreign conscripts in the German military were a group of Koreans. On June 6th, , during the Allied invasion of France, an American unit came across a group of Koreans dressed in German uniforms in a bunker. How these Koreans came to France is a sad tale. Sometime after Japan annexed Korea in , these Korean soldiers were conscripted by the Japanese military. During the s, these Korean soldiers fought the Soviet military for Japan during a series of border conflicts. Here, they were captured by the Soviets and conscripted by the Soviet army. These Koreans then fought Germany after the Soviet Union was invaded, and were subsequently captured by the German Army. These Koreans were then conscripted by the German military and sent to France, where they surrendered to an American unit. Korean soldiers dressed in German army uniforms. They were pressed into service by the Japanese, then the Soviets, then Germany, before being captured by Americans in France. Conclusion As one can see, war is not as clear as it is often made out to be, for the enemy is not simply defined by a nationality. As in the case of the "German" military, various religions, ethnicity, and nationalities joined either willingly under political reasons, or unwillingly. The "Good War" adage conjures ideas of dichotomy - good vs. But, we must ask ourselves, was it really so defined? Were the Indian soldiers fighting with the German military against British oppression truly evil? Were the aforementioned Koreans, who were subjugated by the Japanese, Soviets, and Germans evil? In order to adequately grasp history and its lessons, we cannot afford to be so blind, and must think critically about all aspects if we truly wish to learn from the past.

5: Waffen-SS foreign volunteers and conscripts - Wikipedia

In , Hitler gave permission for the first non-German Waffen-SS formation and by the end of the war, twenty five of the thirty eight Waffen-SS division were formed from foreign volunteers or conscripts, or around 60% of Waffen-SS members were non-German.

The History Learning Site, 6 Mar Foreign SS Legions were to make up a substantial number of men as World War Two proceeded and as casualties in the Wehrmacht increased as they fought on numerous fronts – though the Russian Front in particular was accounting for many casualties. The Waffen-SS had originally been made up of four divisions of ethnic Germans. However, it grew into a mass unit of , men who fought in 41 divisions and in time over one-third of its force was made up of foreign volunteers. Many of these men fought against the Red Army. By the time the war ended it is thought that as many as , members of the Waffen-SS had been killed or wounded in combat with another 70, missing in action. However, many Waffen-SS records were destroyed before the war ended so accurate figures are hard to attain. However, a recruitment campaign was started in Western Europe in July based on the back of the numerous military successes the Wehrmacht had achieved up to that date. However, a more sustained campaign started in the summer of the following year. The June attack on Russia Operation Barbarossa was initially very successful. It was against this background that the Nazis introduced a sustained campaign of recruitment based around fighting the Bolshevik horde in the east of Europe. Over , men from the Baltic States and the Ukraine also joined to fight off the yoke of communism. The sheer numbers involved in terms of recruitment meant that it was pragmatic for the SS to do so. The Baltic States and the Ukraine were very keen to free themselves from the rule of Moscow. Therefore many men volunteered to join the Waffen-SS. The recruits to the Foreign Legions did not receive the type of training that standard German Wehrmacht recruits received. Training tended to last two weeks – possibly three. The whole idea behind these divisions was to get them to the front line as soon as was possible. While it is a generalisation, the standard rule of thumb was that the Wehrmacht received German-made weapons while the Foreign Legions used captured weapons. Whereas Wehrmacht infantry were taught the skills required by an infantryman, foreign members of the Waffen-SS were taught quickly and briefly a multitude of skills artillery, radio operator etc. The lack of anything but basic military skills in the field might explain the huge casualty rates that these foreign Waffen-SS units experienced. They wore a different uniform in terms of the insignia on it. Most of the Foreign Legions did not wear the SS insignia on their collars as they wore a symbol of their national origin instead. Though a German national commanded them, many men in the SS Foreign Legions only spoke their own language. Thus communication was a major problem. Their ranks were also different to those held by German Waffen-SS. The bulk of the Foreign Legions fought on the Eastern Front. The Battle of Stalingrad had been a disaster for Hitler with the loss of a complete army. Despite the obvious signs that Red Army was in a position to take advantage of this major military defeat, Hitler continued to believe that his war against the Bolshevik horde was winnable. It was against this background that the Foreign Legions had to fight. Others were less successful on the front line and were used to fight partisan groups. Against the huge number of men, artillery and tanks that the Red Army had at their disposal, defeat was almost inevitable. However, the men who had survived the battles on the Eastern Front could not simply pack their bags and return home. To many in their home nations they were traitors who had taken up the cause of Hitler. This may explain why so many units of the Foreign Legions fought almost to the point of recklessness. If the Red Army captured them alive, they feared being handed back to their country of origin. The 60, Russians who had joined the Waffen-SS knew what they could expect. It was a choice of fighting to the death or being captured and executed as traitors – a fate that befell thousands of Cossacks. To many they had little to lose if they carried on fighting. The head of the British Freikorps, John Amery, was tried for treason and hanged. Other members were sentenced to terms in prison. Prison sentences as long as 15 years were introduced in Norway and Denmark. He continued to live in Spain until his death in Figures for European recruits to the Waffen-SS:

6: "AXIS & FOREIGN LEGION MILITARIA" - Axis & Legion Militaria

The Waffen-SS (German for "Armed SS", literally "Weapon SS") was the combat arm of the Schutzstaffel ("Protective Squadron") or SS, an organ of the German Nazi www.enganchecubano.com Waffen-SS saw action throughout World War II and grew from three regiments to a force of over 39 divisions, which served alongside the regular army.

7: List of Waffen-SS divisions - Wikipedia

*Other divisions formed in the final months of the war never reached functional strength, and were disbanded before they saw www.enganchecubano.com: *Hitlers Foreign Divisions* is a definitive history of the , foreigners who fought for Hitler and Germany in World War www.enganchecubano.com is a text-only ebook edition.*

8: Nazi Foreign Legions - History Learning Site

Many other Waffen-SS volunteers, including many Wiking veterans, avoided punishment by joining the French Foreign Legion, and many ex-SS men fought and died at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in

9: Wehrmacht foreign volunteers and conscripts - Wikipedia

once you have occipied the territory you get descions to recruit local SS division. willâ™¥â™¥â™¥â™¥â™¥off your military and can lead to civil war, have not tested it much though so have no more insight then that.

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