UNIFORMS, ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY OF THE WAFFEN-SS

VOLUME 2

ROGER JAMES BENDER
and
HUGH PAGE TAYLOR

WAFFEN-SS 2

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OF THE

WAFFEN-SS

ROGER JAMES BENDER AND HUGH PAGE TAYLOR

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Contents

Introduction

Volume I of "Uniforms, Organization and History of the Waffen-SS" appeared in December 1969, and described the uniforms, equipment and insignia of the Waffen-SS as a whole, without considering unit insignia and markings in any way. This, and the remaining volumes that will go to make up this series, will consider the uniforms, organization and history of each Waffen-SS higher formation, formation and unit in descending order.

Volume II starts with the control of the Waffen-SS, and shows how it was controlled both in its political (i.e. as part of the SS) and military capacities. It covers the higher formations.... Army Groups, the Army and Corps, which were created towards the end of the war. This volume continues by describing the individual divisions, stopping at the 6th SS Division to maintain a reasonable length.

The authors would like to thank all those who have not only read our first volume, but who have also taken the trouble to comment on its contents to us. We thank them for their criticism of the unavoidable inaccuracies and omissions, and for so generously parting with information and photographs which so many jealously guard for themselves. An appendix has thus been included at the end of this book correcting and adding to Volume I, based on those constructive criticisms which we have received and have been able to verify. This practice will be continued in the volumes that follow. It is hoped that by bringing the books up-to-date in this way, progress will be made in the study of this subject, and that thereby an end-product can be produced that is both accurate and comprehensive. The Waffen-SS is a complicated subject and with the many gaps in our knowledge, a certain degree of trial and error has to be a necessary evil. Your views are therefore welcomed, and we not only hope you like this book, but look forward to hearing from you.

Both authors deeply regret the fact that certain of our readers interpreted the Introduction to Volume I as suggesting a sympathetic and biased approach to the subject. This impression is naturally totally false, and a statement to that effect would have been included in Volume I if it was not for the erroneous assumption on our part that readers would take the book at face value.... an objective and unbiased study of the uniforms, organization and history of an organization that ceased to exist over a quarter of a century ago.

Authors and publisher apologize for the erroneous inclusion of Drs. N.K.C.A. In't Veld, Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, Amsterdam and Wiener Library, London in the list of acknowledgements in Volume I, who in fact had no involvement with the book in any way.

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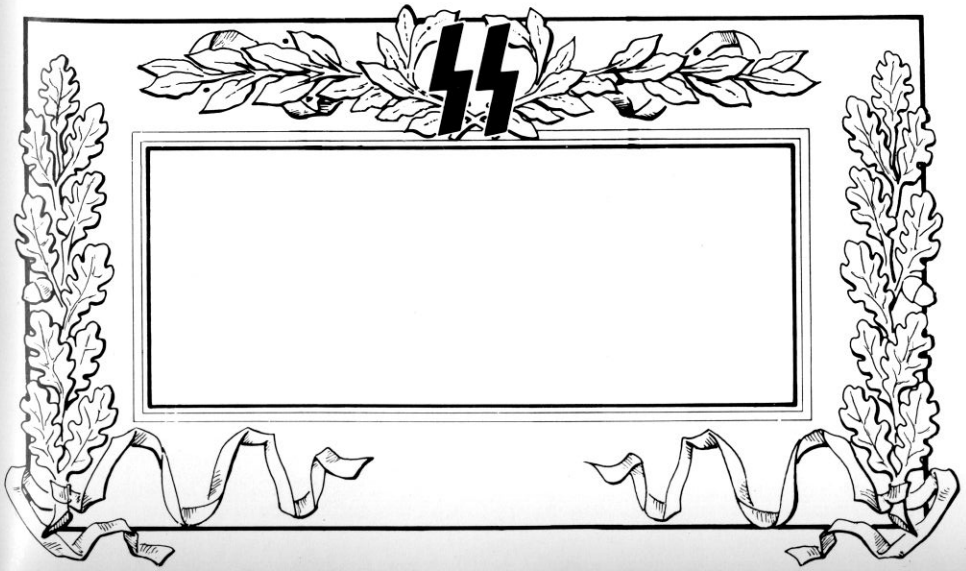


Control of the Waffen-SS

INTRODUCTION

The Waffen-SS evolved from the SS-VT (SS Special Purpose Troops), which officially was neither a part of the armed forces nor the police, but an armed force exclusively at Hitler's command. With the coming of the Second World War, however, this status changed in practice, and the Waffen-SS held a dual status: that of a branch of the SS, and as such a formation of the Nazi Party; and also a fighting force of the Third Reich, and therefore associated with, but not technically a part of the Armed Forces (Wehrmacht). It consequently had two lines of command. The SS controlled it totally in time of peace. Upon mobilization, however, the SS handed over its tactical control to the High Command of the Army (O. K. H.), while retaining control of its organization, training and replacement. The bodies controlling the Waffen-SS in both cases are dealt with in the following pages, though only briefly where they were other than strictly parts of the Waffen-SS itself.

THE SS MAIN OFFICE (SS-HAUPTAMT)

The entire SS was controlled by a Main Office (SS-Hauptamt, or SS-HA), which had evolved by January 30, 1935, before the Waffen-SS came into existence, from the SS Office (SS-Amt). In 1939 the SS-HA was organized as follows:

OFFICE/AMT	CHIEF/CHEF
Central Chancellery/Zentralkanzlei	SS-Gruppenführer Greifelt
I Command/Führungsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Zech
II Personnel/Personalamt	SS-Gruppenführer Schmitt
III[1]	
IV Administration/Verwaltungsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Pohl
V Medical/Sanitätsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Grawitz, then Dermietzel
VI Requisitioning/Erfassungsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Berger
VII Security/Amt für Sicherungsaufgaben	SS-Brigadeführer Petri
VIII Reinforcements/Ergänzungsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Berger
IX Procurement/Beschaffungsamt	SS-Gruppenführer Pohl
X Physical training/Amt für Leibesübungen	SS-Gruppenführer Berger
XI Communications/Amt für Nachrichtenverbindungen	SS-Gruppenführer Sachs
XII Welfare & Supply/Versorgungs- und Fürsorgeamt	SS-Brigadeführer Dr. Haertel
XIII Education/Schulungsamt	SS-Standartenführer Dr. Cäsar

[1]The Legal Office (Gerichtsamt), originally numbered III, had been detached from the SS-HA by this time.

The SS-HA controlled all branches of the SS, and as the latter developed and grew in complexity, so it grew also. A "Germanic Volunteer Office", for example, was set up within the SS-HA in 1940 when Germany's conquest of Europe provided a pool of racially acceptable volunteers for the SS.

In time the SS-HA became too large and its duties over-involved, and when it also became responsible for the cavalry regiments and the entire financial administration of the SS, it was reorganised. By 1942 the SS-HA had been greatly reduced in size and in responsibility, and was left under the command of SS-Gruppenführer Gottlob Berger. Many of its responsibilities had been taken away and given to newly-formed main offices, which will be described later insofar as they concern the Waffen-SS. Berger's most important task remained his supervision of the recruiting programme of the Waffen-SS, which he carried out capably and with ingenuity until the end of the war.

An organizational document dated March 15, 1942, shows the SS-HA divided into seven offices (Ämter). The following chart shows the principal organization of the SS Main Office at the end of August, 1943, after the detachment of certain of its offices to the new head offices.

BRANCH/ AMTSGRUPPE	OFFICE/AMT
A	AI Central Office/Zentralamt
"	AII Chief Medical Officer/Leitender Arzt bei Chef SS-HA
"	AIII Administration/Verwaltung
B	BI Waffen-SS reinforcements/Ergänzungsamt der Waffen-SS
"	BII Requisitioning/Erfassungsamt
C	CI Ideological training/Amt für Weltanschauliche Erziehung
"	CII Physical training/Amt für Leibeserziehung
"	CIII Trade training/Amt für Berufserziehung
D	DI Germanic Control Centre/Germanische Leitstelle
"	DII Germanic recruitment/Germanische Ergänzung
"	DIII Germanic education/Germanische Erziehung

As of December 1, 1944, the situation was much the same, although by then only Office DII was listed within Branch D, and had its title broadened to encompass the entire Germanic SS (Amt DII - Germanische-SS). The SS-HA was then headed by SS-Obergruppenführer Gottlob Berger, who had his own personal office staff (Persönliches Büro). The office heads at that time are listed on the following page.

AI SS-Obergruppenführer Gottlob Berger
AII SS-Brigadeführer Wilhelm Berndt
AIII SS-Obersturmbannführer Friedrich Otto
BI SS-Gruppenführer Heinrich Jürs
BII SS-Brigadeführer Karl Zenner
CI SS-Sturmbannführer Horst Webendörfer
CII SS-Hauptsturmführer Lothar Fink
CIII SS-Obersturmbannführer d.R. Dr. Otto Borst
DII SS-Obersturmbannführer d.R. Max Kopischke

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS GOTTLOB BERGER

CHIEFS:

30/1/1935 - 5/1935: SS-Gruppenführer Kurt Wittje (relieved)

1935 - 1940: SS-Obergruppenführer August Heissmeyer

1940 - 1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Gottlob Berger.

NOTE SECOND PATTERN CUFFBAND WITH RUNIC SS BEING WORN.

Members of the staff of the SS-HA wore a cuffband with the inscription "SS-Hauptamt", introduced in January 1935. Later patterns had the Gothic 'SS' replaced by the double S rune, and would have been worn almost exclusively during the short life-span of the Waffen-SS.

FIRST PATTERN SS-HAUPTAMT CUFFBAND

THE SS MAIN OPERATIONAL OFFICE (SS-FÜHRUNGSHAUPTAMT)

In the early 1930's, armed units began to be established within the SS under the auspices of the SS Main Office, and these became known as "SS Special Purpose Troops"(SS-Verfügungstruppe or SS-VT). An Inspectorate was established to control them (Inspektion der SS-VT) with Paul Hausser as its Inspector, which remained subordinate to the SS Main Office.

Early in the Second World War the SS-VT was renamed the 'armed SS' (Waffen-SS) and on June 1, 1940, the Inspectorate became known as the 'Waffen-SS Headquarters' (Kommando der Waffen-SS). With effect from August 15, 1940, a new main office was created to control the organization of the field units of the SS, and to look after the training and replacement units of the Waffen-SS as well as the schools. This was the SS Main Operational Office (SS-Führungshauptamt or SS-FHA), which was essentially the headquarters of the Waffen-SS. Although a part of the SS as a whole, the SS-FHA was independent of the Main Office (SS-HA). It was also independent of the High Commands of both the Army (O. K. H.) and Armed Forces (O. K. W.), although in control of armed fighting troops. Himmler took charge of this new main office on September 15, 1940, and named SS-Brigadeführer Jüttner as Chief of Staff (Jüttner was given full command of the SS-FHA on January 30, 1943, which he held until the end of the war).

The complexity of the Waffen-SS increased and with it that of the SS-FHA. The latter's structure grew, and of necessity altered from time to time as new departments were added and others were promoted in status. A branch containing inspectorates for the various arms of the service was added on April 10, 1942, as follows:

BRANCH FOR INSPECTORATES IN THE SS-FHA (AMTSGRUPPE INSPEKTIONEN IM SS-FHA)

Inspectorate/Inspektion 1: NCO Schools Inspectorate/Inspektion der Unterführerschulen
-"- 2: Infantry Inspectorate/Infanterie-Inspektion
-"- 3: Mounted & Horsed Transport Inspectorate/ Inspektion Reit- und Fahrwesen
-"- 4: Artillery Inspectorate/Artillerie-Inspektion
-"- 5: Engineer Inspectorate/Pionier-Inspektion
-"- 6: M. T. & Armoured Inspectorate/Inspektion Kraftfahr- und Kraftfahr-Kampftruppen
-"- 7: Signals Inspectorate/Nachrichten-Inspektion
-"- 8: Ordnance Inspectorate/Inspektion-Waffenwesen

In 1943/1944 the organization of the SS-FHA was as follows:

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE A: Operation, Personnel & Supply of the Waffen-SS/Einsatz, Personal und Versorgung der Waffen-SS

Office/Amt I: General SS Headquarters/Kommandoamt der Allgemeinen SS
-"- II: Waffen-SS Headquarters/Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS
Section/Abteilung 1e: Recruiting/Ersatzwesen
-"- 1d: Training/Ausbildung
Controlled/Unterstellt: Training & Replacement units of the Waffen-SS, Technical Service and its schools/Ersatz- und Ausbildungstruppen der Waffen-SS, Technische-Dienste und ihre Schulen
-"- V: Personnel/Personalamt
-"- VI: Mounted & H. T./Reit- und Fahrwesen
Section/Abteilung IV: Veterinary/Veterinärwesen
-"- VII: Supply/Nachschubamt
Section/Abteilung II: Ordnance Stores Troops/ Feldzeugtruppen

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE B: Training of officers and NCOs/Ausbildung

Office/Amt XI: Officer training with SS Junker Schools/Führerausbildung mit SS-Junkerschulen
-"- XII: NCO training with SS NCO Schools/Unterführerausbildung mit SS-Unterführerschulen

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE C: Inspectorates for the branches of the service/ Waffeninspektionen

Inspectorate/Inspektion 1 : Infantry/Infanterie
-"- 3 : Mounted & Horsed Transport Matters/Reit- und Fahrwesen
-"- 4 : Artillery/Artillerie
-"- 5 : Engineers/Pioniere
-"- 6 : Armoured Troops/Panzertruppen

-"- 7 : Signals Troops/Nachrichtentruppen
-"- 8 : Ordnance Stores & Repair Matters/Feldzeug- und Instandsetzungswesen
-"- 9 : Supply Troops/Versorgungstruppen
-"- 12: M. T. Park Troops/Kraftfahrparktruppen
-"- 13: Anti-aircraft/Flakartillerie

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE D: Medical & Health Matters/Sanitäts- und Gesundheitswesen

Office/Amt XIII: Administration/Verwaltungsamt
Section/Abteilung IIa: Medical Officers/Sanitäts-Führer
-"- IIb: Medical NCO's/Sanitäts-Unterführer

Another organizational chart of the SS-FHA, compiled in 1944, shows some alterations to the last:

CHIEF OF THE SS MAIN OPERATIONAL OFFICE/CHEF DES SS-FHA

Staff Department/Adjutantur
Ia Operations/Operation
Ib Supply/Nachschub
Ic Intelligence/Feindnachrichten
Id Training/Ausbildung

Transport Officer/Transportoffizier (TO)

Office/Amt I: General SS Headquarters/Kommandoamt der Allgemeinen SS
-"- II: Waffen-SS Headquarters/ Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS
-"- III: Personal Office of the SS Reich Leader - Counter-Intelligence Representative of the Waffen-SS/Persönliches Amt-Abwehrbeauftragter der Waffen-SS
-"- IV: Administration Office/Verwaltungs-Amt
-"- V: Personnel Office/Personal-Amt
-"- VI: Mounted & H. T. Matters/Reit- und Fahrwesen

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE A: Ordnance - Equipment & M. T. Matters/ Waffen - Gerät- und Kraftfahrwesen

-"- B: Officer & NCO training/Führer- und Unterführer-Ausbildung

-"- C: Inspectorates of the branches of the service/ Waffen-Inspektionen

Inspectorate/Inspektion 2: Infantry/Infanterie
-"- 3: Mounted & H.T.Matters/ Reit- und Fahrwesen
-"- 4: Artillery & Anti-aircraft/Artillerie und Flak
-"- 5: Engineers/Pioniere

Inspectorate/Inspektion	6:	M. T. & Armoured Troops/Kraftfahrer und Kraftfahr-Kampftruppen
-"-	7:	Signals Troops/Nachrichten-Truppen
-"-	8:	Ordnance/Waffen
-"-	9:	Mountain Troops/Gebirgstruppen

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE D: Medical Service/Sanitätswesen

Office/Amt	VII:	Supply Office/Nachschub-Amt
-"-	VIII:	Ordnance Office/Waffen-Amt
-"-	IX:	Procurement Office/Beschaffungs-Amt
-"-	X:	M. T. Matters/Kraftfahrwesen
-"-	XI:	Officer Training/Führer-Ausbildung
-"-	XII:	NCO Training/Unterführer-Ausbildung
-"-	XIII:	(Although these Offices were numbered, their functions are not recorded).
-"-	XVI:	

A final chart, from 1944/1945, serves to illustrate further changes and provides a list of the office heads:

Chief of the SS-FHA/Chef des SS-FHA			SS-Obergruppenführer Jüttner
Staff Department/Adjutantur[2] Section/Abteilung Ia		Command Group/Chefgruppe	
Office/Amt	I:	General SS/Allgemeine-SS	
-"-	II:	Waffen-SS Headquarters/Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS	SS-Obergruppenführer Meurer
-"-	III:	Personal Office of the SS Reich Leader/Persönliches Amt RF-SS	SS-Gruppenführer Heckenstaller
-"-	IV:	Administration Office/Verwaltungsamt[3]	SS-Obersturmbannführer Riedweg, later Spaarman
-"-	V:	Personnel Office/Personalamt	SS-Brigadeführer von Herff
-"-	VI:	Mounted & H. T. Matters/Reit- und Fahrwesen	SS-Brigadeführer Thiele
-"-	VII:	Supply Office/Nachschubamt	SS-Gruppenführer Lörner
Office/Amt	VIII:	Procurement Office/Beschaffungsamt	SS-Obergruppenführer Gartner
-"-	IX:	Ordnance Office/Waffenamt	SS-Obergruppenführer Kammler
-"-	X:	M. T. Matters/Kraftfahrwesen	SS-Brigadeführer Werlin
-"-	XI:	Officer Training/Führerausbildung	SS-Gruppenführer Jürs
-"-	XII:	NCO Training/Unterführerausbildung	SS-Brigadeführer Altvater-Mackensen
-"-	XIII:	Medical Supply/Ärztliche Versorgung	Medical Branch of the Waffen-SS/Amtsgruppe Sanitätswesen der Waffen-SS: SS-Obergruppenführer Gebhardt
-"-	XIV:	Dental Supply/Zahnärztliche Versorgung	
-"-	XV:	Troop Hygiene/Truppenhygiene	
-"-	XVI:	Pharmaceutical Supply/Pharmazeutische Versorgung	
-"-	XVII	Medical Statistics/Sanitäts-Statistik	

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS HANS JÜTTNER, CHIEF OF THE SS-FHA.

Arm-of-Service Inspectorates/Waffen-Inspektionen der Waffen-SS	
Cavalry/Kavallerie	SS-Gruppenführer Weber
Artillery/Artillerie	SS-Gruppenführer Hansen
Infantry/Infanterie	SS-Brigadeführer Grothman
Liaison Officer with the Wehrmacht/Verbindungsoffizier (Wehrmacht)	SS-Brigadeführer Prützmann
Liaison Officer with the Führer's HQ/Verbindungsoffizier (Führerhauptquartier)	SS-Obergruppenführer Hermann Fegelein

[2]There were four Staff Companies of the SS Main Operational Office (Stabskompanien der SS-FHA).

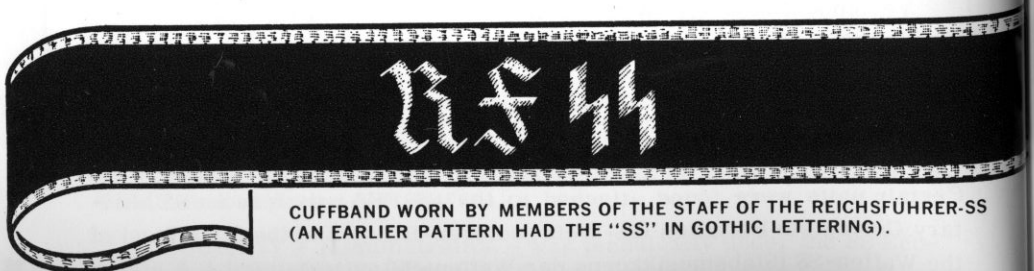
[3]Office IV - Administration - was technically under the SS Economic & Administrative Main Office.

Certain units were found attached to the SS-FHA, such as an SS Military Geologists Battalion (SS-Wehrgeologen-Btl.), and the Staff Band of the Waffen-SS (Stabsmusikkorps der Waffen-SS).

THE FIELD COMMAND POST OF THE SS REICH LEADER (FELDKOMMANDOSTELLE RF-SS)

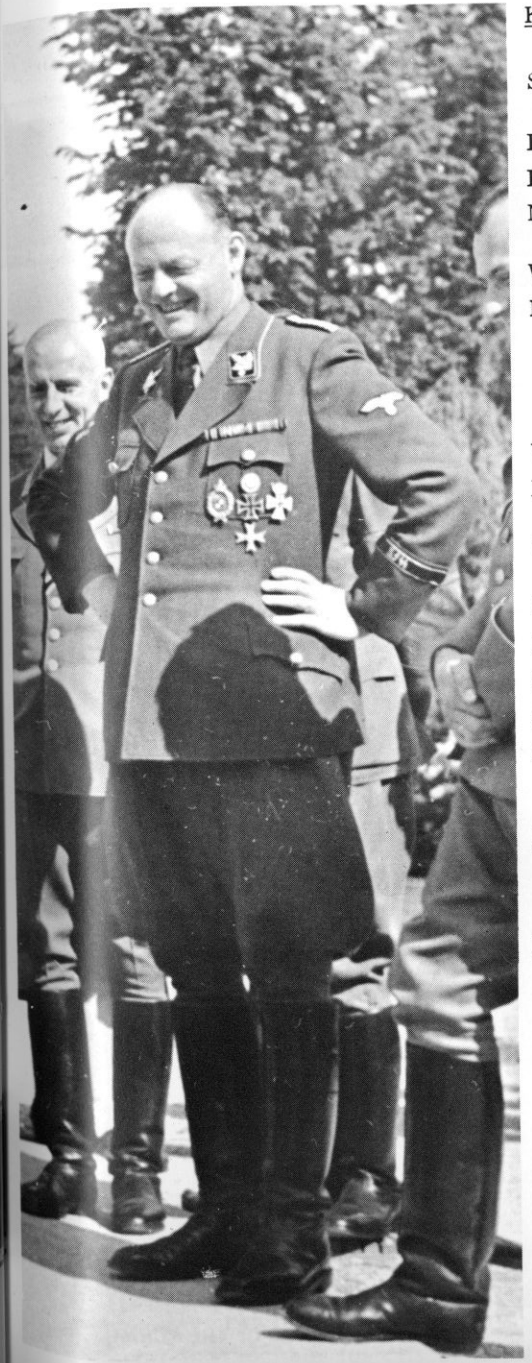
Heinrich Himmler was the Reich Leader of the entire SS, and although his duties can hardly be considered as those of a soldier, he was nevertheless titular commander-in-chief of the Waffen-SS. Behind the lines his everyday duties were administered by his Personal Staff Main Office (Hauptamt Persönlicher Stab RF-SS), which also dealt with honours and awards to Waffen-SS men. For the control of the Waffen-SS Himmler had his Headquarters Staff (Kommandostab RF-SS), which was located at his Field Command Post (Feldkommandostelle RF-SS), and was effectively the high command of the Waffen-SS.

REICHSFÜHRER-SS HEINRICH HIMMLER



CUFFBAND WORN BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE REICHSFÜHRER-SS (AN EARLIER PATTERN HAD THE "SS" IN GOTHIC LETTERING).

In 1941 the Headquarters Staff took control of mopping-up operations and consequently had various elements attached to it. Its resultant order-of-battle is given below:



AN SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER ON THE STAFF OF THE REICHSFÜHRER-SS.

KOMMANDOSTAB RF-SS
(Kdo.-Stab RF-SS)

Stabs-Komp. (incl. Kradmeldezug & Fliegerführer z.b.V.)

I. Flak-Abt. Kdo.-Stab RF-SS

II. Flak-Abt. Kdo.-Stab RF-SS

Nachr.-Kp. Kdo.-Stab RF-SS (became an Abteilung)

Wehrgeologen-Kp.

Nachschubdienste:

- Nachschubführer
- Werkstatt-Kp.
- etc.

Verwaltungsdienste

DRK Lazarett mit San.-Park und Krkw. Zg. (later 2 Krkw. Zg.)

Vet. Kp. mit Pferdelazarett und Vet. Park

Feldpostamt

Kriegsberichter-Zug

Feldgendarmerie-Kp.

SS-Begleit-Btl.

Sonder-Btl. RF-SS

Note 1: The HQ Staff, its history and organization will be dealt with in greater detail in a future volume in this series.

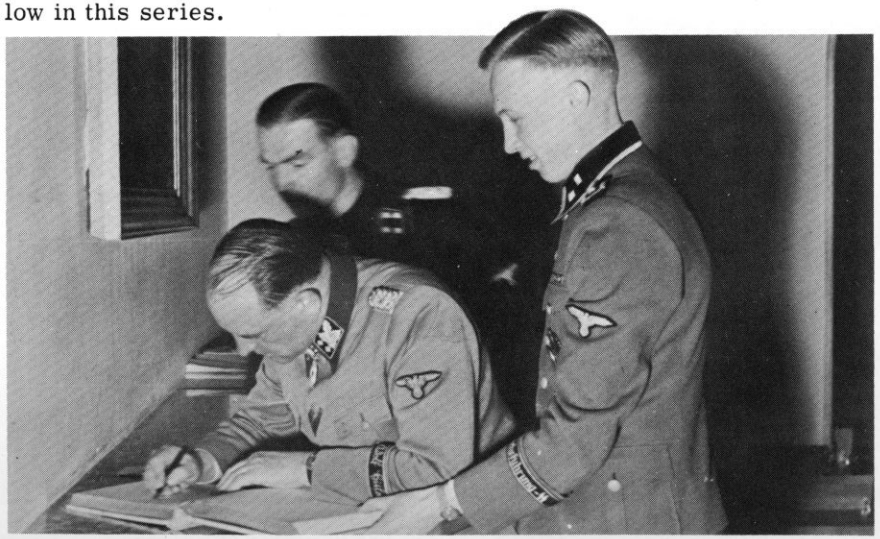
Note 2: For meanings of terms and abbreviations in this and all other orders-of-battle in this volume, see pages 50-51.

THE SS HIGH COMMAND (REICHSFÜHRUNG-SS)

Himmler's post of SS Reich Leader, his staff and the heads of the SS Main Offices together made up the SS High Command (Reichsführung-SS). In 1939, a cuffband with the inscription "Reichsführung-SS" (with the 'SS' expressed in runes) was introduced for officers and men attached to these Main Offices, and this cuffband replaced the various types worn previously.

CUFFBAND WORN BY OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE SS HIGH COMMAND.

In 1944, some of the corps troops of the Waffen-SS were remustered as SS army troops and were designated "Special Troops of the SS High Command" (Sondertruppen der Reichsführung-SS). Their numbers were brought up to a 500+ series by the addition of 400 and in theory they were liberated from their former parent corps and were to be used independently. In fact some proved indissoluble (such as signals, security units, etc.) and although these carried the 500+ numbers they remained with their corps (in some cases the old 100+ numbers were retained). In other cases, the corps commanders were unwilling to lose their units and insisted that these "Special Troops of the SS High Command" remained under their command. A full list of these units will be found in the volumes that follow in this series.



"SEPP" DIETRICH SIGNS DOCUMENTS HELD BY AN SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER OF THE SS HIGH COMMAND (NOTE MAX WÜNSCHE IN BACKGROUND).

THE SS ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE MAIN OFFICE (SS-WIRTSCHAFTS- UND VERWALTUNGS-HAUPTAMT)

Formed on February 1, 1942, the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office (SS-Wirtschafts- und Verwaltungshauptamt, or SS-WVHA) controlled the finances of the SS and administered the use of SS property, the concentration camps and supply installations. It was divided into branches and offices, of which only the most pertinent to the Waffen-SS are shown below:

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE A: Administration of Troops (Truppenverwaltung)

- Office/Amt AI: Budget (Haushaltsamt)
- -"- AII: Administration of Pay & Allowances (Kassen- und Besoldungswesen)
- -"- AIII: Legal Administration (Verwaltungsrechtswesen)
- -"- AIV: Auditing Office (Prüfungsamt)
- -"- AV: Personnel Section (Personalamt)

BRANCH/AMTSGRUPPE B: Supply, Billeting & Equipment of Troops (Truppenwirtschaft)

- Office/Amt BI: Rations (Verpflegungsamt)
- -"- BII: Clothing, Uniform & Personal Equipment (Kleiderkasse)
- -"- BIII: General Provision of Equipment & Stores for Billets & Accomodation (Unterkunftswirtschaft)
- -"- BIV: Raw Materials, Bulk Purchases, Foreign Currency (Rohstoffe und Beschaffung)
- -"- BV: Motor Transport, Machinery - Weapons & Supply (Verkehrswesen)

Three other branches existed, known as "C", "D" and "W", which looked after building works, concentration camps (which were placed under the WVHA on March 16, 1942), and economic undertakings respectively. This Main Office was led by SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Oswald Pohl. Pohl's deputies are reported as being SS-Obergruppenführer August Frank and SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Lörner. The Main Office was situated at Unter den Eichen 126-135, Berlin-Lichterfelde.

THE SS PERSONNEL MAIN OFFICE (SS-PERSONAL-HAUPTAMT)

Formed on June 1, 1939, from the Personnel Chancellery of the Personal Staff, the SS Personnel Main Office (SS-Personalhauptamt) was responsible for recording details of all SS officers, and regularly producing the officers' list of the SS ("Dienstalterliste der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP"). It contained two offices, one for officer personnel (Amt für Führerpersonalien), and the other for officer replacements (Amt für Führernachwuchs).

The SS Personnel Main Office was located at Wilmersdorfer Strasse 98-89, Berlin-Charlottenburg.

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS MAXIMILIAN VON HERFF. (HIS KNIGHT'S CROSS WAS WON ON JUNE 13, 1941, THEN AN OBERST IN THE ARMY AND COMMANDER OF AN INDEPENDENT KAMPFGRUPPE.)

NOTE:
In 1941, there was a special department for Waffen-SS personnel within the SS Personnel Main Office (Personalamt der Waffen-SS). This was subsequently placed under the SS-FHA.

CHIEFS:

6/1939 - 8/1942: SS-Obergruppenführer Walter Schmitt

8/1942 - 5/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Maximilian von Herff

THE SS RACE AND RESETTLEMENT MAIN OFFICE (SS-RASSE- UND SIEDLUNGSHAUPTAMT)

The SS Race and Resettlement Main Office (SS-Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt, or SS-RuSHA) was divided into seven offices, and looked after the ideological and racial purity of all SS members, including the Waffen-SS. As the war progressed, however, and high casualties drained all racially acceptable reserves, these demands were lowered, and even dropped altogether. With respect to the Waffen-SS, this Main Office controlled:

(a) authorisation for marriage
(b) lineage certificates
(c) information on SS war casualties
(d) Waffen-SS War Graves Offices[4]

In addition to the above, its resettlement scheme, by which SS members were promised areas of land to colonize in the conquered eastern territories, was particularly attractive to the soldiers of the Waffen-SS who fought, and saw their comrades die, on the Eastern Front.

This Main Office had a number of out-stations (Pflegestellen) which will be listed and dealt with in a later volume in this series.

CHIEFS: 12/1931 - 1938: SS-Obergruppenführer Walter Darré

1938 - 1942: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Günther Pancke

1942 - 1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Richard Hildebrand

[4]A list of these Waffen-SS War Graves Offices will appear in a later volume of this series.

GERMAN RECRUITING POSTER FOR THE WAFFEN-SS. (VOLUNTEER FOR THE WAFFEN-SS)

POSTER URGING "GERMANIC" PEOPLES TO JOIN THE WAFFEN-SS. (THE SAME TYPE OF BLOOD FIGHTS TOGETHER AGAINST THE SAME ENEMY— VOLUNTEERS FROM GERMANY, NORWAY, DENMARK, HOLLAND, FLANDERS JOIN THE WAFFEN-SS.)

RECRUITMENT FOR THE WAFFEN-SS

The SS Main Office was responsible for the entire recruiting programme of the SS, but the SS-FHA decided the general policy on recruiting and periodically issued directives. Service in the Waffen-SS was voluntary, but in fact from 1943 onwards, members of the Hitler Youth as well as others were subjected to a certain degree of pressure to join.

Inside Germany, each SS District (SS-Oberabschnitt) had a recruiting centre (Ergänzungsstelle der Waffen-SS), which carried the same name as the district and the Roman numeral of the military district (Wehrkreis), and was usually located at the latter's H.Q. town. Some of these recruiting centres also maintained branch offices outside Germany for the recruitment of racial Germans (Volksdeutsche).

In January 1945, the recruiting centres for the Waffen-SS in Germany were combined with those of the army, and the resulting joint centres (Ergänzungsstellen des Heeres und der Waffen-SS) in each military district had branch offices in all major German towns.

Outside Germany, the method of recruiting depended on the particular country in question. In those with a high degree of collaboration and where Nazi or Quisling parties had developed, the local collaborators were used. Otherwise, the German-controlled governments dealt with the matter, or

the German authorities reached agreement with the respective governments.

At first, recruiting outside Germany was carried on by a number of recruiting commands (Ersatzkommandos der Waffen-SS), which were to be found in the principal towns of the occupied countries. Later these were reorganized as recruiting inspectorates (Ersatzinspektionen der Waffen-SS) which controlled a number of recruiting commands. These commands were divided into branch offices (Nebenstellen), which in turn were split into enlistment centres (Werbestellen).

The basic recruiting booklet used by the Waffen-SS was called "Dich ruft die SS", which was translated into various other languages (e.g. the Dutch version was called "Een Loopbaan voor U - SS"). The press, both in Germany and the occupied countries, was full of propaganda reports from the SS war correspondents which glorified the achievements of the Waffen-SS front-line soldiers and urged readers to join.

Detailed lists of Waffen-SS recruiting centres, etc., will be found in future volumes of this series.

"DICH RUFT DIE SS" RECRUITING BOOKLET

TRAINING OF THE WAFFEN-SS

Before the creation of the SS-FHA in 1940, the SS Main Office controlled all training in the SS. Originally through the Inspectorate of the SS Junker Schools (Inspektion der SS-Junkerschulen) it saw to the training of officers and its Xth Office was in charge of physical training. When the SS-FHA was formed, however, it took over almost all Waffen-SS training. The SS-FHA's XIth Office controlled officer training through the SS Officer Schools (SS-Junkerschulen), and its XIIth Office the training of NCOs (through the SS-Unterführerschulen). These two offices were combined as Branch B (Amtsgruppe B - Ausbildung).

Once the SS Main Office had handed over Waffen-SS training to the SS-FHA it was left with only: ideological training; physical training and vocational training through its Branch C (Offices CI, CII and CIII respectively).

Full details of training methods, as well as studies of the different schools and training units, well be found in future volumes in this series.

WAFFEN-SS REPLACEMENT

The entire replacement system of the Waffen-SS was governed by the Reinforcement Section of the IInd Office of the SS-FHA (Abteilung 1e - Ersatzwesen - Amt II - Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS). The methods and full details of replacement units will be found in a later volume in this series.

Control of the Waffen-SS as a Military Force

The Waffen-SS was a military force of the Third Reich, although technically it never reached the status of the "fourth branch of the Wehrmacht".[5] Nevertheless, to all intents and purposes it paralleled the German Army in almost every respect, and in battle was subordinate to the Army High Command (O. K. H.) or Armed Forces High Command (O. K. W.). Just like the Army, its divisions could be grouped into corps, which in turn could be grouped into an army. Therefore, the higher formations of the Waffen-SS will be covered first, before describing the order-of-battle of the individual Waffen-SS divisions.

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[5] For arguments why this should be the case, see Hans Buchheim in "Anatomy of the SS State", page 273.

SS ARMY GROUPS AND ARMY (SS-ARMEEGRUPPEN UND ARMEE)

ARMY GROUP "STEINER" (Armeegruppe Steiner, Armee-Abteilung Steiner, 11. Armeegruppe Steiner)

This Army Group was established on January 28th, 1945, and marked one of the last desperate attempts by the leaders of the Third Reich to turn the tide of the war. It was controlled by a headquarters (variously reported as A. O. K. Steiner, Stab z. V. Steiner and Pz.-A. O. K. 11) named after its commander, Felix Steiner, and grouped together whatever units were available, both SS and otherwise. In April of 1945, Steiner was instructed to make an attack to try and dislocate the threatening Russian advance on Berlin. At the end of the war the Army Group was located at Eberswalde, and having been virtually obliterated, consisted of hardly more than its headquarters staff. Almost to the very last moment, Hitler waited for Steiner to rescue Berlin from the Soviets and so prolong the war which in reality had been lost long before.

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS FELIX STEINER.

The following divisions made up Army Group "Steiner": 4th Marine Division and those of the LVIth Armoured Corps (LVI. Panzer-Korps: 11. SS-Pz.-Div. "Nordland", 18. (SS?) Pz.-Gren.-Div., 20. Pz.-Gren.-Div., Pz.-Div. "Müncheberg", Luftwaffen Ausb.-Div., and part of the 9. Fallsch. Jg.-Division).

COMMANDER: 28/1/1945 - 5/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Felix Steiner

CHIEF OF STAFF: Oberst i. G. Ester

ARMY GROUP "SCHÖRNER" (Heeresgruppe "Schörner")

This Army Group was in fact part of the German Army proper and was first formed as Army Group South in 1941. In the spring of 1943 it was reconstituted and a year later was redesignated as Army Group North Ukraine. In September 1944 it was again redesignated Army Group A, and in November took over the control of the 10th, 18th and 20th SS divisions, plus a part of the 2nd.

COMMANDER: Generaloberst, later promoted to Generalfeldmarschall, Ferdinand Schörner

ARMY GROUP "UPPER RHINE" (Heeresgruppe "Oberrhein")

This Army Group was formed on December 2, 1944, and included XIVth SS Army Corps, XVIIIth SS Army Corps, 19th Army and Military District (Wehrkreis) V. The Army Group was dissolved on January 22, 1945, when Himmler took over command of Army Group "Vistula" and its elements went to Army Group G (Heeresgruppe G).

COMMANDERS: 2/12/1944 - 21/1/1945: Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler

21/1/1945 - 22/1/1945: SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS Paul Hausser

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Brigadeführer (later SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS) Werner Ostendorff

ARMY GROUP "VISTULA" (Heeresgruppe Weichsel)

Army Group "Vistula" was formed on January 25th, 1945, and initially had the 9th Army, 2nd Army, three hundred Panzer-Nahbekämpfungstrupps, "Gneisenau" and Volkssturm units of Military Districts II, III, XX and XXI. These were joined by the 4th SS Division, IIIrd SS Armoured Corps ("Nordland" and "Nederland" divisions) and later by the 21st Armoured Division, the 10th SS Division, the Führerbegleitbrigade, Führergrenadierbrigade, 27th SS Division, 28th SS Division, Gen.-Kdo. XXXIX Armoured Corps and Gen.-Kdo. XVIII Mountain Corps.

COMMANDERS: 25/1/1945 - 21/3/1945: Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler

22/3/1945 - 29/4/1945: Generaloberst Gotthard Heinrici

29/4/1945 - 1/5/1945: i. V. General der Infanterie von Tippelskirch

1/5/1945 - 8/5/1945: Generaloberst Student

CHIEFS OF STAFF: 25/1/1945 - 21/3/1945: SS-Gruppenführer Heinz Lammerding

22/3/1945 - 20/4/1945: Kinzel

22/3/1945 - 1/5/1945: von Trotha

1/5/1945 - 8/5/1945: Dethleffsen

6th SS ARMOURED ARMY (6. SS-Panzer-Armee)

The headquarters (Pz.-A. O. K. 6) was ordered on September 14, 1944, and the Army itself was formed in various locations on October 26,1944.[6] It was placed in charge of refitting armoured divisions withdrawn from France in preparation for new operations. These divisions were the "LAH", "Das Reich", "Hohenstaufen" and "Hitlerjugend" SS Armoured Divisions and the Pz.-Lehr-Division. Originally not an army of the Waffen-SS, it was numbered in the normal sequence of German armoured armies (of the Heer) and thus received the designation of "6th Armoured Army" (6. Panzer-Armee). In late 1944, it was in reserve in various locations,[7] and in December of that year was responsible for the northern wing of the Ardennes counter-offensive. Hitler ordered it to withdraw on January 8, 1945, and some days later it was ordered to refit rapidly (i. e. the four armoured SS divisions listed above, which were grouped into the Ist and IInd SS Armoured Corps). This accomplished, the Army moved to Hungary and in early April was finally designated as part of the Waffen-SS. Upon its entry into the Waffen-SS, however, it retained its original number and was thus designated as the 6th SS Armoured Army (6. SS-Panzer-Armee). On April 13, 1945, the Army was driven out of Vienna and it capitulated west of the Austrian capital in May, 1945.

This Army was planned to contain the Ist and IInd SS Armoured Corps, the Panzer-Lehr-Division and Skorzeny's 150th Armoured Brigade, but did in fact, by April 1945, consist of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 12th SS divisions and the Heer's 6th Panzer and 356th Infantry Divisions. The Army also had a signals regiment (SS-Führungs-Nachr.-Rgt. (mot) 500) and other army troops.

COMMANDER: 10/1944 - 5/1945: SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Panzer-Generaloberst der Waffen-SS Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Fritz Kraemer

SS-OBERST-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND PANZER-GENERALOBERST DER WAFFEN-SS "SEPP" DIETRICH

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERAL-MAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS FRITZ KRAEMER (HERE AN SS-OBERFÜHRER)

[6]Enschede, Borken, Haltern, Hamm, Münster and Rheine.

[7]Köln, Rheydt, Jülich, Düren, Münstereifel, Ahrweiler and Bonn.

SS CORPS (SS-KORPS, SS-PANZER-KORPS, SS-GEB.-KORPS, SS-ARMEE-KORPS)

During the course of the Second World War the Waffen-SS established a number of SS corps headquarters, with their respective corps troops, to provide the necessary tactical leadership for its field divisions. At first, specific SS divisions were allocated to make up each corps, and the rule was two divisions per corps. In practice, however, the corps were made up of whatever was available, and with the demands of war and the constant movement of mobile divisions, SS corps could be found comprising purely SS, a combination of SS and army, or just army elements.

SS corps were numbered in Roman numerals. Each had certain service and security units, some of which were indissoluble from it. These included a signals battalion, a military police troop, a security company and a field post office. The number of corps troops varied from corps to corps, and generally those corps formed first were more richly endowed. The following is a list of those elements most usually found within a corps:

SS-Korpskommando	Corps H. Q.
SS-Kartenstelle K (mot)	motorized map office
SS-Fla.-Kp.	A. A. company
SS-Korps Nachr.-Abt. (mot)	motorized corps signals battalion
SS-Kraftfahr Kp.	M. T. company
SS-Kraftfahrzeug Inst.-Kp.	M. T. repair company
SS-Kr. Kw. Zug	M. T. ambulance section
SS-F. P. A. (mot)	motorized field post office
SS-FG-Trupp (mot)	motorized military police troop
SS-Korps Sich.-Kp.	corps security company

In addition, some SS corps had other units designed for the immediate use of the corps itself, rather than for detachment to divisions, and these varied from one corps to another.

The corps troops were originally designated as being "of the.... SS Corps" ("der.... SS-Korps") or had the word "Corps" ("Korps") included in their title, but these were later numbered by adding the parent corps' number to a base of 100 and expressing the result in Arabic numerals. For example, the SS Corps Security Company of the Ist SS Armoured Corps was designated "Korps Sich.-Komp. 101".

In 1944, some of the corps troops were re-mustered as SS Army Troops (Führungstruppen) or Special Troops of the SS High Command (Sondertruppen des Reichsführung-SS). On October 11 of the same year the numbering of these units was altered by the addition of 400, so bringing them

up to the 500+ series. As Special Troops of the SS High Command they were not supposed to have been attached to any specific corps, but were to be used when and where required. Certain of these former corps troops did, by necessity, remain behind with their old corps, such as signals and security units and these were probably not renumbered. In other cases it is believed that corps commanders who were unwilling to lose control of such units insisted that they remain behind. Such units that received the 500+ numbers will only be listed as corps troops in the lists that follow where they are known to have served as such, and have been found in original documents. A complete summary of the Special Troops of the SS High Command will be found in a later volume in this series.

Properly-constituted SS corps numbered in Roman numerals should not be confused with the specially created formations also called "SS Corps" (e.g. Degrelle's SS-Korps "West", (SS)-Korps "Gille", and (SS)-Korps "Oder"). These were created in the latter stages of the war and were of a completely different nature, like SS battle groups (SS-Kampfgruppen), but larger.

No special insignia was worn by members of the SS corps staffs and corps troops.[8] Naturally, members of those elements comprising the corps retained their original insignia.

In the studies of the SS corps that follow, corps troops are only listed that have been found in original documents or from reliable sources by the authors. This explains the incompleteness, inconsistency and lack of standardisation in terminology. The chiefs of staff listed are principally those as on March 1, 1945.

[8] Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS, SS-FHA, October 22, 1944, indicates that no special cuffbands were worn by members of the staffs, corps troops or component divisions and units.

Ist SS ARMOURED CORPS "BODYGUARD ADOLF HITLER" (I. SS-Panzer-Korps "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler")

The Ist SS Armoured Corps was established in Germany by an order of the SS-FHA dated July 27, 1943.[9] It was on the southern sector of the eastern front during the summer of 1943, and transferred to Belgium in early 1944, where it consisted of the 1st and 12th SS Armoured Divisions. It was engaged in the Normandy battle starting in June 1944 and the subsequent withdrawal from France, and was then refitted under the 6th SS Armoured Army in north-west Germany in the autumn. It took part in the Ardennes counteroffensive in December, withdrawing in January 1945, and finally served on the eastern front and capitulated west of Vienna in May 1945.

From one time to another this corps consisted of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 12th and 17th SS divisions, as well as elements of the Wehrmacht (incl. 11. Fallschirmjäger-Div., 117. Jäger-Div., 6. Inf.-Div., Führerbegleitdivision and Werfer-Brigade 7).

Corps troops were numbered 101 and included the following:

Fliegerstaffel

SS-Korpskartenstelle

schw. SS-Pz.-Abt. 101/501

SS-Arko I

SS-Art.-Abt. 101; renamed schw. SS-(Korps-) Art.-Abt. 501

SS-Flak-Abt. 101

SS-Fla-Kp.

SS-Werfer-Brigade I. SS-Korps "Leibstandarte-SS A. H." (staff formed April 1945)

SS-Werfer-Abt. 101/501

SS-Vielfachwerferbatterie (mot) 522

SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 101/501

s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 101/501

SS-Wehrgeologen-Btl. 101

SS-Korps-Nachschub-Truppen 101 (generic term for Korpsnachschubführer and elements it controlled, e.g. 1. u. 2. SS-Kraftfahr-Kp. 101, SS-Kraftfahrzeug-Werkstatt-Kp. 101 - which later reclassified as Kraftfahrparktruppen -, SS-Bekleidungsinst.-Kp. (mot) 101, SS-Wirtschafts-Kp. (mot) 101)

SS-Korps-San.-Abt. 101 (later broken up into its constituent elements)

SS-Feldlazarett 501

[9] Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. I. SS-Pz.-Korps "Leibstandarte", SS-FHA, Kdo.-Amt d. W.-SS, Org. Tgb. Nr. 958/43 g. Kdos., July 27, 1943.

SS-KrKw.-Zug 501
SS-F.P.A. (mot) 101
SS-K.B.-Kp. (mot)
SS-FG-Kp. (Trupp) (mot) 101
SS-Korps-Sich.-Kp. 101
SS-Feld-Ers.-Brig. Gen.-Kdo. I. SS-Pz.-Korps/101

AUGUST 6, 1944: COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE 1ST. SS PANZER CORPS "LEIBSTANDARTE ADOLF HITLER", SS-OBERST-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALOBERST DER WAFFEN-SS "SEPP" DIETRICH RECEIVES THE DIAMONDS TO HIS KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE IRON CROSS FROM ADOLF HITLER.

1st SS PANZER CORPS SYMBOL (UNCONFIRMED)

The Corps' vehicle identification symbol was reported as the "Dietrich" key of the "LAH", crossed with a Wolfsangel.[10] The crossed swords in the design symbolized those added to Dietrich's Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS HERMANN PRIESS

COMMANDERS:[11] 27/7/1943 - 24/10/1944: SS-Obergruppenführer und Panzergeneral der Waffen-SS Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich

24/10/1944 - 1945: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Hermann Priess

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Sturmbannführer Albert Stückler

IInd SS ARMOURED CORPS (II. SS-Panzer-Korps)

The headquarters for this Corps (SS-Generalkommando (mot)) was ordered by Hitler on May 13, 1942, authorized on the 28th,[12] and placed under Paul Hausser. The Corps itself was ordered on July 9, 1942 and formed in Germany. It was transferred to northern France later that month to control the SS infantry divisions reforming as armoured divisions after having been on the eastern front. Its HQ was redesignated as "SS-Generalkommando (Panzer)" on June 1, 1942. At the beginning of 1943, the Corps was in the West and was transferred to the southern sector of the eastern front in January. There it achieved distinction in stemming the Soviet offensive and recapturing Kharkov and Belgorod in the following March. After these successes, the Corps' three divisions (1st, 2nd and 3rd SS) headed the summer offensive in the central sector of the eastern front. This attack was at first successful, but had to be abandoned due to the strong Soviet resistence. A further reason was the delicate situation in Italy, for Hitler anticipated the fall of Mussolini and wished to send the Corps to strengthen his Fascist regime. In fact, Mussolini was deposed on July 25, 1943, but although Hitler ordered the IInd SS Armoured Corps

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[10] Der Freiwillige, April, 1966.

[11] Georg Keppler commanded this Corps for a short time in 1944 when "Sepp" Dietrich took charge of the 6. Panzer-Armee.

[12] Aufstellung eines SS-Generalkommandos, SS-FHA, May 28, 1942.

to transfer to northern Italy on the same day, only the "Leibstandarte" went while the 2nd and 3rd SS divisions remained behind in the east. In the autumn of 1943, the Corps was upgraded to the status of an SS Armoured Army and numbered the 1st (1. SS-Panzer-Armee), but this was only a temporary measure and soon it reverted to its original corps status.

The Corps was in France in December 1943 and in April 1944 returned to the eastern front at Tarnopol. At that time it consisted of the 9th and 10th SS divisions. In June 1944, it returned to France and took part in the Normandy battle and the subsequent withdrawal from that country. While consisting of the 2nd and 9th SS divisions, remnants broke out of the Falaise gap in mid-August.

In the autumn of 1944, the Corps was refitted under the 6th SS Armoured Army in northwestern Germany, and in December took part in the Ardennes counteroffensive. It withdrew in January 1945, with the disguised designation of "Ausbildungsstab Süd" and transferred once again to the eastern front. The IInd SS Armoured Corps capitulated west of Vienna in May 1945.

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS PAUL HAUSSER

At various times, this Corps consisted of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th SS divisions. Its corps troops were numbered 102 and included:

Fliegerstaffel
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 102
s. Pz.-Abt. G.-Kdo. II. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Pz.-Abt. 102/schw. SS-Pz.-Abt. 502
Arko II. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Arko 102
SS-Art.-Abt. 102
1. u. 2. SS-Gr.W.Kp. 102
SS-Fla-Kp. 102

SS-Werfer-Abt. Generalkommando II. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Werfer-Abt. 102
Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 400 (mot) (Note: "400" is an army number)
SS-Wehrgeologen-Kp. (mot)
1. u. 2. SS-Kraftfahr-Kp. 102
SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Kp. 102
SS-Werkstatt-Kp. 102
SS-San.-Abt. 102
SS-F.P.A. 102
SS-K.B.-Kp.
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 102
SS-Sich.-Kp. 102
Rekr. Depot II. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Feld-Ers.-Brig. I
SS-Karstwehr-Btl. (fo ned November 15, 1942)

2nd SS PANZER CORPS SYMBOL (UNCONFIRMED)

COMMANDERS: 1/6/1942 - 28/6/1944: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS (later SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS) Paul Hausser

10/7/1944 - 5/1945: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS, promoted 1/8/1944 to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS, Wilhelm "Willi" Bittrich

CHIEFS OF STAFF: SS-Obersturmbannführer Baldur Keller
Major i.G. Schiller(?)

NOTE:

Matthias Kleinheisterkamp commanded the III. SS-Korps for a short time.

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS "WILLI" BITTRICH

IIIrd (GERMANIC) SS ARMOURED CORPS (III. (Germanisches) SS-Panzer-Korps)

This Corps was only in the planning stage in early March 1943, although one report states that it was ordered as early as February 30, 1943. Its staff and corps troops, however, were established by an order dated April 19 of that year with effect from April 15.[13] It was intended to comprise of the "Wiking" and "Nordland" divisions of the SS (together with "Nederland" regiment), but in practice consisted of whatever elements were given to it. These were numerous and varied, and the following is a partial listing:

Waffen-SS: 5th, 10th, 11th, 20th, 23rd ("Nederland"), 27th and 28th divisions; SS Brigade "Nederland" and battle groups "Rehmann" and "Gross".

Wehrmacht: Special Employment Division (Division z. b. V.) 300; 11th and 225th Infantry Divisions; 9th and 10th Luftwaffe Field Divisions; 25th Parachute Regiment; Führer-Begleit- and Führer-Grenadier- Divisions; battle groups "Küste", "Berlin", "Wagner" and "Graf Strachwitz"; and the 502nd Heavy Armoured Battalion (schw. Heeres-Pz.-Abt. 502).

From September to December of 1944, the Corps was in Croatia, on the Latvian coast in January 1945, and surrendered at the capitulation near Mecklenburg.

Corps troops were numbered 103 and included:

Fliegerstaffel
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 103
s. Pz.-Abt. G.-Kdo. III. SS-Pz.-Korps/schw. SS-Pz.-Abt. 103/503
SS-Arko III. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Flak-Abt. 103
1. u. 2. Fla-Kp. G.-Kdo. III. SS-Pz.-Korps
Werfer-Abt. G.-Kdo. III. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Werfer-Abt. 103/503
SS-Vielfachwerferbatterie 521
K. N. A. III. germ. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 3/103; finally SS-Pz.-(Korps-) Nachr.-Abt. 103
SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 103/s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 503
SS-Wehrgeologen-Kp.
1. u. 2. SS-Kraftfahr-Kp. 103
SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Zug
SS-Bekl.-Inst.-Kp.
SS-San.-Abt. 103
SS-San.-Kp. 503
SS-Feldlazarett 503

[13] Aufstellung des Germ. SS-Panzerkorps, SS-FHA, April 19, 1943.

SS-F. P. A. (mot) 103
SS-K. B.-Kp.
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 103
SS-Korps-Sich.-Kp. 103
SS-Sturm-Kp. 103
SS-Pflegestelle 156/RuSHA

The Corps' vehicle identification symbol was the rounded swastika previously used by the "Wiking" division.[14]

3rd SS PANZER CORPS SYMBOL

COMMANDERS:

30/2/1943 - 30/10/1944:	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS (promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS on 1/7/1943) Felix Steiner
30/10/1944 - 12/2/1945:	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Georg Keppler
1/1945 - 3/1945:	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Unrein
3/1945 - 1945:	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Joachim Ziegler

CHIEFS OF STAFF: SS-Obersturmbannführer Sporn
SS-Standartenführer Ziegler
SS-Obersturmbannführer von Bockelberg.

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS GEORG KEPPLER

[14] SS Germansk Budstikke 1943, Nr. 3.

IVth SS ARMOURED CORPS (IV. SS-Panzer-Korps)

The IVth SS Armoured Corps was established by an order dated June 1, 1943, which was amplified by another of August 5, 1943.[15] The Corps was formed at Poitiers, France, to control the SS armoured divisions forming at the time. By an SS-FHA order dated June 30, 1944,[16] it absorbed the VIIth SS Armoured Corps, and took over its staff and corps troops which were renumbered from 107 to 104. Corps troops of the VIIth Corps having thus been used for the IVth resulted in some of the latter's becoming superfluous. Consequently, these were used as new corps troops for a reformed VIIth SS Corps and were renumbered from 104 to 107 (these included SS-Nachr.-Abt. 104 and SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 104).

In August 1944, the Corps was transferred to the central sector of the eastern front, where it consisted of the 3rd and 5th SS armoured divisions and took part in the defence of Warsaw. It transferred to Hungary in the following December and participated in the attempt to relieve the encircled Budapest garrison, which in fact failed. In January 1945, it was engaged in southwestern Hungary and eventually capitulated in May 1945, west of Vienna.

From one time to another, this Corps consisted of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 9th, 12th and 16th SS Divisions, parts of the Ist and IInd SS Corps and Magyar troops, the Heer's 19th Panzer Division and the 96th and 711th Divisions.

Corps troops were numbered 104 and included:

Fliegerstaffel
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 104
s. SS-Pz.-Abt. G.-Kdo. IV. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Pz.-Abt. 104
Arko IV. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Art.-Abt. 104/504
1. u. 2. Fla-Kp. IV. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Fla-Kp. 104/SS-Flak-Abt. 104
Werfer-Abt. G.-Kdo. IV. SS-Pz.-Korps/SS-Werfer-Abt. 104/504
SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 104/504
s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 104/504
SS-Wehrgeologen-Einsatzzug
SS-(Kfz.-) Inst.-Kp. 104
SS-Bekl.-Inst.-Kp. 104

[15] Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. IV. SS-Pz.-Korps, SS-FHA, August 5, 1943.

[16] Gen.-Kdos. IV. und VII. SS-Pz.-Korps, SS-FHA, June 30, 1944.

SS-San.-Abt. 104
SS-San.-Kp. 504
SS-Feldlazarett 504
SS-Krkw.-Zug 504
SS-F. P. A. (mot) 104
SS-K. B.-Kp.
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 104/504
SS-Korps-Sich.-Kp. 104

COMMANDERS: 10/6/1943 - 31/8/1943: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei Alfred Wünnenberg

6/8/1944 - 1945: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS (promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS on 9/11/1944) Herbert Otto Gille

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Sturmbannführer Fritz Rentrop (missing in Hungary in February 1945)

SS-Obersturmbannführer Manfred Schönfelder

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS GILLE

Vth SS VOLUNTEER MOUNTAIN ARMY CORPS/Vth SS MOUNTAIN CORPS/ Vth SS VOLUNTEER MOUNTAIN CORPS (V. SS-Freiw.-Geb.-Armeekorps/V. SS-Geb.-Korps/V. SS-Freiw.-Geb.-Korps)

The headquarters for this Mountain Corps was established on July 8, 1943.[17] The Corps itself was formed in Yugoslavia in the summer of 1943 and was continuously engaged against partisans. It was transferred in 1944 and held a portion of the old German-Polish frontier. It capitulated in May 1945 in the Berlin area.

The Vth SS Corps was established as a Volunteer Mountain Army Corps, although this designation changed at least twice.[18] It was planned to be made up of the 7th SS Mountain Division and regular Army units, but at various times contained the 7th, 13th and 32nd SS Divisions (one questionable source also lists the 21st, 35th and 36th SS Divisions), as well as the 118th Jäger-Division, 181st Division, 369th German-Croat Division, Divisional Staff 391, "Regener" Division and others.

Corps troops were numbered 105 and included:

Fliegerstaffel
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 105
Pz.-Abt. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/SS-Pz.-Abt. 105/505
SS-Pz.-Kp. 105
Stu.-Gesch.-Abt. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/SS-Stu.-Gesch.-Abt. 105
Arko V. SS-Geb.-Korps
Art.-Abt. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/schw. SS-Art.-Abt. 105/505
Flak-Abt. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/SS-Korps-Flak-Abt. 105/505
Werfer-Abt. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/SS-Werfer-Abt. 105
SS-Werfer-Abt. 500
SS-Werfer-Bttr. 521
K. N. A. G.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps/SS-(Geb.-) Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 105/505
s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot)
SS-(Pz.-) Aufkl.-Abt. 105/505
SS-Wehrgeologen-Btl. 105
Kradschützen-Btl. V. SS-Korps
SS-Pferde-Transp.-Kol. 105
SS-Korps-Nachschubführer

[17] Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps, SS-FHA, July 8, 1943.

[18] Confusion has been made in the past with this Corps and the XI. SS-A. K.

SS-Nachschub-Rgt. (mot) 105
SS-Nachschub-Kp. (mot) 105
SS-Krfr.-Kp. 105
1. u. 2. SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Kp. 105
SS-Bekl.-Inst.-Kp. (mot) 105
SS-Korps-San.-Abt. 5
SS-San.-Kp. (mot) 105/505
SS-KrKw.-Zug 505
SS-Vet.-Unters.-St. 105
SS-Korps-Pferdelazarett 105
SS-F. P. A. (mot) 105
SS-K. B.-Kp. (mot) 105
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 105
SS-Korps-Sich.-Kp. 105
Kraftfahrschule des Gen.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps
SS-Karstwehr-Btl.
SS-Sturm-Btl. V. SS-Geb.-Korps

COMMANDERS: 21/4/1943 - 21/9/1944: (killed) SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS (promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS on 21/6/1943) Artur Phleps

2/1945 - 3/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger

3/1945 - 5/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei Friedrich Jeckeln

CHIEFS OF STAFF: SS-Obersturmbannführer Baldur Keller
Oberstleutnant Hans Müller

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS ARTUR PHLEPS

VIth (LATVIAN) SS VOLUNTEER ARMY CORPS/VIth (LATVIAN) NON-GERMANIC ARMY CORPS OF THE SS (VI. SS-Freiw.-Armeekorps (Lettisches)/VI. Waffen-Armeekorps der SS (Lettisches))

The headquarters of the above Corps was established by an SS-FHA order dated October 8, 1943,[19] to control the Latvian divisions of the Waffen-SS. The Corps itself was formed at Grafenwöhr and was continuously engaged on the northern sector of the eastern front. It was reported to have been on the Latvian coast in January 1945 and it capitulated at Courland.

In theory, this Corps consisted only of the Latvian divisions of the Waffen-SS (i.e. the 15th and 19th), but it is believed that it also contained the 4th SS Police Division for a time, as well as the 9th Infantry Division, Gruppe Generalleutnant Henze, the 11th, 24th, 83rd and 218th Divisions.

Corps troops were numbered 106 and included:

Gen.-Kdo.
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot)
SS-Pz.-Jg.-Abt. 506
SS-Flak-Abt. 106/506
SS-Fla-Kp. VI. SS-Freiw.-Korps
SS-Werfer-Abt. 506
SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. VI. SS-Korps/106 (mot)
s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 106/506
SS-Pio.-Kp. VI. SS-Korps
SS-Krfr.-Kp.
SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Zug
SS-San.-Kp.
SS-Feldlazarett 506
SS-KrKw.-Zug 506
SS-F.P.A. (mot)
SS-FG-Trupp (Kp.) (mot) 106
SS-Sich.-Kp. (mot)/SS-Korps-Begl.-Kp. (?)
SS-Lehr-Btl. VI. SS-Korps
Waffen-Gren.-Rgt. 106 (lett. Nr. 7)

COMMANDERS: 8/10/1943 - 11/6/1944: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei Karl von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch

21/7/1944 - 25/7/1944: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Karl von Treuenfeld

[19] Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. VI. SS-Freiw.-Korps, SS-FHA, Amt II, Org. Abt. Ia/II, Tgb. Nr. 1471/43 g. Kdos., October 8, 1943.

25/7/1944 - 20/5/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei Walter Krüger

CHIEFS OF STAFF: Oberstlt. i.G. Helmut Ziervogel
SS-Standartenführer Heilman

VIIth SS ARMOURED CORPS (VII. SS-Panzer-Korps)

The headquarters for this Corps was ordered on October 3, 1943, and was officially absorbed by the IVth SS Armoured Corps by an order dated June 30, 1944.[20]

Corps troops were numbered 107 until absorption, when they were renumbered 104 to become corps troops for the IVth Corps. This process produced superfluous units within that Corps, however, and these were consequently used to become new corps troops for the VIIth. In this way, units originally numbered 104 were renumbered 107. The corps troops included:

Fliegerstaffel
SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 107
SS-Pz.-Abt. 107
Arko VII. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Fla-Kp. 107
SS-Werfer-Abt. 107/104
SS-Nachr.-Abt. 107 (ex 104)
s. SS-Beob.-Bttr.
SS-Korps-Nachschubführer
SS-Bekl.-Inst.-Kp. (mot)
SS-San.-Abt. 107
SS-Feldlazarett 507
SS-KrKw.-Zug 507
SS-F.P.A. (mot) 107
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 107
SS-Sich.-Kp.

COMMANDER: 1/5/1944 - 20/6/1944: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Matthias Kleinheisterkamp

NOTE:

One source suggests that this Corps contained the two SS Police Divisions (4th and 35th) but this is believed unlikely.

[20] Gen.-Kdos. IV. und VII. SS-Pz.-Korps, SS-FHA, June 30, 1944

VIIIth SS CAVALRY CORPS (VIII. SS-Kavallerie-Korps)

This Corps was officially listed on March 1, 1945, indicating that it was planned, but never came into existence due to the loss of the 8th and 22nd Cavalry Divisions, which together would have constituted it. This report is questionable, however, as both of these SS Cavalry Divisions had already disappeared at Budapest by that time.

IXth CROAT NON-GERMANIC MOUNTAIN CORPS OF THE SS/IXth SS ARMY CORPS (IX. Waffen-Geb.-Korps der SS (Kroatisches)/IX. SS-Armee-Korps)

The headquarters of this Corps was ordered on May 29th 1944, with effect from June 1, and the Corps itself was formed in the Balkans of the newly-created Croat SS divisions. It was consequently engaged against partisans, but in late 1944 was transferred to Hungary where it defended Budapest in December 1944 and January 1945. 45,000 men of the Corps were trapped in the city and after an unsuccessful attempt to relieve them by the IVth SS Armoured Corps, they were forced to surrender.

The IXth SS Corps was originally intended to comprise the two Croat SS divisions (i.e. 13th "Handschar" and 23rd "Kama"), but in fact it later contained the 8th and 22nd SS divisions, as well as Pz.-Gren.-Div. "Feldherrnhalle", the 13th Armoured Division and Battle Group "Dörner".

Corps troops were numbered 109, and the principal of these were taken from the "Handschar" Division by an SS-FHA order dated September 24, 1944. They included:

SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot)
SS-Pz.-Jg.-Abt. 509
SS-Geb.-Art.-Rgt. 509
SS-Flak-Abt. 509
Nachr.-Abt. Wa. (Geb.) A.K./SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. (mot) 109
SS-Aufkl.-Abt. 509
SS-Geb.-Pio.-Btl. 509
SS-Krfr.-Kp.
SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Zug
SS-Feldlazarett 509
SS-KrKw.-Zug 509
SS-F.P.A. (mot)
SS-FG-Trupp (mot)
SS-Korps-Sich-Kp. (mot)

COMMANDERS:[21] Summer 1944 - early 12/1944: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS K. G. Sauberzweig

early 12/1944 - 11/2/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Karl von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch

CHIEF OF STAFF: Oberstlt. i.G. Lindemann

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS K.G. SAUBERZWEIG

Xth SS ARMY CORPS (X. SS-Armee-Korps)

This Corps' headquarters was formed in either late 1944 or late January 1945 from the Staff of the Partisan Warfare Formations of the Police (Stab der Bandenkampfverbände der Polizei). It controlled the 163rd and 314th Infantry Divisions, the 5th and 8th Jäger Divisions and Divisional Staff 402. The corps troops should have been numbered 110 (a Korps-Nachr.-Abt. and a Nachschub-Kp. are reported).

COMMANDERS: 1/1945 - 10/2/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski

10/2/1945 - 4/3/1945: Generalleutnant Günther Krappe (Army/Heer)

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Standartenführer und Oberst der Schutzpolizei Golz (or Gölz)

[21] An unsupported reference to Kammerhöfer being the Corps' first commander is found in Duprat's Histoire des SS.

XIth SS ARMOURED CORPS/XIth SS ARMY CORPS (XI. SS-Panzer-Korps/ XI. SS-Armeekorps)

This Corps was the Gen.-Kdo. V. A. K., which had been taken over from the Army by an order dated July 24, 1944.[22] It was reported in southern Poland in December 1944.

It controlled a variety of Wehrmacht divisions, including the 78th, 96th, 169th, 208th, 545th (Volksgrenadier) and 712nd Infantry Divisions; the 20th, 25th and "Kurmark" Panzergrenadier Divisions, and the 9th Parachute Division. Its corps troops were numbered 111 and included:

SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 111 (ex 405)
schw. SS-Pz.-Abt. 511
Arko XI. SS-A. K./SS-Arko 111 (ex 149)
SS-Fla-Kp.
SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 111 (ex 45)
1. SS-Krfr.-Kp. 111
2. SS-Krfr.-Kp. 111 (ex 405)
SS-Werkstatt-Kp. 111 (ex 405)
SS-San.-Kp.
SS-KrKw.-Zug
SS-Vet.-Kp. 515
SS-F. P. A. 111 (ex 405)
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 111 (ex 405)
SS-Korps-Sich.-Kp. (mot)

COMMANDER: 7/1944 - 5/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Matthias Kleinheisterkamp

CHIEF OF STAFF: SS-Standartenführer Gerhard Giese

XIIth SS ARMY CORPS (XII. SS-Armee-Korps)

Rebuilt from a badly mauled corps HQ of the Army, the HQ of this Corps was established by an order dated August 1, 1944.[23] The Corps appeared on the western front in the autumn of 1944. It controlled Army elements in the Aachen area, including the 59th and 176th Infantry Divisions, the

[22] The Corps is believed to have been ordered on either July 30 or August 1 of 1944.

[23] Aufstellung von 2 Gen. Kdos. und Übernahme in die Waffen-SS, SS-FHA, August 7, 1944.

183rd Volksgrenadier-Division, the Panzer-Lehr-Division and elements of the 338th Division. Corps troops were numbered 112 and included:

SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 112
SS-Arko (mot)
SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 112
SS-Krfr.-Kp. 112
SS-Werkstatt-Zug 112
SS-F. P. A. 112
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 112

COMMANDERS:

1/8/1944 - 6/8/1944:	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Matthias Kleinheisterkamp
7/8/1944 - 17/10/1944:	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei und Waffen-SS Curt von Gottberg
18/10/1944 - 28/1/1945:	General der Infanterie[24] Günther Blumentritt (in temporary command)
29/1/1945 - 16/4/1945:	Generalleutnant (promoted to General der Artillerie on 20/4/1945) Eduard Crasemann

CHIEF OF STAFF: Oberst Ullrich Ulms

XIIIth SS ARMY CORPS (XIII. SS-Armee-Korps)

The headquarters of this Corps was rebuilt from a badly mauled one of the Army, and was established in August 1944 in Military District (Wehrkreis) VIII, possibly at Breslau.[25] It was transferred to the western front in the autumn of 1944 to take charge of units engaged in eastern France. It was in the Saar area in January 1945, where it consisted of the 17th SS Division and associated Army divisions. The Corps surrendered in the Alps while under command of the C-in-C West.

Apart from the 17th SS Division, this Corps is reported to have contained the 36th, 48th, 347th, 462nd, 553rd, 559th (Volksgrenadier) Infantry

[24] Also reported as an SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS.

[25] Aufstellung von 2 Gen. Kdos. und Übernahme in die Waffen-SS, SS-FHA, August 7, 1944.

Divisions; 11th Armoured Division and 106th Armoured Brigade; 3rd Panzergrenadier-Division; part of the 15th Panzergrenadier-Division and Volkswerferbrigade 7.

Corps troops were numbered 113 and included:

SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 113
SS-Arko XIII
SS-Flak-Abt. 513 (with the Corps at the end of the war)
SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 113
SS-Krfr.-Kp. 513
SS-Werkstatt-Zug 113/513 (more properly designated as SS-Krfz.-Inst.-Zug 513)
SS-San.-Kp.
SS-Feldlazarett 513
SS-KrKw.-Zug 513
SS-F.P.A. 113
SS-FG-Trupp (mot) 113/513

COMMANDERS: 7/8/1944 - 11/1944: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Hermann Priess

10/11/1944 - 5/1945: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Max Simon

CHIEFS OF STAFF: Oberst i.G. von Einem[26]

SS-Obersturmbannführer Ekkehard Albert

XIVth SS ARMY CORPS (XIV. SS-Armee-Korps)

This Corps was ordered to be organized on November 4, 1944, and was originally in the Upper Rhine area. In January 1945, it was reported on the western front near Strasbourg. It surrendered in Mecklenburg.

Corps troops should have been numbered 114, but in fact included:

SS-Pol.-Nachr.-Kp. 41 (which was numbered in the series of police signals companies)

COMMANDERS: 11/1944 - : SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski

1/3/1945 - : SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei Heinz Reinefarth

[26] Reported as an SS-Oberführer.

NOTE:

The Cossack Cavalry Corps was originally numbered XIVth. If by mistake or otherwise, it was renumbered the XVth on December 27, 1944, and it is under that number that it will be dealt with in this book.

XVth COSSACK CAVALRY CORPS (XV. Kosaken-Kavallerie-Korps)

By an SS-FHA order dated November 4, 1944,[27] the 1st Cossack Division (1. Kos.-Div.), its personnel and equipment were transferred into the Waffen-SS for the duration of the war. A headquarters for the XIVth Cossack Cavalry Corps, together with its two subordinate Cossack Cavalry Divisions (numbered the 1st and 2nd), was formed from this 1st Cossack Division and other Cossack units of all kinds from the Army, Waffen-SS and Police. The elements within this Corps, after its transfer into the Waffen-SS, were as follows:

Gen.-Kdo. XIV. Kos.-Kav.-Korps

1. Kos.-Kav.-Div.
   Don-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 1
   Sibir-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 2
   Kuban-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 4
2. Kos.-Kav.-Div.
   Kuban-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 3
   Don-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 5
   Terek-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 6

Later, the Corps formed a Plastun*-Brigade of two infantry regiments and a reconnaissance unit by using the Don Cossack Mounted Regiment 5 (Don-Kos.-Reiter-Rgt. 5) as a nucleus, the latter being reformed. This brigade was unnumbered and was intended to become a 3rd Cossack Division.

Corps troops were numbered 115 or 55, and units bearing the latter number are reported in 1944. This is unusual, as it is a number one would expect to find used for some of the corps troops of an Army corps numbered XV. While in the Waffen-SS, the Corps also contained the following units:

Korpskartenstelle 115
Art.-Rgt./1. Kos.-Kav.-Div. (also known as Kos.-Art. Rgt. 1, or 55)
K.N.A. (mot) 115

*Cossack Infantry

[27] Aufstellung des Gen.Kdos. XIV. Kos. Kav. Korps und 1. und 2. Kos. Kav. Div., SS-FHA, November 4, 1944.

Nachr.-Abt./1. Kos.-Kav.-Div. (also known as Kos.-Nachr.-Abt. 1, or 55)
Kos.-Aufkl.-Abt. 55
Pio.-Btl./2. Kos.-Kav.-Div. (also known as Kos.-Pio.-Btl. 1, or 55)
Kos.-Dinafü 55 (divisional supply commander)
Krfr.-Kp.
Kfz.-Inst.-Zug 115
Kos.-San.-Abt.
San.-Kp. (mot) 515
Feldlazarett 515
Vet.-Kp. 515
1. u. 2. SS-Vet.-Kp. 55 (both in the 1st Cossack Cavalry Division in 1944)
F.P.A. (mot)
Propagandazug
Begleitschwadron/Konvoi

Eventually a 3rd Cossack Cavalry Division was formed from the Plastun-Brigade, and it contained two Don Cossack regiments numbered the 7th and 8th. This brought the total strength of the Corps to 70,000 and on December 27, 1944, it was renumbered the XVth SS Cossack Cavalry Corps (XV. SS-Kos.-Kav.-Korps).

COMMANDER: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Helmuth von Pannwitz

NOTE:

For a study of the uniforms and insignia of the three Cossack Cavalry Divisions in the Waffen-SS see Volume 3 in this series.

XVth SS ARMY CORPS (XV. SS-Armee-Korps)

The XVth SS Army Corps was established in 1944 and comprised an unrecorded assortment of elements that it was able to gather together. Its corps troops would have been numbered 115, although only a signals battalion (SS-Nachr.-Abt. 115) has so far been identified.[28] Presumably it was decided to continue no further with this particular Corps when the XVth Cossack Cavalry Corps became a corps of the Waffen-SS on December 27, 1944.

This Corps was captured at Tamsweg. It then consisted of the signals battalion and is presumed to have had no Corps HQ.

[28] There is the possibility that the signals battalion could have been established to work with the XVth SS Cossack Cavalry Corps.

XVIth SS ARMY CORPS (XVI. SS-Armee-Korps)

A headquarters for this Corps was ordered on January 15, 1945, and its corps troops would have been numbered 116. By the first week of February, it included a Panzerjagdverband (anti-tank formation).

TEMPORARY COMMANDER: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Karl-Maria Demelhuber

XVIIth SS ARMY CORPS (XVII. SS-Armee-Korps)

It is considered most doubtful that this Corps ever existed, although a headquarters for it is reported to have been formed in 1944. If there was such a Corps, its corps troops would have been numbered 117.

XVIIIth SS ARMY CORPS (XVIII. SS-Armee-Korps)

This Corps is believed to have been ordered on January 15, 1945, and established on the 8th of the following month, although elements were identified as early as December 1944. It was reported on the western front in the Mulhouse area in January of 1945. The Corps surrendered in the Alps, under the C-in-C West.

The XVIIIth SS Army Corps comprised, from one time to another during the chaotic last months of the war, the 48th, 89th, 159th, 189th, 352nd, 716th and 805th Infantry Divisions; 1005th Infantry Brigade; Brigade "Bauer" and the Luftwaffen-Brigade "Notti". Its corps troops should have been numbered 118, although two that have been identified so far, and which appear below, carry a number in the Army's corps troops series:

Arko 499
Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 499 } from LXXXXIX A.K.
Beob.-Abt. 4

COMMANDERS: 1944 - 12/2/1945: SS-Gruppenführer, Generalleutnant der Polizei und Waffen-SS, Heinz Reinefarth
12/2/1945 - 4/1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Georg Keppler

CHIEFS OF STAFF: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Peter Hansen
Oberstleutnant Gerber

ARBITRARY SEQUENCE ADOPTED FOR ARMY AND CORPS TROOPS

[GERMAN (WITH ABBREVIATIONS) AND ENGLISH]

ABBREVIATION	GERMAN	ENGLISH
Gen. Kdo.	Generalkommando	G. H. Q.
Stab	Stab	Staff
Kradm.-	Kraftradmelde	motor cycle dispatch
Flg. Fhr. z. b. V.	Fliegerführer z. b. V.	air controller (director of air support)
Flg. St.	Fliegerstaffel	aircraft formation
K. Kart. St. (mot)	Korpskartenstelle (mot)	map office (motorized)
Pz.-(or Panz.-)	Panzer-	armoured
Pz.-Jäg.-(or Pz. Jg.)	Panzerjäger-	anti-tank
Stu.-Gesch.-	Sturmgeschütz-	assault gun
Harko	Höherer Artilleriekommandeur	officer commanding an army's artillery
Arko	Artilleriekommandeur	officer commanding a corps' artillery
Art.-	Artillerie-	artillery
Gr. (-)W.-	Granatwerfer	mortar
Flak-[29]	Flugabwehrkanone-	anti-aircraft (artillery guns of 7.5cm and over)
Fla-[29]	Flugabwehr-	anti-aircraft (infantry 2cm guns)
Werf.-	Werfer-	projector
Nachr.-	Nachrichten-	signals
K. N. A.	Korps-Nachrichten-Abteilung	corps signals battalion
Pz.-Nachr.-	Panzer-Nachrichten-	armoured signals
Beob.-	Beobachtungs-	observer
Pz.-Beob.-	Panzer-Beobachtungs-	armoured observer
Aufkl.-	Aufklärungs-	reconnaissance
Pio.-	Pionier-	engineers
Wehrgeol.-	Wehrgeologen-	military geologists
Kradschtz.-	Kradschützen-	motor cycle
Pferde-Transp.-	Pferde-Transport-	horse-drawn transport
Nachsch.-Trp.	Nachschubtruppen	supply troops
Nachsch. Fhr.	Nachschubführer	supply commander
Krfhr.-[30]	Kraftfahr-	motor transport

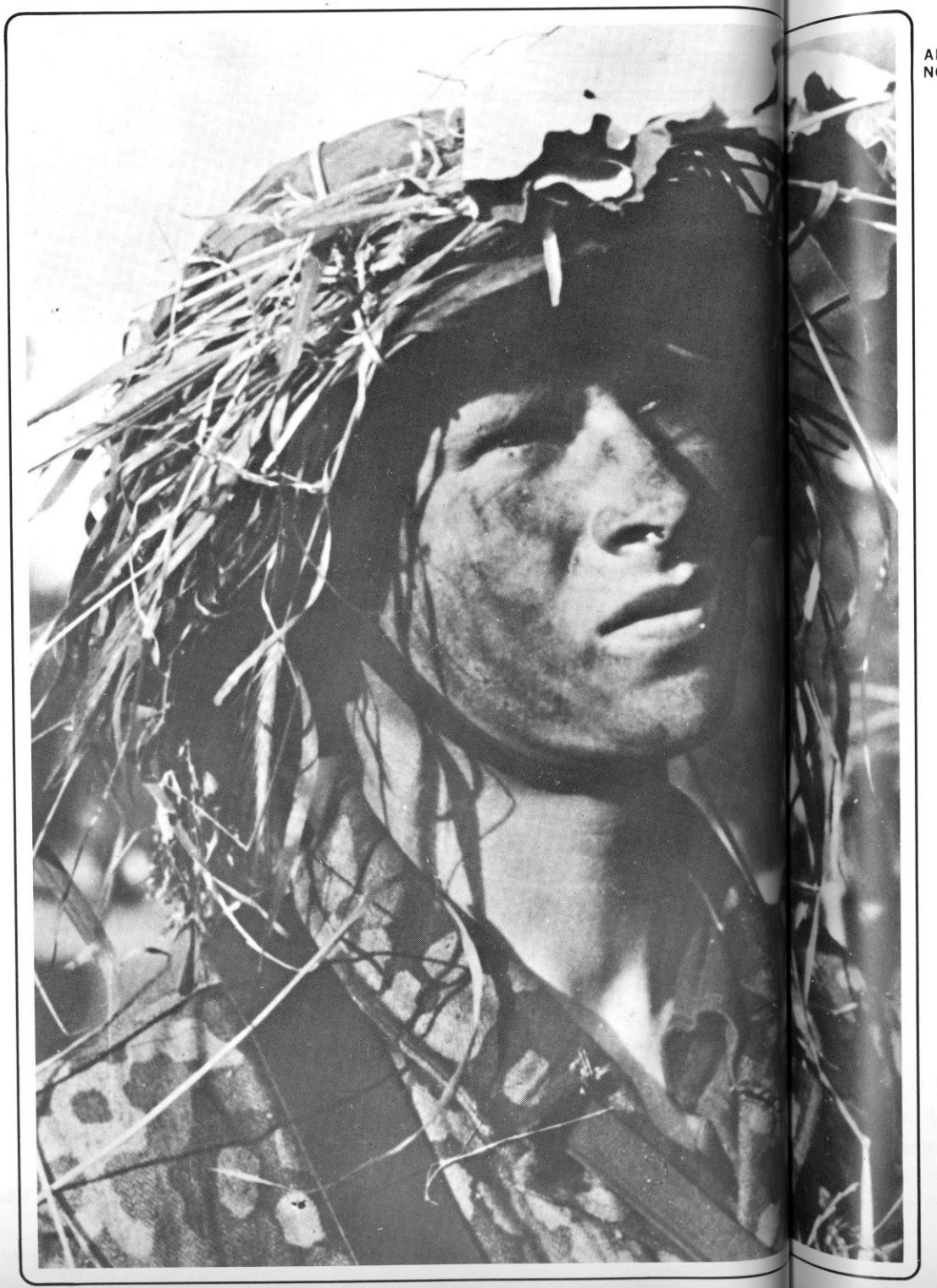
[29] When a Corps received a Flak-Abteilung it lost its Fla-Kp. or Fla-Zug/Züge.

[30] Often found as "Krfr".

ABBREVIATION	GERMAN	ENGLISH
Kfz.-Werkst.-	Kraftfahrzeug-Werkstatt	motor workshop
Kfz.-Inst.-	Kraftfahrzeug-Instandsetzungs-	motor repair
Werkst.	Werkstatt	workshop
Bekl.-Inst.-	Bekleidungs-Instandsetzungs	clothing repair
Wi.-(or Wirtsch.-)	Wirtschafts-	paymaster
San.-[31]	Sanitäts-	medical
Laz.	Lazarett	hospital
San.-Park	Sanitäts-Park	medical park
KrKw.-	Krankenkraftwagen-	motor ambulance
Vet.-	Veterinär-	veterinary
Vet.-Unters.-	Veterinär-Untersuchungs-	veterinary examination
Pferd-Laz. (or Pf. Lz.)	Pferde-Lazarett	veterinary hospital
Vet.-Park	Veterinär-Park	veterinary park
F. P. A.	Feldpostamt	field post office
K. B.-/Prop.-	Kriegsberichter-/Propaganda-	war correspondent/propaganda
FG-	Feldgendarmerie-	military police
Sich.-[32]	Sicherungs-	security (for Corps HQs)
Begl.-[32]	Begleit-	escort/protection
Sonder-	Sonder-	special
Rekr.-	Rekruten-	recruiting
Ers.-	Ersatz-	replacement
Lehr-	Lehr-	instruction/demonstration
Schulen	Schulen	schools
Sonst.	Sonstige	miscellaneous

[31] Korps-San.-Abteilungen were broken up into their constituent hospitals, companies and ambulance platoons.

[32] Often the Korps-Sicherungs-Kompanie was called Korps-Begleitkompanie.



AN SS PANZER GRENADIER NEAR THE NORMANDY INVASION FRONT.

Introduction to the Waffen-SS Divisions

The first divisions of the Waffen-SS were created early in the Second World War from the full-time para-military formations of the SS already in existence. Hitler's personal bodyguard, the Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler", became the nucleus of the first of these divisions under its old commander, Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich. The SS Special Purpose Troops (SS-Verfügungstruppe or SS-VT) provided the second, although it first passed through the transitional stages of being named "SS-V.T.-Division (mot)", SS-V.-Division, SS-Division "Deutschland", SS-Division "Reich", and finally receiving the name "Das Reich". Elements of the SS Death's Head Regiments (SS-Totenkopfverbände or SS-TV) provided the third, and German policemen the fourth. Then came others based on the Death's Head Regiments which had not been used for the creation of the third division (e.g. 6. SS-Geb.-Div. "Nord", 8. SS-Kav.-Div. "Florian Geyer" and 18. SS-Freiw.-Pz.-Gren.-Div. "Horst Wessel"). Those of German blood but resident outside the Reich (Volksdeutsche) also joined the Waffen-SS in considerable numbers and whole divisions were built up around them (e.g. "Prinz Eugen"). With the German conquests in western and northern Europe, volunteers came in from the so-called "Nordic" countries and these were grouped, after some time, into "Germanic" divisions of the Waffen-SS. "Non-Germanic" western Europeans (such as French, Walloon and Italian volunteers) were eventually also grouped into divisions. Finally, the demands of war brought down all the grandiose racial requirements for membership in the SS and whole SS divisions were formed from what the Nazi theorists believed to be "inferior races" (e.g. Russians).

By 1942, the cadre divisions of the Waffen-SS had been motorized, but as each had an SS-Panzer-Regiment they were Panzer Divisions in all but name. Before the end of 1942, however, they were redesignated as "armoured grenadier" divisions (SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Divisionen)[1]. Their infantry regiments were soon after designated similarly (SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regimenter)[2].

The fortunes of war, acquisition of foreign volunteers and other factors produced considerable structural changes within the divisions of the Waffen-SS.....therefore the divisional orders-of battle changed continually.

[1] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, December 1, 1942.

[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, January 1, 1943.

In addition to these factors, changes in the organization of the Waffen-SS itself had their effect. One example was when the divisional war correspondents' units were amalgamated into a regiment (in fact, SS-Standarte "Kurt Eggers" was a regiment in name only and called such for administrative reasons.....its members are believed to have remained attached to the divisions as before). Another example is when, in 1943, the SS Field Hospitals (SS-Feldlazarette) were detached from the divisions for the rest of the war. Certain sub-units disappeared from the divisional orders-of-battle, suggesting that they were absorbed by their divisions.

Units were also redesignated during their comparatively short lives, especially when the parent divisions were first partially, and then fully motorized. One could find the self-same regiment at first designated as a "rifle regiment" (Schützen-Regiment), then an "infantry regiment" (SS-Infanterie-Regiment), next a "grenadier regiment" (SS-Grenadier-Regiment) and finally an "armoured grenadier regiment" (SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment). Another factor was the often very slender continuity, for new elements would be created in the West while remnants of the old ones were still in the East. Other units were transferred from one division to another and therefore redesignated, whereas others were re-classified en masse throughout the Wehrmacht and Waffen-SS (e.g. in the late summer of 1944, all SS-Wirtschafts-Bataillone were renamed SS-Verwaltungs-Abteilungen[3]). Such changes were numerous, frequent and often involved.....they will be dealt with as fully as possible in the divisional histories that follow.

It must be stressed that in a series such as this, which sets out to cover the entire vast subject of the Waffen-SS, individual divisional studies must be kept as simple and un-involved as possible. Comprehensive Waffen-SS divisional histories have and will continue to be written, but the purpose of those contained herein is simply to provide the reader with a basic guide to the subject, and a frame upon which to hang the relevant insignia characteristics. Those published divisional histories known to the authors will be included in the bibliography at the end of this volume, as well as in those to come.

DIVISIONAL INSIGNIA, MARKINGS, ETC.

The fact that a member of the Waffen-SS belonged to a specific division was shown in some cases on the cuffband worn on the left cuff, and in others on the right collar patch. The Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler" was

[3] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, August 15, 1944.

the only division to wear special insignia on the shoulder straps. Divisional vehicles (except actual combat vehicles, such as tanks) and spotter planes carried divisional recognition symbols, although during the war these were ordered not to be used by Waffen-SS divisions in combat areas which were not under the command of the German Army proper. All Waffen-SS divisions, and certain independent units, had these special signs and they will be illustrated in all the variations encountered by the authors, in the relevant sections in this series.

CUFFBANDS

A number of the Waffen-SS divisions were named (at least over half of them) and this name sometimes appeared on a cuffband worn on the lower left sleeve. If a regiment within a named division was granted a name, then the regimental cuffband was worn instead of the divisional one. In rare

NOTE "SS-HEIMWEHR DANZIG" CUFFBAND WORN BY SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER ABOVE.

cases, cuffbands were also worn by units smaller than regiments (e.g. "SS-Heimwehr Danzig" and "Herman von Salza"). Rules and regulations were published in the late summer of 1943[4], and provided that:

(a) cuffbands were to be worn by members of named divisions or units;

(b) members of named divisions or units transferred to others that were not named were entitled to retain their cuffbands...for traditional reasons.

This order also prohibited the wearing of more than one cuffband at a time (the wearing of two at once was fairly common until then, e.g. divisional band + war correspondents' or military police band; "Adolf Hitler" + "Führerhauptquartier").

COLLAR PATCHES

The basic right-hand collar patch worn by the members of the Waffen-SS divisions (except for SS-Standartenführer and above) bore the double-S sign of the SS, except:

(a) by members of the "Totenkopf" Division and its replacement units (who wore the death's head);

(b) by members of the 4th SS Police Division before its incorporation into the Waffen-SS (who wore German Army collar patches);

(c) by non-German personnel (who were forbidden to wear the SS runes but often did. The original idea was that the "Nordics" amongst them should wear runes other than the double-S....the other races were to have other, non-runic insignia).

[4] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, August 1, 1943.

NAMING AND NUMBERING OF THE WAFFEN-SS DIVISIONS AND THEIR COMPONENT UNITS

NAMING:

DIVISIONS

Of the 45[5] Waffen-SS divisions in the basic numbering sequence, 26 were named. These names varied considerably, but were carefully chosen to keep in tune with Nazi, and especially SS, thinking. Hitler's name was given to the first (which actually developed from a unit that bore his name since 1933), Himmler's title to the 16th, and "Horst Wessel", "Hitlerjugend" and "30. Januar" (the date of Hitler's coming to power) were also used. German heroes of the past were remembered, in cases where they were acceptable to Hitler and Himmler. Examples are "Götz von Berlichingen", "Frundsberg" and "Hohenstaufen". Certain of the Volksdeutsche (racial German) and foreign divisions were named after their country of origin, geographical location or again historical hero-figures considered suitable by the SS (e.g. "Prinz Eugen", "Lützow", "Skanderbeg" and "Charlemagne"). These names, within inverted commas, formed an integral part of the division's titles and in some cases were used in their abbreviated form (e.g. "G. v. B.", "H. W.", "L. A. H.", "P. E.", etc.).

UNITS

Certain units (almost always regiments) within the divisions were given names. There were the original regiments of the pre-war SS Special Purpose Troops, namely "Deutschland", "Germania" and "Der Führer", whose names were retained until the end by the Waffen-SS. A few were named after SS heroes killed in action and amongst these are "Michael Gaissmair", "General Seyffardt"* and "Hinrich Schuldt". "Reinhard Heydrich"* and "Theodor Eicke" were also used, but the term "hero" is questionable in these cases. Others bore national (e.g. "Norge" and "Danmark") or geographic (e.g. "Nordland" and "Westland") names.

NUMBERING:

DIVISIONS

Divisions were numbered progressively in Arabic numerals in late 1943/early 1944. Basically, 38 numbers were allocated to the Waffen-SS divisions although several were in fact used twice (see footnote 5) and some sources state that a division was even provisionally numbered "41". Non-German divisions added their nationality and a national numeration in brachets after their title (e.g. 15. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS (lettische Nr. 1) and 19. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS (lettische Nr. 2)).

*In fact assassinated.

[5]The basic series was from 1 to 38. There were, however, two of each of the following: 23rd, 26th and 27th (abortive Panzer Divisions), 29th and 38th. Some would also argue that there were two divisions numbered "14" ("galizische Nr. 1" and "ukrainische Nr. 1") and two numbered "30" ("russische Nr. 2" and "weissruthenische Nr. 1).

INFANTRY REGIMENTS

Regiments of the infantry arm-of-service (which in this instance included cavalry) were numbered in a progressive sequence starting from "1" in each division. This system proved unsatisfactory as regiments of different divisions could not be distinguished apart by title alone, and so all these regiments were renumbered in a simple progressive sequence. The 1st regiment was, not surprisingly, within the 1st SS division and the last, numbered "96" was in the 38th SS division.

Non-German volunteer regiments within the Waffen-SS divisions (and brigades, to be exact) were ordered by Himmler on January 22, 1944, to have their nationality and a progressive national number added in brackets after their titles. The order listed the SS regiments concerned, and the following is a summary, reorganized by nationality:

6 Latvian
3 Estonian
3 Galician/Ukrainian
2 Lithuanian (no Lithuanian SS division was ever formed, however)
2 Croat (in fact Bosnian Moslems)
2 Dutch
1 Norwegian
1 Danish
1 French

Before the war was over, others were created as follows:

6 Hungarian
6 Russian
3 Flemish
2 Dutch (total 4)
2 Albanian
2 Italian
1 French (total 2)

OTHER DIVISIONAL UNITS

When the parent divisions were numbered, all units, with the exception of those regiments in the progressive series described above, carried the divisional number in arabic numerals.

THE "LAH" ADVANCING THROUGH HOLLAND ON MAY 16, 1940.

1. SS-Panzer-Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler"

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 1. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "LSSAH"

March 17, 1933 - May 1933	SS-Stabswache Berlin
May 1933 - September 1933	SS-Sonderkommando Zossen
September 1933 - mid-December 1934	Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler"
December 1934 - June 1941	Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler" (mot)
June 1941 - September 9, 1942	SS-Division Leibstandarte-SS "Adolf Hitler"
September 9, 1942 - October 22, 1943	SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler"
October 22, 1943 - May 1945	1. SS-Panzer-Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler"

History

The "Leibstandarte" was officially created on March 17, 1933 and initially titled "SS-Stabswache Berlin".[1] In May its title was changed to "SS-Sonderkommando Zossen". This unit was joined together with another new unit, "SS-Sonderkommando Jüterbog (created in June 1933), at the 1933 Nazi Party Rally with the resulting unit being titled, 'Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler"'. It became motorized in mid-December 1934 and was retitled, Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler" (mot). As the pre-war years passed, the "LAH" participated in the triumphal parade into the Rhineland during its remilitarisation in March 1936, and supplied a motorized battalion, under "Sepp" Dietrich, which took part in the invasion of Austria in March 1938.

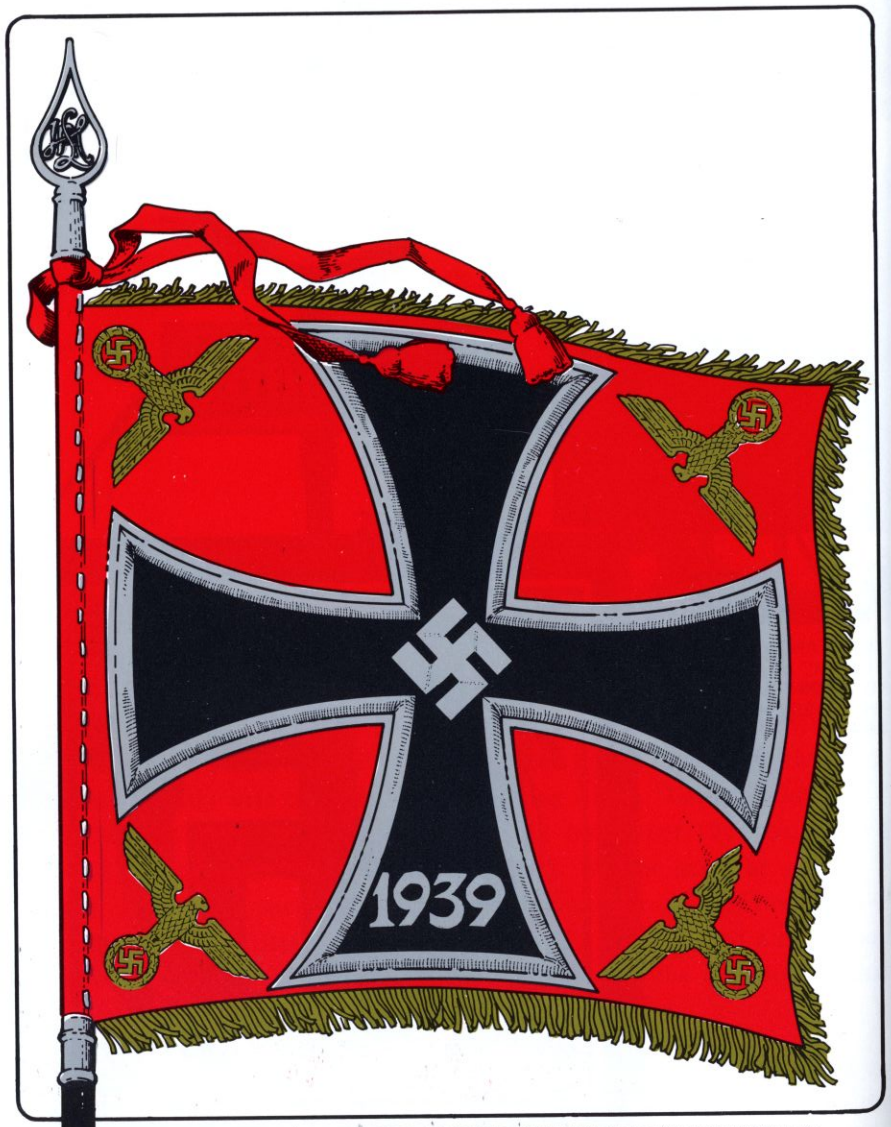
On September 1, 1939, the "LAH" served as a regiment which fought under von Reichenau's 10. Armee during the invasion of Poland. In the ensuing campaign, the "Leibstandarte" fought as a regiment under the command of its own officers. After the fall of Poland, the regiment was recalled to Germany where it was refitted.

During the opening phases of the campaign in the west, the "Leibstandarte" was transferred from sector to sector partaking in spectacular successes. Rotterdam fell to General Student's parachutists during the first days of the campaign, as elements of the "LAH" regiment linked with them. From Rotterdam, the regiment advanced to the sea at Boulogne and later played

[1] Some sources state the date of formation as January 15, 1933.

THE STANDARD OF THE "LSSAH" IS PRESENTED TO "SEPP" DIETRICH BY THE RF-SS (SEPTEMBER 1940).

THE STANDARD OF THE "LSSAH"



INFANTRY BATTALION COLOUR OF THE LEIBSTANDARTE "ADOLF HITLER"

a leading role in the victory parade in Paris. The 'Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler"' was expanded to brigade strength in August of 1940 (it was never officially titled a brigade, however). At this time, the "Leibstandarte" was told by their Führer: "It will be an honour for you, who bear my name, to lead every German attack".

In the spring of 1941, the "LAH" was suddenly transferred from its base at Berlin to Sofia when the German High Command discovered that British troops were being rushed to the aid of an embattled Greece. On the 6th of April, 1941, the "LAH" was one of the elements that invaded south-

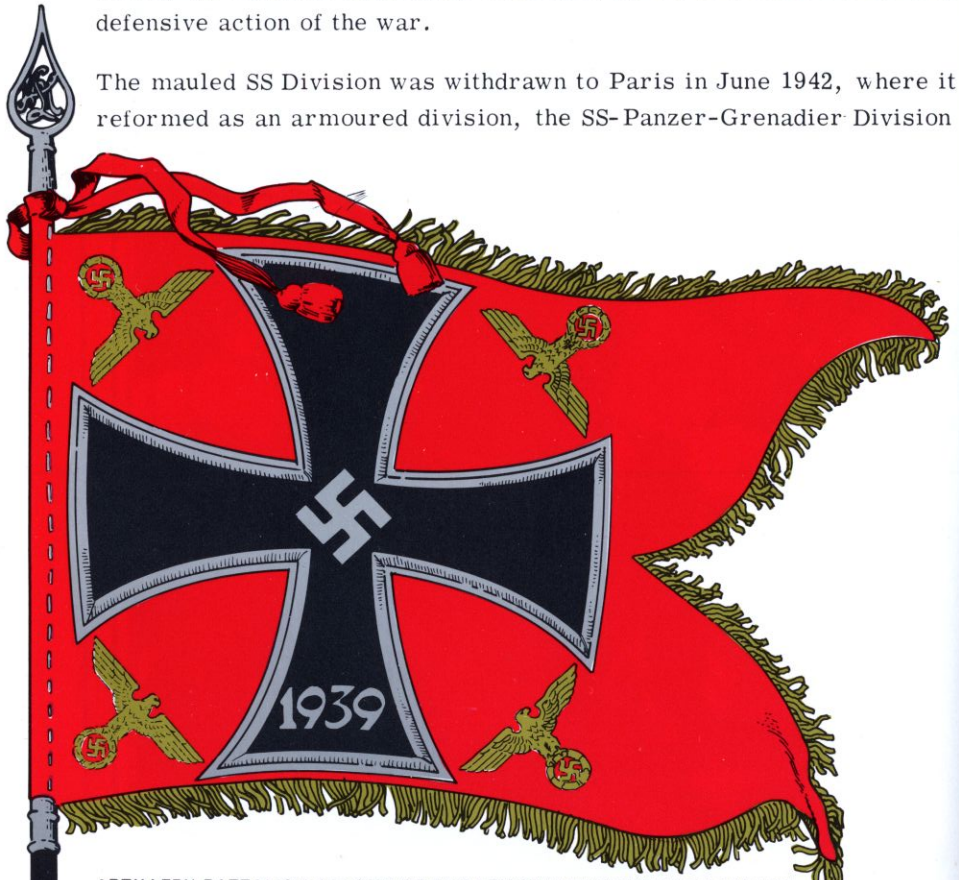
SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER DIETRICH ACCEPTING THE SURRENDER OF CAPITULATING GREEK ARMY COMMANDERS.

ern Yugoslavia and engaged the Greeks on the Albanian border and in Thessaly. An unexpected flanking manoeuvre sent the "LAH" across the Gulf of Corinth into the fierce fighting near Peloponnesus and finally on to Athens.

During the Russian campaign, the "Leibstandarte", which had become a division in name but not strength in June 1941, enhanced its combat record more than ever as it fought from Poland to Kherson near the Black Sea, then in November 1941, along the Sea of Azov to the occupation of

Rostov. The Russian counteroffensive, however, near Rostov forced the "Leibstandarte" out of the city and across the Mius River. During this battle, the Division was nearly decimated as it was forced into its first defensive action of the war.

The mauled SS Division was withdrawn to Paris in June 1942, where it reformed as an armoured division, the SS-Panzer-Grenadier Division



ARTILLERY BATTALION COLOUR OF THE LEIBSTANDARTE "ADOLF HITLER"

"Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler". The Russian winter offensive of January 15, 1943, broke through the Hungarian, Rumanian and Italian troops sending Russian columns pouring past Kursk and over the Donetz to the southeast of Kharkov. The situation became critical as another Stalingrad loomed into reality and the "LAH" was recalled to the east. Under Field Marshal von Manstein's careful planning, however, the Russian masses were allowed to advance to the west and southwest into a pocket. On February 22, the XXXXVIII Panzer-Korps struck from the right and the 6th, 11th, and 17th Panzer Divisions and the "LAH" and "Das Reich" from the left. In this operation, several large Russian armoured formations were completely cut off and destroyed. By the middle of March, the line of the Donetz was firm and the front again faced east. The "LAH" and "Das Reich" continued its advances and on March 15 the German war

flag flew over Kharkov. The German summer offensive of 1943 was spearheaded by the "LAH", "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf" Divisions in the vicinity of Orel and Kursk. Although the Divisions made substantial progress in the offensive's early days, they were forced to give up the attempt owing to the stiffening Soviet resistance.

At this time, Hitler became alarmed at the events in the Mediterranean and the possibility of Mussolini's regime falling. In the last week of July 1943, the Führer's fears concerning Italy were confirmed. On the 25th, the King dismissed Mussolini who was then placed under arrest as he left the palace. The new government under Marshal Badoglio said it intended to continue the war, but no one at the Führer's headquarters, least of all Hitler, believed that. He immediately started plans for rescuing the Duce and for strengthening the German hold on Italy. His initial plan was to transfer the II. SS-Panzer-Korps from Army Group South to Italy. He thought that the politically trained SS Divisions could form a nucleus around which the Fascist elements in the Italian Army could rally. After consultation with the commander of Army Group Centre, Hitler decided to send only the II. SS-Panzer-Korps headquarters and the "LAH". "Das Reich" would remain in the Army Group South zone. The "Leibstandarte" left all of its equipment, including its Mark IV and VI tanks at the front to be divided amongst depleted divisions. While resting in Italy, one Abteilung was refitted with the latest armour, the Pz.-Kpfw. V "Panther".[2] During this stay in northern Italy, in September 1943, units of the "LAH" played a leading role in the destruction of the town of Boves and its inhabitants. This action was an SS operation against anti-Fascist partisans.

WISCH, DIETRICH, WITT, AND "PANZERMEYER" IN RUSSIA, 1942.

[2] As a result of this refitting, the Division lost its IIIrd Panzer-Abteilung.

Hitler was forced to order the return of the "LAH" to the Eastern Front as the German defensive positions weakened during the autumn of 1943. The Russians launched their massive winter offensive on December 13, recapturing Korosten and pushing on to Poland's pre-war frontiers. During this offensive, many German formations were encircled, among them the "LAH" in the south. To alleviate the mounting pressure, Hausser's II. SS-Panzer-Korps was rushed from France. A series of fierce counter-attacks broke the ring of encirclement allowing the badly mauled German divisions to move westward for rest and refitting. Among these was the "LAH".

(ABOVE LEFT) SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER KURT MEYER, COMMANDER OF THE I./SS-PANZER-AUFKLÄRUNGS-ABTEILUNG 1. (ABOVE RIGHT) SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER MAX WÜNSCHE, COMMANDER OF I./SS-PANZER-REGIMENT 1.

(LEFT) SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER KURT MEYER AT THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE AT AMIEMS, FRANCE ON NOVEMBER 17, 1944. AT THIS TIME, HE WAS COMMANDER OF THE 12. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "HITLERJUGEND" (NOTE ARMY TUNIC BEING WORN AT TIME OF CAPTURE.)

Two months after the Normandy invasion, the "Leibstandarte" was committed to the battle. As it rolled toward the allied armies, it was subjected to heavy naval and artillery fire, armoured and motorized infantry attacks and above all, the dreaded fighter-bombers. Thus, after heavy engagements at Caen, Falaise and Argentan, a bitter and frustrated Division was shortly finding its way back to the protection of the Siegfried Line. There, some of the survivors of the Division were redesignated "SS-Bataillon Rink" and became part of "Kampfgruppe Diefenthal".[3] Its mission was to help defend the corridor into Aachen during the impending attacks on the West-Wall and finally to defend the city itself.

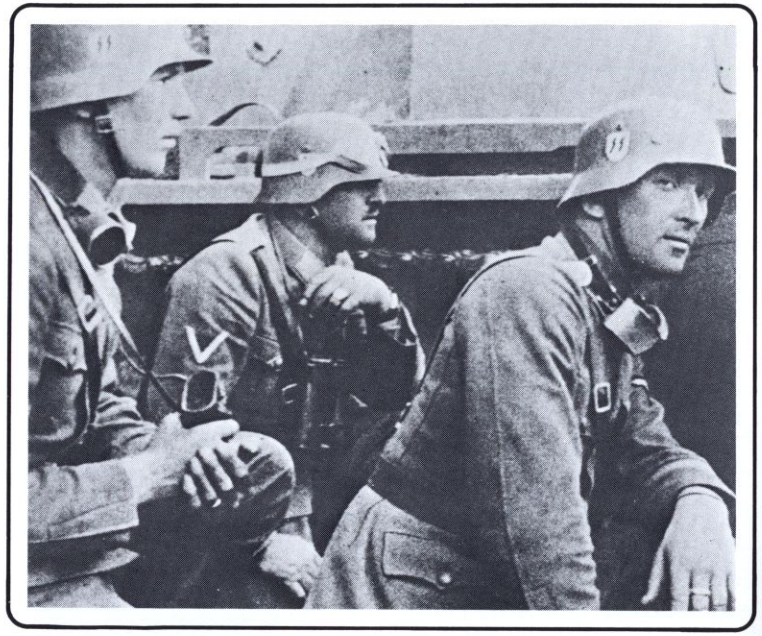
In early November, the remainders of the 1st, 2nd, 9th and 12th SS Panzer Divisions were withdrawn east of the Rhine, for rehabilitation. The "LAH" and "Hitlerjugend" Divisions became the I. SS-Panzer-Korps under SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Hermann Priess. This Korps was designated to break through in the southern portion of the upcoming Ardennes offensive on December 16, 1944. The German spearhead in this sector was to be a Kampfgruppe of the "LAH", under the command of SS-Obersturmbannführer Joachim Peiper. Supported by the 3rd Parachute Division, this armoured force quickly captured Buchholz and then turned north in the direction of Bülligen. By the morning of December 18, more than fifty German columns were probing into the Ardennes from Echternach to Monschau. Some had gone only a mile; half had pierced as far as ten and twelve; and "Kampfgruppe Peiper" had raced almost thirty. On December 17, 1944, during this penetrating action, members of "Kampfgruppe Peiper" allegedly killed seventy-one American prisoners-of-war at the Malmedy cross-roads. Although sentenced to death for this action, Peiper was freed ten years later due to testimony which stated that at no time did he give such an order. Alarmed by "Kampfgruppe Peiper's" dangerous thrust, the Allies rushed reinforcements to contain the German drive and keep them from reaching Antwerp. By December 21, this Allied action had cut Peiper from his supplies and had encircled his forces*. After constant bombardment, Peiper and his 800 men abandoned their fuelless vehicles in the Amblève River

*One "Tiger" Abteilung, which was to the rear, was not encircled and did in fact take part in the battle for Bastogne at a later date.

[3]The second battalion of this Kampfgruppe was "SS-Batallion Bucher" and was composed of remnants of the 12. SS-Panzer-Division "Hitlerjugend".

SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER JOACHIM PEIPER

valley and fought their way out on foot. They made their way through the American lines and rejoined the remainder of the "Leibstandarte" on the south bank of the Amblève River. On December 30, the "LAH", minus "Kampfgruppe Peiper" which was recuperating from its escape, struck south of Bastogne in an attempt to cut the narrow corridor into that town. But, by this time, the defenders were too well entrenched and supporting armour and reinforcing units successfully stemmed the German attacks. Hitler, convinced that the cause in the Ardennes was now lost, on January 8, 1945, ordered the withdrawal of the forward portion of the German salient. He also ordered the II. SS-Panzer-Korps from the defensive line. The Divisions, which included the "LAH", were immediately sent to Germany for refitting. The "Leibstandarte", which was now a shadow of its former potency, was stationed in Bonn where it prepared for its next action.... meeting the coming allied attack.



"SEPP" DIETRICH (CENTRE) OBSERVING THE FRONT LINE SITUATION.

On January 12, 1945, the Russians initiated their long-expected winter offensive in the east. When wide gaps were ripped open in the German lines, Hitler ordered release of the entire 6. Panzer-Armee to the Eastern Front. The whole of "Sepp" Dietrich's Panzer Army was transferred to Hungary in an attempt to relieve the garrison in the embattled city of Budapest in early March. The SS Panzer units, which were thrown into the ensuing battle without artillery preparations or air cover, were doomed almost immediately. By March 13, the remnants of the once formidable Panzer Army, having failed to complete their impossible task,

retreated into Austria. Dietrich was ordered by Berlin to regroup and stand at Vienna and under no circumstances withdraw into the city. The might of 60 Russian divisions, however, hammered the Panzer Army, forcing a retreat into the refuge of the city. When a war-weary Hitler received the news of the near-annihilation, he became convulsed. He ordered Guderian to the crumbling southern front to see personally to the removal of the prized cuffbands from the members of the "Adolf Hitler", "Das Reich", "Totenkopf" and "Hohenstaufen" Divisions. Also, all promotions within the 6. SS-Panzer-Armee, which had been bestowed on April 20, were to be cancelled. Guderian refused this order and reminded Hitler that Reichsführer-SS Himmler alone was competent in Waffen-SS disciplinary matters. As Himmler received his orders so did his subordinate, "Sepp" Dietrich. Dietrich, however, summoned his four Division commanders to his headquarters in Vienna where he ordered that not one cuffband was to be removed.

As the final act was closing in April 1945, "Sepp" Dietrich's major drive was to rescue his SS Divisions from certain capture by the Russians, and he in fact guided their retreat in such an order as to meet the Americans at Steyr in upper Austria, where he surrendered his command.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division
SS-Kartenstelle (mot) "LSSAH" 1
SS-Musikkorps "LSSAH"
SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "LSSAH" 2
SS-Panzer-Regiment "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Jäger-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Sturmgeschütz-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Artillerie-Regiment "LSSAH" 1
SS-Flak-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Werfer-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Nachrichten-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung "LSSAH" 1
SS-Panzer-Pionier-Bataillon "LSSAH" 1
SS-Dina 1
SS-Feldlazarett 1, etc.
SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 1
SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp "LSSAH" 1
SS-Feldersatz-Bataillon 1
SS-Wachbataillon (mot) "LSSAH" (detached in Berlin)

Divisional Commanders

JOSEF (SEPP) DIETRICH

WILHELM MOHNKE

THEODOR WISCH

OTTO KUMM

1933 - July 1943	SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS, Josef (Sepp) Dietrich
July 1943 - Aug. 20, 1944	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Theodor Wisch
Aug. 20, 1944 - Feb. 6, 1945	SS-Standartenführer, promoted on Nov. 4, 1944 to SS-Oberführer, Wilhelm Mohnke
Feb. 6, 1945 - May 8, 1945	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Otto Kumm

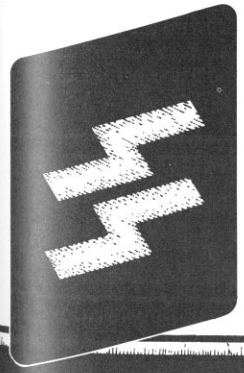
CHIEF OF STAFF (as of March 1, 1945)

SS-Obersturmbannführer Dietrich Ziemssen

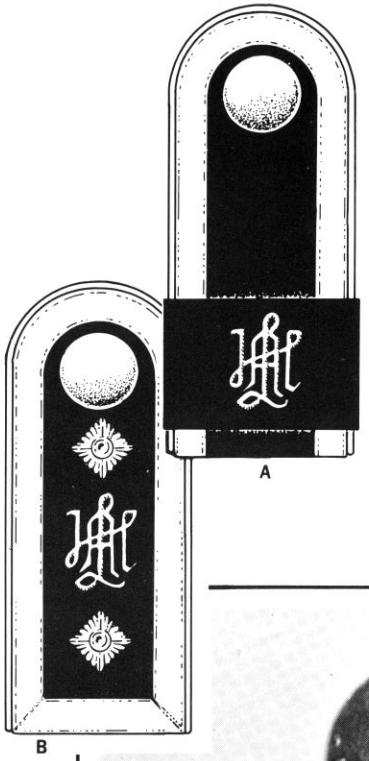
Divisional Insignia

Uniforms and insignia worn by "LAH" personnel were standard SS issue except for the special "LAH" monogram on the shoulder strap and the "Adolf Hitler" cuffband which was worn on the lower left sleeve.

NOTE:
This Division also supplied a cordon for the Führerhauptquartier and its members wore the "Führerhauptquartier" cuffband in addition to that of the Division.



"ADOLF HITLER" CUFFBAND



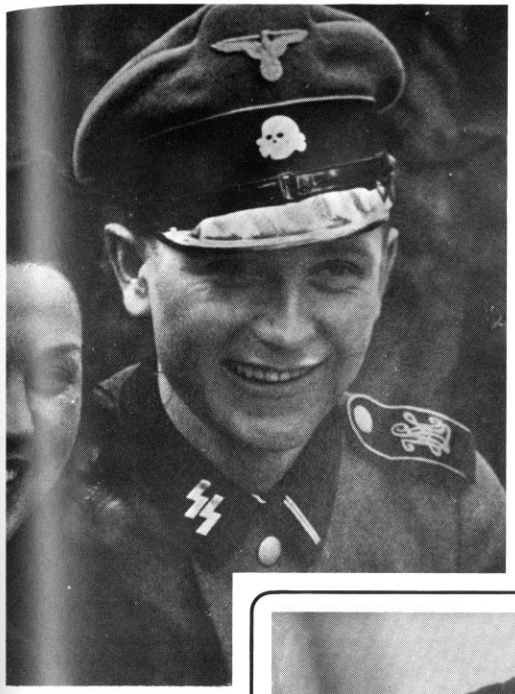
The "LAH" monogram existed in at least four variations:

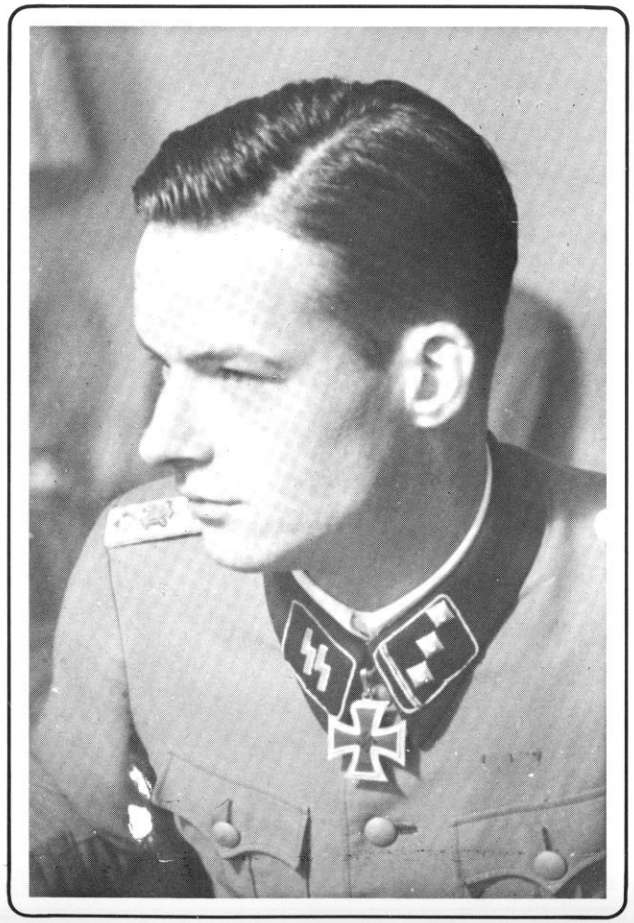
(A) Embroidered on detachable strap (small)

(B) Embroidered on standard SS strap (small)

(C) Embroidered on standard SS strap, early (large)

(D) Metal (for officers)





SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER RUDOLF VON RIBBENTROP, COMMANDER OF 6. PANZERREGIMENT 1.

SYMBOL OF THE
1. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "LSSAH"

NOTE VARIATION OF SYMBOL SHIELD.

A WAFFEN-SS PILOT SITTING ON STRUT OF A RECONNAISSANCE PLANE FROM FLIEGERSTAFFEL I. SS-PZ.-KORPS "LSSAH".

2. SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich"

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 2. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "DAS REICH"

October 10, 1939 - April 1, 1940	SS-V. T. -Division (mot)
April 1, 1940 - December 2, 1940	SS-V. -Division
December 3, 1940 - January 27, 1941	SS-Division "Deutschland"
January 28, 1941 - May 1942	SS-Division "Reich"
May 1942 - November 9, 1942	SS-Division "Das Reich"
November 9, 1942 - January 1944	SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Das Reich"
January 1944 - May 1945	2. SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich"

History

The first field division comprised entirely of SS personnel and officers, was created on October 10, 1939. The infantry of this division consisted of the Verfügungs-Standarten: SS-Standarte 1 "Deutschland", SS-Standarte 2 "Germania" and SS-Standarte 3 "Der Führer". Its official title was SS-V. T. -Division (mot) with Paul Hausser as its commander.

The SS-Verfügungsdivision took part in the main drive toward Rotterdam on May 10, 1940. The following day, it, and portions of the Army's 9. Panzer-Division were ordered to intercept a French force to the southwest. With the aid of Stukas, the German force drove the French back to Zeeland where they were joined by retreating Dutch troops. It then became the duty of the SS-V. -Division to mop up the pockets of Franco-Dutch defenders.

Following its victories in the Netherlands, the SS-Verfügungsdivision was transferred to the fighting in France where it achieved success in breaching the canal line which was defended in a stiff British rear-guard action. The Division was later attached to Panzergruppe Kleist and participated in the main drive to Paris. By the end of the French campaign, the motorized Division had advanced all the way to the Spanish frontier.

On December 3, 1940, Regiment "Germania" was transferred from the SS-Verfügungsdivision and joined with Regiment "Nordland", Regiment "Westland" and the SS-Artillery Regiment 5, to form the new SS-Division "Germania" (mot). In compensation for the loss of Regiment "Germania", an SS-Totenkopfstandarte was given to the SS-Verfügungsdivision

OFFICERS FROM REGIMENT "DEUTSCHLAND" AFTER RECEIVING THE IRON CROSS 2nd CLASS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THE FRENCH CAMPAIGN. LACK OF COLLAR PATCHES MAY INDICATE TRANSITION BETWEEN SS1 COLLAR PATCHES AND THE ISSUE OF THE SS COLLAR PATCHES.

and designated SS-Infanterie Regiment 11. On December 3, 1940, the name of the SS-Verfügungsdivision was changed to SS-Division "Deutschland". This name, however, became easily confused with that of the existing regiment and on January 28, 1941, the divisional name was redesignated SS-Division "Reich".[1] The Division was stationed near Vesoul in southern France from December 18, 1940 to March 30, 1941 where it underwent training for the impending invasion of England.

To the east, the invasion of Russia, which had been scheduled for the spring of 1941, was delayed due to the untimely invasion of Greece by Italy, and by Yugoslavia's unpredictable political position. On March 28, 1941, the SS-Division "Reich" received orders to move from Vesoul to Temesvar in southwestern Roumania. The motorized Division was sped through Munich, Vienna and Budapest and on to the Roumanian/Yugoslavian frontier where it poised for its part in the dismemberment of Yugoslavia under its new anti-German government. On April 6, 1941, the Division which was now part of the XLI. Panzer-Korps raced into Yugoslavia and

[1] Dr. Klietmann, in his Die Waffen-SS - Eine Dokumentation, states that this date was December 21, 1940, but the Division's War Diary gives January 28, 1941.

thrust toward Belgrade. After a week of heavy bombardment by the Luftwaffe, the city of Belgrade surrendered to an assault group of the SS-Division "Reich" on April 13. The commander of this assault group, SS-Hauptsturmführer Klingenberg, was awarded the Knight's Cross for this action. The Division was then transferred to Poland where it became part of the huge striking force against Russia, which was assembling there.

The SS-Division "Reich" which had been attached to Army Group Centre, was very effective in combat and in August of 1941 achieved distinction at the battle of Yalnya, east of Smolensk. "Reich" was later to take part in the fatally delayed assault on Moscow, as part of Model's 9th Army. Although this action depleted the Division to 60% of its combat strength by the middle of November 1941, it spearheaded the attack on Moscow achieving a deep penetration into the Moscow defences, south of Borodino, and coming within a few miles of the Russian capital. The Russian winter

MEMBERS OF "REICH" PROUDLY DISPLAYING A CAPTURED COMMUNIST PARTY FLAG.

counteroffensive, however, inflicted even higher casualties on "Reich"... ...almost 11,000 men by mid-February 1942. After a winter of bloody fighting northwest of Moscow, "Reich" was pulled out of the line in March and sent to northwest France where it was refitted as a Panzer-Grenadier-

Division. Two mixed battalions and an artillery section (Abteilung) remained on the Eastern Front and were organized into Kampfgruppe "Ostendorf". They fought on until June 12, 1942, when they were sent west to be joined with the remainder of "Reich" at Truppen-Übungslager Bergen.

On June 1, 1942, former members of the 4. SS-Infanterie-Standarte formed the regimental staff and the IInd battalion of the new SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Langemarck".[2] The first battalion of this Regiment was created from the Kradschützen battalion. The Regiment was incorporated into the Division and trained and equipped as a motorcycle regiment. In November 1942, SS-Kradschützen-Regiment "Langemarck" provided its first battalion to a force which attempted to prevent the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon. On November 9, 1942, the Division was retitled SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Das Reich".

During the early months of 1943, the I. SS-Panzer-Korps (Divisions Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler", "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf") which had been refitted and rested in France was now ready for recommittment to battle in the east. The I. SS-Panzer-Korps was transferred east as the threat of a crumbling German front became imminent. Russian armies were pouring onto the Donetz basin and threatening the German forces with another "Stalingrad". To counter this threat, Field Marshal von Manstein, commander of Army Group South, launched a counterattack with the I. SS-Panzer-Korps as its spearhead. The counterattack cut into the hinge of the offensive and threw the Russian forces back in disorder. The victory of this battle was far-reaching: Kharkov had been recaptured, the rich Donetz basin had been held, the massive Russian offensive had been halted and Hitler's faith in his élite SS Divisions had been maintained.

The Germans capitalized on their victory and launched a summer offensive in the central sector, near Orel and Kursk. Again, "Das Reich" was called on to spearhead the offensive with the other Divisions of the I. SS-Panzer-Korps. Nevertheless, the attack was given up due to heavy Russian resistance. The months that followed were dedicated to attacks and counterattacks with the Germans steadily withdrawing to new positions.

On December 12, 1943, an advance staff was sent from "Das Reich" to Stablack in East Prussia for the purpose of reestablishing the Division as a Panzer-Division. In early February 1944, portions of the Division were

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[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, April 20, 1942. Effective this date, the 4. SS-Infanterie-Standarte was to be titled "Langemarck".

transferred from the Eastern Front to their new training centre in Bordeaux, southwest France, while the remainder of the Division fought on as Kampfgruppe "Das Reich" (unofficially it was known as Kampfgruppe "Lammerding"). During recuperation, the Division assisted local security forces in an attempt to eliminate partisan bands in the mountains of Auvergne. During this operation, ninety-nine people were hanged in the little village of Tulle.

The great Russian winter offensive of 1943/1944 threatened to outflank the whole southern sector of the German defence line. In March 1944, the I. SS-Panzer-Korps, which consisted of the "LAH" and the 2500 man Kampfgruppe "Lammerding" from "Das Reich", was encircled and threatened with annihilation. In April 1944, the II. SS-Panzer-Korps was rushed from France, under the command of Paul Hausser. The Panzer-Korps immediately launched an attack against the exposed Russian flank and amputated the driving force of the Russian offensive. This action released the battered I. SS-Panzer-Korps from their encirclement. The "LAH" was sent to Belgium and the majority of Kampfgruppe "Lammerding" was sent to southern France where it rejoined the SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich", which was stationed there. As of April 20, 1944, the remainder of the Division on the Eastern Front was redesignated Kampfgruppe "Weidinger" and was heavily engaged in its retreat through Proskurow and Tarnopol.

In June 1944, the 2. SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich" was one of four Waffen-SS Divisions in France and was sent north to the Normandy area shortly after the allied armies had launched their invasion of Europe. As the Division passed near the village of Oradour-sur-Glane, a French sniper shot and killed an SS captain. In reprisal, a company from the Division's SS-Panzergrenadier-Regiment 4 "Der Führer", burned the village and executed its entire population of 642 inhabitants. The SS regimental action report for that day states the village was destroyed after "munitions were discovered in almost every house.

The Division took positions north of Coutances and St. Lô as well as along the Villers-Caen road where they attempted to contain the allies on the beaches with a series of counterattacks. An American breakthrough at Avranches on the 25th-27th of July, 1944, however, led to the encirclement of Coutances and the main body of the "Das Reich" Division. On July 29, the mass of the Division counterattacked and broke out of the Coutances encirclement. After a series of counterattacks, the Division managed to capture Mortain but was forced to retreat under the threat of a huge encirclement in the Falaise area. The determination of the Germans could not withstand the overpowering naval, air and ground action

of the Allies and by mid-August 1944, five SS Panzer divisions, six Army Panzer divisions and eight infantry divisions were trapped in a Falaise-Argentan pocket. The 2nd and 9th SS Panzer Divisions had escaped earlier through the closing jaws of the trap and were now fighting to keep them open. This action enabled a number of German troops to escape before the pincers slammed shut.

In late August 1944, the Division retreated across the lower Seine near Rouen, across France to St. Vith, and then across the German frontier. By September, the bloodied 2. SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich" had taken defensive positions behind the West-Wall in the area of Schnee-Eifel. Within the next few months, the Division was newly refitted and incorporated into the 6. Panzer-Armee under "Sepp" Dietrich. This formidable Panzer Army was chosen by Hitler to lead his great Ardennes offensive. As the offensive opened on December 16, 1944, "Das Reich" was held in reserve to carry on the momentum of the attack should it slacken off and also to thwart any allied attacks against the northern flank of the German salient. On December 19, "Das Reich" was attached to Manteuffel's Army in the south, and worked its way around St. Vith hitting the soft underbelly of the thin American First Army defence line. There, the Division ran into the defensive positions of the 82nd Airborne Division and punched holes in its thin lines. The American airborne division was withdrawn, allowing "Das Reich" to come within sight of the Meuse River by Christmas Eve. The Panzer-Division had, however, outrun its supplies and was now being subjected to allied air attacks. In a thrust by the American 2nd Armoured Division and the British 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment, a large portion of "Das Reich" was cut off. Huge quantities of equipment were captured while an entire regiment from the Division was destroyed in this engagement.

From this point on, the German pressure constantly fell off with the only heavy fighting taking place at Bastogne. On January 3, 1945, the last of the great coordinated attacks against Bastogne was launched by I. SS-Panzer-Korps. By this time, the defenders of the city had been reinforced with fresh troops and supporting armour which successfully stemmed the German attack. Hitler realized the hopelessness of the Ardennes situation and on January 8, 1945, ordered the 6. Panzer-Armee out of action. He then ordered a repid refitting of the Panzer Divisions, among these was "Das Reich". Hitler's plan was to go on the defensive in the west and launch an eastern offensive in Hungary, relieving the encircled German forces in Budapest. The SS Panzer Army had not as yet recovered from the onslaught of the Ardennes offensive and when met by the spring mud and fierce Russian resistance, the German offensive ground to a halt.

The months of March and April saw a continuous string of defensive actions being waged by "Das Reich". The Division retreated into Austria and continued its stubborn rear-guard action south of Vienna. Elements of "Das Reich" attempted to hold the vital Danube Canal bridges in the heart of Vienna on April 13 but were forced out of the city on the 15th.

Small units from the Division plus part of the Divisional staff were heavily engaged west of Vienna against the advancing Russians in late April. The other parts of the Division were also in action, east of Dresden. To the north, Regiment "Der Führer" was fighting an insurgency in Prague from May 6-8. In their westward retreat from that city, they transported as many of the German population as possible out of Russian hands. In the last days of the war, most of the Division was able to retreat to the west and into American captivity.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division

SS-Standarte "Germania" (left Division on November 20, 1940)

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 3 (previously SS-Standarte and SS-Infanterie-Regiment) "Deutschland"

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 4 (previously SS-Standarte and SS-Infanterie-Regiment) "Der Führer"

SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Langemarck" (formed from 4. SS-Infanterie-Standarte in June 1942, which had received the name "Langemarck" by an order dated April 20, 1942)

SS-Infanterie-Regiment 11 (ex-SS-Totenkopf-Regiment 11 - disbanded on November 1, 1941, with its men going to "Deutschland" and "Der Führer" Regiments)

SS-Panzer-Regiment 2

SS-Panzer-Jäger-Abteilung 2

SS-Sturmgeschütz-Abteilung 2

SS-Panzer-Artillerie-Regiment 2 (ex-SS-Artillery-Regiment)

SS-Flak-Abteilung 2

SS-Werfer-Abteilung 2

SS-Panzer-Nachrichten-Abteilung 2 (ex-SS-Nachrichten-Abteilung)

SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 2

SS-Panzer-Pionier-Bataillon 2 (ex-SS-Pionier-Bataillon)

SS-Kradschützen-Bataillon 2 (used to provide the Ist Battalion of the "Langemarck" Regiment)

SS-Dina 2

SS-Feldlazarett 2, etc.

SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 2

SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 2

SS-Feldersatz-Bataillon 2 (ex II./"Langemarck")

Divisional Commanders

October 19, 1939 - October 14, 1941	SS-Gruppenführer, promoted on October 1, 1941, to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS, Paul Hausser
October 14, 1941 - December 31, 1941	SS-Oberführer, promoted on October 19, 1941 to SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Wilhelm Bittrich (temporary command)
January 1, 1942 - April 1, 1942	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Matthias Kleinheisterkamp

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS PAUL HAUSSER

April 1, 1942 - February 15, 1943	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Georg Keppler
February 15, 1943 - April 3, 1943	SS-Oberführer Herbert Ernst Vahl (temporary command)
April 3, 1943 - November 1, 1943	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Walter Krüger
December 9, 1943 - July 26, 1944	SS-Oberführer, promoted on April 20, 1944, to SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Heinz Lammerding
July 26, 1944 - July 28, 1944	SS-Obersturmbannführer Christian Tychsen (temporary command)

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS BITTRICH

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS GEORG KEPPLER

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS KLEINHEISTERKAMP

July 28, 1944 - December 1944	SS-Standartenführer Otto Baum (temporary command)
December 1944 - January 20, 1945	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Heinz Lammerding
January 20, 1945 - February 4, 1945	SS-Standartenführer Karl Kreutz
February 4, 1945 - March 9, 1945	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Werner Ostendorff
March 9, 1945 - April 13, 1945	SS-Standartenführer Rudolf Lehmann (temporary command)
April 13, 1945 - May 8, 1945	SS-Standartenführer Karl Kreutz

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER KRÜGER CONGRATULATING SS-OBERSCHARFÜHRER JOSEF LAINER UPON BESTOWAL OF THE KNIGHT'S CROSS ON OCTOBER 9, 1943.

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS WERNER OSTENDORFF (HERE AN SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER)

CHIEF OF STAFF (as of March 1, 1945)

SS-Sturmbannführer Dierks

Divisional Insignia

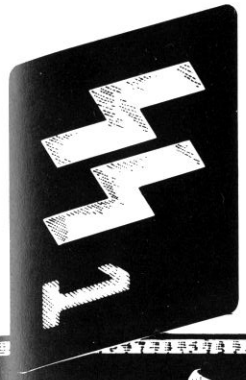
(1) All units of the "Das Reich" Division, except those listed on the following pages, wore the "Das Reich" cuffband in block letters (3). A "Reich" cuffband was possibly worn between December 21, 1940 and May 1942 but no reports are available to this effect. The SS runes collar patch was worn.

Das Reich

"DAS REICH" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER FRITZ RENTROP, COMMANDER OF THE 2. SS-FLAKABTEILUNG 2, WEARING THE "DAS REICH" CUFFBAND. THE PARADE IS IN PRAGUE.

[3] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, September 1, 1942. All members of "Das Reich", other than those in Regiments "Deutschland", "Der Führer" and "Langemarck" are to wear the cuffband "Das Reich".



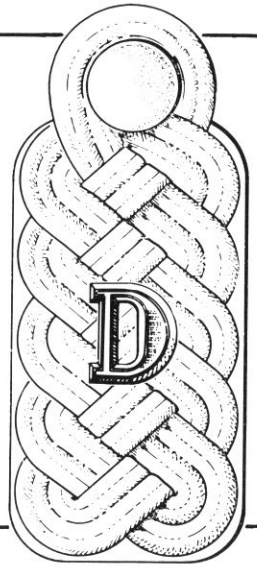
(2) Members of the 3. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Deutschland" (formerly SS-Standarte "Deutschland" and later SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Deutschland") wore the "Deutschland" cuffband in block letters. The Gothic pattern of the SS-VT was worn at first and retained by some. The "SS1" collar patch was worn until mid-1940 when it was ordered replaced by the "SS" runes patch.

Deutschland

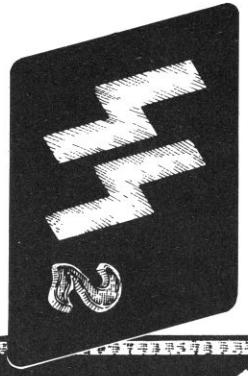
"DEUTSCHLAND" CUFFBAND (GOTHIC) (BLOCK)

Deutschland

SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER FRITZ WITT, COMMANDER OF THE 1st BATTALION OF THE SS-REGIMENT "DEUTSCHLAND" OF THE SS-VERFÜGUNGSDIVISION.



BLOCK LETTER "D" (THE GOTHIC "D" PATTERN OF THE SS-VT MAY HAVE BEEN USED AT FIRST AND RETAINED BY SOME).



(3) Members of SS-Standarte "Germania"[4] wore the "Germania" cuffband in Gothic letters (it is not known if the block pattern cuffband was introduced while this regiment was still in the Division). The "SS2" collar patch was worn until mid-1940 when it was ordered replaced by the "SS" runes patch.

"GERMANIA" CUFFBAND (GOTHIC)

"GERMANIA" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

[4]SS-Standarte "Germania" was transferred from the SS-Verfügungsdivision on November 20, 1940 to form the SS-Division (mot) "Germania" on December 1, 1940 (which later became 5. SS-Panzer-Division "Wiking"). The Standarte was replaced by SS-Totenkopf-Regiment 11.

BLOCK LETTER "G" (POSSIBLY REPLACED THE GOTHIC "G" WHILE A REGIMENT WITH THIS DIVISION).

(4) Members of the 4. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Der Führer" (formerly SS-Standarte "Der Führer" and, later, SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Der Führer") wore the "Der Führer" cuffband in block letters. The Gothic pattern of the SS-VT was worn at first and retained by some. The "SS3" collar patch was worn until mid-1940 when it was ordered replaced by the "SS" runes patch.

"DER FÜHRER" CUFFBAND (GOTHIC)

"DER FÜHRER" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

"DF" MONOGRAM

NOTE "DF" MONOGRAMS ON SS-HAUPTSCHARFÜHRER ADOLF PEICHL'S SHOULDER STRAPS.

(5) Members of SS-Totenkopf-Regiment 11 possibly retained Totenkopf insignia for a short time. This Regiment was disbanded on November 1, 1941.

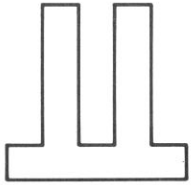
(6) Members of SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Langemarck" wore the "Langemarck" cuffband in block letters. It is thought that the Trifos (3 legged swastika) collar patch was also worn.

Langemarck

"LANGEMARCK" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

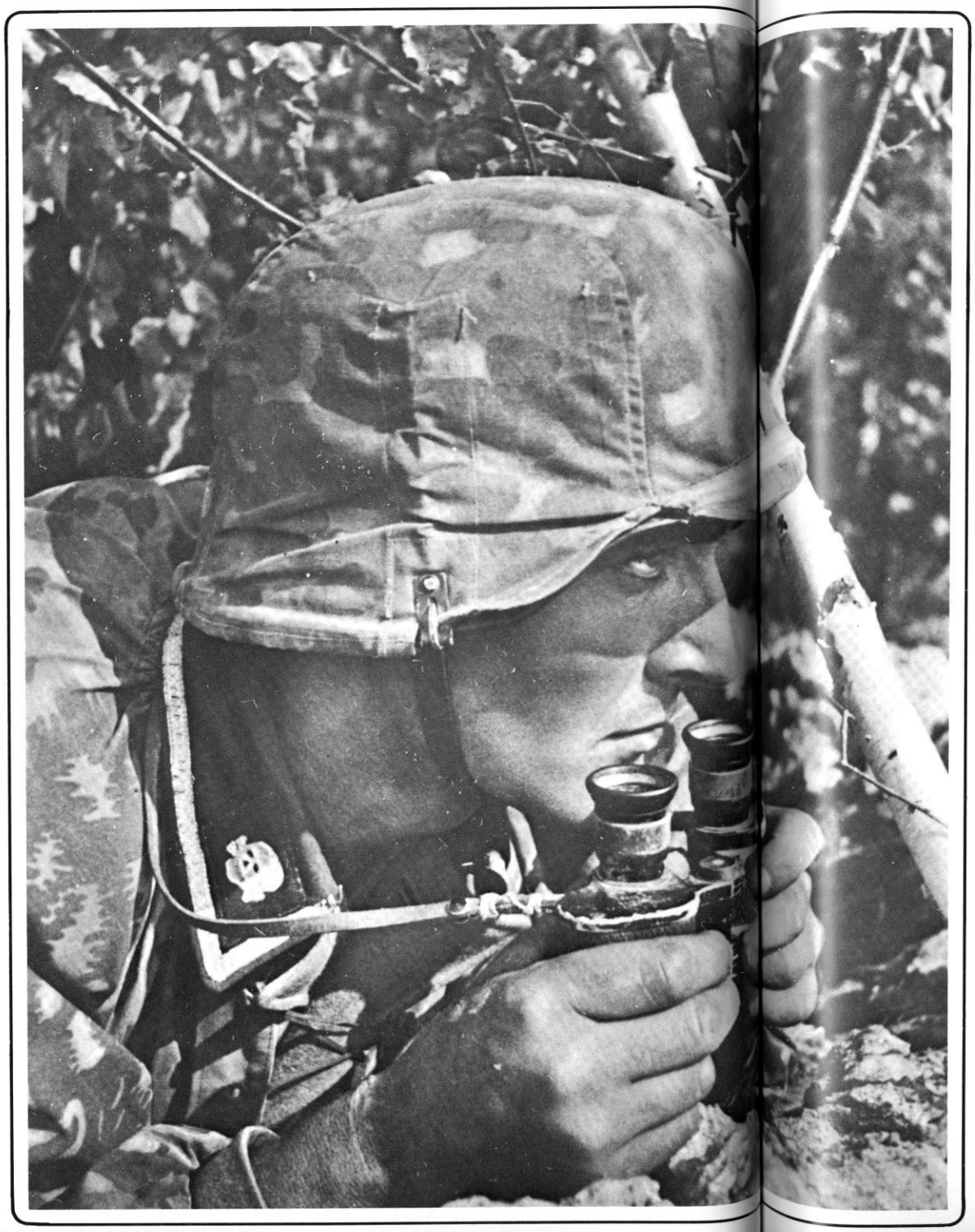
(7) The Latvian SS arm shield has been reported worn with "Das Reich" insignia (see "Latviesu Legions").

"TIGERS" FROM THE "DAS REICH" DIVISION NEAR BELGOROD-OREL (JULY 1943).



PRE 1944 VEHICLE SYMBOL

1944-1945 VEHICLE SYMBOL



3. SS-Panzer-Division "Totenkopf"

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 3. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "TOTENKOPF"

October 1939 - November 9, 1942	SS-Totenkopf-Division SS-T-Division
November 9, 1942 - Summer 1943	SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Totenkopf"
Summer 1943 - February 1944	SS-Panzer-Division "Totenkopf"
February 1944 - May 1945	3. SS-Panzer-Division "Totenkopf"

History

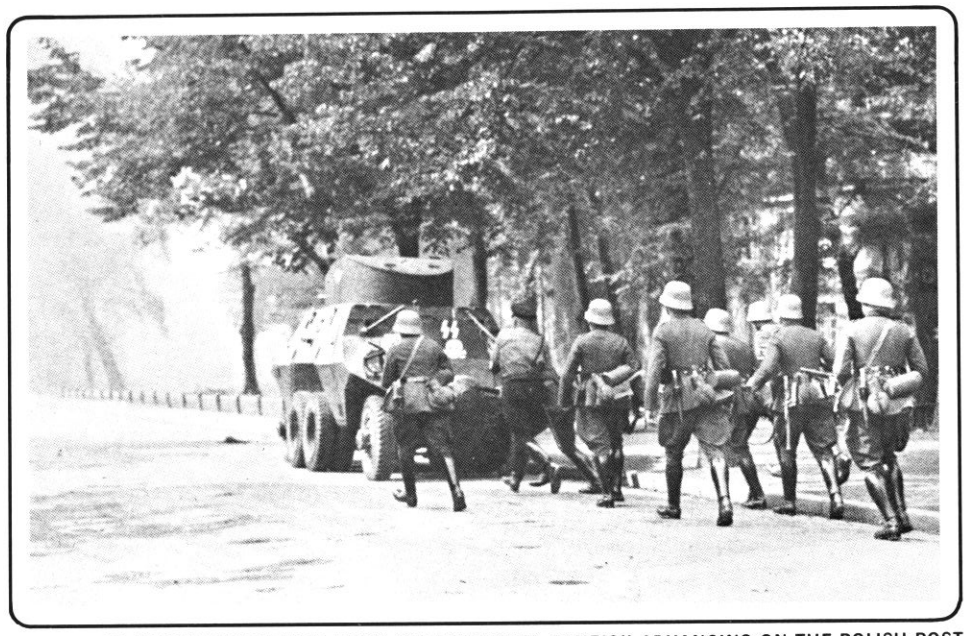
Approximately 18,000 SS troops participated in the Polish campaign. This number was distributed between "Leibstandarte", "Verfügungstruppe", and "Totenkopf" units. Shortly after the Polish cease-fire, the bulk of these troops was withdrawn to Germany to be refitted as SS field divisions. Amongst those were 6,500 members of Theodor Eicke's SS-Totenkopfverbände (concentration camp guards). The Totenkopf personnel, some SS-Verfügungstruppe members and a number of men from the Allgemeine-SS formed the SS-Totenkopf-Division.[1] SS-Totenkopf-Standarten members from all parts of the Reich were transferred into the new Division, for example, members of "SS-Heimwehr Danzig"[2] were incorporated into Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment 3. Its formation was made official on November 1, 1939, and took place at the training depot at Dachau (SS-Übungslager Dachau). During this time of formation, Dachau concentration camp was evacuated and its inmates transferred to Flossenbürg and Mauthausen until the Division moved to its training site. In November 1939, the Division was transferred from Dachau to the northern area of Württemberg and later to the Truppen-Übungsplatz Obermünsingen where its training was completed. Theodor Eicke, former head of the concentration camp service was designated as the Division's first commander.

As the French campaign opened in the west on May 10, 1940, "Totenkopf" was in OKH reserve in Germany, near Kassel. On May 16, it was ordered to exploit the salient created by advancing German armour. The

[1]The infantry of the "Totenkopf" Division were SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regimenter 1, 2 and 3.

[2]Originally, SS-Totenkopf-Sturmbann "Götze" was transferred to conduct operations of a police nature in the Danzig area. It was later reorganized into a reinforced infantry battalion, retitled "Heimwehr Danzig", and sent into combat under Army control.

THE STANDARD OF THE SS-TOTENKOPF-REGIMENT 2



AN ARMOURED VEHICLE FROM "SS-HEIMWEHR DANZIG" ADVANCING ON THE POLISH POST OFFICE IN DANZIG.

Division raced through Belgium to join XV. Armee-Korps which was the northern edge of the German penetration. On May 19, the Division arrived and was immediately instructed to clean up enemy positions and consolidate the area of Le Cateau and Cambrai. On May 27, 1940, men of the 4th Company of the Ist Battalion of the 2nd SS Totenkopf Regiment, under Fritz Knöchlein, executed 100 men of the 2nd Royal Norfolks after they had surrendered at Le Paradis, a small hamlet in the Pas-de-Calais. Knöchlein was later hung for this crime by the British at Hameln.

The SS-Totenkopf-Division was ordered to the Channel coast, south of Dunkirk, on May 31, 1940, where it participated in coastal-defence duty. On June 5, the Division was shifted from Boulogne on the coast to St. Pol and kept there on alert. As Kleist's Panzer Group started its push from the Marne, on June 12, "Totenkopf" was ordered to join the advance in its sweep through central France. During the days that followed the fall of Paris on June 14, the Division picked up prisoners and guarded the flanks of the advance. For "Totenkopf", the real fighting in the battle for France was over. The Division was sent south to occupy the coastal sector just north of the Spanish frontier on June 25, the day of the cease fire. There, the SS-Totenkopf-Division remained until April 30, 1941, when it received orders to move east.

As the invasion of Russia began on June 22, 1941, the SS-Totenkopf-Division was attached to Army Group North which fought along the Lithuanian

border, across the Düna River and into heavy combat in Latvia. The Division continued its way north to Demyansk after breaking through the Stalin Line in early July. From July 13, 1941 to August 25, 1941, the Division was engaged in operations against Leningrad. On the second week of August, "Totenkopf" broke through the Russian southern flank and captured Chudovo, on the main Leningrad-to-Moscow railway.

During the autumn and winter of 1941, the Russians launched a number of counterattacks in the northern sector which cut off "Totenkopf" and the small Danish legion, Freikorps "Dänemark", which had been sent to serve with the Division. These units were encircled for several months in the so-called "Demyansk Pocket". The splintered parts of the Division fought under the designation of Kampfgruppe "Eicke" due to the great losses during this encirclement. In April 1942, portions of Kampfgruppe "Eicke" broke out of the encirclement and reached the Lovat River. The remainder of the Division continued its defensive action in the Demyansk area until relieved in late October 1942. At this time, the Division, having suffered continuous losses during the summer and autumn of 1942, was sent to France where it was reinforced and re-equipped. Although 3/4 of the Division now consisted of untrained recruits, it participated in the takeover of unoccupied France (i.e. Vichy France) on November 11-12, 1942.

"TOTENKOPF" PERSONNEL RELAXING DURING THE EARLY PHASES OF THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

It was also supplied with a tank battalion and redesignated on November 9, 1942, SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Totenkopf". The Division remained as an occupation force until February 1943, when it was recalled to the east as part of Army Group South. The Russian Stalingrad offensive had carried them into the rich industrial Donetz basin, capturing Kharkov and approaching the Dnieper River. Von Manstein, in a complicated but strategic move, thrust through the hinge of the Russian offensive with the II. SS-Panzer-Korps ("LAH", "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf") as spearhead. Thus, the great Russian offensive was completely stemmed. During the early days of the battle, "Totenkopf's" divisional commander, Theodor Eicke, was shot down and killed near Orelka on February 26, 1943, while visiting a forward unit in his Fieseler "Storch".

The last great German offensive in the east, which was spearheaded by the "LAH", "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf", in the vicinity of Orel and Kursk was labeled "Zitadelle". The summer offensive met with early successes but was later forced to halt due to a stiffening Russian resistance. To the south, the German Army in Tunisia had been defeated and the anticipation of an Allied invasion brought the Fascist regime in Italy to near hysteria. Plagued by the possibility of an Italian defection, Hitler decided to transfer the II. SS-Panzer-Korps to Italy to bolster the Duce's position on July 25, 1943. A renewed Russian offensive forced Hitler to send only the "LAH" to Italy while "Das Reich" and "Totenkopf" remained in the east. These two Divisions took part in the counterattack which sent the Russians back across the Mius and restored the status of the front. "Totenkopf" then continued an uninterrupted year-long defence on the south-central front.

By mid-July 1944, the German front in the east was crumbling. By the end of the month, the Russian armies stood at the Gulf of Riga in the north, in the suburbs of Warsaw in the centre and on the line of the San River in the Ukraine. While Russians were fighting in the suburbs of Warsaw, the Polish resistance movement in that city rose in open revolt. In early August 1944, the newly established IV. SS-Panzer-Korps, composed of the SS Panzer Divisions "Wiking" and "Totenkopf", and the Army's 19. Panzer-Division, was transferred to the Warsaw area where it launched a counterattack which threw the Russians out of the city and back across the Vistula. For nearly two months this German force held back two entire Russian armies. The SS-Panzer-Korps was also able to help crush the Warsaw uprising. Thus, this northern sector along the Vistula remained relatively quiet until January of 1945.

To the south, Roumania capitulated on August 23, 1944, under pressure from a new Russian offensive. On September 8, the Russians began their

occupation of Bulgaria. In the following months, Germany lost Greece and most of Yugoslavia, and by early December the Russians were laying siege to Budapest. Trapped in the city was the IX. SS-Korps which included the 8. SS-Kavallerie-Division "Florian Geyer" and the 22. SS-Freiwilligen-Kavallerie-Division. Hitler, on Christmas Eve of 1944, ordered "Totenkopf" and "Wiking" of Gille's IV. SS-Panzer-Korps from the defense of Warsaw to break the encirclement of Budapest. On New Years Day 1945, "Totenkopf" and "Wiking", supported by an infantry division, began their attack to "raise the siege of Budapest". Although the Corps had reached the Budapest airport by January 11 and the rescue of 45,000 German troops seemed assured, it was withdrawn to a sector north of the city where it was hoped that ten Russian divisions would be surrounded and annihilated. Russian resistance stiffened, however, and by the end of January the attack was called off. The Division was engaged in fierce defensive actions in the vicinity of Stuhlweissenburg, west of Budapest until mid-March. It then retreated to Vienna. After intense fighting, the city was lost to the Russians and the Division retreated to the northwest where it surrendered to the Americans on May 9, 1945. Four days later, the men of the Division were delivered as prisoners to the Soviet Union.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 5 "Thule" (previously 1. SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment..... later titled "Totenkopf")

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 6 "Theodor Eicke" (previously 3. SS-Totenkopf-Grenadier-Standarte and 3. SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment (3))

2. SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment (disbanded in autumn 1942)

SS-Panzer-Regiment 3

SS-Panzer-Jäger-Abteilung 3

SS-Sturmgeschütz-Abteilung 3

SS-(Panzer-) Artillerie-Regiment 3

SS-Flak-Abteilung 3

SS-Werfer-Abteilung 3

SS-(Panzer-) Nachrichten-Abteilung 3

SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 3

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[3] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, March 15, 1943. The honour title "Theodor Eicke" is to be given to the 3. SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment, effective March 2, 1943.

SS-Panzer-Pionier-Bataillon 3

SS-Dina 3

SS-Feldlazarett 3

SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 3

SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 3

SS-Feldersatz-Bataillon 3

SS-Heimwehr-Danzig (absorbed.....its rifle companies provided the nucleus of SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regiment 3)

Freikorps Danmark (attached to the Division in May 1942.....for a detailed history see future volume)

Divisional Commanders

November 14, 1939 - February 26, 1943 — SS-Gruppenführer, promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS, Theodor Eicke (killed)

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS THEODOR EICKE

July 7, 1941 - July 15, 1941 — SS-Standartenführer Matthias Kleinheisterkamp (temporary command)

July 15, 1941 - September 9, 1941 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Georg Keppler (temporary command)

October 10, 1943 - June 20, 1944 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, promoted to SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS, Hermann Priess

July 13, 1944 - May 8, 1945 — SS-Oberführer, promoted to SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Hellmuth Becker

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS GEORG KEPPLER

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS HERMANN PRIESS

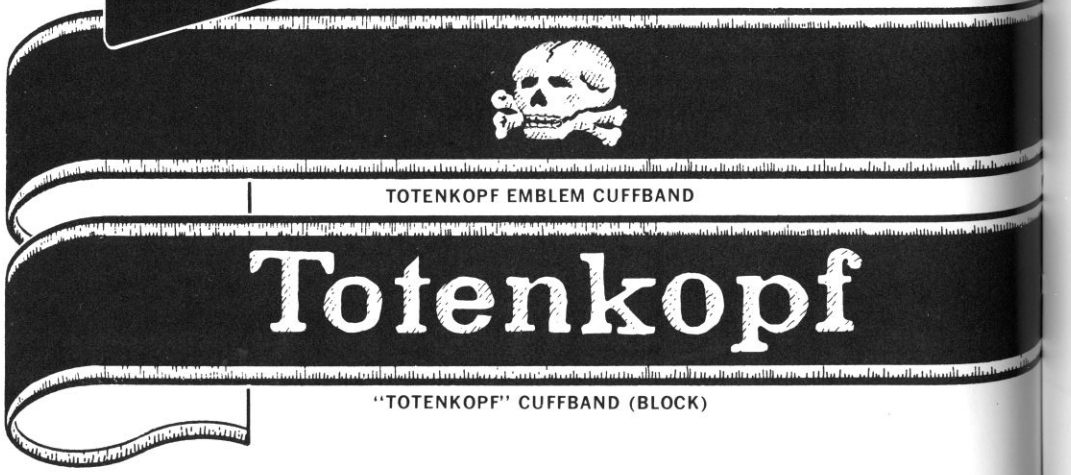
CHIEF OF STAFF (as of March 1, 1945)

SS-Obersturmbannführer Erich Eberhardt

Divisional Insignia

Since the "Totenkopf" Division included Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regimenter (T. I. R.) 1, 2 and 3 (but was based on the five Totenkopf-Standarten), it is assumed that members of these units retained their insignia for a short time. Basically, the distinguishing feature of all Totenkopf units (divisional, independent and camp guards) was the skull and crossbones device (Totenkopf) worn on the right collar patch. This device came in a number of shapes, styles and sizes and no hard and fast rules can be listed from the examples noted. It can be said, however, that the pattern facing downwards was used first, followed in 1942 by the one facing across (either to the left or right). At an early stage in the Division's career, it is reported that small devices were added to the corner of the collar patch to indicate the branch of the wearer (the lightning flash of a signals unit is reported). The death's head collar patches were often worn on both right and left sides of the collar, but to date no reason has been found for this practice.

(1) All units of the "Totenkopf" Division, except those listed on the following pages, wore the Totenkopf emblem, or "Totenkopf" in block letters, on the cuffband. The Totenkopf emblem cuffband was initially worn but was generally out of use by 1943, although some continued to be worn later. The "Totenkopf" cuffband in block letters was ordered worn by all units with the exception of the 1. and 3. SS-Totenkopf-Infanterie-Regimenter (4). The Totenkopf collar patch was worn in a number of variations.



TOTENKOPF EMBLEM CUFFBAND

"TOTENKOPF" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

[4] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, September 1, 1942.

ALUMINUM TWISTED CORD EDGED OFFICER'S COLLAR PATCHES (NOTE SS-HAUPTSTURMFÜHRER ABOVE).

A T-34 RUSSIAN TANK WHICH CAME TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

(a) Skull over Roman numerals (pre-war SS-Totenkopfverbände) should not have been worn. Other SS-TV variations include the skull over Arabic numerals and the skull over the "k".

(b) Skull facing down (1939-1942, although reported worn until Dec. 1943)

(c) Skull facing to right

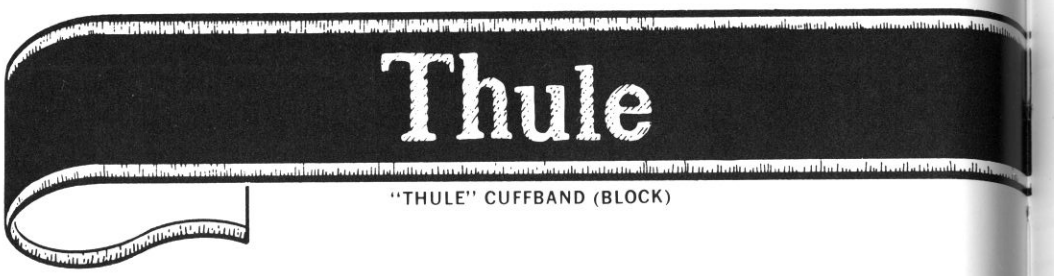
(d) Skull facing to left

(e) Skulls on both collar patches

(f) Skulls on both collar patches (variation)

(g) Skulls on both collar patches (with branch of service device added - bone signals)

(2) Members of the 5. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Thule" wore the "Thule" cuffband in block letters (5). The Totenkopf collar patch was worn.



"THULE" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

(3) Members of the 6. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Theodor Eicke" wore the "Theodor Eicke" cuffband in block letters (6). The Totenkopf collar patch was worn (SS runes have been reported worn with this cuffband in isolated instances).

"THEODOR EICKE" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

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[5]When the SS-Kradschützen-Regiment (motor-cycle regiment) "Thule" was broken up, the 5.SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment took over the latter's traditions and title, which originated from the Thule Society of the Weimar era. The "Thule" cuffband is known to have been worn at least up to October 1943. The wearing of this cuffband was discontinued soon after this date and replaced by the "Totenkopf" cuffband because its implications were lost upon the new recruits.

[6]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, March 15, 1943. By order of the Führer, the 3. SS-Totenkopf-Grenadier-Standarte received the honourary title of "Theodor Eicke", after the first commander of the "Totenkopf" Division and chief of the concentration camps who had been killed in action on February 26, 1943. This order became effective March 2, 1943. The Standarte later became the SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 6 "Theodor Eicke".

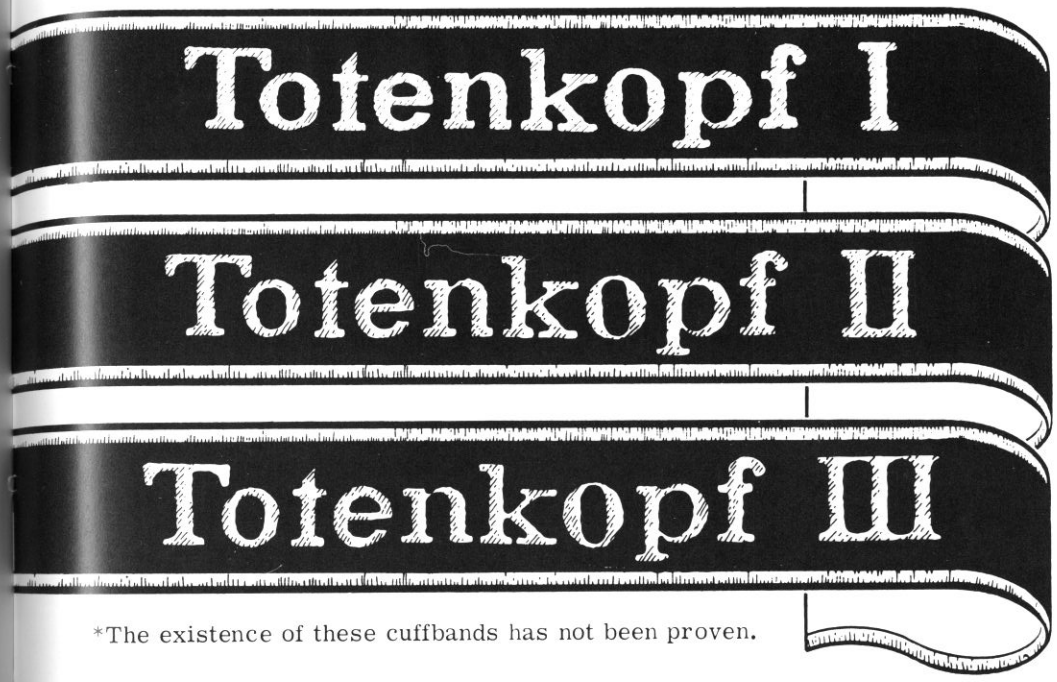
(4) Members of "SS-Heimwehr Danzig" (political SS organization from the town of Danzig) wore the "Heimwehr Danzig" cuffband in Gothic lettering from 1939-1943. The "SS-Heimwehr Danzig" cuffband with SS runes and Gothic lettering was introduced in 1943 and replaced the earlier version. The Totenkopf collar patch was worn.

AN ENLISTED MAN FROM "SS-HEIMWEHR DANZIG" WEARING THAT UNIT'S CUFFBAND.

"HEIMWEHR DANZIG" AND "SS-HEIMWEHR DANZIG" CUFFBANDS (GOTHIC)

THE CITY FLAG OF DANZIG

(5) Members of replacement battalion SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Ersatz-Bataillon I wore the "Totenkopf I" cuffband, SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Ersatz-Bataillon II wore the "Totenkopf II" cuffband and SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Ersatz-Bataillon III wore the "Totenkopf III" cuffband.* The Totenkopf collar patch was worn throughout.



*The existence of these cuffbands has not been proven.

"TOTENKOPF" VEHICLE SYMBOL

4. SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grenadier-Division

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 4. SS-POLIZEI-PANZER-GRENADIER-DIVISION

October 1, 1939 - February 10, 1942 — Polizei-Division
February 10, 1942 - September 1943 — SS-Polizei-Division
September 1943 - June 1944 — Kampfgruppe SS-Polizei-Division
September 1943 - May 1945 — 4. SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grenadier-Division

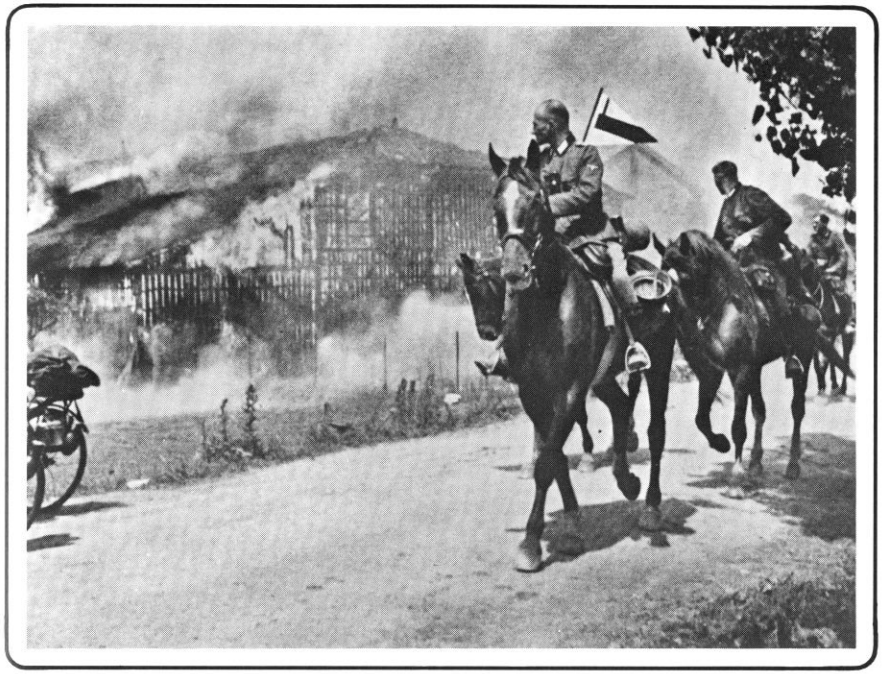
History

The formation of this Division was ordered by Hitler on September 18, 1939 and was to be composed of the Ordnungspolizei. During October of 1939, 15,803 Ordnungspolizei members were recalled to fill the ranks of this new Division which was designated "Polizei-Division".[1]

The Division received its training at Truppen-Übungsplatz Wandern, and was under the command of SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch. The "Polizei-Division" was not considered an elite formation and was therefore not issued with the finest and latest equipment. At this time, the Division consisted of three Polizei-Schützen-Regimenter, a Polizei-Panzerjäger-Abteilung, a Polizei-Pionier-Bataillon, a Polizei-Radfahr-Schwadron and Artillerie-Regiment 300 and Div.-Nachrichten-Abteilung 300 from the Army. After the completion of its training in February of 1940, the Division was transferred to the West-Wall (Neu Breisach - Neuenburg Waldkirch - Emmendingen).

During the invasion of France, the "Polizei-Division" was held in reserve at Reutlingen and Tübingen while the SS-Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler" was poised on the Dutch frontier ready to advance as soon as the border defences had been breached. The horse-drawn Police Division engaged in its first offensive action on June 9th and 10th as the bulk of its personnel assaulted across the Aisne River and the Ardennes Canal. After several heavy engagements, the Division took its objectives and moved on to the Argonne Forest. In its second major engagement, the Division fought a tough, French rear-guard in the Argonne, broke through and captured

[1] Although subordinate to the Reichsführer-SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei, its members were not obliged to pass racial and physical requirements which were demanded of SS men. Therefore, they were at first not considered SS men and wore the uniform of the Ordnungspolizei (but with certain differences, e.g. the Army eagle was worn on the sleeve).



THE "POLIZEI-DIVISION" IN LUGA, RUSSIA.

the town of Les Islettes. On June 20, 1940, the Division was taken out of the line and placed in reserve. It remained in France until transferred to East Prussia on June 27, 1941.

The "Polizei-Division" was held once more in reserve with Army Group North during the opening phases of the invasion of Russia. By early August 1941, however, the Police Division was engaged near Luga. The "Polizei-Division" and the 269th Infantry Division launched a frontal attack against the heavily fortified Luga bridgehead which was defended by five Soviet divisions. Their advance was through forests and a swampy river valley. In this hopeless situation, the Division lost over 2000 killed and wounded. On August 10, the Division once more advanced on the town, this time in an enveloping attack. It eventually pushed into the northern edge of Luga and with the combined strength of the German 9th, 96th and 122nd Infantry Divisions, encircled and destroyed the defenders of the town. In October 1941, the Division engaged in the investment of Leningrad. The Division became a full part of the Waffen-SS on February 10, 1942, and thenceforth it, and its sub-units, were prefixed "SS-".

From January 1942 to March 1942, the Division fought along the Wolchow River and contributed largely to the encirclement and destruction of the II. Sowjet-Stoss-Armee (2nd Soviet Assault Army). The SS-Polizei-Division, which was situated south of Lake Ladoga in January 1943, was subjected

THE "POLIZEI-DIVISION" IN RUSSIA, 1941.

to fierce Soviet counter-attacks which punched a hole in the German defences. The breakthrough occurred near the 170th Infantry Division, south of Schlüsselburg. By early February 1943, the retreating "SS-Polizei-Division" took over its newly assigned position west of Kolpino where it had to repulse a number of fierce Russian onslaughts. March, brought a lull along the strained front.

In October 1942,[2] the Polizei-Schützen-Regimenter had been renamed SS-Polizei-Infanterie-Regimenter and in February 1943,[3] the name was again changed....this time to SS-Polizei-Grenadier-Regimenter. At this time, the Order-of-Battle was as follows:

Stab der Division
SS-Grenadier-Regiment 1
SS-Grenadier-Regiment 2
SS-Grenadier-Regiment 3
SS-Polizei-Artillerie-Regiment
SS-Polizei-Flak-Abteilung
SS-Polizei-Nachrichten-Abteilung
SS-Polizei-Aufklärungs-Abteilung
SS-Polizei-Pionier-Bataillon

At this time, the nucleus of the Division was transferred to training areas in Silesia and in Bohemia and Moravia, for refitting as a Panzer-Grenadier Division. The remaining portions of the Division had been reduced

[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, October 15, 1942.

[3] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, February 1, 1943

to "Kampfgruppe SS-Polizei-Division" which played a defensive role in the northern portion of the Eastern Front from April 1943, till May 21, 1944, when it was broken up.

The newly reformed 4. SS-Pol.-Gren.-Div. then underwent training, and as they were completed, certain elements were sent to the mountainous area of northern Greece. There they engaged in comparitively quiet anti-guerrilla warfare, apart from savage reprisals which followed the ambushing of a convoy near Klissura. The Division was then transferred to the area of Belgrade by rail and vehicles to bolster the German defences in that crumbling southern area. The heavy fighting which errupted in that sector in January 1945, pushed the Division, which was in the IV. Panzer-Armee-Korps, back into Slovakia. On January 21, 1945, the Division was transported by rail to Stettin in northern Germany. There, it was immediately thrown into the fighting in Pommerania where Soviet forces were moving steadily forward.

The 4. SS-Polizei-Panzer-Grenadier-Division was shifted to the Danzig sector as Soviet armies descended upon that city. There, it became trapped in the Danzig-Gotenhafen encirclement. From April 10th to the 14th, the Division suffered heavy casualties in the life struggle of the encircled units. Later that month, the Division was shipped across to the Hela Peninsula whence it was transported by sea to the port of Swinemünde. After a brief rest southwest of Stettin, the Division fought its way from an area north of Berlin, across the Elbe to Wittenberge-Lenzen and into American captivity.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division
SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 7
SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 8
SS-Panzer-Abteilung 4
SS-Panzer-Jäger-Abteilung 4
SS-Sturmgeschütz-Abteilung 4
SS-Artillerie-Regiment 4
SS-Flak-Abteilung 4
SS-Nachrichten-Abteilung 4
SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 4
SS-Pionier-Bataillon 4
SS-Dina 4
SS-Panzer-Instandsetzungs-Abteilung 4

SS-Wirtschafts-Bataillon 4
SS-Sanitäts-Abteilung 4
SS-Polizei-Veterinär-Kompanie 4
SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 4
SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 4
SS-Feldersatz-Bataillon 4

Divisional Commanders

October 10, 1939 - November 10, 1940 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei, promoted on April 20, 1940 to SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei, Karl von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch

November 10, 1940 - August 8, 1941 — SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei Arthur Mülverstedt (killed in action on August 8, 1941)

August 18, 1941 - December 15, 1941 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Walter Krüger (temporary command)

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER POLIZEI KARL VON PFEFFER-WILDENBRUCH

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS WALTER KRÜGER (HERE AN SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER)

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER POLIZEI UND DER WAFFEN-SS ALFRED WÜNNENBERG

SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER FRIEDRICH-WILHELM BOCK

SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER KARL SCHÜMERS (HERE AN SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER)

December 15, 1941 - June 10, 1943 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei, promoted on July 1, 1942 to SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei und der Waffen-SS, Alfred Wünnenberg

October 20, 1943 - April 1, 1944 — SS-Obersturmbannführer, promoted on November 9, 1943 to SS-Standartenführer, Friedrich-Wilhelm Bock

June 10, 1943 - July 5, 1944 — SS-Oberführer, promoted on November 9, 1943 to SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS, Fritz Schmedes (temporary command)

July 13, 1944 - July 22, 1944 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Herbert Ernst Vahl

July 23, 1944 - August 17, 1944 — SS-Standartenführer Karl Schümers (temporary command)

August 17, 1944 - August 21, 1944 — SS-Standartenführer Helmut Dörner (temporary command)

August 22, 1944 - November 27, 1944 — SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Fritz Schmedes

November 28, 1944 - May 1945 — SS-Standartenführer Walter Harzer

CHIEF OF STAFF (as of March 1, 1945)

Major i.G. Otto Kleine

Divisional Insignia

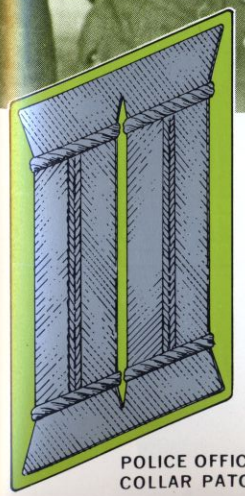
The basic uniform worn was that of the Waffen-SS, with bluish dark green collar and SS sleeve eagle on the upper left arm. Initially, collar patches were the silver on light green pattern of the Ordnungspolizei. The shoulder straps appear to have been the Waffen-SS pattern. Effective February 10, 1942, the Polizei-Division was integrated into the Waffen-SS.[4] From that date onward, all members of the Division and its replacement services were to wear SS rank insignia rather than those of the German Police.

GRIESE HIMMLER PANNIER DALUEGE

THE REICHSFÜHRER-SS UND CHEF DER DEUTSCHEN POLIZEI HEINRICH HIMMLER AND SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALOBERST DER POLIZEI DALUEGE SPEAKING WITH TWO NEW POLICE KNIGHT'S CROSS HOLDERS ON MAY 28, 1942: SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER UND OBERST DER SCHUTZPOLIZEI BERNHARD GREISE AND SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER UND MAJOR DER SCHUTZPOLIZEI RUDOLF PANNIER.

The helmet insignia for the "SS-Polizei-Division" was that of the Police .....i.e. the Police eagle on one side of the helmet and the Party shield on the other (see volume I). SS belt buckles are known to have been worn. As there were no named sub-units, the following insignia description covers the entire Division without exception.

[4] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, June 1, 1942.



POLICE OFFICER'S COLLAR PATCH

NOTE POLICE COLLAR PATCHES, SS CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN PULL-OVER JACKET AND HELMET COVER AND SS ENLISTED MAN'S BUCKLE.

THE NCO (BELOW) IS WEARING THE ORDNUNGSPOLIZEI COLLAR PATCHES.

WAFFEN-SS/POLIZEI INSIGNIA FOR GENERAL RANKS

The combined Waffen-SS and Polizei rank insignia was introduced in 1943 for SS generals holding a similar rank in the police. They were of the final SS pattern with the exception of their basic colour scheme. The collar insignia were gold wire-embroidered on a light green velvet background which was trimmed in gold cord. The shoulder straps were entwined gold/silver/gold cords on a light green underlay with gold buttons and silver pips.

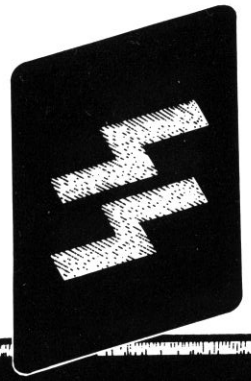
THE SS RUNES WORN BY THE SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER POLIZEI (ABOVE) INDICATE HE IS A FULL SS MEMBER IN THE POLICE.

SS-OBERST-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALOBERST DER POLIZEI

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER POLIZEI

SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER POLIZEI

SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER POLIZEI



(1) The first cuffband authorized for wear by the "SS-Polizei-Division" was a standard SS band bearing the police eagle. Its wear was effective from February 10, 1942 (for Division and replacement units)(5) and was probably permitted to be worn until December 1, 1942 when a new "SS-Polizei-Division" cuffband was introduced. Ordnungspolizei collar patches were initially worn but later replaced by the SS runes and rank insignia.

POLICE EAGLE CUFFBAND

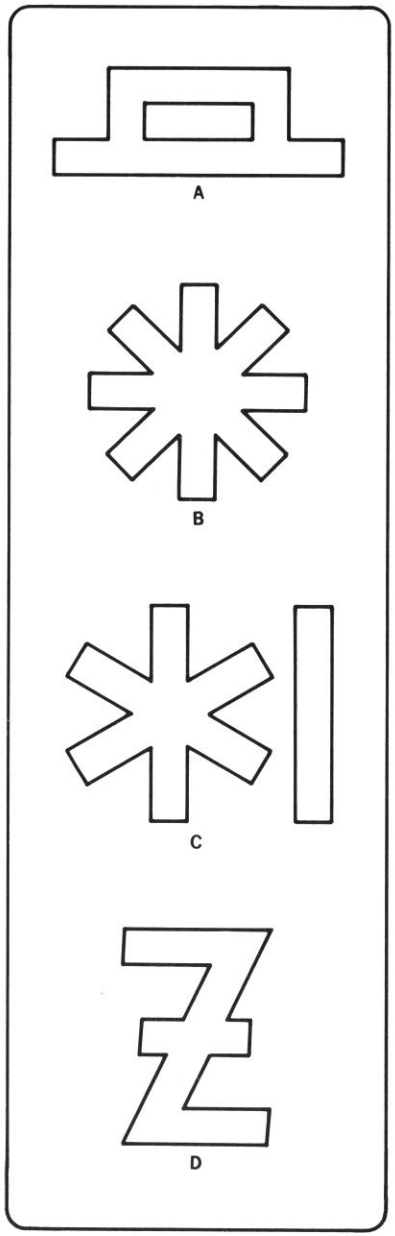
(2) Effective December 1, 1942, the cuffband with the inscription "SS-Polizei-Division" was to replace the above cuffband. (6) This cuffband exists in both the Gothic and block lettering styles.

"SS-POLIZEI DIVISION" CUFFBANDS (GOTHIC)↑ (BLOCK)↓

[5] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, April 15, 1942.

[6] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, December 1, 1942

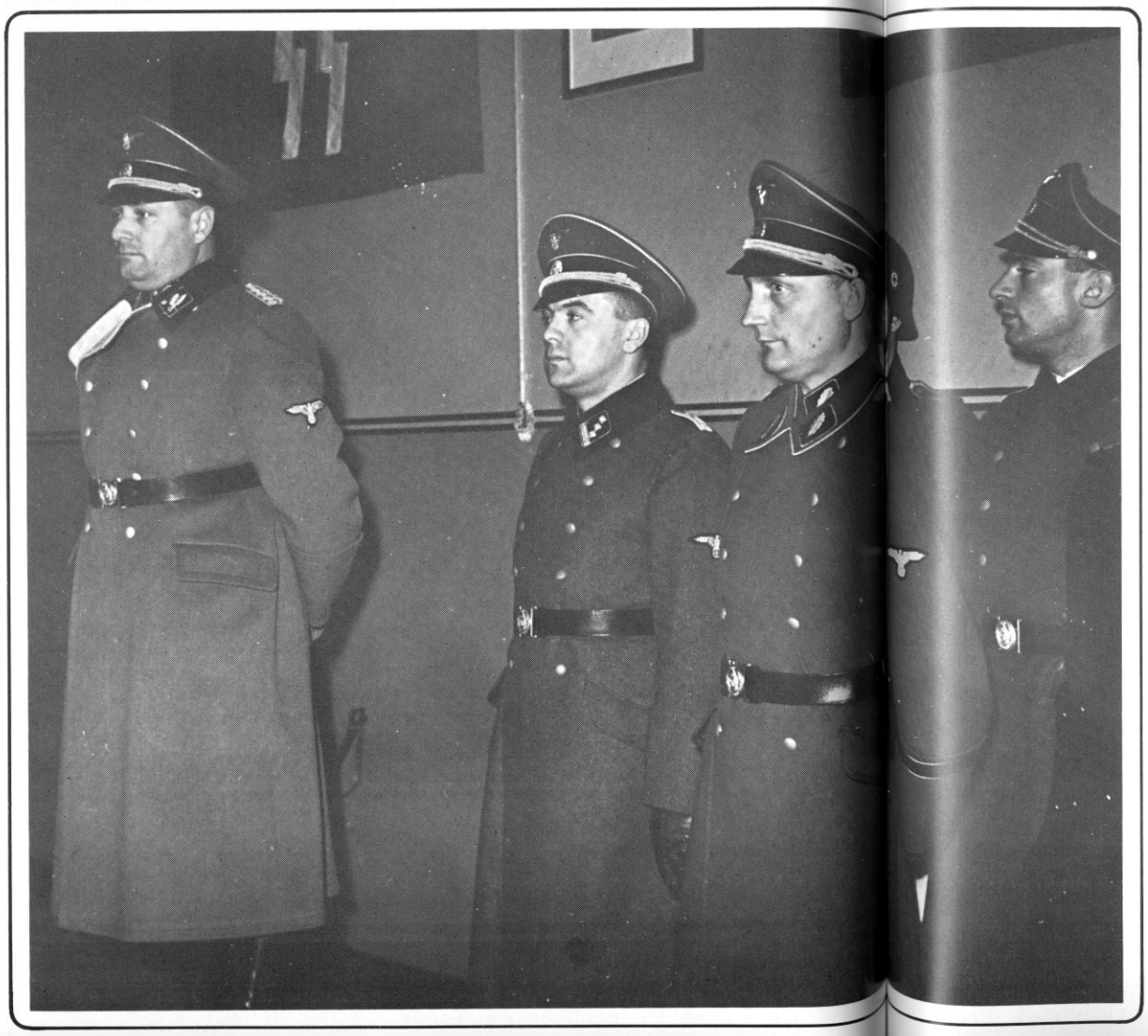
DIVISIONAL VEHICLE SYMBOLS



(A) was utilized until early 1943 (probably April) when (B) was introduced in green. This symbol was reportedly replaced by (C)[7] and eventually superseded by (D).

[7] This symbol, reported by H. I. A. G., may have been a variation of (B) or possibly indicated a sub-unit.

RECRUITING FOR NORWEGIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR REGIMENT "NORDLAND" ON FEBRUARY 21, 1941.



5. SS-Panzer-Division "Wiking"

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 5. SS-PANZER-DIVISION "WIKING"

December 1, 1940 - December 21, 1940	SS-Division (mot) "Germania"
December 31, 1940 - November 9, 1942	SS-Division "Wiking"
November 9, 1942 - February 1944	SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Wiking"
February 1944 - May 1945	5. SS-Panzer-Division "Wiking"

History

By an order dated December 1, 1940, the SS-FHA brought together the Regiments "Nordland" (composed of Danes and Norwegions), "Westland" (composed of Dutch and Flemish volunteers), "Germania" (from the SS-Verfügungsdivision) and 5. SS-Artillerie-Regiment to form a new SS division which was called SS-Division (mot) "Germania". This divisional title later proved to be confusing with the Regiment of the same name so on January 1, 1940, "Germania" was officially changed to SS-Division "Wiking", with Felix Steiner of the "Germania" Regiment as its divisional commander. This name change appealed more to the non-German volunteers' national pride.

In December 1940, the staff of the Division was stationed in Munich as was Regiment "Westland", and Regiment "Germania" was not far from the city. Regiment "Nordland" was in Vienna and Klagenfurt. On February 13, 1941, Gottlob Berger was given permission to begin recruiting for the establishment of a Finnish Volunteer Battalion. The recruiting was completed in two months with a 600 man battalion subsequently being formed. This battalion served in the SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Wiking" as a closed unit, under the command of its own officers. It fought on the Eastern Front until July 1943 when it returned to Finland and was disbanded.

In February and March of 1941, the different elements of the Division were gathered at the Truppen-Übungsplatz Heuberg for training and by April 1, 1941, the SS-Division "Wiking" was considered combat ready and placed under Army control. "Wiking" was attached to Army Group South and achieved its first battle honours at Tarnopol in Galicia on the 29th of June 1941. By August 26, 1941, the Division had continued east to the Dnieper River where it engaged in establishing a bridgehead. From this position near Dnepropetrovsk, the Division continued its advance to Rostov in the eastern Ukraine. There, Army Group South was stopped and before the end of November, had to fall back to defensive positions behind the Mius River.

In July 1942, the German summer offensive against Russia was launched in the Kursk-Kharkow sector with the Caucasian oilfields as Hitler's goal. Kleist's Panzer Army broke through the Russian defences and poured onto the Caucasus. Within six weeks the entire Don River region was in German hands with the SS-Division "Wiking" making one of the deepest penetrations. "Wiking" remained on the defensive in the Caucasus during the winter of 1942/1943 and the spring of 1943.

On March 22, 1943, the SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Nordland" was withdrawn from "Wiking" and used as a cadre for a new SS division. The Scandinavian regiment was merged with two existing SS Germanic legions and a large number of west and south-eastern European volunteers to form the SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Freiwilligen-Division "Nordland". During the summer of 1943, the Estonian SS-Bataillon "Narwa" was attached to "Wiking" where it remained until July 1944 when it was transferred to the Estonian 20. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS.

THE MASSIVE RUSSIAN WINTER OFFENSIVE OF DECEMBER 1943, TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF "WIKING" PERSONNEL.

The SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Wiking" received its final designation on October 19, 1943....the 5. SS-Panzer-Division "Wiking". The summer and fall months found the Division constantly on the defensive in the area

from Kharkov to the Dnieper. The massive Russian offensive which was launched on December 13, 1943, overwhelmed Army Group Centre and retook Zhitomir and Korosten within a week. In this great offensive, complete German formations were encircled by the advancing Red armies... ...two Corps at Cherkassy and the 1. Panzer-Armee in the area of Kamenets-Podolsk. The élite Panzer-Division "Wiking" was among those caught in the Cherkassy trap. "Wiking" was the only armoured division in the trap and therefore was the spearhead of the assault to break out. It consisted of two motorized infantry regiments, a tank regiment and the Belgian Volunteer Assault Brigade "Wallonien" (serving with but not an organic part of "Wiking"). The safety of the Belgian Rexist leader, Léon Degrelle, serving in the latter, was a source of concern to Hitler. Although many German troops did escape as a result of the agressive action, the "Wiking" Division lost its armour, all its equipment and almost half of its personnel. As the Russians continued to advance, some survivors of the bloodied "Wiking" Division were formed into a 4000 man Kampfgruppe and sent back to a straining front. As the Kampfgruppe arrived from its rest area in Poland, the scars from the Cherkassy pocket were still evident. It had no heavy weapons and also did not have enough rifles to arm all its men. The remainder of the survivors were transferred to Poland where they served as a nucleus for a completely refitted division on February 18, 1944.

SS-STURMBANNFÜHRER LÉON DEGRELLE, COMMANDER OF THE BELGIAN VOLUNTEER BRIGADE "WALLONIEN", SALUTING HIS MEN SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE CHERKASSY TRAP.

By July 1944, the Russian advances had carried them deep into Poland to the suburbs of Warsaw. The newly established IV. SS-Panzer-Korps, which was composed of the élite SS-Panzer-Divisions "Wiking" and "Totenkopf" and reinforced by the Army's 19. Panzer-Division, launched a sudden counterattack which threw the Russians out of Warsaw and back across the Vistula. For the following two months the three divisions fought the Russian armies to a stand-still and finally in October 1944, the Russians gave up their offensive action in this northern sector. This main front along the Vistula remained stabilized until January 1945.

The SS-Panzer-Divisions "Wiking" and "Totenkopf" were pulled from the defences of Warsaw in late December 1944, and rushed to Hungary in an attempt to rescue the 45,000 man garrison in the besieged city of Budapest. The armoured attack opened on New Year's Day 1945, and continued for nearly two weeks. Some of the encircling Russian forces were destroyed in the engagement but the SS divisions could not accomplish a breakthrough to the city. Late in January, "Wiking" attempted to open a corridor to the city once more but was again repulsed by formidable Russian defences. February found the battered "Wiking" Division on the defensive and attempting to hold against the pressure of increased Soviet attacks. In the final months of the war, "Wiking" fought a stiff defensive action from Stuhlweissenburg, west of Budapest, back into Czechoslavakia, just south of Fürstenfeld. The Division capitulated on May 8, 1945.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 9 (previously SS-Infanterie-Regiment) "Germania"

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 10 (previously SS-Infanterie-Regiment) "Westland"

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment (previously SS-Infanterie-Regiment) "Nordland" (left Division on March 22, 1943)

estnisches SS-Freiwilligen-Panzer-Grenadier-Bataillon "Narwa" (part of the Division in the summer of 1943, withdrawn in July 1944)

Finnisches Freiwilligen-Bataillon der Waffen-SS (attached in 1942)

SS-Sturmbrigade "Wallonien" (attached in 1943/44)

SS-Panzer-Regiment 5

SS-Panzerjäger-Abteilung 5

SS-Sturmgeschütz-Abteilung 5

SS-Sturmgeschütz-Batterie 5

SS-Panzer-Artillerie-Regiment 5

SS-Flak-Abteilung 5

SS-Werfer-Abteilung 5

SS-Panzer-Nachrichten-Abteilung 5
SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 5
SS-Panzer-Pionier-Bataillon 5
SS-Dina 5
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abteilung 5
SS-Wirtschafts-Bataillon 5
SS-Sanitäts-Abteilung 5
SS-Feldlazarett 5
SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 5
SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 5
SS-Feldersatz-Bataillon 5
I./SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 23 "Norge" } attached to the division in 1944/45
I./SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment 24 "Danmark" }

FOREIGN NATIONALS SERVING IN "WIKING"

No historical survey or order-of-battle of the "Wiking" Division would be complete without listing the various foreign volunteers serving in it. Although the Division was formed around the all-German SS-Regiment "Germania", it did contain from the very start two full regiments of foreigners, namely "Westland" (made up of North Westerners, i.e. Dutchmen and Flemings) and the Scandinavian "Nordland" (Norwegians and Danes). During the course of the war, volunteers from many other so-called Germanic lands also entered its ranks. The following is a partial list of those countries from which members of "Wiking" were drawn.

Germany:

Concentrated in Regiment "Germania", but also to be found throughout the Division.

(ABOVE) NOTE "SS2" COLLAR PATCH OF "GERMANIA" MEMBER.

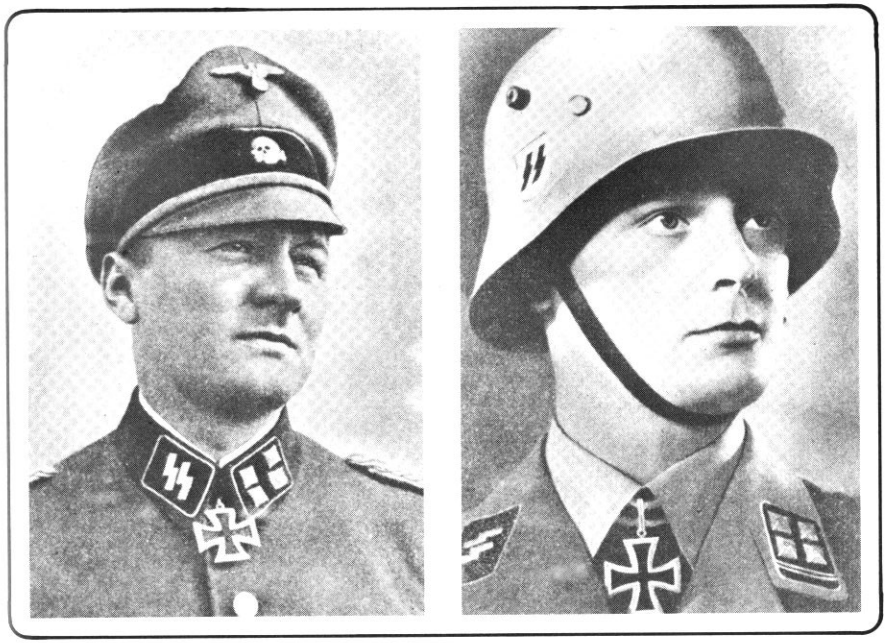
(RIGHT) SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER HANS DORR, COMMANDER OF REGIMENT "GERMANIA".

Holland:

Mainly in Regiment "Westland". 631 Dutchmen were reported in the Division as of June 22, 1941.

Flanders (Flemish speaking Belgium):

Mainly in Regiment "Westland".



SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER AUGUST DIECKMANN, COMMANDER OF "WESTLAND".

SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER HARRY POLEWACZ, COMMANDER OF "NORDLAND".

Norway:

Concentrated in Regiment "Nordland"(some sources state they made up a separate group.... SS-Freiw.-Pz.-Gren.-Btl. "Norge", whereas others state they were not segregated) but also scattered throughout the Division. 294 Norwegians were reported in the Division as of June 22, 1941.

Denmark:

Concentrated in Regiment "Nordland" (some sources state they made up a seperate group titled "Danmark".... possibly a special battalion) but also scattered throughout. 216 Danes were reported in the Division as of June 22, 1941.

Switzerland:

Although one official source states there was only one Swiss member in "Wiking" as of June 22, 1941, another gives 800 Swiss SS in the Division serving in SS-Art.-Rgt. 5. Others were possibly scattered throughout the Division.

Finland:

A contingent of some 421 Finns was absorbed by the Division in 1941, and the Finnish Volunteer Battalion of the Waffen-SS was attached in 1942.

Sweden:

Although only one Swede was officially listed in "Wiking" as of June 22, 1941, a number are said to have joined the Division. A Captain Schmiterloew is said to have commanded these Swedish members.

Estonia:

In the Estonian SS-Pz.-Gren.-Btl. "Narwa".

Wallonia: (French speaking Belgium)

In SS-Sturmbrigade "Wallonien".

Volksdeutsche:

Divisional replacements were drawn from Volksdeutsche in the Balkans and elsewhere.

Divisional Commanders

December 1, 1940 - May 1943	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Felix Steiner
May 1943 - August 8, 1944	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Herbert O. Gille
August 8, 1944 - October 9, 1944	SS-Standartenführer Johannes Mühlenkamp
October 9, 1944 - May 5, 1945	SS-Oberführer Karl Ullrich

SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS FELIX STEINER

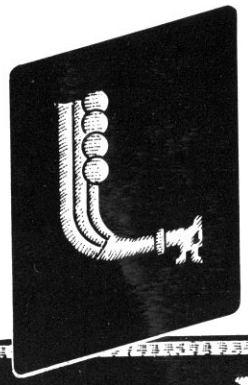
SS-OBERGRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERAL DER WAFFEN-SS HERBERT O. GILLE (HERE AN SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER)

CHIEFS OF STAFF

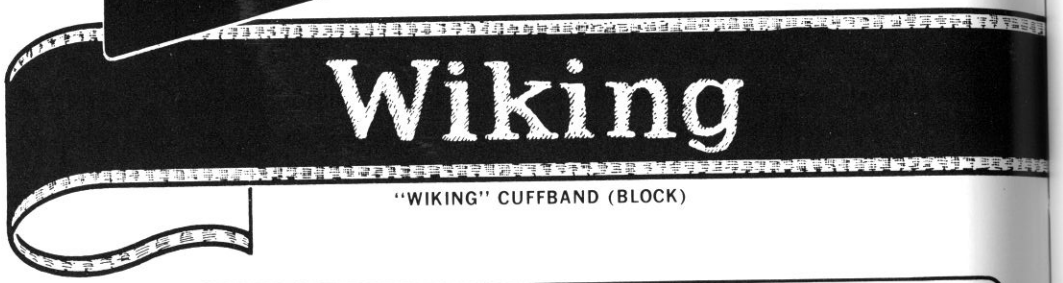
1940-1941:	SS-Sturmbannführer Günther Ecke
1941-1942:	SS-Sturmbannführer Erwin Reichel
1943 :	SS-Obersturmbannführer Manfred Schönfelder
1944 :	Major i.G. Kleine
1945 :	Braun
1945 :	SS-Sturmbannführer Willi Klose

SS-OBERFÜHRER KARL ULLRICH (HERE AN SS-STANDARTENFÜHRER)

Divisional Insignia



(1) All units of the "Wiking" Division, except those listed on the following pages, wore the "Wiking" cuffband in block letters(1). A Gothic version existed and seemingly was worn only by Gille. The SS runes collar patch was initially worn with this band but later was replaced by the Viking ship collar patch (selected for this Division by Heinrich Himmler in a memorandum dated March 3, 1943).



"WIKING" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

SS-HAUPTSTURMFÜHRER LÉON DEGRELLE IN BERLIN SHORTLY AFTER HIS UNIT'S ESCAPE FROM THE CHERKASSY POCKET. TO HIS LEFT ARE GENERALLEUTNANT THEO/HELMUT LIEB, REICHSPRESSECHEF DR. DIETRICH AND SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS GILLE (NOTE GOTHIC PATTERN "WIKING" CUFFBAND).

[1] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, September 1, 1942. The whole "Wiking" Division, with the exceptions of Regiments "Germania", "Westland" and "Nordland", is to wear the new "Wiking" cuffband in block let-

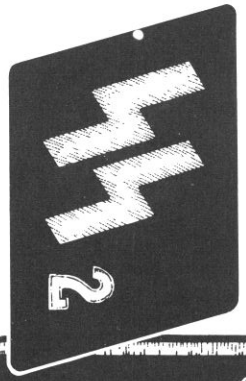
Note:

One should not confuse these two types of Waffen-SS "Wiking" cuffbands with the block capitals cuffband "Viking". The latter was manufactured with gold cotton lettering and gold wire edge stripes on a black band. This band was worn by the Norwegian Quisling 7th Hird Regiment.

NOTE BLOCK LETTER CUFFBAND BEING WORN BY SS-ROTTENFÜHRER MANNING TWIN MG-42s.

The block capital "W" worn on the shoulder straps may either have been meant for the Division "Wiking" as a whole, or for Regiment "Westland" in particular. In any event, it was rarely worn and was discontinued quite early in the war. National colours for foreign volunteers were worn where applicable.

NORWEGIAN SS NURSE FROM "WIKING" (NOTE CUFFBAND AND NORWEGIAN NATIONAL COLOURS ON SLEEVE).



(2) Members of the 9. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Germania" wore the "Germania" cuffband in block lettering (the SS-VT cuffband in Gothic lettering was worn for a time by some members). The "SS2" collar patch was worn initially and later replaced by the SS runes patch. A block "G" was worn on the shoulder straps until April 1, 1944(2).

"GERMANIA" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

Germania

[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, April 1, 1944. All letters and numerals are forbidden on shoulder straps except "LAH". Therefore, "G" was banned as of this date.

(3) Members of the 10. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Regiment "Westland" wore the "Westland" cuffband in block lettering. The SS runes collar patch was worn although the round mobile swastika collar patch is known to have been worn by the Flemish element at least after 1943.

Westland

"WESTLAND" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

NOTE SLEEVE EAGLE AND CUFFBAND ON SS OFFICER (ABOVE).

Note:

It is a peculiarity of "Westland" that many members wore the Heer breast eagle on the left upper arm in place of the standard SS sleeve eagle. This may have been due to shortages in supplies, but cases reported are common.

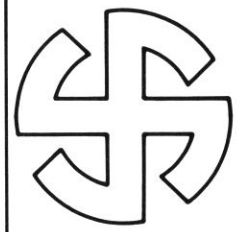
(4) Members of the SS-Infanterie-Regiment "Nordland" wore the "Nordland" cuffband in block lettering. The round mobile swastika collar patch was worn. It should be noted that many photographs showing the recruitment of this Regiment, show the "Totenkopf" collar patch being worn. This may be due to the fact that many instructors for "Nordland" (possibly from SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord") were former SS-TV members. A block letter "N" was worn on the shoulder straps for a short time.

Nordland

THE NCO AT RIGHT IS A FINN IN "NORDLAND". NOTE THE "N" ON HIS SHOULDER STRAPS AND SS RUNES COLLAR PATCH (EARLY AND POSSIBLY BEFORE INTRODUCTION OF THE "NORDLAND" CUFFBAND AND ROUND MOBILE SWASTIKA COLLAR PATCH).

(5) No evidence has been discovered indicating that members of the estnisches SS-Freiwilligen-Bataillon "Narwa" wore a special cuffband or collar patch. They did, however, possibly wear the Estonian national shield.

The divisional vehicle symbol for the "Wiking" Division was the so-called "sun-cross" or round mobile swastika. Examples noted show this symbol mounted either upright or in the mobile position. In 1943, this symbol was adopted by the Germanische SS-Panzer-Korps(3). The "Wiking" Division, however, retained it as its divisional symbol as well.



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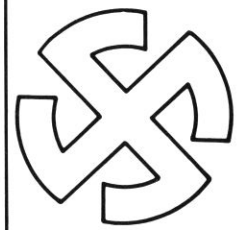


MOBILE[5]

[3] Germansk Budstikke, 1943, numbers 1 - 4.
[4] H. I. A. G. + Der Freiwillige, April 1966.
[5] Wiking-Ruf, 1951, Nr. 1.

A MORTAR CREW FROM SS-GEBIRGS-JÄGER-REGIMENT 11
"REINHARD HEYDRICH".

6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord"

EVOLUTION AND TITLES OF THE 6. SS-GEBIRGS-DIVISION "NORD"

March 1, 1941 - June 17, 1941	SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord"
June 17, 1941 - May 15, 1942	SS-Division "Nord"
May 15, 1942 - October 1943	SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord"
October 1943 - May 1945	6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord"

History

The 6. and 7. SS-Totenkopf-Standarten (retitled 6. and 7. SS-Infanterie-Regimenter on February 25, 1941) were transferred to southern Norway in late 1940, where they were teamed with a signals unit. This group constituted SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord" which existed by this title from early March 1941 until mid-June 1941. Kampfgruppe "Nord" was placed under the tactical command of the Army when used as a reinforcement at the front. Himmler, however, retained the right to withdraw it for SS tasks at any time.

The Kampfgruppe was upgraded to a division on June 17, 1941, with the designation of SS-Division "Nord". At this time, O. C. divisional supplies, a reconnaisance unit, an anti-aircraft battery and other essentials were added, and the new division was reinforced by SS-Infanterie-Regiment 9 and SS-Totenkopf-Standarte "K" (formed by expanding SS-Sonderbataillon "Reitz"). It should be noted that SS-Infanterie-Regiment 9 was later transferred to the "Totenkopf" Division.

As the great land and air battle against Russia opened on June 22, 1941, the newly designated SS-Division "Nord" was far to the north in Finland with General von Falkenhorst's Norwegian Army Command.[1] The main German attack on July 2 was to be directed along the railroad Rovaniemi-Salla-Kandalaksha to the White Sea, cutting off the Russian forces on the Kola Peninsula. The forces employed were the XXXVI Corps, composed

[1] Although SS-Division "Nord" was more-or-less a police formation and had just begun military training, it was the only motorized unit in the Army of Norway command. Its officers of all ranks had no more military training than they had been able to absorb during a short course of lectures and demonstrations given them during the previous winter. The Division had fired its artillery only once, and proficiency in the use of small arms was so low that provision had to be made for target practice while the Division moved up to the front. The march from northern Norway had been so poorly executed and revealed such a profound ignorance of military procedures that it resulted in the replacement of the commanding general and his operations officer.

of two infantry divisions, the SS-Division "Nord" and the Finnish III Corps with at least two divisions. The SS battalions attempted to overrun the Russian positions three times but were thrown back with heavy losses. The Russians quickly followed up the engagements with a counterattack which threw the Division back beyond its original lines. The Finnish and German divisions had, however, taken their objectives thus forcing the Russian attackers to fall back. General von Falkenhorst felt he could no longer trust the untried SS units so he divided them among the Finnish and German formations. It was obvious that the Division, which was composed of men trained for police duty, as concentration camp guards and SS reservists, could not stand up to the Russian veterans of the hard Russo-Finnish War.

During the winter of 1941, a new portion of "Nord" was established at the training centre of Truppen-Übungsplatz Wildflecken, where it was trained for duty as a mountian division. On May 15, 1942, it was officially titled SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord". That May, the Division was transferred by ship from Danzig and Königsberg, across the Baltic Sea, back to Finland. There, it was united with Kampfgruppe "Nord", which had remained as part of the northern defences, on August 3, 1942.

The year of 1943 and part of 1944 found the SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord" in action on a stationary Finnish Front with the German 20. Gebirgs-Armee. On June 10, 1944, the Russians launched a massive assault which broke through the Finnish Front. The weight of this offensive continued to keep the Finns off balance and pushed them from East Karelia. The Russian pressure continued, forcing the Finnish divisions toward the wilderness on the eastern side of the Isthmus of Olonets. To the Finns, however, the fate of Army Group North was nearly as momentous as that of their own army. Once the Baltic coast was in Russian hands the Finnish supply lines from Germany, on which they depended for much of their food and almost all of their military supplies, could be cut. The loss of Pskov on July 23, 1944, and of Narva on July 27 were staggering blows for them. In Finland, the desire for peace increased with every passing day. On August 25, Finland asked whether the Soviet Government would receive a Finnish peace delegation. In its reply on August 29, the Soviet Government expressed its willingness to receive the Finnish delegation upon the prior fulfillment of two conditions: that Finland immediately break off relations with Germany and that Finland order all German troops to leave its territory within two weeks, at the latest by September 15, and, in case of the Germans' failure to comply, take steps to intern them. On September 2, the Finnish Parliament accepted the conditions and approved a government motion to break off relations with Germany.

In September 1944, the 6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord" began its retreat across Finland to the west. Portions of the Division were transported by rail, via Skibotn and Narvik, to the Norwegian capital of Oslo. From Oslo, units from "Nord" were transferred by ship to Jutland. On December 21, 1944, all available parts of the Division which had arrived in Jutland were formed into a new Kampfgruppe. SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord" left Denmark on December 24 and arrived in the Palatinate on December 30.

Hitler felt that he had to hit the western allied lines repeatedly with the Ardennes offensive grinding to a halt, thus, keeping the Allies off balance and preventing them from organizing a major assault on the German lines. Operation "Nordwind" was the first of these attacks and hit in the vicinity of Strasbourg in the southern sector. Although having arrived too late for the initial Ardennes offensive, SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord" and SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 12 "Michael Gaissmair" were committed to this attack on January 1, 1945. The attacking force crossed the Rhine River north of Strasbourg and gained ground farther north as well. But the Allies had predicted the thrust and inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans as they hit the stabilized allied line. Thus, the German drive was contained and the surviving elements of the attack force retreated back across the Rhine. In the meantime, the remainder of the mountain division had arrived at the front by rail and occupied the area near Landau. The remnants of the retreating SS-Kampfgruppe "Nord" and SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 12 were again absorbed into the 6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord" on January 6th and 7th, 1945.

After continuous fighting in this area, the Division retreated to the north where it was engaged once more with the advancing allied armies in the vicinity of Worms. After this engagement, parts of the Division retreated into the Province of Hessen. The SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 12 was separated from the Division on March 12, 1945, and held on the left side of the Rhine until the last days of the war. Units of the Division remained in upper Hessen during the first days of April. They then retreated into the areas of Thüringen and Bavaria where they eventually surrendered to the Americans.

Order-of-Battle

Stab der Division

SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 11 "Reinhard Heydrich" (previously 6. SS-Totenkopf-Standarte and SS-Infanterie-Regiment 6. . . . named "Reinhard Heydrich" upon his death on June 4, 1942, by order of Hitler)

SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 12 "Michael Gaissmair" (previously 7. SS-Totenkopf-Standarte and SS-Infanterie-Regiment 7)

SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Bataillon 506 (previously known as Schützen-Bataillon Nord, this unit was attached to the Division since its time in Finland)

SS-Infanterie-Regiment (mot) 5 (previously SS-Totenkopf-Standarte 5. . . . . when disbanded on September 1, 1941, some members joined the "Nord" Division)

SS-Infanterie-Regiment 9 (previously SS-Totenkopf-Standarte "K" or "Kirkenes". . . . . left "Nord" Division and went to "Totenkopf" Division in 1943 as Regiment "Thule")

SS-Schützen-Bataillon (mot) 6

SS-(Gebirgs-) Panzerjäger-Abteilung 6

SS-Sturmgeschütz-Batterie 6

SS-Gebirgs-Artillerie-Regiment 6

SS-Flak-Abteilung 6

SS-(Gebirgs-) Nachrichten-Abteilung (mot?) 6

SS-Gebirgs-Aufklärungs-Abteilung (mot) 6

SS-(Gebirgs-) Pionier-Bataillon 6

SS-Ski-Jäger-Bataillon (norwegisches) (attached to the Division while in the north, but remained behind in Norway under the Higher SS and Police Leader Norway when the Division moved to the Western Front. . . Sometimes titled SS-Skijägerbataillon "Norwegen", or "Norge")

SS-Dina 6

SS-Bekleidungs-Instandsetzungs-Kompanie 6

SS-Sanitäts-Kompanie 6

SS-Veterinär-Kompanie 6

SS-Gebirgs-Kriegsberichter-Zug 6

SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 6

SS- og Politikompani (Norwegian SS and Police Companies: Companies 1, 2 and 3 are reported to have spent relatively short periods of time with the Division in Finland, although some sources state that the 1st did not in fact do so)

Divisional Commanders

June 12, 1940 - May 25, 1941	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Richard Herrmann
May 25, 1941 - April 20, 1942	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Karl Demelhuber
October 1941 - March 30, 1942	SS-Standartenführer Sch(n)eider
April 1, 1942 - December 15, 1943	SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Matthias Kleinheisterkamp
January 15, 1944 - May 1944	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Lothar Debes
May 1944 - August 23, 1944	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei Friedrich-Wilhelm Krüger

August 23, 1944 - September 1, 1944	SS-Standartenführer Gustav Lombard (temporary command)
September 1, 1944 - May 1945	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS und Polizei Karl Heinrich Brenner
May 1945	SS-Standartenführer Franz Schreiber

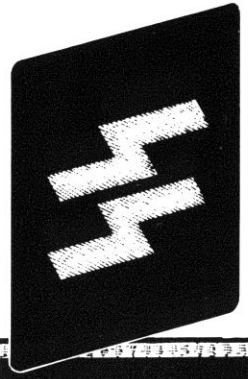
SS-GRUPPENFÜHRER UND GENERALLEUTNANT DER WAFFEN-SS KARL DEMELHUBER

GENERALOBERST EDUARD DIETL AND SS-BRIGADEFÜHRER UND GENERALMAJOR DER WAFFEN-SS MATTHIAS KLEINHEISTERKAMP IN FINLAND.

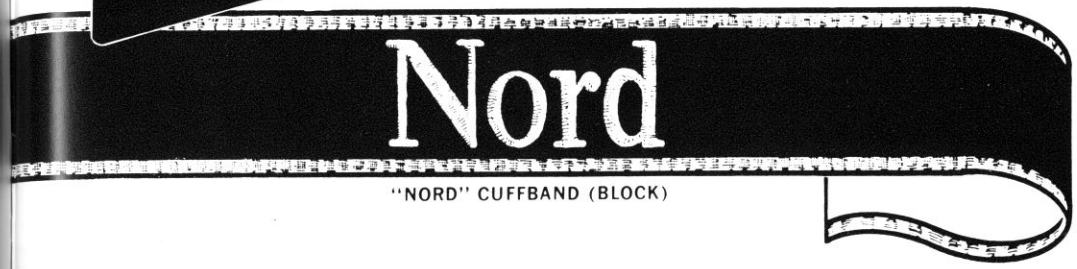
CHIEF OF STAFF (as of March 1, 1945)

SS-Hauptsturmführer Georg Berger

Divisional Insignia



(1) Members of the 6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord", except those units listed in the following pages, wore the "Nord" cuffband in block letters. Initially, the Totenkopf collar patch was worn (left over from Totenkopf regiments which formed the Division) and later replaced by the SS runes patch. The SS Edelweiss was worn on the right upper sleeve and the left side of the mountain cap. Foreign nationals possibly were distinguished by the wearing of national sleeve shields.



"NORD" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

NCO's FROM SS-GEBIRGS-JÄGER-REGIMENT 11 "REINHARD HEYDRICH".

(2) Members of the 11. SS-Gebirgsjägerregiment "Reinhard Heydrich" wore the "Reinhard Heydrich" cuffband in block letters (2). Initially, the Totenkopf collar patch was worn and later replaced by the SS runes patch.

"REINHARD HEYDRICH" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

(3) Members of the 12. SS-Gebirgsjägerregiment "Michael Gaissmair" wore the "Michael Gaissmair" cuffband in block letters. Initially, the Totenkopf collar patch was worn and later replaced by the SS runes patch.

"MICHAEL GAISSMAIR" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, June 15, 1942. This cuffband was authorized on June 4, 1942.

(4) Members of the SS-Skijegerbataljon "Norge" (formerly SS-Ski-Jäger-Bataillon (norwegisches) and later SS-Skijägerbataillon "Norwegen") possibly wore the "Norge" or the "Norwegen" cuffband in block letters. The SS runes collar patch was worn. Police belt buckles (German) were worn for some time and the metal Edelweiss cap badge was sometimes worn on the right side of the cap.

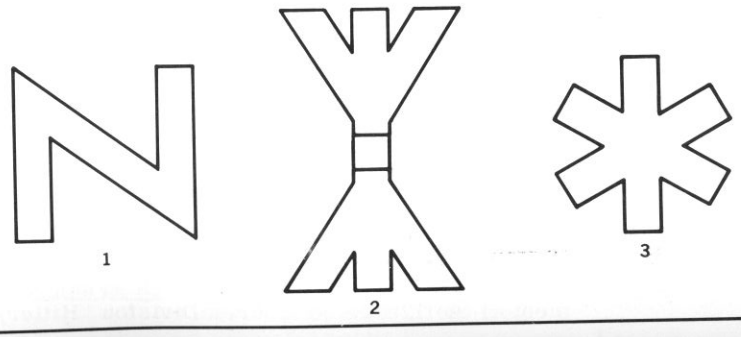
"NORGE" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

(5) Members of the SS- og Politikompani wore the "Frw. Legion Norwegen" cuffband and possibly others. The SS runes collar patch was worn. Each company carried a special standard.....see under Norway in a future volume.

"FRW. LEGION NORWEGEN" CUFFBAND (BLOCK)

DIVISIONAL VEHICLE SYMBOLS

Various vehicle signs are reported for this division, although none have so far been identified and therefore confirmed. These include: #1 - "Wiking Ruf" Number 1 of 1951; #2 - H. I. A. G.; and #3 - "Der Freiwillige" supplement.



Appendix

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO VOLUME I

PAGE

4 Line 5: For "Waffen-SS" read "SS"

" " 7: "with volunteers from almost every country in the world" is an overstatement.

" " 19: In fact, few excellent unit histories have appeared in German . . . most of them have been "formation histories".

5 Lines 12/14: Armies, corps, divisions and brigades are not, technically speaking, "units".

6 Line 14: For "SS-Führerhauptamt" read "SS-Führungshauptamt".

7 For "Division Schwedt a. d. Oder" read "Gruppe Schwedt a. d. Oder".

11 Line 7: The order abolishing helmet markings is cited on page 13, lines 6/7.

13 Illustration: Waffen-SS paratroopers possibly wore rank insignia on their smocks as did those of the Luftwaffe.

14 Line 1: "Units" should read "elements".

14/15 Both photographs show members of the Police Division, rather than of the SS Police Regiments (who wore police eagles on the sleeve and police rank insignia), which at this time was not part of the Waffen-SS. Army style sleeve eagles were frequently worn.

16 Line 1: The Italian SS did not exist "throughout the war" as it was only formed in 1944.

" " 3: For "insignia was" read "insignia were".

17 Line 3: Delete brackets and contents after "Standartenoberjunker" (St. O. Jk. wore the officers' sword knot and not the NCOs' portepee).

" " 6: For "NCOs wore" read "NCOs and men wore".

" " 8: "Fascio" in English is "Fasces".

19 It is possible that the "Landstorm" caps shown were of the second (i. e. police rather than Waffen-SS) Landwacht.

21 Top box, Lines 3/4: For "matt-green" read "matt grey".

" Illustration: The officer shown is SS-Obersturmbannführer Joachim (Jochen) Peiper - he wears the army style Panzer jacket.

25 Photo at left: The officer shown is SS-Obersturmführer Helmut Scholz, battalion commander in the SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Regiment "De Ruyter".

27 The Army Edelweiss was eventually forbidden.

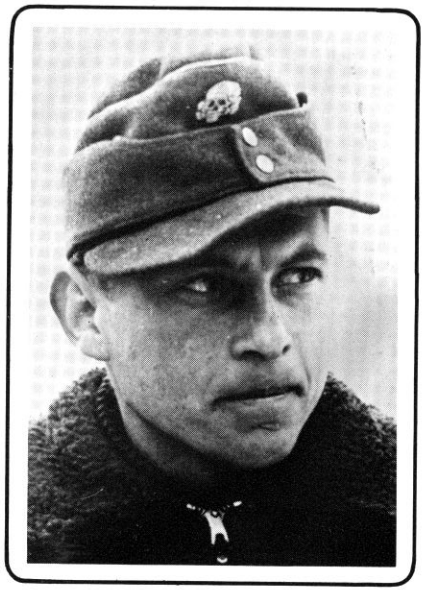
28 Photo: The NCO at the left of the picture wears an army style sleeve Edelweiss (see page 47 for SS pattern).

30 Note 7: For "Inspection" read "Inspektion".

31 Top photo: SS-Obersturmbannführer Max Wünsche commanded the Ist Battalion of the 1st SS Armoured Regiment of the 1st SS Armoured Division "LSSAH", and was therefore not a regimental commander in that division. He did, however, command the 12th SS Armoured Regiment of the 12th SS Armoured Division "Hitlerjugend".

31 Bottom photo: Here an army style Panzer uniform is being worn.

32 Top photo: SS-Hauptsturmführer Michael Wittmann was not a regimental commander of "LAH". He won the Oak-Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on January 30, 1944, as "Zugführer 13. (schwere) SS-Pz.-Rgt. 1, 1. SS-Pz.-Div. "LSSAH", and the Swords on June 22, 1944, as "Chef der 1. (schweren) SS-Pz.-Abt. 501, I. SS-Pz.-Korps "LSSAH"".



MICHAEL WITTMANN, HERE AN SS-UNTERSTURMFÜHRER SHORTLY BEFORE RECEIVING THE KNIGHT'S CROSS OF THE IRON CROSS ON JANUARY 9, 1944, FOR OUTSTANDING DESTRUCTION OF SOVIET ARMOUR.

" Botton Photo: Caption to read "SS-Untersturmführer Karl-Heinz Worthmann wearing the army field service cap and army style Panzer uniform. He was awarded the Knight's Cross on March 31, 1943, as "Zugführer in der 6. SS-Pz.-Rgt. 2, SS-Pz.-Div. "Das Reich" (i. e. the 6th company of the 2nd regiment).

33 Top photo: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei Hans Cristian Schulze. Awarded the Knight's Cross on September 11, 1941, as "Oberst und Kdr. des SS-Polizeischützenrgt. 2, SS-Pol.-Div."

34 Photo: The officer is possibly SS-Obersturmführer Karl Kloskowski.

35 Fez: One report states that Bosnian fezes came not only in two colours but also in two styles. Another states that the red fez had a black tassel, while the field-grey had a green tassel.

" Top photo: The officer shown is SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Sauberzweig.

" Skull Cap: The Albanian skull cap was white.

42 Photo: Bremer won the Knight's Cross on October 10, 1941, and the Oak-Leaves on November 25, 1944, the latter as "Kdr. der SS-Pz.-Aufkl.-Abt. 12, 12. SS-Pz.-Div. "Hitlerjugend". For "Liebstandarte" read "Leibstandarte".

44 Right photo: Wünsche was not a regimental commander in "LAH" (see note on page 31 above).

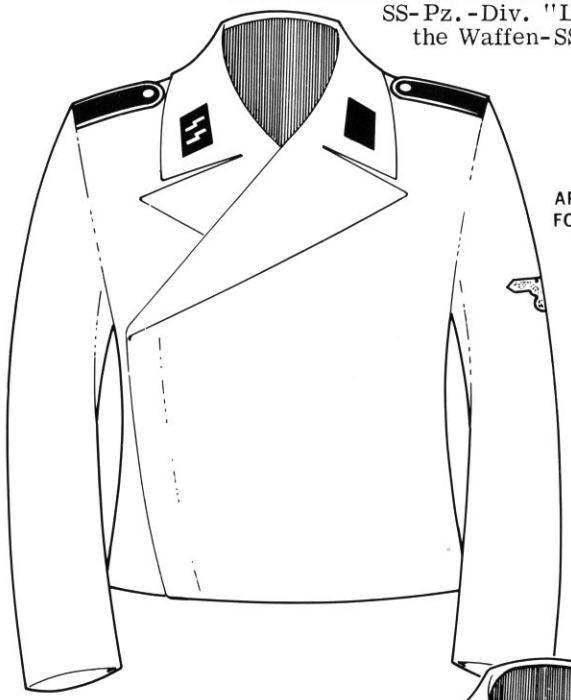
44/45 At first the army issue black uniform was worn with SS insignia, as illustrated on page 45. Later a special Waffen-SS pattern was introduced as illustrated below, and as shown in both photographs on page 44.

ARMY STYLE, BLACK TUNIC FOR PANZER AND ARMOURED VEHICLE CREWS.

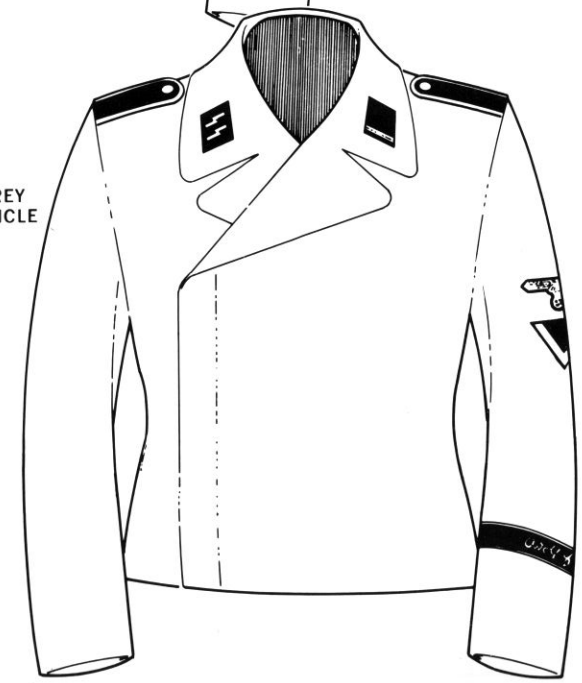
WAFFEN-SS STYLE, BLACK TUNIC FOR PANZER AND ARMOURED VEHICLE CREWS.

45 Illustration: This uniform should have the silver collar piping.

46 Top photo: The officer shown is SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Rettlinger, who won the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on December 20, 1943 as an SS-Hauptsturmführer and "Batteriechef der 3. SS-Sturmgeschützabteilung 1, 1. SS-Pz.-Div. "LSSAH". He is wearing the Waffen-SS style tunic.



ARMY STYLE, FIELD GREY TUNIC FOR ARMOURED VEHICLE CREWS.



WAFFEN-SS STYLE, FIELD GREY TUNIC FOR ARMOURED VEHICLE CREWS.

Initially, the army issue field grey uniform was worn with SS insignia, but later a special Waffen-SS pattern was introduced, as in the case of the black uniform. A comparison of the two can be seen from the illustrations on the previous page.

Members of assault gun crews were allowed to wear this uniform in August 1942(1), while those of self-propelled anti-tank units (Panzerjäger-Einheiten (SFL)) had to wait until almost the end of the year(2). The trousers were called Feldhose, the tunic Feldjacke, and the whole uniform Sonderbekleidung.

46 Note: For "Schutzanzug" read "Feldanzug".

" Bottom photo: Jackets are Waffen-SS style. The NCO "Tresse" was only worn by members of the "LAH".

47 Note 5: Add: In some cases the army pattern sleeve Edelweiss was worn (especially by the Walloon troops of the Waffen-SS).

49 For "THE SS MOUNTAIN GUIDE" read "THE SS MOUNTAIN GUIDE BADGE". It was authorized, for the duration of the war, in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated October 1, 1944.

50 The uniform illustrated is said to have been of Italian manufacture.

55 Variation of the fencing diamond.

60 Photo: For "SS-Standartenführer Daisenhofer" read "SS-Oberführer Dr. Eduard Deisenhofer". He received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on May 17, 1942, as a SS-Sturmbannführer and "Kdr. einer Kampfgruppe bei der SS-Tot.-Div." (i.e. commander of a battle group with the SS "Totenkopf" Division).

65 Reversible camouflage coveralls for tank crews are known to have come with sleeve eagles stitched to both sides.

68 Note: The special system of rank insignia introduced in February 1943 was only worn on the left sleeve.

70 Sleeve eagles: SS Military Police and Police troops wore police eagles on the sleeve at times (see respective sections in future volumes). Police troops did not belong to the Waffen-SS until February 10, 1942.

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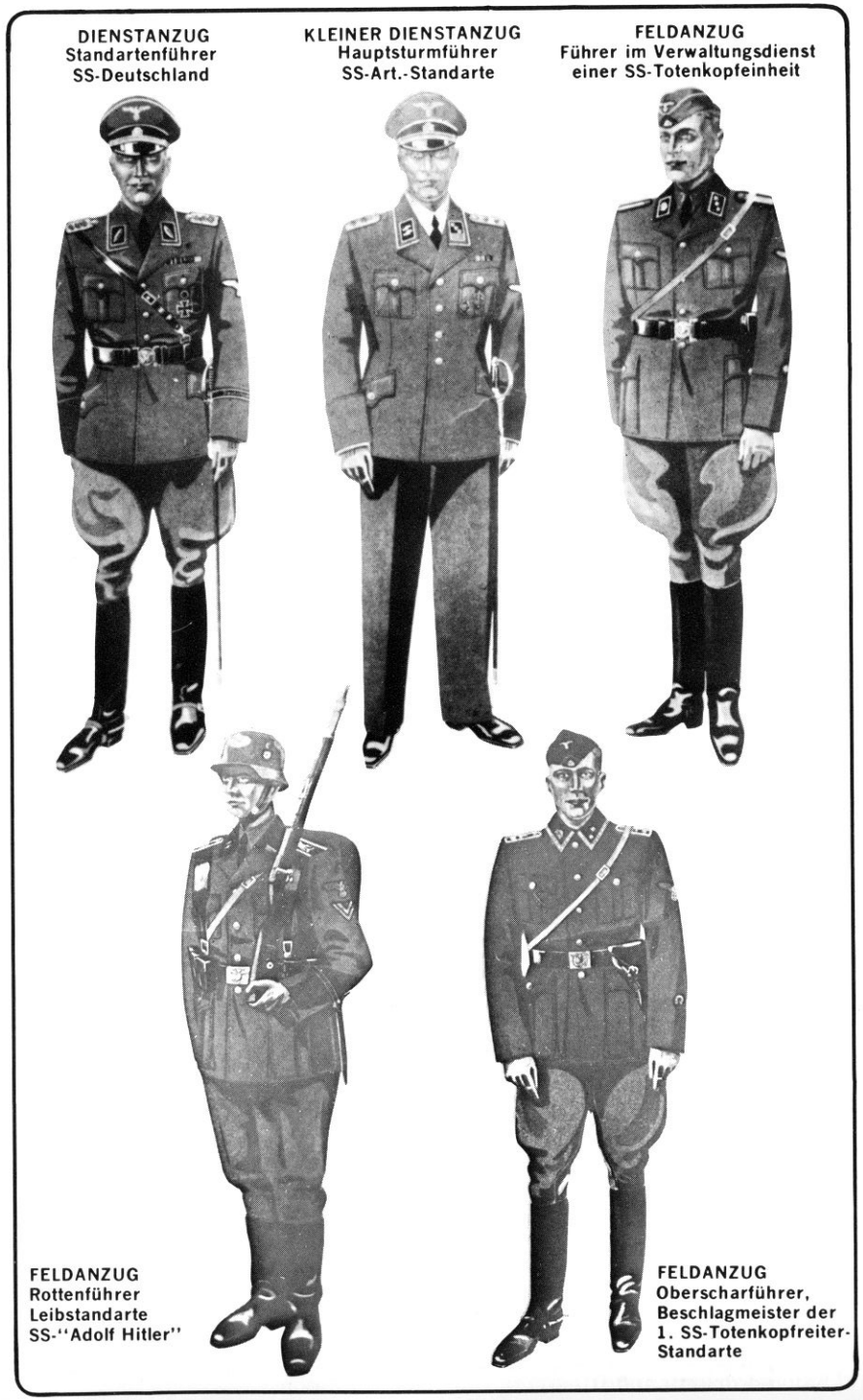
[1] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, August 15, 1942

[2] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, December 1, 1942

71/74 The following uniforms are from the wall chart "Uniformen der Waffen-SS - Feldgrau"(1940).



75 The "Reichsschule SS" cuff title was worn by "aktiv" personnel only. Also, the "blitz" badge was worn only by signals personnel.

76 Overcoats - Line 4: Collars were of bluish dark-green cloth, and not dark bluish-green imitation velvet (in fact velvet and imitation velvet were forbidden).

78 Top photo: The SS generals at the left of this photograph are wearing their overcoats incorrectly buttoned (at first four buttons had to be fastened, later it was reduced to three).

" Line 1: Generals' overcoats had bluish dark-green collars, not dark green.

" Collar patches were once more authorized for wear on Waffen-SS overcoats by "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", February 1, 1943. They were still not to be worn, however, on leather, fur, field, drivers' and other special coats.

79 The rank insignia on this overcoat should be for SS-Brigadeführer and above, never for an SS-Standartenführer as shown.

80 Photo: In caption for "(Algemeine-SS)" read "(Allgemeine-SS)".

82 Note 10: For "1st August 1943" read 15th December 1943".

84 Line 2: For "Heisst" read "heisst".

85 Photo: Alter caption to read: "Note officer in centre wearing army double-claw belt buckle and field service cap".

" Bottom Illustration: Believed to have been a prototype only.

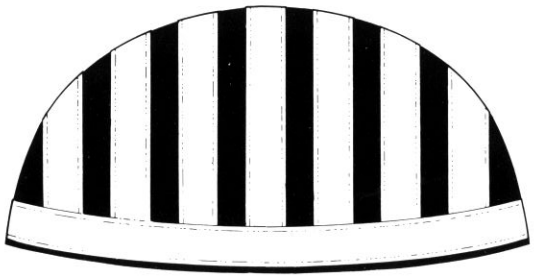
86 Belt buckle: Believed to have been a prototype only.

87 Top Photo: Hermann Fegelein rose to the rank of SS-Gruppenführer and Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS and received the Oak-Leaves to the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on December 25, 1942, as an SS-Oberführer and commander of a battle group.

88 Illustrating this gorget is somewhat academic as most Waffen-SS units had no standards or colours and those that did, put them away during the war. The caption should read: "SS-Fahnenträger (colour bearers') gorget".

91 Photo: "Schematische Kriegsgliederungen" indicate that the "Florian Geyer" Division had a divisional music corps, not (a) regimental one(s).

92 In addition to those "swallows' nests" shown, there was also:



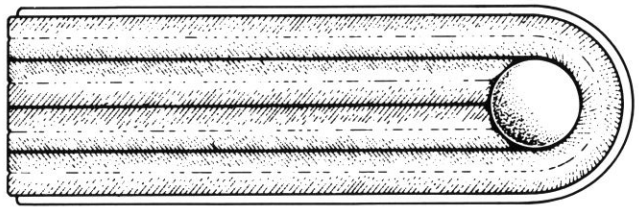
SPIELLEUTE

The Spielleute were the company buglers whose bugles were purely for sounding signals. When grouped together, they played drums and fifes.

92 Lower illustration: For "SS-Tambourmajor" read "SS-Bataillonstambour".

93 The lyre was only worn unofficially on shoulder straps and disappeared when the sleeve lozenge was introduced (see page 99).

93/117/124/128 All these shoulder straps should have 8 rows of silver cord (formed by two double loops) - as drawn with 7 rows is impossible.



94/95 For "bugle" read "trumpet".

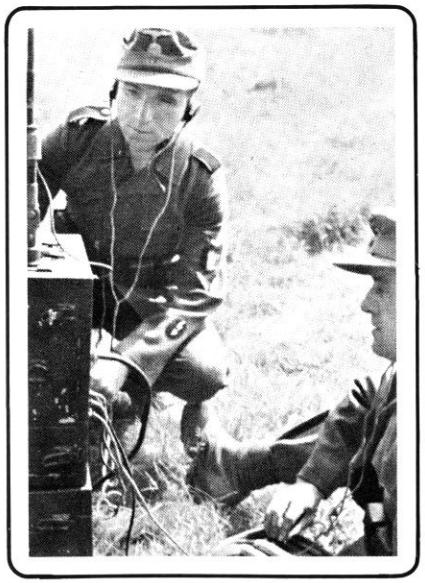
98 (3): This was probably for signals personnel of non-signals units (as in the Army).

" (6): This badge was authorized for dental officers in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", May 15, 1941.

" (11): For "Ordnance NCOs" read "Armourer NCO".

" Right illustration: This badge was not only worn by engineer assault boat coxswains, but also by motor drivers on pontoon bridges and other motor boat drivers.

100 Lines 2/3: The army pattern trade badges were worn by the Waffen-SS after the introduction of the black sleeve lozenges.



NOTE ARMY STYLE SIGNALS SPECIALTY BADGE WORN BY WALLOON VOLUNTEER.

" Illustrations: Letters and horse shoe were yellow. The War Ordnance Sergeant illustrations should be footnoted (1) and the Farrier illustration footnoted (2).

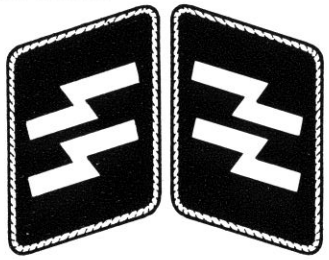
100 Note 2: For "(geprüfte Beschlagschmiede)" read "(geprüfter Beschlagschmied)". The badge (last line of note) was a yellow horse shoe on bluish dark-green.

101 Former Service Badges: (1): Is unconfirmed.
(2): "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated April 1, 1943, states that this badge was worn by NCOs (Unterführer) in the Waffen-SS who were returning to the police.
(4): Was for Waffen-SS officers seconded to the A.O. of the NSDAP.

Note 3: This note refers to the badge illustrated at top left. For "Technische Unterführer" read "Technischer Unterführer".

102 (4): This illustration of the Meisterschützenklasse is unconfirmed.

107 The "double" collar patches were probably for the Führer/Unterführer im Sonderdienst.



109/110/111/112/121/134 Throughout Volume I, the spelling "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" was used. While in fact being correct from the date of the rank's introduction on April 2, 1942, it was ordered to be hyphenated as "SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer" in mid-June of the same year. Therefore, "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" was only officially used for a few months. The order was published in "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated June 15, 1942, and is believed to have been prompted by the confusion between "SS-Oberstgruppenführer" and "SS-Obergruppenführer".

111 Paragraph 1: Some Waffen-SS generals incorporated police ranks in their titles.

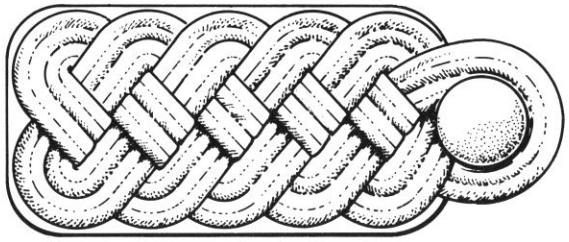
" Paragraph 3: The rank insignia system introduced in February 1943 for uniforms which had neither collar patches nor shoulder straps was identical in every way to that used by the Army (with the exception of the rank SS-Oberführer, of course, which had no equivalent in the Army). Thus, it was worn only on the left sleeve and generals' insignia were in gold-yellow, and light green for all other ranks down to SS-Unterscharführer. Lower ranks used the same rank insignia (i.e. chevrons) as on the field tunic.

112 Under "UNTEROFFIZIERE MIT PORTEPEE (SENIOR NCOs)" add "(Hauptfeldwebel)" to "Oberfähnriche, Oberfeldwebel"; and "(SS-Stabsscharführer)" to the corresponding "SS-Standarten-Oberjunker, SS-Hauptscharführer (not Hauptscharführer)". Although Oberfähnriche/Standartenoberjunker were classified as "Unteroffiziere mit Portepee", they did not in fact wear the NCOs' Portepee but the officers' sword knot (along with officers' silver cap cords, etc. and without NCO "Tresse" on the collar).

" Under "UNTEROFFIZIERE OHNE PORTEPEE (JUNIOR NCOs)" correct "Scharführer" to read "SS-Scharführer" and add "SS-Junker" to "SS-Unterscharführer".

" Under "MANNSCHAFTEN (MEN)" delete "SS-Stabsrottenführer" There was a pay grade equivalent to Stabsgefreiter, and this has been found written as SS-Stabsrottenführer (it is not believed to have been used officially). The Stabsgefreiter was equivalent to SS-Rottenführer but in the 2nd pay grade, and no difference was made to the rank insignia.

115/116/122/123 To be more precise, the entwined silver cords on field officers' shoulder straps should be shown as being double, thus:



116 The white underlay could also mean that this SS-Standartenführer was in the infantry (see page 136).

" For "SS-OBERSTURMFÜHRER" read "SS-OBERSTURMBANNFÜHRER".

117 Pips on shoulder straps for SS-Obersturmführer and SS-Hauptsturmführer should be in gold (see page 110).

" For "FUHRER DER VERWALTUNGSDIENSTE" read "FÜHRER DER VERWALTUNGSDIENSTE".

117/136 Delete the black and white twisted cord for Tank Engineers (Panzerpioniere), as it is not believed to have been worn by the Waffen-SS (see page 136).

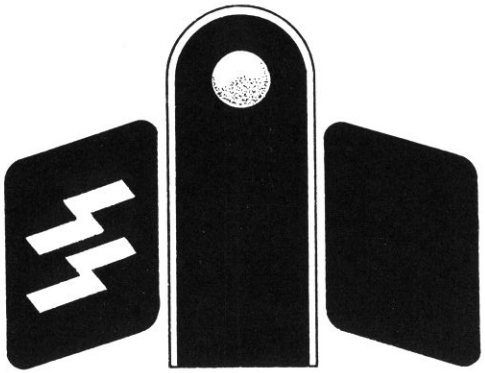
118 The rank of SS-Sturmscharführer (see page 125) was possibly in use before 1941.

118/136 Some sources state that Rocket or Projector Units (Werfer-Einheiten) used the bright red Waffenfarbe of Artillery and A. A.

119/120 For consistency, for "SS-GEBIRGSJÄGER" read "GEBIRGSJÄGER", and for "SS-FELDGENDARMERIE" read "FELDGENDARMERIE".

120 It is believed that the only members of the SS-Feldgendarmerie below NCO rank were drivers, etc.

" The lowest rank of all is not illustrated:

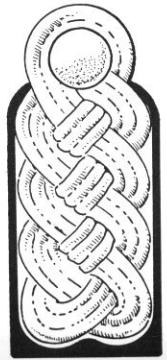


SS-ANTWÄRTER

" For "VERWALTUNGS UND TECHNISCHE DIENSTE" read "VERWALTUNGS- UND TECHNISCHE DIENSTE".

121 Collar patch pips for SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Waffen-SS and SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS are incorrectly aligned, as illustrated below they should be placed point-to-point:

121/122 Generals also wore a black base underlay to their shoulder straps.



122/125 The SD sometimes wore police shoulder straps. They are not believed to have worn uniforms requiring the sleeve rank insignia.

124 For "FUHRER IM SONDERDIENST" read "FÜHRER IM SONDERDIENST".

" For "STAB DES RFSS" read "STAB DES RF-SS".

124/138 Medical personnel only wore the AEsculapius staff on shoulder straps unofficially, and this was discontinued when the lozenge was adopted (see page 99).

125 The insignia for SS-Sturmscharführer im Sonderdienst is not correct as the Unterführer im Sonderdienst belonged to either Appointment Group "O" (Oberfeldwebel) or "G" (Gruppenführer i.e. junior NCO). (see note on page 137 in this appendix)

126 For "AUFKLÄRUNGS ABTEILUNG" read "AUFKLÄRUNGSABTEILUNG".

127 For "KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHE DIENST" read "KRAFTFAHRTECHNISCHER DIENST & KRAFTFAHRTRUPPE".

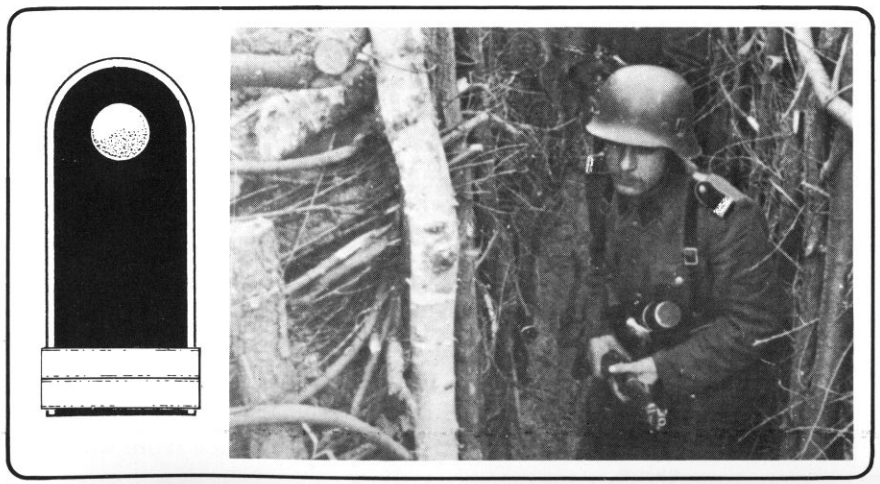
128 The "double" collar patches (see page 107) were probably for the Führer/Unterführer im Sonderdienst.

129 It is not apparent from the text, but an SS-Oberscharführer der Reserve or an SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve need not have been a Reserve-Führer-Anwärter.... he could have been an ordinary NCO. It is believed, in fact, that "(R. F. A.)" (or "(FB)") should have been put after the relevant ranks.

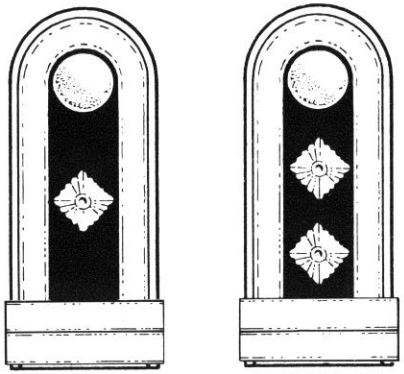
" Note 6: According to "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated December 15, 1941, Reserve-Führer-Anwärter im SS-Sanitätsdienst und SS-Veterinärdienst with the rank and title of SS-Hauptscharführer wore the same uniform as SS-Standarten-Oberjunker (i.e. collar patches piped in silver, officers' cap cords and belt, plus "Tresse" to differentiate them from SS-Standarten-Oberjunker).

" The special insignia worn at officer cadet schools will be described in a later volume in this series.

131 In all illustrations, the FB badge (two 9mm aluminum bars on shoulder straps) should be placed close to the base of the shoulder straps, thus:



131 One source states that SS-Oberscharführer and SS-Hauptscharführer der Reserve after July 1943 mounted one and two pips respectively on their shoulder straps, thus:



SS-OSCHA d.R. SS-HSCHA d.R.

132 The special insignia worn at NCO schools will be described in a later volume in this series.

133 Photo: For "SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWARTER" read "SS-UNTERFÜHRER-ANWÄRTER".

134 Line 3: Denys Erlam, in his translation of Hettler's "Uniformen der Deutschen Wehrmacht", stated that the use of different colours to indicate branch of service (i.e. Waffenfarben) began during the Boxer Uprising of 1900. This theory is now in doubt, and the statement that the use of these colours was to indicate the army corps to which an infantry regiment belonged is definitely incorrect as German troops in China were not very numerous and the question of army corps did not arise. It is believed that the system of shoulder and cuff colours for army corps was already in use before the Boxer Rebellion, and that it was introduced some time after 1870.

" Waffenfarbe was used as a piping to shoulder straps for NCOs and men and an underlay for officers and generals. Thus:

(a) Waffenfarbe was used as shoulder strap piping for ranks up to SS-Sturmscharführer (not SS-Hauptscharführer); and

(b) it was used as shoulder strap underlay for SS-Untersturmführer to SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer (not for SS-Sturmbannführer to SS-Oberstgruppenführer (sic)).

" Note 12: For "Waffenfarben" read "Waffenfarbe".

135 Lower photo: As the collar patches are not piped in Waffenfarbe (as is the collar) the wearer must hold the lowest rank: SS-Anwärter.

136 White: The source referred to in the note that white applied to Generalkommandos der SS-Pz.-Gren.-Divs. is "Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS", dated September 1, 1943 (item 322). This in itself is confusing as SS-Pz.-Gren.-Divs. had divisional staffs (Divisionsstäbe) and obviously not staffs of army corps (Generalkommandos)! The correct text should therefore read: "Armoured Corps and Divisional H. Q. Staffs of the SS (NCOs and men), (Generalkommandos der SS-Panzerkorps und Divisions-Kommandos (Unterführer und Mannschaften)). Officers wore the Waffenfarbe of the branch of service from which they came.

136 Light Grey: For "RFSS" read "RF-SS".

" Black: Text should read: "Engineers, including construction units (Pionier- und Bau-Einheiten)".

" Black and White: (as already covered concerning page 117) The black and white twist piping was not worn as a branch colour within the Waffen-SS as stated. In fact, when engineer units of the Army wore black shoulder straps, the black Waffenfarbe was seperated from the shoulder strap by a white piping. Twisted black and white cord was worn in the Army by a type of volunteer (possibly Kapitulaten-Anwärter).

" Delete Note 14.

" Bright Red: One source states that this was also worn by rocket or projector units (Werfer-Einheiten).

" Bordeaux Red: Delete "Specialist Service (Truppensonderdienst), Judge Advocate General Dept (J. A. G. D.)" as this is synonymous with "Legal Service (Gerichtsdienste)".

" Orange Red: Replace "K., W. and N." by full English translation: "motor transport, ordnance and signals".

" Orange Red & Light Pink: On August 1, 1944, all officers, NCOs and men in the Kraftfahrtechnischer Dienst (drivers not included) from Sonderlaufbahn (K) became part of the "Kraftfahrtruppe" branch of the service and so wore the light pink Waffenfarbe instead of the orange red. ("V. Bl. d. W.-SS", August 15, 1944).

" Light Pink: Replace text by: "Motor Transport Service/Troops (Kraftfahrtechnischer Dienst/Kraftfahrtruppe).

" Light Blue: Also worn by personnel of the SS Field Post offices, which were authorized in February 1943 ("V. Bl. d. W.-SS", February 1, 1943).

137 Light Green: Mountain Infantry (SS-Gebirgsjäger und SS-Jäger) are said to have worn "grass or ivy green" (Wiesengrün) Waffenfarbe after May 30, 1942.

" For Blue/Dark Green read "Bluish dark green".

" Officers and NCOs for Special Employment: Those readers doubting the existence of "Führer und Unterführer im Sonderdienst" should consult RF-SS, SS-FHA, IIb/(1) Az. 64 B16h Nr. 221/11.1941 v. 6.11.41, which lays down their special insignia.

" Lemon Yellow: For "(Zitrongelb)" read "(Zitronengelb)".

Delete "Armoured Signal Troops (SS-Pz.-Nachrichteneinheiten)" as these were only a part of the signal troops as a whole.

" For "Red and Grey (Rotgrau)" read "Red-Grey (Rot-grau)".

" Note 15: An Unterführer im Sonderdienst could be appointed to one of two grades ("G" or "O"), and a Führer im Sonderdienst to one of three ("Z", "K" or "B"), all depending on the individual's qualifications and the nature of his job. It is believed that they wore special shoulder insignia resembling their Wehrmacht counterparts. The Sonderdienst appointment groups were as follows:

G = Gruppenführer, i.e. in the Army sense of a Section Leader, as a junior NCO (not an SS-Gruppenführer).

O = Oberfeldwebel, i.e. senior NCO.

Z = Zugführer (officer commanding a platoon).

K = Kompanieführer (company commander).

B = Bataillonsführer (battalion commander).

138 As well as having unit letters woven into the shoulder straps, slip-on letters were also used. Other school shoulder strap letters will be dealt with in a future volume in this series.

" The AEsculapius Staff for medical personnel, snake for veterinary personnel and lyre for musicians were never official but were worn in certain cases before the introduction of the respective sleeve lozenges (see page 99), which were official. With the advent of the sleeve lozenges the unofficial shoulder strap insignia disappeared.

142 Waffen-SS Registration Plates: The SS Police Divisions (4th and 35th) are believed to have used "POL" as the prefix to their number plates at first, then "SS".

REAR LICENSE PLATE WITH "POL" PREFIX.

" It is not known whether Kraftfahrstaffel DRP (a part of the Waffen-SS) used the "SS" or "DRP" prefix to its registration plates.

143 A German source states that the rubber stamp on the number plate did not contain the unit's field post number, but was rather a stamp of the issuing authority. (56509 is not, incidentally, recorded as a Waffen-SS field post number).

145/157 The valid point has been made that in view of the authors' intention to describe the Waffen-SS and nothing else (see page 6) much of this section is irrelevant as it consists of information about the Army's practices which were copied by the Waffen-SS. The reply is simply that the authors wish to make this series as complete a coverage of the Waffen-SS as possible, even if this means describing Army usage copied or adopted by the Waffen-SS.

145/149 This section should be headed "Waffen-SS Flags and Pennants", and the word "pennant" should be replaced by "flag" when not describing a true pennant (which by definition has to be triangular or swallow-tailed).

145 Lines 6/7: Replace "car pennant" by "command or staff flag".

145/149 The design of the flags used by Waffen-SS field units was the same for both of its uses:

(a) flown on vehicles carrying the commanding officer - to show who and where he was;

(b) to show the location of the H.Q.

Thus, the same flag could denote (following the sequence above):

(1) Divisionskommandeur (divisional commander), and

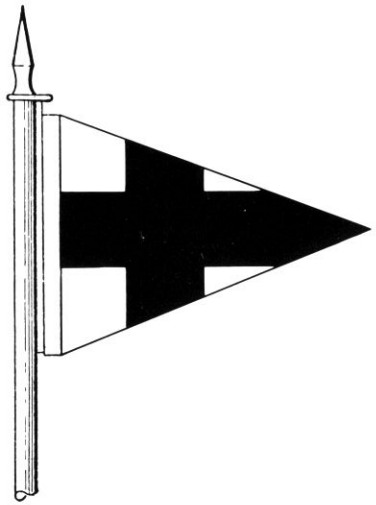
(2) Divisionsstab (divisional H.Q.)

Both captions would therefore be correct for illustrations of such a flag, but a fuller title would be of the type: "Kommandeur und Stab (eines Infanterieregiments)" (Commander and H.Q. (of an infantry regiment)).

146 Botton right: For "(STAB KAVALLERIE BRIGADE)" read "(STAB KAVALLERIE-BRIGADE)".

147 Centre: For "(STAB GEBIRGSJÄGER REGIMENT)" read "(STAB GEBIRGSJÄGER-REGIMENT)".

149 Pennant for an engineer battalion (Pionier-Bataillon) had a black cross on a white field.



150/157 These signs were used on order-of-battle charts ("Schematische Kriegsgliederungen") and maps long before they appeared on vehicles. Illustrated below are but a few of the virtually countless variations. It should be noted that Waffen-SS divisions in operational areas, that were not under the command of the Army, were not permitted to use divisional symbols on their vehicles, only tactical symbols. ("V.Bl.d.W.-SS", February 1, 1943).

150 Line 6: The Wehrmacht did not include the Waffen-SS.

" These symbols for regimental and battalion H.Q.s never appeared on vehicles, and were blacked-in on charts, etc. On vehicles they appeared thus:

REGIMENTAL H.Q.'s

BATTALION H.Q.'s

150 "K": Replace "Supply train assigned to a Battalion, etc." by "Supply train of a Division".

" "M": Not "Mechanized Engineers" but only a platoon within each battalion which was equipped with the special equipment required.

151 Top row (from left to right):

(1) For "INFANTRY DIVISION (MOT)" read "DIV. KDO. / INF.-DIV. (MOT) - later PZ.-GREN.-DIV."

(2) To "INFANTRY" add "COMPANY".

(3) To "INFANTRY" (PARTIALLY MOT)" add "COMPANY".

(4) This probably does not indicate a staff as there is no flag.

" Second row (from left to right):

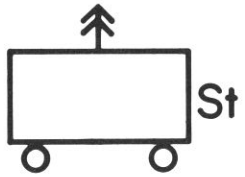
(1) Delete "(SELF PROPELLED)" as it is self-evident, and add "COMPANY".

(2) Add "COMPANY".

" Third row (left to right):

(1) Replace "ENGINEERS (BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION)" by "ENGINEERS (BRIDGE COLUMN)". There was a platoon in each battalion which saw to the motor transport of the pontoon bridges on land.... the bridges themselves were built by the companies of the battalion.

(2) Replace "ENGINEER BATTALION (MOT)" by "STAFF OF ENGINEER BATTALION (MOT)". As such, it did not appear on vehicles.... when it did, it was shown thus:

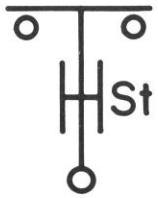


(3) Replace "CAVALRY DIVISION" by "CAVALRY DIVISION H.Q."

152 The sign at top left captioned "ARTILLERY BATTALION H.Q." was not for use on vehicles and in any case should be for "STAB, ARTILLERIE-ABTEILUNG". On vehicles it was shown thus:

All other signs on this page indicate batteries.

153 Left: Replace "FLAK BATTALION (MOT)" by "STAFF OF A FLAK-ABT. (MOT)". When used on vehicles it was drawn thus:



153 Right: Replace "FLAK COMPANY (SELF-PROPELLED)" by "HALF-TRACKED FLA COMPANY".

NOTE: "Fla" referred to 2cm and 3.7cm guns which belonged to the infantry; "Flak" were artillery guns of 7.5cms or more.

154 This sign denotes a company or battery of assault guns.

155 For "PANZER GRENADIER DIVISION" read "PANZERGRENADIERDIVISION".

" For "PANZER GRENADIER BRIGADE" read "PANZERGRENADIERBRIGADE".

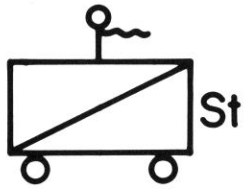
Both signs denoted H.Q. or staff.

" Third row (left to right):

(1) For "PANZER" read "PANZER COMPANY".

(2 & 3) Both signs denoted H.Q. or staff.

" Bottom: This sign designated the staff of a reconnaissance battalion, not necessarily Panzer. When used on vehicles it was shown thus:



156 All these symbols indicate a unit (Kompanie or Zug) rather than an actual gun or motor-cycle.

" Top left: For "ASSAULT GUN (ARMOURED CORPS)" read "SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK (EQUIPPED WITH ASSAULT GUNS)".

157 Second row - left: During the war there were no medical battalions, only companies, platoons or field hospitals.

" "KB": This sign designated a vehicle attached to a war correspondents' unit, which could have been a company ("P.K."), a troop ("KB-Trupp") or platoon ("KB-Zug").

159 SS-Führungshauptamt: "VERORDNUNGSBLATT DER WAFFEN-SS": For "1941 - 1945" read "1940 - 1945".

Bibliography

Just as Volume 1 included a bilbiography for suggested further reading on the subject of the Waffen-SS in general, this, and the volumes that follow, will contain bibliographies listing works relating to the respective subjects covered. Reference should be made to the bibliographies of the other volumes in this series, however, as titles are listed only in the first volume to which they refer

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Appendix

(CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS)

VOLUME 2

PAGE:

5. Acknowledgements: Apologies to Herr Hartvig Fleege and Dr. André Mathias for incorrectly spelling their names.

9. The SS Main Office: There was a Walloon Staff Company attached to the SS Main Office (Wallonische Stabskompanie b. SS-HA).

10. The SS Main Office: In January and November 1944, Heinrich Jürs, then an SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei, was Chief of Branch B (1).

10. The SS Main Office: For "SS-Brigadeführer Karl Zenner" read "SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei Carl Zenner".

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[1] Dienstaltersliste der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP (SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer - SS-Standartenführer), Stand vom 30. 1 and 9. 11. 1944.

PAGE:

11. SS-FHA:[2]

11. Line 14: For "SS" read "Waffen-SS".

12. For "Section/Abteilung le" and "ld" under Office/Amt II, read "Section/Abteilung Ie" and "Id" respectively.

12. For "Section/Abteilung VI" and "II" under Office/Amt VI and VII, read "Section/Abteilung 4" and "2" respectively.

15. Office/Amt VIII: For "Gartner" read "Gärtner".

16. Lines 5/7: Read as "... by his Personal Staff/Main Office (Hauptamt/Persönlicher Stab RF-SS...".

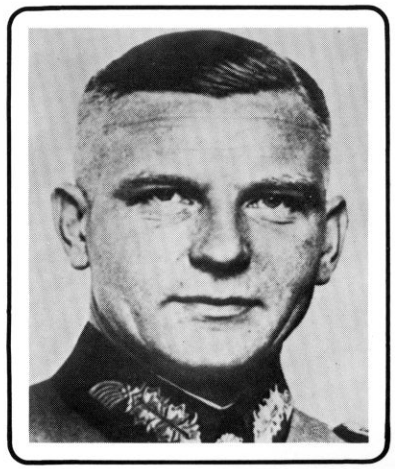
20. SS-PHA: It would appear that the offices of this Main Office were grouped into Branches (Amtsgruppen) and at first designated by Roman numerals and later by letters. Consequently, there must have been more than the two offices mentioned. In January of 1944, SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Dr. Adolf Katz was Chief of Branch II and in November of 1944 of Branch B(3).

20. SS-PHA: The SS-PHA was first located at Berlin S. W. 11, Prinz-Albrechtstrasse 9, then at Wilmersdorfer-Strasse 98-99 (not "98-89").

20. SS-RuSHA: The out-stations (Pflegestellen) were controlled by the Marriage Office (Heiratsamt) at Burghof-Kyffhäuser, Post Rossla/Harz.

20. SS-RuSHA: SS-Gruppenführer Otto Hofmann was Chief of SS-RuSHA in September 1942, so must have held this post between Pancke and Hildebrand.

24. Army Group "Steiner": For "Army Group "Steiner"" read "Army Detachment "Steiner"". It was always smaller than an army and should therefore appear after the 6th SS Armoured Army. Unlike a true Army Group (Heeresgruppe), the Armeegruppe / Armee - Abteilung "Steiner" was not a staff controlling armies. In April 1945, it was part of the 21st Army under General der Infanterie von Tippelskirch.



GENERAL DER INFANTERIE
KURT V. TIPPELSKIRCH

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[2] In view of the importance of the SS-FHA, a completely revised and much expanded coverage will appear as an appendix to a future volume. What follow for pages 11 to 15 are therefore corrections, not additions.

[3] Dienstaltersliste der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP (SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer - SS-Standartenführer), Stand vom 30. 1 and 9. 11. 1944.

PAGE:

24. Line 12: According to Steiner, at the end of the war his Army Detachment was made up of six battalions, including some men from the SS Police Division plus the 5th Armoured Division and the 3rd Marine Division.

24. Army Group "Schörner": It is believed that Göring gave Schörner the 2nd Parachute Division.

25. Army Group "Upper Rhine": More precisely, this Army Group included the HQs of the XIVth and XVIIIth Army Corps, the 19th Army, Military District V, frontier defence troops (Zollgrenzschutz), Eastern Battalions (Ostbataillonen), Home Guard (Volkssturm) and anti-aircraft units (Flakeinheiten).

25. Army Group "Vistula": In January 1945, the Russian Army was on the point of breaking through the Polish front and in order to hold it Guderian suggested the formation of this Army Group, under Feldmarschall Freiherr von Weichs. The Army Group was formed, but under the inept command of Heinrich Himmler, who allowed his sector to collapse and left Berlin in grave danger. The command then passed to Generaloberst Heinrici, who took over at Zossen on March 22, 1945, with orders to stop the Red Army at the River Oder and to save the German capital.

This Army Group is reported to have contained the 1st Marine Infantry Division of some 12,000 sailors.

This Army Group's armoured troops were eventually transferred to Army Group "Schörner".

Colonel Hans Georg Eismann was this Army Group's Chief of Operations.

The ranks and full names of the last three Chiefs of Staff were as follows:

Generalleutnant Eberhard Kinzel (who had previously been Lammerding's deputy)

Generalmajor Thilo von Trotha

General Erich Dethleffsen

GENERAL FERDINAND SCHÖRNER

FELDMARSCHALL FREIHERR V. WEICHS

GENERALOBERST HEINRICI

PAGE:

26. 6th SS Armoured Army: In March 1945, this Army contained:

Ist Cavalry Corps with the 3rd and 4th Cavalry Divisions

Ist SS Armoured Corps with 1st and 12th SS Armoured Divisions

IInd SS Armoured Corps with 2nd and 9th SS Armoured Divisions

Reichsgrenadierdivision "Hoch- und Deutschmeister"

IIIrd Armoured Corps (Army - under Breith) with two armoured divisions

27. 4th Paragraph: "(der... SS-Korps)" in line 2 to read "(des... SS-Korps)". The method of numbering corps troops by adding their corps' number to a base of 100 and expressing the result in Arabic numerals was ordered by SS-FHA, Amt II Org. Abt. Ia/II, Tgb. Nr. 1574/43 g. Kdos., v. 22.10.43, Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS.

29. Ist SS Armoured Corps "Bodyguard Adolf Hitler":

Lines 1/2: Following the order of July 27, 1943, the following were formed simultaneously:

- Corps Staff (Korpsstab) at Berlin-Lichterfelde
- Corps troops (Korpstruppen) at the Beverloo SS Training Area, except for the heavy armoured battalion (schw. Pz.-Abt.) which was formed at the Army's training area at Mailly-le-Camp in France.

On October 21, 1943, Hitler ordered that this Corps be made up of two SS armoured divisions (4).

31. IInd SS Armoured Corps:

As stated, the Corps' HQ was authorized on May 28, 1942 (5), and was to be formed at the (Bergen) Fallingbostel training area. This was altered to the Bergen-Belsen training area by a further order issued in June (6).

365 officers and 11,154 other ranks of the Corps were lost in the Kharkov battle of March 1943.

32. On October 21, 1943, Hitler ordered that this Corps be made up of two SS armoured divisions (7).

32. Line 7: The IInd SS Corps was sent from northern Italy to Alençon in northern France at the end of 1943, at which time it contained the 9th and 10th SS Armoured Divisions. It transferred to Lemberg in the General Government in March 1944, from whence it returned to Tarnopol on the eastern front the following month.

The IInd SS Armoured Corps also contained for a time the 12th and 17th SS Armoured Divisions.

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[4] FHQ, den 21.10.43 (T-175/111/2635155).

[5] The order's complete title: SS-FHA, Org. Tgb. Nr. 3110/42 geh., v. 28.5.42, Aufstellung eines SS-Generalkommandos.

[6] SS-FHA, Org. Tgb. Nr. 3411/42 geh., v. 10.6.42, Aufstellung des SS-Generalkommandos.

[7] FHQ, den 21.10.43 (T-175/111/2635155).

PAGE:

Corps Troops: For "SS-Art.-Abt. 102" read "(schw.) SS-Art.-Abt. 102.

33. Corps Troops: For ".../SS-Werfer-Abt. 102" read ".../SS-Werfer-Abt. 102/502".

Add "schw. SS-Pz.-Aufkl.-Abt. 502" to the list of corps troops.

SS-Führungs-Nachr.-Rgt. 502 may have been an element of this Corps.

"Replace SS-Werkstatt-Kp. 102 by SS-Pz.-Werkstatt-Kp. 102"

For "SS-San.-Abt. 102" read "Korps-San.-Abt. (mot)/SS-San.-Abt. 102".

33. Note: This note should appear under the list of the commanders of the IIIrd (Germanic) SS Armoured Corps on page 35.

34. IIIrd (Germanic) SS Armoured Corps:

With its HQ and corps troops formed at the military training area at Grafenwöhr, this Corps was in action in Croatia from September until the end of 1943, and then on the Oranienbaumer front in December 1944. On the Latvian coast in January 1945, it was transferred by sea to Pomerania where under Army Group "Vistula" it fought its last battle.

The Corps numbered some 25,000 men at the end of 1944, some 10,000 of whom were either ethnic Germans or West European volunteers. At a later stage, about 12,000 Luftwaffe personnel and 5,000 sailors were added.

34. Corps Troops: schw. SS-Pz.-Abt. 103/503 contained a staff company (Stabskompanie) and a supply company (Versorg. Kp.).

Replace "SS-Vielfachwerferbatterie 521" by:

"SS-Vielfach-Werfer-Bttr. 103

SS-(Vielfach-)Werfer-Bttr. 521 (with this Corps in the fighting around Narva, Peipussee and Courland)"

Add: SS-Nachschub-Trupp 103

34. Footnote 13: The order's complete title: SS-FHA, Kdo. Amt der Waffen-SS, Tgb. Nr. 529/43 g. Kdos., v. 19.4.43, Aufstellung des Germ. SS-Panzerkorps.

35. Commanders: Steiner was still in command on November 9, 1944, at which time Keppler was was in command of the Ist SS Armoured Corps.

Chiefs of Staff: SS-Obersturmbannführer (promoted on November 9, 1944, to SS-Standartenführer) Hans Sporn.

36. IVth SS Armoured Corps:

3rd paragraph: It should be noted that:

(a) the 96th and 711th were infantry divisions of the Army;

(b) the Magyar troops were in fact Hungarian cavalry;

(c) the following should be included:

6th Armoured Division (Army)

Battle Group (Kampfgruppe) Pape

....and possibly the 1st and 3rd Armoured Divisions (Army) at Budapest in January 1945.

PAGE:

36. Corps Troops: Add: I-Staffel 504

SS-Nachschub-Trupp 504

36. Footnote 15: The order's complete title: SS-FHA, Kdo. Amt der Waffen-SS, Org. Tgb. Nr. 1051/43 g. Kdos., v. 5.8.43, Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. IV. SS-Pz.-Korps.

37. Commanders: Alfred Wünnenberg took command on June 1, 1943, not June 10.

SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Walter Krüger commanded this Corps in January 1944 (8).

38. Vth SS Volunteer Mountain Army Corps etc.:

The Staff of this Corps was formed in Berlin, while its corps troops were formed at the Milowitz military training area.

The HQ moved from Berlin to Prague in the summer of 1943, and the Corps' first action was at Mostar in October 1943.

38. Corps Troops:

SS-Werfer-Abt. 500 served with this Corps at Dömitz, Ludwigslust, Döberitz, Wittenberge, Perleberg and Lenzen.

Replace "s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot)" by "(s.) SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot) 505"

Add: SS-Nachschub-Trupp 505

2 Kraftf. Kp.

38. Footnote 17: The order's complete title: SS-FHA, Kdo. Amt der Waffen-SS, Org. Tgb. Nr. 683/43 g. Kdos., v. 8.7.43, Aufstellung des Gen.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps.

39. Corps Troops: Replace "SS-Korps-Pferdelazarett 105" by "SS-Korps-Pferdelazarett 105/505"

Add: SS-Pferde-Park 505

39. Commanders: Friedrich Wilhelm Krüger was an SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei. He was still in command on November 9, 1944.

Chiefs of Staff: SS-Standartenführer Otto Kumm was the Chief of Staff in the summer of 1943 (9).

40. VIth SS Volunteer Army Corps etc.:

This Corps saw action in northern Russia in 1943.

40. Corps Troops: SS-Werfer-Abt. 506 was formed by the SS-FHA on February 25, 1945.

the final designation of the signals unit was "SS-Nachr.-Abt. 506"

the SS-Sich.-Kp. (mot) was numbered "106" and possibly "506"

40. Commanders: von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch was promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei on November 9, 1943.

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[8] Dienstaltersliste der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP (SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer - SS-Standartenführer), Stand vom 30. Januar 1944.

[9] Krätschmer, Die Ritterkreuzträger der Waffen-SS, p. 87.

PAGE:

41. Commanders: Delete "und Polizei" from Walter Krüger's rank.

41. VIIth SS Armoured Corps:

Hitler ordered the formation of this Corps' HQ from his FHQ in October 1943 (10).

42. IXth Croat Non-Germanic Mountain Corps of the SS etc.:

The order transferring units from the "Handschar" Division to provide corps troops is: SS-FHA Amt II Org. Abt. Ia/II, Tgb. Nr. 3253 g. Kdos. v. 24. 9. 44, Umgliederung der 13. Waffen-Geb. Div. der SS "Handschar" (kroatische Nr. 1) und Aufstellung der 23. Waffen-Geb. Div. der SS (kroatische Nr. 2) under Gen. Kdo. IX. Waffen-Geb. Korps der SS (kroatisches).

The units taken from "Handschar" in this way are listed below, with their new designations as corps troops:

From "Handschar" Division:	Corps Troops:
SS-Aufkl.-Abt. 13	SS-Aufkl.-Abt. 509
SS-Pz.-Jäg.-Abt. 13	SS-Pz.-Jäg.-Abt. 509
SS-Geb.-Art.-Rgt. 13	SS-Geb.-Art.-Rgt. 509
SS-Geb.-Pio.-Btl. 13	SS-Geb.-Pio.-Btl. 509

42. Corps Troops: The SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. (mot) was finally numbered "509".

43. Commanders: Sauberzweig's first name was Karl.

Add "und Waffen-SS" to von Pfeffer-Wildenbruch's rank.

It is considered unlikely that Kammerhöfer was the Corps' first commander.

43. Xth SS Army Corps:

The date of formation of this Corps' HQ is given as February 1945 in Der Freiwillige, Heft 9, September 1967, page 12.

44. XIth SS Armoured Corps etc.:

The 78th was an Assault Division (Sturm-Division). This Corps also controlled the troops of the Küstrin Fortress (Festung Küstrin) and Division "Döberitz".

44. XIIth SS Army Corps:

Towards the end of 1944, the Army's XXXXVIIth Armoured Corps was placed under the XIIth SS Army Corps, bringing the following elements under the latter (11):

9. Pz.-Div.	- 9th Armoured Division
176. J.D.	- 176th Infantry Division
183. V.G.D.	- 183rd People's Grenadier Division
Volks-Art.-Korps 388	- People's Artillery Corps 388
15. Pz.Gren.Div.	- 15th Mechanized Infantry Division

45. Commanders: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS und Polizei Curt von Gottberg was still commanding this Corps on November 9, 1944.

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[10] FHQ, den 3.10.43 (T-175/111/2635153).

[11] Gen.Kdo. XII. SS-A.K., Abt. Ia, Nr. 443/44g.Kdos., v.17.11.44.

PAGE:

46. XIVth SS Army Corps:

The HQ of this Corps built up the "Oder Corps" (Oderkorps) along the line from Freienwalde to Gartz from Army, anti-aircraft, naval and static SS elements.

51. For "Pferd-Laz." read "Pferde-Laz.".

54. Whereas the "Adolf Hitler" Division carried the number "1", it was not in fact the first SS division to be formed (the SS-V.T.-Division (mot) which later became the 2nd SS Armoured Division "Das Reich", was formed earlier).

57. Collar Patches:

(c): The question of non-German personnel not wearing SS runes on the right collar patch is more complicated than indicated, as:

(1) the first Nordic volunteer elements of the Waffen-SS were Regiments "Nordland" and "Westland", whose members wore SS runes.

(2) the Viking ship, which is believed to have been introduced for the 5th SS Armoured Division "Wiking" was non-Runic.

58. Numbering: Divisions:

Following Himmler's instructions, the SS-FHA ordered on October 22, 1943 that the divisions of the Waffen-SS were to be numbered in a single numerical series according to their sequence of formation (12). A subsequent order (13), dated November 12, listed the 17 divisions so numbered.

59. Infantry Regiments:

Two groups of non-German volunteer regiments are listed. Although planned, not all of those listed in the second group were formed (e.g. not all of the six proposed Russian regiments and only two of the three Flemish regiments were formed.... the two Albanian regiments were never completed). There were also 3 Walloon regiments.

69. Lines 1 and 2: Rather than being committed to the battle "...two months after the Normandy invasion...", it would appear that "LAH" arrived at the front on June 28 and joined the battle on June 29 (14).

74. Regulations stated that the detachable strap should have been placed in the centre of the shoulder strap thus, although in many cases it was worn as illustrated.

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[12] SS-FHA, Amt II Org. Abt. Ia/II, Tgb. Nr. 1574/43 g. Kdos., v. 22.10.43, Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS.

[13] SS-FHA, Amt II Org. Abt. Ia/II, Tgb. Nr. II/9542/43 geh. v. 12.11.43, Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS.

[14] Panzermeyer, Grenadiere.

PAGE:

76. Photo: As pilots were members of the Luftwaffe, the Waffen-SS NCO was probably the observer of the aircraft.

85. Lines 21 - 23: The Division which came within sight of the Meuse River by Christmas Eve was in fact not 2. SS-Panzer-Division "Das Reich" but the Army's 2. Panzer-Division.

86. Order-of-Battle:

Add: SS-Wirtschafts-Btl. 2

SS-San.-Abt. 2

90. (1): The "Reich" cuffband is mentioned in an edition of the SS Clothing Office (SS-Kleiderkasse) catalogue, but was almost certainly never manufactured, let alone worn.

95. (6): The Trifos (3-legged swastika) collar patch was originally worn by SS-Standarte "Nordwest", then by the Legion Flandern, and finally by the "Langemarck" Division (15). It was probably not worn by the "Langemarck" Regiment.

96/97: The official vehicle symbol of the "Das Reich" Division from 1941 until the end of the war was the "Kampfrune" as shown on page 97 in lemon yellow (16). The symbol illustrated on page 96 was used to confuse the enemy in preparation for the operation begun on July 5, 1943, to recapture Kursk (Unternehmen Zitadelle). This confirms the date of the larger photograph.

"DAS REICH" IN RUSSIA (NOTE "KAMPFRUNE").

105/106. Order-of-Battle:

Add: SS-Kradschützen-Btl. 3

SS-Pz.-Inst.-Abt. 3

SS-San.-Abt. 3

SS-Feldgendarmerie-Kp. 3

Div. Begleit-Kp.

SS-Bewährungs-Kp. 3

107. For Hellmuth Becker read Helmuth Becker.

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[15] The Flemings were not alone in wearing this collar patch... the Danes also wore it for a time.

[16] Introduced by Divisional Order of March 13, 1941 (Ref.: Weidinger, Division "Das Reich", Band II, pp. 321-323. Also SS-FHA Ia/G/Keu v. 29.3.41.).

PAGE:

110/111. To illustrate the many variations of the collar patches of this Division, a standard design of Totenkopf was chosen (i.e. the Bevo pattern). Consequently, these illustrations should not be taken as being exact likenesses of the various types.

112. Note 5: "Thule" was the Greek and Roman name for the most northerly land in the world.

113. (4): SS-Heimwehr Danzig was a military SS organization and not a political one. The "SS-Heimwehr Danzig" cuffband was being worn as early as August 1939 and therefore is assumed to have been the only pattern worn (17).

115. (5): These cuffbands have still to be confirmed. In view of the fact that these were merely replacement battalions (which normally had no special insignia) it may well be that they never existed.

121. Order-of-Battle: For "SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 4" read "SS-(Panzer-)Aufklärungs-Abteilung 4".

Add: "SS-Kraftfahr-Abteilung"

123. Fritz Schmedes was an SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS und Polizei.

124. Lines 1 and 2: The basic uniform of the Polizei-Division was Army with Police and SS insignia.

124. Lines 2 and 3: The collar patches of the Polizei-Division were of the Army pattern and not those of the Ordnungspolizei. This can clearly be seen in photographs as they lacked the outer piping.

124. Photo caption: Having been promoted on April 20, 1942, Kurt Daluege was an SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer und Generaloberst der Polizei when this photograph was taken. "Griese" for "Greise".

126. Line 2: For "... SS generals holding a similar rank in the police" read "for generals in the Police (all Police generals received this combined rank)."

126. Lines 4 - 6: The backing for collar patches and shoulder strap underlay for Administrative Officials holding generals rank (Verwaltungsbeamte im Generalsrang) was light grey.

126. Photo caption: The photo shows (left) SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei Karl Hermann Frank and (right) SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Polizei Heinz Reinefarth.

127. All buttons should be gold, not silver, and the pips on the shoulder straps of SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei and SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Polizei should be larger.

128. (2): Both cuffbands should have hyphens thus:

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[17] Mollo, Uniforms of the SS - Volume 4 - SS-Totenkopfverbände 1933-1945, p. 18.

PAGE:

132. Evolution and Titles etc.: According to the Stammtafel (record sheet showing the formations to which a unit has belonged) of Regiment "Nordland", the title "SS-Division "Wiking"" was adopted on January 1, 1941.

The change in designation from "SS-Division "Wiking"" to "SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Wiking"" would appear to have been on November 9, 1942 (18).

132. Line 26: The Division's battle honours at Tarnopol were marred just days later by the shooting of some 600 Jews in Galicia as a reprisal for Soviet "crimes".

135. Order of Battle: Finnisches-Freiwilligen-Battalion der Waffen-SS was not considered a separate element of the Division and in fact served as the IIIrd Battalion of Regiment "Nordland".

SS-Sturmbrigade "Wallonien" was only temporarily attached to this Division.

140. (1): Some experts doubt that the Viking ship collar patch was ever worn by this Division. It was also authorized for the Norwegian Volunteer Legion.

144. (4): Whereas the round mobile swastika collar patch is confirmed for the "Nordland" Division, there is some doubt as to its being worn by the "Nordland" Regiment.

151. Order-of-Battle: SS-Infanterie-Regiment 9 was never an integral part of the 6. SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord", merely attached to it (unterstellt). It left Finland in December 1941 and arrived at the Volkhov front in January 1942.

For "SS-Ski-Jäger-Bataillon" read "SS-Schi-Jäger-Bataillon" (see Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, August 15, 1942, Nr. 16, Z. 281).

SS-Polizei-Gebirgs-Jäger-Regiment 18 was another element attached to the "Nord" Division.

Add: Div.-Vermittlung 6. SS-Geb.-Div. "Nord" (divisional telephone exchange)

SS-Gebirgs-Sanitäts-Abteilung 6

152. SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Karl Demelhuber is shown wearing the Finnish Cross of Freedom, 1st Class (Suomen Vapaudenristi Ilk).

154. (3) The name "Michael Gaissmair" was granted to this Regiment by Hitler in June 1944 (19).

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[18] Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, December 1, 1942, Nr. 23, Z. 428.

PAGE:

155. Divisional vehicle symbols: Symbol No. 3 (the "Hagelrune" or "Hail Rune") was introduced in April 1941, has been confirmed in photographs, and appears to have been the only sign used by this Division (20).

164. Page 107: As Führer und Unterführer im Sonderdienst did wear insignia, the double collar patches remain a mystery. All that is known is that they were worn against Himmler's wishes.

165. Page 112: For "Oberfähnriche" read "Oberfähnrich".

166. Page 120: The caption to the illustration should read "SS-ANWÄRTER".'. It is possible that this insignia was also worn by the ranks "Staffelanwärter" and later "Staffelmann".

167. Page 128: Delete - see note on page 164 (above).

169. Page 136: Black and White: While no black and white twist piping was worn in the Waffen-SS as a Waffenfarbe, the statement on the Army's piping is incorrect. As the black Waffenfarbe piping of Army engineer units would not be clearly seen on black shoulder straps, a black and white twist was worn (more black strands than white strands). The black and white cord of Kapitulanten-Anwärter was only worn in the Prussian Army of 1914.

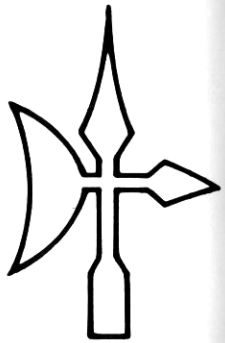
169. Page 137: Light Green: The grass green (Wiesengrün) Waffenfarbe of Mountain Infantry was not the same as the ivy or toxic green (Giftgrün) Waffenfarbe of the S. D.

174/175 Bibliography: New books covering subjects described in Volumes 1 and 2 may be found in the bibliography of this and future volumes.

VOLUME 2

PAGE:

17. Symbol of I. Flak-Abt., Kdo.-Stab RF-SS.



24. Army Group "Steiner": Tessin (op.cit., Vol. 3, p. 194) states the HQ was formed in Pomerania on 26.11.1944 - reformed March 1945 - surrendered 21.4.1945. Elements included Höh.Arko AOK 11, Korück AOK 11 and Nachr.Rgt. der 11. Armee.

33. IInd SS Corps: For "SS-Sich.-Kp. 102" read "SS-Korps-Sicherungs-Kompanie 102". In 1943, the San.Abt. was composed of the following:

    1. SS-Lazarett (mot.)
    2. SS-Lazarett (mot.)
    Stab Korps San.Abt.
    le. San.Kol.
    1. Kr.Kw.Zug
    2. Kr.Kw.Zug

    Add:
    SS-Korps-Nachr.Abt. 102
    Instandsetzungsstaffel des II.SS-Pz.Korps
    SS-Feldersatz-Brigade 102

33. Chiefs-of-Staff: Werner Ostendorff was also Chief of Staff of the SS-Pz.Korps.

34. IIIrd SS Corps: Read "(germanisches)" for "(Germanisches)". Corps troops also included:

    Arko 138 (of the Army - attached in 1945)
    schw. SS-Art.Abt. 503

35. Kleinheisterkamp was general commanding the III. SS-Korps on 4.2.1945.

36. IVth SS Corps: Corps troops also included:

    SS-Arko 104
    SS-Werfer-Abt. 104/504 (formerly numbered "107")
    SS-Nachr.-Abt. 104 (formerly numbered "107")

37. Commanders: SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Walter Krüger was listed as commanding this Corps on 30.1.44.

39. Vth SS Corps: For "SS-Korps-San.Abt. 5" read "SS-Korps-San.Abt. 5/SS-San.Abt. 105".

40. VIth SS Corps: SS-Flak-Abt. 106/506 was formed from the 2 Flak-Abteilung of the 15th and 19th Latvian SS Divisions, which were left with a 2cm Fla-Kp. apiece for their own protection.

42. IXth SS Corps: For "(Kroatisches)" read "(kroatisches)". Corps troops also included:

    SS-Arko 109
    SS-Nachr.Kp. 109

43. Xth SS Corps: The Corps' signals element was Nachr.Abt. (X.SS-Corps)/SS-Nachr.Abt. 110 (formed March 1945).

44. XIth SS Corps: At first this higher formation was called XI. SS-Armeekorps - by 1.2.1945 it had been renamed to XI. SS-Pz.Korps.

46. XIIIth SS Corps: SS-Korps-Nachr.Abt. 113 became SS-Nachr.Abt. 513. Corps troops also included:

    SS-Arko XIII
    SS-Korps-Art.Abt. 513
    Volkswerferbrigade 7

    Chiefs of Staff:

    August 1944 - 13.1.1945: Oberst i.G. von Einem
    13.1.1945 - May 1945: SS-Obersturmbannführer Ekkehard Albert.

47. XVth Cossack Cavalry Corps: The number "55" was also used to indicate elements of 5. SS-Freiw.Sturmbrigade "Wallonien".

48. Note: Since space only permitted Vol. 3 to cover upto and including the 13th SS Division, the study of the uniforms and insignia of the three Cossack Cavalry divisions of the Waffen-SS will not appear until later in this series.

49. XVIIIth SS Corps: SS-Nachr.Abt. (XVIII. A.K.)/SS-Nachr.Abt. 118 is reported to have been formed in April 1945.

49. Commanders: Reinefarth's rank was more correctly SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS und der Polizei. Keppler was in command as early as 4.2.1945 (Aktenvermerk v. 5.2.1945 I-FG/Tr. Besprechung mit SS-Ostubaf. Grothmann am Sonntag, den 4. Februar - T-175/191/2729608.

50. The correct abbreviations for "Pionier-" were "Pi.-" or "Pion.-".. ..."Pio.-" was incorrectly used.

55. Line 27: The decision was taken with Volume 3 to enter into more detail with the formation histories than just keeping them as "simple and un-involved as possible". Authors and publisher hope this decision meets with readers' approval.

56. Photo: The SS-Obersturmbannführer is Friedemann Goetze, commander of SS-Heimwehr Danzig, who was killed as a regimental commander of the "Totenkopf" Division in France in June 1940.

57. Line 2: Read "Hermann (not Herman) von Salza".

62. History - 2nd paragraph: The motorized SS Regiment "Adolf Hitler" was allocated by the OKH to General Blaskowitz's 8th Army, which was von Rundstedt's left flank of Army Group "South". It was close to the 10th Army's boundary but was not allocated to that Army. (Maj. Robert M. Kennedy, The German Campaign in Poland, U.S. Dept. of the Army Pamphlet No. 22-255, Part II, Chapter 5, p. 62, 1939).

67. Photo: The "LAH" Knight's Cross holders are in fact (from left to right): Theodor ("Teddy") Wisch, Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich, Fritz Witt, Kurt ("Panzermeyer") Meyer.

71. Order-of-Battle: In 1943 the war correspondents' element was listed as a Kompanie rather than a Zug.

Add:
SS-Panzer-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 1
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 1
SS-Wirtschafts-Btl. 1/SS-Verwaltungstruppen-Abt. 1
SS-Sanitäts-Abt. 1
1. SS-Sanitäts-Kp.
2. SS-Sanitäts-Kp.
SS-Feldlazarett 1
1. SS-Kr.Kw.Kol.
2. SS-Kr.Kw.Kol.
3. SS-Kr.Kw.Kol.
SS-Feldpostamt 1
VII. LSSAH

74/75. The metal "LAH" shoulder strap cyphers were gold coloured for officers and were also worn in aluminum by senior NCOs (SS-Oberscharführer, SS-Hauptscharführer, SS-Sturmscharführer and SS-Standarten-Oberjunker.

86. Order-of-Battle: A 1943 field post number list showed SS-Schützen-Regiment "Langemarck" and SS-Kriegsberichter-Kp. 2 and SS-Feldgendarmerie-Kp. 2 (rather than a Zug and a Trupp respectively).

Add:
SS-Div.-Kartenstelle (mot.)
SS-Panzer-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 2
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 2
SS-Sanitäts-Abt. 2
SS-Feldlazarett 2
1. SS-Sanitäts-Kp. 2
2. SS-Sanitäts-Kp. 2
1. SS-Kr.Kw.Zug
2. SS-Kr.Kw.Zug
3. SS-Kr.Kw.Zug
SS-Feldpostamt 2

87. Divisional Commanders: Paul Hausser was listed as commander on 30.1.1942, when SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Kleinheisterkamp was in fact only in "temporary command"(z. Zt. b.m.F. SS-Div. Reich).

89. Divisional Commanders: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Heinz Lammerding was listed as commander of the Division on 9.11.1944, i.e. when SS-Standartenführer Otto Baum was in "temporary command".

89. Photo: The group photo shows divisional commander SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Walter Krüger congratulating SS-Oberscharführer Josef Lainer at the time of the latter's award of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 9.10.1943. The SS-Obersturmbannführer in the background is Sylvester Stadler, then commander of the "Der Führer" Regiment.

89. Chiefs of Staff: Add: SS-Sturmbannführer Stückler.

97. Vehicle Symbol: See addition to p. 170 of Vol. 3.

105/106. Order-of-Battle: See p. 170 of Vol. 3 and add:

SS-Div.-Kartenstelle (mot.)
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 3
SS-Wirtschafts-Btl. 3/SS-Verwaltungstruppen-Abt. 3
1. SS-Sanitäts-Kp. 3
2. SS-Sanitäts-Kp. 3
SS-Genesenden-Abt. 3 (convalescent battalion)
SS-Feldpostamt 3

107. Divisional Commanders: SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Max Simon commanded the "Totenkopf" Division between Keppler and Priess (confirmed as such on 15.5.1943 - he later took command of the 16th SS Division "Reichsführer-SS" on 16.10.1943).

110. Photo: SS-Sturmmann Fritz Christen, who became the first enlisted man in the "Totenkopf" Division to receive the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (20.10.1941).

121/122. Order-of-Battle: Add:

SS-Div.-Kartenstelle (mot.)
Nachschub-Dienste 300 (Army)
SS-Nachschubabteilung
Instandsetzungs-Abt. (Army)
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abt.
Wirtschafts-Btl. 300 (Army)
SS-Feldlazarett 4
SS-Feldpostamt 4

123. Divisional Commanders: Friedrich-Wilhelm Bock, commander of the divisional Artillery Regiment, led a battle group between the dates shown and was never in fact divisional commander (Kliet-mann, op.cit., p. 132).

123. Chief of Staff: Add: SS-Obersturmbannführer Wilhelm Radtke (reported as Ia on 1.3.1945).

124. Divisional Insignia: The following information concerns the Polizei-Division between 1939 and 1942 and was kindly supplied by Ing. F. Ollenschläger:

1. Generals: Same collar patches as for Army generals but light green trouser stripes and overcoat lapels and a gold eagle on bluish dark green on the left sleeve.
2. Officers: Waffenfarben for collar patches and as shoulder strap underlay as for Army, except light green for divisional infantry regiments (Pol.-Schtz.-Regter.).
3. NCOs and Men: No silver piping around collar patches. Bluish dark green shoulder straps with Army Waffenfarben, except light green for divisional infantry regiments.
4. Black underlay to sleeve chevron (Gefreiter-Winkel).

5. Waffen-SS belt buckle for NCOs and men.
6. Waffen-SS sleeve eagle on black underlay for officers, NCOs and men.
7. Bluish dark green cap band as for Army.
8. Rank titles as for Army - officer candidates named "Junker" and "Oberjunker".
9. Army salute...not Roman salute as practiced by Waffen-SS.

129. Divisional Vehicle Symbols: Appendix 24 on p. 639 of the 2nd volune of Husemann's exhaustive divisional history illustrates and describes four vehicle symbols:

1. As "A" on p. 129...used in France and during invasion of Russia upto the north of Luga. Significance unknown, it was generally known as "the cylinder" (Zylinder).
2. As "C" on p. 129...used in Russia until the end of 1942. The Hagal-Rune at left symbolized the "police star" (Polizeistern) and was painted in gold...the green vertical bar presumably represented the Roman ordinal "I".

3. Upright "sun wheel" as illustrated on p. 145 of Volume 2. Probably used in the summer of 1943. Confirmed on vehicles of divisional cadre in area south-west of Belgrade.
4. Stylized "wolf's tooth" (Wolfsangel) introduced in December of 1944 on instructions of SS-Standartenführer Harzer.

Husemann makes no mention of the symbol illustrated as "B" on p. 129 of Volume 2.

132. "Wiking": The order implementing Hitler's instruction that SS-Div. "Germania" be renamed with effect from 1.1.1941 was dated 30.12.40 (SS-Division Germania, v. 30.12.40 - T-354/161/3806705).

135/136. Order-of-Battle: The Finnisches Freiwilligen-Bataillon der Waffen-SS was III./SS-Gren.Rgt. "Nordland". On 1.10.1943 SS-Obersturmbannführer Hans Collani was listed as commanding "III. Finn. Btl. SS-Pz.Gr.Div. "Wiking"".

135/136. Order-of-Battle: Add:

SS-Div.-Kartenstelle (mot.)
SS-Pz.Abt. Wiking (named as such in 1942)
SS-Bekleidungs-Instandsetzungs-Kp. 5
SS-Feldpostamt 5

138. Divisional Commanders: Felix Steiner was not promoted to SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS until 1.7.1943. As an SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS he was still commanding "Wiking" on 15.5.1943.

150/151. Order-of-Battle: Add:

SS-Div.-Kartenstelle (mot.)
SS-Instandsetzungs-Abt. 6
SS-Wirtschafts-Bataillon 6/SS-Verwaltungstruppen-Abt. 6
SS-Sanitäts-Abt. 6
  1. SS-Gebirgs-Sanitäts-Kp.
  2. SS-Gebirgs-Sanitäts-Kp.
SS-Gebirgs-Veterinär-Kp. 6
  SS-Pferdelazarett
  SS-Pferdelager
SS-Feldpostamt 6
SS-Kriegsberichter-Zug 6
SS-Feldersatz-Btl. 6
SS-Lager Kuusamo

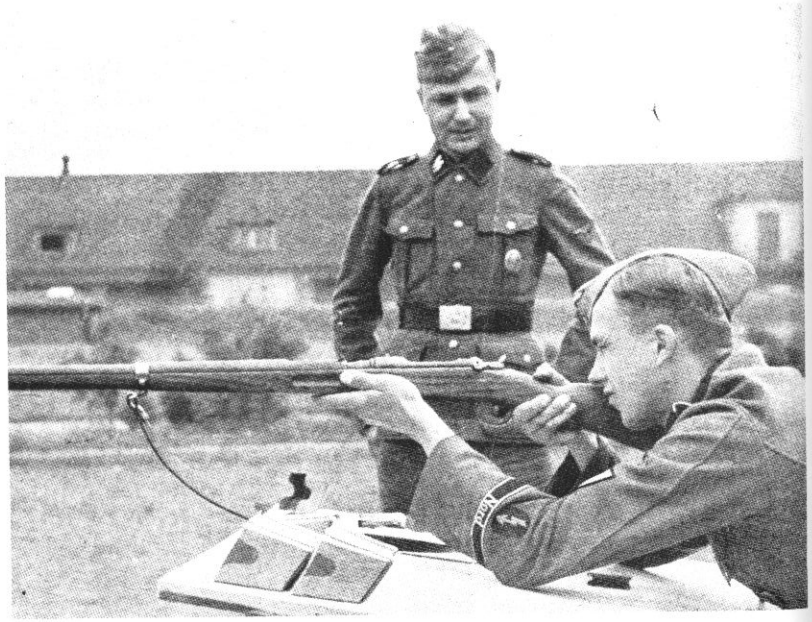
The following order-of-battle for this Division in June 1942 has kindly been supplied by the Helsinki War Museum:

SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Rgt. 6 "Reinhard Heydrich"
SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Rgt. 7
SS-Gebirgs-Jäger-Rgt. 9
SS-Artillerie-Rgt. "Nord"
SS-Gebirgs-Pionier-Btl. 6
M.G.-Btl. 4
Panzer-Jäger-Abt. 99
SS-Schützenbataillon "Nord"
SS-Nachrichten-Btl.
SS-Aufklärungs-Abt. "Nord"
Radfahrschwadron 234
Beobachtungs-Abt. 38
Feldersatz-Btl. 99

151. Divisional Commanders: According to the Helsinki War Museum, Demelhuber commanded until 2 May 1942 and Debes until 22 May 1944. SS-Standartenführer Hans Scheider (not Schneider) was commander of SS-Inf.Rgt. 6 on 30.1.1942. Klietmann, op.cit., p. 148, states he commanded the 6th SS Division between October 1941 and 30.3.1942. Kleinheisterkamp had only temporary command from 1.4.1942 until 20.4.1942...from that date until 15.12.1943 he held full command.

152. Divisional Commanders: Schreiber on p. 384 of his divisional history gives Brenner as holding command from 1.9.1944 until April 1945 and himself in temporary command on 10.3.1945.

153. Divisional Insignia: The statement that members of the 6th SS Division "Nord", with the exception of certain elements, wore the "Nord" cuffband has caused a degree of controversy. Some believe it was never worn by members of the "Nord" Division, basing their view on the obvious but as yet still unexplained absence of any mention of such a cuffband from contemporary documents (3). This theory was supported by the total lack of photographs showing the "Nord" cuffband being worn on a Waffen-SS uniform ....of course it was worn by all ranks on the staff of SS-District "North" (SS-Oberabschnitt "Nord") of the Allgemeine-SS.



HARTVIG FLEEGE COLLECTION

The long-awaited discovery of the accompanying photograph, the only example as yet known to the authors, reopens the controversy and leads one to consider three possible explanations. Least likely would be that a "Nord" cuffband was in fact authorized for the 6th SS Division, even though it never appears to have been mentioned in contemporary documents and orders. More likely is the solution put forward in Der Freiwillige (Heft 11, November 1969, p. 22) that in rare cases former members of SS-Oberabschnitt "Nord" of the Allgemeine-SS (to be more precise, men who had previously been on the staff of SS-Oa "Nord") continued to wear their cuffband when they volunteered for the "Nord" Division. Such a practice would naturally have been unofficial and doubtless unpopular amongst those not having the cuffband. This would explain why it was worn so rarely. A third solution was offered by the Helsinki War Museum and to quote from a letter addressed to HPT by their Superintendent dated 16.2.1973: The "Nord" cuffband was "unofficial, designed and worn by some men in 6. SS-Gebirgs-Division".

[3] SS-FHA, Amt II Org.Abt. Ia/II, Tgb.Nr. 1574/43 g.Kdos., v. 22. 10.1943, Bezeichnung der Feldtruppenteile der Waffen-SS and Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 5. Jahrgang, Berlin 15.2.1944, Nr. 4, Z. 64.

162. Vol. 1 - page 86: Belt Buckle: See correction above.

Volume 2

PAGE

8 Introduction: Line 4: The SS-VT was at Hitler's (or Himmler's) disposal, not command.

20 The SS Race and Resettlement Main Office: Created as SS Race and Resettlement Office on 31.12.1931, it achieved Main Office (Hauptamt) status on 30.1.1935.

CHIEFS:

31.12.1931 - February 1938: SS-Obergruppenführer Walter Darré (replaced)

February 1938 - 9.7.1940: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Günther Pancke (became HSSPF Dänemark)

9.7.1940 - 20.4.1943: SS-Gruppenführer Otto Hofmann (became HSSPF Südwest in Stuttgart)

20.4.1943 - 8.5.1945: SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Richard Hildebrand.

(Research by C. Peyton Williams, letter of 12.9.1977).

27 SS Corps: Thousands of men served in the corps troops, yet these elements have generally been ignored in postwar books on the Waffen-SS. Volume 2 in this series remains the most detailed source of information available on the subject, and the additional information given below should be studied in conjunction with what has already been given in the appendices to Volumes 3 and 4. Many of the new entries given come from the 25.8.1944 field post office guide (FpÜ) of the Waffen-SS.

SS-Obersturmbannführer Rudolf ("Rudi") Lehmann, some time after receiving the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (23.2.1944) as "Ia" of 1. SS-Pz.Div. "LSSAH."

Our thanks go to Rudolf Lehmann, former SS-Standartenführer and Chief of Staff of the Ist SS Armored Corps from 1.10.1944 to 9.3.1945 for his comments on Waffen-SS corps troops in general and those of the Ist SS Armored Corps "Leibstandarte" in particular. His observations are given below and in several cases differ from what has been found in original documents. This can be explained partly because there were undoubtedly differences between what was laid down and believed to be the case by the SS-FHA in Berlin and what was, in fact, done by the units in the field. One should also consider just what can reasonably be expected to be remembered about such matters after the passage of more than 35 years.

According to Herr Lehmann, a Waffen-SS Corps usually had an SS-Feldgendarmerie-Zug (mot.), rarely a Trupp. Apart from the fact that there was practically very little difference (if any at all) between a FG-Zug and a FG-Trupp, and German divisions had a FG-Zug each at one time and a FG-Trupp at other times, when the SS-Gen.Kdo. (Pz.) was formed, it was supposed to have had a FG-Trupp (b) (mot.).

Herr Lehmann is joined by other sources in saying that a Corps had (at least!) a light (20-ton) lorry column (le. Lkw.Kol. (20t)).

Sources do not support Herr Lehmann in saying that no Corps had a Fliegerstaffel, and that, at best, they had a few spotter aircraft provided by the Luftwaffe. An Org.Abt. chart for the II. SS-Pz.-Korps dated 3.6.1943 gives a Fliegerstaffel (this is repeated on 1.10.1943, 14.12.1943 and 25.2.1944) and on 10.6.1943 a Fliegergruppe of two aircraft is given. In practice, a few spotter aircraft were attached to Waffen-SS Corps HQs and these were referred to as either a Fliegerstaffel or a Fliegergruppe. They were removed from Corps HQs (and also from Panzer divisions) in late 1943 or early 1944.

28 SS Corps: Other ad hoc formations, virtually large battle groups, were Korpsgruppe "von dem Bach," Korpsgruppe "Rauter" and Korpskommando "Eicke." The last of these, containing the 14,000 survivors of the 290th Infantry Division, SS-Division "Totenkopf" and the 105th Artillery Command, was commanded by Theodor Eicke from 5.5.1942 to mid-June 1942. (Sydnor, Soldiers of Destruction, pg. 233 & fn. 27.)

The Serbian Volunteer SS Corps (Serbisches Freiwilligen SS-Korps), transferred by the O.K.W. from the German Army to the Waffen-SS in November 1944, will be dealt with in a future volume in this series - it was an armed body, not an Army Corps, and had nothing in common with the tactical higher formations described in Volume 2.

29 Ist SS Armored Corps: This Corps appears named simply "Leibstandarte" in most German documents, but the form "LSSAH" is not unknown.

Corps troops (less the Nachr.-Abt. in Unna) were first assembled at Berlin-Lichterfelde and then sent to Meran. They remained at Meran until the beginning of 1944 and so were not on the Russian front during the summer of 1943.

29/30 Corps troops: Our sources do not agree with Herr Lehmann when he says the following did not exist:

Fliegerstaffel: Although this may, in fact, have consisted of "a

Fieseler Storch provided by the Luftwaffe, with, at most, a sergeant as pilot," early organizational charts of I. SS-Pz.-Korps show a Fliegerstaffel (or Fliegergruppe) which was removed from the Corps HQ in late 1943 or early 1944.

SS-Flak-Abt. 101/SS-Fla.-Kompanie: Returns sent to the Generalinspekteur der Panzertruppen indicate that the I. SS-Pz.-Korps had a Fla.-Kp. (mot.) and "1. Fla.-Kp." for the I. SS-Pz.-Korps "Leibstandarte" is confirmed with field post number 58 399.

SS-Werfer-Brigade I. SS-Korps: This was either an error for Werfer-Abteilung or, as Herr Lehmann suggests, planned but never built (in fact, it was stated in Volume 2 that the staff was only formed in April 1945).

SS-Vielfachwerferbatterie (mot.) 522: This was under the Corps' command on 1.3.1945. It is possible that one of the integral Batterien of SS-Werfer-Abt. 101 was equipped for a time with Vielfachwerfer and an additional 8cm. Batterie is shown in one chart.

SS-Wehrgeologen-Btl. 101: It is possible that the Corps had no military geologists.

SS-Korps-Sich-Kp. 101: A Sich.-Kp. (mot.) was indicated in a return by the Corps to the Generalinspekteur der Panzertruppen and the Company appeared in the 25.8.1944 FpÜ with FPNr. 59 515.

SS-Feld-Ers.-Brig. Gen.-Kdo. I. SS-Pz.-Korps/101: There is evidence that this unit existed - and not just on paper as Herr Lehmann suggests:

- as an addition it appears typed to the 25.8.1944 FpÜ as Felders.-Brigade Gen.-Kdo. I. SS-Panzer-Korps Leibstandarte, with Brigade Stab and Pz.-Aufkl.-Kp. (FPNr. 46 158 A & B respectively), SS-Felders.-Einheit 12, Waffen-Ausb.-Gruppe Panzer (1st, 2nd and 3rd companies with FPNr. 47 125 A,B & C) and SS-Felders.-Einheit 12, Waffen-Ausb.Gruppe Artillerie (4 batteries, Unterführer Lehr Batterie, Pz.-Pi.-Kp., Pz.-Nahkampf-Kp. & Divisions-Kampfschule with FPNr. 65 172 A-H).
- on 1.3.1945 the Brigade was commanded by SS-Obersturmbannführer Wilhelm Weidenhaupt. It could have become detached from the Corps and the use of the number "12" may indicate an association with the 12. SS-Pz.-Div. "Hitlerjugend."

The following comments are also prompted by Herr Lehmann:

s. SS-Beob.-Bttr. (mot.) 101/501: Although this worked with the schw. Art.-Abt., it is shown separately in the charts.

SS-Korps-San.-Abt. 101: Although SS-Feldlazarett 501 and the SS-Kr.Kw.-Zug belonged to the San.-Abt., this was later broken up to save manpower.

SS-FG-Kp. (Trupp) (mot.) 101: Herr Lehmann insists the Feldgendarmerie element was a Zug and not a Kompanie, but a FG-Kompanie was laid down in the Aufstellung order and Org.Tgb. Nr. II/4028/43 of 8.6.1943 and the 25.8.1944 FpÜ lists "Feldgend.-Kp. 101" with field post number 57 772. A FG-Trupp (b) (mot.) appeared in the returns sent by the Corps to the Generalinspekteur der Panzertruppen.

30/31 The only Corps symbol Herr Lehmann can recall on vehicles had the "skeleton key and hook" (Dietrich und Haken), without the oakleaves and swords.

31 COMMANDERS:

27.7.1943 - 25.8.1944.	SS-Obergruppenführer und Panzergeneral der Waffen-SS Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich
28.8.1944 - 20.11.1944	SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Waffen-SS Georg Keppler (as mentioned in fn. 11)
20.11.1944 - 8.5.1945.	SS-Gruppenführer und Generalleutnant der Waffen-SS Hermann Priess

CHIEF OF STAFF:

1.10.1944 - 9.3.1944.	SS-Obersturmbannführer Rudolf ("Rudi") Lehmann

31 IInd SS Armored Corps: Referring to the Corps as "1. SS-Panzer-Armee" in the late summer of 1943 in Italy and Yugoslavia was a deception ploy to confuse the enemy - the "LAH" Division was referred to as a Corps and its two infantry regiments as divisions (Rudolf Lehmann).

32/33 Corps Troops: The IInd SS Armored Corps, in fact the first Waffen-SS higher formation, was examined in Volume 2 and additional data has been given in the appendices to Volumes 3 & 4. Faced with more information on corps troops contained in the 25.8.1944 FpÜ and a detailed listing in Tieke's Im Feuersturm letzter Kriegsjahre (pp. 605/606), it has been decided to provide the following revised and enlarged composite listing. Elements underlined are those the original SS-Generalkommando (Panzer) was supposed to have had when formed:

Gen.Kdo./Korpsstab
- Fliegerstaffel
- SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot.) 102
- SS-Fla.-Kp. 102
- gemischte Flak-Kompanie 102
- SS-Kriegsberichter-Kp.
- SS-Korps-Sicherungs-Kompanie/SS-Sich.-Kp. 102

schw. SS-Pz.Abt. 102/502
- Stab
- Stabs-Kp.
- 1. - 3. Kompanie
- Versorgungs-Kp.
- SS-Pz.-Werkstatt-Kp. 102

SS-Arko 102

schw. SS-Art.Abt. 102/502
- Stab
- Stabs-Kp.

1. - 4. Batterie
schw. SS-Beobachtungs-Batterie 502
1. u. 2. SS-Gr.W.Kp. 102
SS-Werfer-Abt. 102/502
Stab
Stabs-Kp.
1. - 4. Batterie

Korps-Nachrichten-Abteilung 51/400 (Heer)/SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 102
1. - 4. Kp.
Kol.
SS-Führungs-Nachr.-Rgt. 502
schw. SS-Pz.Aufkl.-Abt. 502
SS-Wehrgeologen-Kp. (mot.)
SS-Nachsch.Tr. 102/502
Korps-Nachsch.-Führer:
Stab
Stab-Kp.
1. SS-Kraftfahr.Kp. 102
2. SS-Kraftfahr-Kp. 102
SS-Kfz.-Inst.-Kp. 102
Instandsetzungsstaffel des II. SS-Pz.-Korps
Werkstatt-Zug
Kw.-Werkst.-Kp. 102/Werkstatt-Kp.
WK-Zug
1. kleine Kraftwagen-Kolonne
2. kleine Kraftwagen-Kolonne
3. grosse Kw.-Kol. f. Betr.St./3. grosse Betriebsstoff-Kolonne
1. Kraftwagen-Kompanie 102
2. Kraftwagen-Kompanie 102
3. Kraftwagen-Kompanie
Kolonne RSO
Korps-San.-Abt. (mot.)/Korps-San.-Abt. SS-Gen.Kdo./SS-Sanitäts-Abteilung 102/502
Stab
1. Sanitäts-Kp.
2. Sanitäts-Kp.
1. Kr.Kw.Zug 502
2. Kr.Kw.Zug
1. Kr.Trsp.Kp./Krankentransport-Kompanie
Bakt.Zug
le. San.Kol./Kolonne
Feldlazarett (D.R.K.)/"D.R.K."/SS-Gen.Kdo.
1. Laz. (mot.)/SS-Gen.-Kdo./1. SS-Lazarett (mot.)
2. Laz. (mot.)/SS-Gen.-Kdo./2. SS-Lazarett (mot.)
Feldlazarett 502
Kr.-Sammel-Kp.
le.Kr.Kw.Kol.
le. San.Kol.
Feldgenesenden-Kp. 102

Feldpostamt/SS-F.P.A. 102
FG-Trupp (b)(mot.)/SS-FG-Trupp (mot.) 102/SS-FG-Kp. 502
Rekr. Depot II. SS-Pz.-Korps
SS-Feld-Ers.-Brig. II/SS-Feldersatz-Brigade 102 (HQ for SS-F.E.B. 9 & 10)
SS-Kartswehr-Btl. (mot.) (formed 15.11.1942)

33 CHIEFS OF STAFF:

1943	SS-Standartenführer (promoted to SS Oberführer on 20.4.1943) Werner Ostendorff
1943 - late 1944[1]	SS-Standartenführer Rüdiger Pipkorn
late 1944[2] - 1945	SS-Obersturmbannführer Baldur Keller

N.B. Major i.G. Schiller was never Chef d. Gen.St. d. II. SS-Pz.Korps. He was operations officer (Ia) of the "Das Reich" Division from April 1945 to the end of the war under Rudolf Lehmann.

34/35 IIIrd (GERMANIC) SS ARMORED CORPS:
Corps Troops: The 25.8.1944 FpÜ also lists:
- SS-Führungs-Nachr.-Rgt. 503 (possibly not attached to the Corps)
- Werfer-Battr.
- Werkst.Zug 103 (possibly a complete company at one time)
- Bekl.Instands.-Kp. 103

and gives the following composition of the medical unit:
- SS-Sanitäts-Abteilung 103
  Stab
  Kr.-Trsp.-Kp.
  Genes.-Kp.
  Kol.
  1. Korps Lazarett (possibly Feldlazarett)
  2. Korps Lazarett (possibly Feldlazarett)
  Kr.-Kw.Zug 503

The Kr.-Kw.-Zug (later a Kol.) was subsequently deleted.

35 COMMANDERS: Joachim Ziegler does not appear to have commanded the III. SS-Pz.-Korps in 1945; he stayed with the "Nordland" Division until the end. It was Felix Steiner who took over again after Unrein in March 1945 after commanding Pz.A.O.K. 11 for a short time in 1945 (Lennart Westberg, letter of 20.3.1981).
CHIEFS OF STAFF: The last Chief of Staff of the III. SS-Pz.-Korps is missing: von Bockelberg was replaced by SS-Standartenführer von Bock und Polach in March/April 1945 (Lennart Westberg, letter of 20.3.1981).

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[1]*He held this post on 19.8.1944.*
[2]*He was with the V. SS-Geb.-Korps as late as 1.10.1944.*

36 IVth SS ARMORED CORPS: 1st SS Division "LAH" was never a part of this Corps (Rudolf Lehmann).

36/37 Corps Troops: The 25.8.1944 FpÜ also lists:
- Flak-Kp. (surely a Flak-Batterie or a Fla.-Kp.?)
- SS-Nachschub.-Tr. 104 (originally consisting of Stab, 1. & 2. Kraftf.-Kp. & Kfz.-Instands.-Kp.104 - later the whole entry was deleted and replaced by 1. & 2. Kraftf.-Kp. 104 - which seems inadequate).

38/39 Vth SS VOLUNTEER MOUNTAIN ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: The following additional entries are found in the 25.8.1944 FpÜ:
- Kraftf.-Schule 105 (also reported as Krfr.-Schule Gen.-Kdo. V. SS-Geb.-Korps)
- Pi.-Führer 105
- SS-Nachsch.-Tr. 105
  1. & 2. Kraftf.-Kp. 105 (120t)
  3. gr.-Kw.-Kol. f. Betr.-St. (later deleted)
  4. Kl.-Kw.-Kol. f. Betr.-St. (later deleted)
  5. & 6. Wasserkol. (later deleted)
  Nachsch.-Kp. 105
  Kw.-Werkst.-Kp. 105 (later deleted)
- SS-San.-Abt. 105 (previously Korps-San.-Abt. 5)
  Stab
  verst. Kr.-Trsp.-Kp.
  Kol. (later deleted)
  1. & 2. Zug San.-Kp. 505 (later deleted)
  1. & 2. Kr.-Kw.Zug 505
- SS-Veterinär Dienste
  Pferdelaz. 105
  Pferdepark 105
  Vet.-Park 105
- SS-Kampfgruppe "Becker" (V. SS-Korps) (added to list - 1945)
- SS-Werfer-Abt. 505 (added to list)

According to Tessin (op.cit., Vol. 2, pg. 285), SS-Sturmgesch.-Abt. "Skanderbeg" served as a Corps element in April 1945.

40 VIth (LATVIAN) SS VOLUNTEER ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: Hans Stöber's Die lettischen Divisionen im VI. SS-Armeekorps (pp. 226 & 240) confirms all corps troops listed so far, with the following modifications:
- Stabskompanie 506
- SS-Korpskartenstelle (mot) 506
- SS-Korps-Nachr.-Abt. VI. SS-Korps/SS-Nachr.-Abt. 106/506
- SS-Pi.-Kp. VI. SS-Korps
- SS-Kraftf.Kp. 506/1
- SS-Kraftf. Kp. 506/2
- SS-F.P.A. (mot.) 106/506
- SS-FG-Trupp (mot.)/SS-FG-Kp. (mot.) 106/506 (expanded from Trupp to Kompanie on 1.11.1943)
- SS-Korps-Begl.-Kp. (mot.)/SS-Sich.-Kp. 506 (German personnel)
- SS-Lehr-Btl. VI. SS-Korps/SS-Lehr-Btl. 506

The 25.8.1944 FpÜ also gives:
- Flak-Battr.

- Werkst.Kp. 106 (added to list after publication)
- San.Kp. 106 (added to list after publication)

Waffen-Grenadier Regiment der SS 106 (lettisches Nr. 7) was formed from the remnants of the 2. & 5. Grenzschutz-Rgt. and was commanded by Waffen-Obersturmbannführer Jānis Jansons. It took part in the 3rd Battle of Courland, suffered 60% casualties and Jansons died of his wounds and was replaced by Waffen-Standartenführer Eduards Stipnieks. On 3.1.1945 the Regiment took part in the counter-offensive of the VI. SS-Armeekorps north of Dobele.

41 VIth (LATVIAN) SS VOLUNTEER ARMY CORPS:
CHIEFS OF STAFF: SS-Standartenführer Nikolaus Heilmann was the first Chief of Staff of the VIth SS Army Corps. He held this post until 17.2.1944 when he took command of the 15th SS Division and was succeeded by Oberstleutnant (later Oberst) i.G. Helmut Ziervogel.

41 VIIth SS ARMORED CORPS:
Corps Troops: Although other elements were certainly planned, the only corps troops listed in the 25.8.1944 FpÜ were: Stab, Kartenstelle & SS-Nachr.-Abt. 107 (HQ + 3 companies). SS-Feldlaz. 507 & SS-Kr.-Kw.-Zug 507 were Führungstruppen.

42 IXth (CROAT) NON-GERMANIC MOUNTAIN CORPS OF THE SS:
Corps Troops: The following additional/amended entries are found in the 25.8.1944 FpÜ:
- Kraftf.-Kp. 109 (90t)
- Kfz.-Instands.Zug 109
- 1. Kr.-Kw.-Zug 509
- FG-Tr. 509/109 (in fact FG-Tr. b)
- F.P.A. 509/109 (in fact F.P.A. (mot.))

N.B. No explanation can be given for the curious fact that the last two elements were numbered "509" in the 25.8.1944 printing, but were subsequently renumbered "109."

43 Xth SS ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: The following were subsequently added to the 25.8.1944 FpÜ:
- SS-Nachr.-Abt. X. SS-A.K.
- Kraftf.-Kp. X. SS-A.K.
- Fahrschwdr. X. SS-A.K.
- Nachsch.-Kp. X. SS-A.K.

Arko. X. SS-Korps is also reported.

44 XIth SS ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: The following additions/amended entries come from typed additions to the 25.8.1944 FpÜ:
- Kfz.-Instands.-Zug 111 (possibly a company at some time)
- SS-Pz.-Jagd-Kp. 550
- Feldlaz. 511
- Kr.-Kw.-Zug 511

45 XIIth SS ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: The following were given in the 7.8.1944 formation order:

SS-Korps-Karten-Stelle (mot.) 112
SS-Feldgendarmerie-Trupp 112
SS-Korps-Nachrichten-Abteilung 112
Stab
Ffk.-Kp. (mot.)
Korps-Fernsprech-Betriebs-Kp. (mot.)
Korps-Funk-Kp. (mot.)
Staffel (mot.)
SS-Kraftfahr-Kp. 112 (90t)
SS-Kraftfahrzeug-Instandsetzungs-Kp. (mot.) 112
SS-Feldpostamt (mot.) 112
The 25.8.1944 FpÜ also lists:
- Kfz.-Instands.-Zug 112
- SS-Feldlazarett 512
Kr.-Kw.-Zug 512

45/46 XIIIth SS ARMY CORPS:
The Corps history (Spiwoks/Stöber: Endkampf zwischen Mosel und Inn, pp. 365/367 provides the following list of controlled elements:
WAFFEN-SS:
6. SS-Geb.-Div. "Nord" (22.2.45 - 28.2.45)
17. SS-Pz.-Gren.-Div. "G.v.B." (10.9.44 - 30.3.45)
38. SS-Gren.-Div. "Nibelungen" (26.4.45 - 6.5.45)
SS-Kampfgruppe "Dirnagel" (April/May 1945)
HEER:
- 11. & 21. Panzer-Division
- 3. Panzergrenadier-Division
- XIII. & 116. ("FHH") Panzer-Brigade
- Panzer-Kampfgruppe Hobe
- 47., 48., 347., & 462. Infanterie-Division
- 9., 16., 19., 36., 79., 212., 352. (z.b.V.), 353., & 559. Volksgrenadier-Division
- 2. Gebrigs-Division
- 172. Division

LUFTWAFFE: Flak-Division 9

46 Corps Troops: The corps elements laid down in the 7.8.1944 formation order were the same as shown above for the XIIth SS Army Corps, but numbered 113.
Additions to the 25.8.1944 FpÜ include:
- Kfz.-Instands.-Zug 113
- Verpfl.-Amt 526 (the entry is not clear, but the field post number is certainly 00 449 - it could have been transferred from the Army)
- SS-Res.-Fahr-Abt. XIII beim Gen.-Kdo. XIII. SS-A.K. (a most unusual identification)
SS-Arko 113 is also reported.

46 XIIIth SS ARMY CORPS:
COMMANDERS: According to Spiwoks/Stöber (op.cit., pg. 363) Max Simon assumed command on 16.11.1944
CHIEFS OF STAFF: von Einem's first name was Kurt.

49 XVIIth SS ARMY CORPS:
Although neither Klietmann nor Tessin mentions such a Corps, it was included in our original listing because (a) it is logical that something was at least planned (there was an XVIIIth SS Corps), and (b) an HQ is reported in 1944.
It now appears that the XVIIth Corps of the Waffen-SS was to have been Hungarian: XVIIth (HUNGARIAN) NON-GERMANIC ARMY CORPS OF THE SS (XVII. Waffen-Armee-Korps der SS (ungarisches). The Corps HQ is confirmed as having been formed in late 1944, but the RF-SS only ordered the two Hungarian Waffen-SS divisions (the 25th & 26th) to be grouped into such a Corps in January 1945. In fact, this Corps existed only on paper. (Andreas von Weissenbach, "Die ungarischen Verbände der SS im 2. Weltkrieg" in Der Freiwillige, 21. Jahrgang, Heft 7, Juli 1975, pg. 18).
Corps Troops should have been numbered 117 or 517, but so far only XVII. Arko./XVII. SS-Korps has been found. SS-Sturmbannführer Talbot von Pistor is said to have been appointed corps supply officer (Korps-Nachsch.-Führer) in early April 1945 (Landwehr, Siegrunen Newsletter, 2nd issue/April 1982, pg. 1).
COMMANDERS: 1945: Waffen-General der SS Franz Vitéz Feketehalmy-Czeydner
1945: Waffen-General der SS Eugen Vitéz Ruszkay-Ranzenberger

49 XVIIIth SS ARMY CORPS:
Corps Troops: Additions to the 25.8.1944 FpÜ include:
- FG-Tr./XVIII. SS-A.K.
- Kfz.-Instands.-Kp.
- Kraftfahr-Kp.
- SS-Nachr.-Abt. (formerly Korps-Nachr.-Abt. 499 (Heer))
Corps elements were probably all transferred from the Army.

60/71 1. SS-Panzer Division "Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler": Readers wishing to have a more detailed history of the "LSSAH" should consult Weingartner's Hitler's Guard and Lehmann's series Die Leibstandarte (Volume 1, covering the period from 1933 to June 1941, appeared in 1977 and Volume 2, July 1941 to January 1943, in 1980). The following comments come from Herr Lehmann via Jost Schneider. Anticipating a revised and enlarged coverage in a future volume in this series, we limit ourselves to corrections and not additions.

62 History:
"LAH" was not part of the occupying forces of the Rhineland.
"LAH" was sent from Poland to Prague in January 1940.

62 footnote 1: Sources stating the SS-Stabswache Berlin was formed before 17.3.1933 are wrong.

64 "LAH" did not take part in the victory parade in Paris (in fact, only von Briesen's 69th Infantry Division paraded).
"LAH" transferred to Romania from Metz, not from Berlin. It stayed there as Lehrtruppe for two weeks and was then moved to Bulgaria.

67 Boves: Stein quoted The New York Post of 29.6.1964 as the source for the report that in June 1964 West German officials disclosed that

Joachim Peiper of 1. SS-Pz.-Div. "LSSAH" was being investigated for his rôle in the destruction of the town of Boves in northern Italy and the mass execution of its inhabitants in September 1943 during an anti-Fascist partisan operation (op. cit., pp. 253 & 275/276). "LAH" was in northern Italy from 4.8.1943 to 12.12.1943, but Rudolf Lehmann claims that no such action was taken by "LAH" or any other unit and refers to proceedings for withdrawal of the charge made to the senior prosecutor of the Stuttgart Superior Court. Weingartner failed to research the incident (he quotes only Stein and Bender/Taylor) but casts considerable doubt on the allegation: "He (Peiper) may have been involved in a similar massacre (to the burning of two Russian villages and the killing of all their inhabitants) during Leibstandarte's Italian interlude in the summer and fall of 1943" and "Both the Russian and the Italian incidents associated with Peiper's name are vague and largely unsupported by documentation" (op.cit., pg. 126 & fn. 37 on pg. 176).

67 footnote 2: Not only did SS-Pz.-Rgt. 1 never have a IIIrd Panzer-Abteilung, but its IInd Abt. did not exist at all times either.

68 "LAH" was not encircled in the Korosten area, but later (beginning of March) between Proskurov and Tarnopol in a "private pocket," from where it broke out to the so-called "Hube pocket."

69 SS-Kampfgruppe "Peiper" was the spearhead of the Ist SS Armored Corps, not of the whole offensive.

71 Order-of-Battle: The numerals "1" and "2" should appear before the name "LSSAH."

72 Divisional Commanders: Dietrich officially assumed command of the nascent Ist SS Armored Corps "Leibstandarte" when it was activated on 27.7.1943 and so on the same day SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Theodor (Teddy) Wisch became the second commander of the "LSSAH" Division (Weingartner, op.cit., pg. 83). Wisch was badly wounded in the escape from the Falaise-Argentan pocket and was replaced by SS-Oberführer Wilhelm Mohnke. Mohnke, who had been an officer with the Leibstandarte since 1933, gave up his command in early February 1945 to participate in the final defense of Berlin, and SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Otto Kumm gave up command of the 7th SS Division "Prinz Eugen" to become Leibstandarte's last commander.

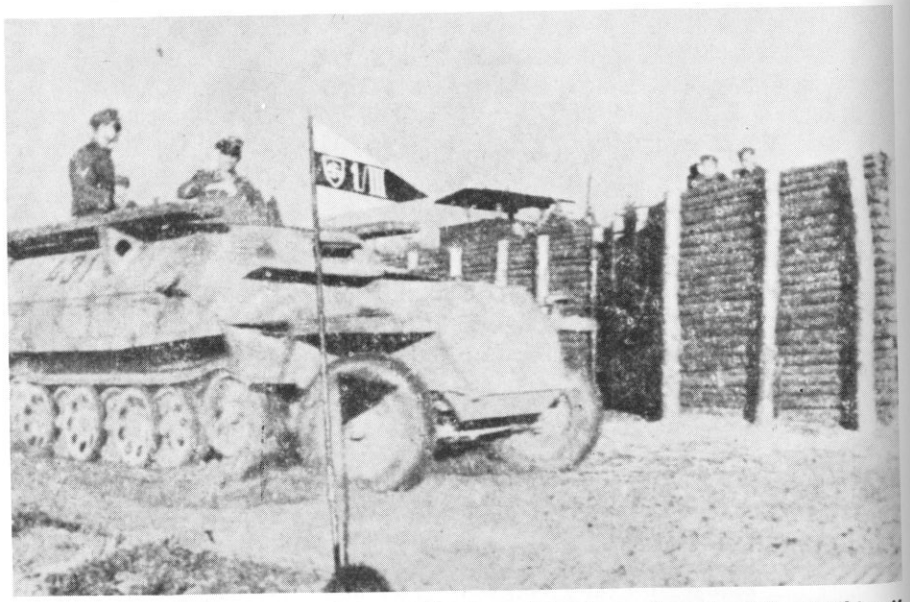
93 Photo: The officer in profile is SS-Obersturmbannführer Werner Dörffler-Schuband, C.O. of II./SS-Regiment "Germania."

100/104 History: For a detailed history of the "Totenkopt" Division, see Sydnor's Soldiers of Destruction. The SS Death's Head Division, 1933-1945.

106/107 Divisional Commanders: Eicke was badly wounded in the right leg when his staff car was blown up by a mine in Russia on 7.7.1941. When invalided from the front, he gave temporary command to SS-Standartenführer Matthias Kleinheisterkamp, but Himmler chose SS-Brigadeführer Georg Keppler to lead "Totenkopf" for the two months until Eicke's return on 21.9.1941. While the Division was being destroyed in the Demyansk Pocket, Eicke was ordered to Germany on leave in the second week of June 1942, and his place was taken until the formation was eventually withdrawn to Germany in October by SS-Oberführer Max Simon. Eicke re-assumed command of the formation, reforming in France as a Panzergrenadierdivision, in October 1942. Eicke was killed when his Fieseler Storch was shot down by Russian troops between the villages of Michailovka and Artelnoye on 26.2.1943, and he was buried with full military honors on 1.3.1943 in the village of Otdochnina (see photo and caption). Eicke was succeeded by Max Simon (by then an SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS), who led the Division until 16.10.1943 when he assumed command of the 16th SS Division "RFSS" and "Totenkopf" was led from 16.10.1943 until 13.7.1944 by SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Hermann Priess. Priess was given command of "LSSAH" on 13.7.1944, and SS-Oberführer Helmuth Becker became the last commander of the "Totenkopf" Division. On 9.5.1945 Becker surrendered his Division to the U.S. Third Army, but the Americans handed him and his men over to the Russians.

Theodor Eicke's grave at Otdochnina, where he was buried on 1.3.1943. Himmler was preoccupied with the thought of Eicke's remains lying on soil retaken by the Russians and with the Germans in retreat in September 1943 had Eicke's body removed to the Hegewald cemetery at Shitomir. But Eicke's body was still buried at Hegewald when the Red Army drove the Germans out in the spring of 1944 (Sydnor, op.cit., pg. 273, fn. 26).

145 The mobile "sun cross" on a command flag of an element of the "Wiking" Division (photo possibly taken in February 1944 - "Gille" presumably refers to Herbert-Otto Gille, who commanded "Wiking" from May to August 1944, before becoming G.O.C. IVth SS Armored Corps). No record remains of the use the dog made of the post!



145 Company HQ pennant of one of the three infantry regiments of the "Wiking" Division (note the mobile "sun cross" within shield on the central black horizontal bar - the numerals "1./III" are confusing in that they suggest the 1st company of a IIIrd battalion, but the 1. Kompanie would have been of the I., not III., Bataillon).
(Source: Der Freiwillige, 23. Jahrgang, Heft 12, Dezember 1944.)

152

Jost Schneider

SS-Standartenführer Franz Schreiber, last commander of the 6.SS-Gebirgs-Division "Nord."

155 Divisional Vehicle Symbols: Sign no. 2, the "Wendehorn" ("turning horn" or "horn of the Wends"), was proposed for the collar patch of the Estonian SS Legion by the SS-FHA on 29.10.1942 (but not adopted - see pages 208/209 of this book).

170 Note on page 143 of Volume 1: 56 509 was, in fact, the field post number of the war correspondents' company of the 1st SS Armored Divison "LSSAH."

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29 Photo caption: This, in fact, shows Fegelein and members of his staff south of Kharkov in 1943. Gustav Lombard is to Fegelein's left with cigar in hand (Gustav Lombard, letter of 14.1.1976).

53 Order-of-Battle: For the history of the SS Divisional Battle School "Hohenstaufen" (SS-Divisionskampfschule "Hohenstaufen") - formed 5.6.1943 & disbanded in early March 1944 - see Wolfgang Vopersal in Der Freiwillige, 21. Jahrgang, Heft 11, November 1975, pp. 18-23.

55 footnote 16: read "have" for "habe."

72 read "badly" for "bad" in penultimate line of text.

84 line 28: Hitler relieved SS-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor der Waffen-SS Joachim Ziegler of his command of "Nordland" at noon on 25.4.1944 according to Krukenberg/Militärarchiv (Lennart Westberg, letter of 20.3.1981).