

# ss wiking the history of the fifth ss division 1941 45

Ss Wiking The History Of The Fifth Ss Division 1941 45 ss wiking the history of the fifth ss division 1941 45 is a topic that delves into one of the most notable Waffen-SS divisions formed during World War II. Known for its distinctive background, diverse composition, and significant combat engagements, the 5th SS Panzer Division Wiking played a prominent role on the Eastern and Western Fronts from 1941 to 1945. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the division's origins, development, key battles, and legacy, offering detailed insights into its operational history.

**Origins and Formation of the 5th SS Division Wiking**

Background and Rationale The Waffen-SS, the armed wing of the Nazi Party's Schutzstaffel, expanded rapidly during the early years of World War II. The formation of the 5th SS Panzer Division Wiking was driven by the need to incorporate foreign volunteers and recruits from Northern Europe, reflecting Nazi Germany's ideological emphasis on Nordic and Germanic heritage. The division aimed to serve as a formidable fighting force on the battlefield while embodying the racial ideals promoted by the Nazi regime.

**Formation and Early Days**

The division was officially established in October 1940 and initially designated as the SS-Verfügungs-Division. Its name "Wiking" was adopted in April 1941, symbolizing its Scandinavian roots and its intended role as a unit composed of volunteers primarily from Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and other Northern European countries. The core of the division was formed from existing Waffen-SS units, supplemented by new recruits. Its early training focused on combined arms tactics, mountain warfare, and anti-partisan operations, preparing it for deployment against the Soviet Union.

**Composition and Recruitment**

**International Volunteers** One of the unique aspects of the Wiking Division was its diverse composition: Scandinavians: Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes Dutch and Flemish recruits from the Netherlands and Belgium Other Northern Europeans, including Finns and Icelanders 2 German volunteers and conscripts This multinational makeup reflected Nazi propaganda's emphasis on the racial kinship among Northern Europeans, although in practice, the division operated as a highly disciplined military unit.

**Training and Equipment**

The division received some of the best equipment available to the Waffen-SS, including Panzer IV tanks, Sturmgeschütz assault guns, and motorized infantry. Its training emphasized mechanized warfare, urban combat, and anti-partisan tactics, making it a versatile force capable of operating in various terrains.

**Operational History and Major Battles**

**Eastern Front Campaigns (1941–1943)** The Wiking Division participated in some of the most brutal battles on the Eastern Front, starting with Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union, in June 1941. **Battle of Moscow (1941–1942):** The division was involved in the defensive operations around Moscow, facing fierce Soviet resistance. **Battle of Kharkov (1942):** It took part in counterattacks that temporarily stabilized the front line. **Siege of Sevastopol (1942):** The division contributed to the assault on the strategic Crimean city. During these campaigns, the division earned a reputation for resilience and combat effectiveness, often fighting in difficult conditions under harsh winter and summer climates.

**Western Front and Normandy (1944–1945)** Following the retreat from the Soviet Union, the Wiking Division was transferred to Western Europe to bolster German

defenses against the Allied invasion. D-Day and Normandy (June 1944): Wiking was involved in defensive operations during the Normandy breakout, fighting against advancing Allied forces. Battle of the Bulge (December 1944): The division participated in this last major German offensive, attempting to split Allied lines in the Ardennes. Retreat and Final Battles (1945): As the Allies advanced into Germany, Wiking was engaged in defensive battles across the Rhine and in the final retreat to the Bavarian Alps. <sup>3</sup> Throughout these campaigns, the division faced overwhelming Allied forces but demonstrated notable combat endurance. Notable Figures and Leadership Commanding Officers The division's leadership included several notable Waffen-SS officers: SS-Brigadeführer Felix Steiner <sup>2</sup> served as a prominent commander early in the division's history. SS-Obersturmbannführer Walter Harzer <sup>3</sup> known for his leadership during the later stages of the war. Their leadership influenced the division's tactical decisions and operational effectiveness. Units and Sub-Formations The Wiking Division comprised various units: Panzergrenadier Regiment Reconnaissance Battalion Artillery Regiment Tank Battalion (Panzer IVs and Tigers) Anti-aircraft and engineer units This structure enabled it to operate as a combined arms force capable of independent operations. Controversies and War Crimes Accusations and Investigations As with many Waffen-SS units, the Wiking Division has been associated with war crimes, including: Mass executions of Soviet prisoners of war Participation in anti-partisan operations that involved atrocities against civilians While some members faced post-war investigations, the division's leadership often denied direct involvement in atrocities. Nevertheless, the division's reputation remains marred by its association with the Waffen-SS's broader criminal activities. <sup>4</sup> Disbandment and Legacy End of the Division The Wiking Division was effectively destroyed in the final months of the war, surrendering to Allied forces in May 1945. Many of its members were taken prisoner, while others were killed in combat or went into hiding. Post-War Perception and Historical Significance Today, the division is remembered as a symbol of Nazi military expansion and the ideological fusion of race and warfare. Its diverse composition, combat record, and involvement in war crimes make it a subject of extensive historical study and debate. The division's legacy is complex<sup>5</sup>acknowledging its military prowess while critically examining its role within the Nazi regime's criminal apparatus. Conclusion The history of the SS Wiking division from 1941 to 1945 encapsulates a significant chapter of World War II, highlighting the interplay between ideology, military strategy, and the brutal realities of war. From its formation as a multinational unit embodying Nazi racial ideals to its participation in key battles across Europe and the Soviet Union, Wiking remains a division emblematic of the Waffen-SS's complex and controversial legacy. Understanding its history provides valuable insights into the wider context of WWII, the nature of warfare, and the enduring importance of remembering the atrocities committed during this tumultuous period. QuestionAnswer What was the origin and formation of the SS Wiking Division during World War II? The SS Wiking Division was formed in 1941 as a Waffen-SS division composed primarily of volunteers from Nordic countries, including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. It was established as part of Nazi Germany's effort to recruit foreign volunteers into the Waffen-SS and was initially trained in Germany before seeing combat on the Eastern Front. What notable battles and campaigns did the SS Wiking Division participate in between 1941 and 1945? The SS Wiking Division saw extensive action on the Eastern Front, including battles in the Soviet Union such as the Battle of Kharkov, the Battle of Kursk, and in the Baltics during the Baltic Offensive. It also participated in

defensive operations during the Soviet push into Eastern Europe and was involved in the Battle of Berlin in 1945. 5 How did the composition of the SS Wiking Division reflect Nazi Germany's recruitment policies? The division was composed mainly of volunteers from Nordic countries, reflecting Nazi Germany's emphasis on recruiting 'Aryan' Europeans to bolster its military forces. This recruitment aimed to promote the idea of a Nordic racial community aligned with Nazi racial ideology. What was the role of the SS Wiking Division in war crimes and atrocities during its operational period? Like many Waffen-SS units, the SS Wiking Division was implicated in war crimes, including the suppression of partisan resistance, executions of prisoners, and participation in atrocities against civilians in occupied territories. Its involvement has been documented in various war crimes investigations. What was the fate of the SS Wiking Division at the end of World War II? In 1945, as Nazi Germany's defeat became inevitable, the SS Wiking Division fought retreating German forces during the Battle of Berlin and in the final battles in Eastern Europe. Many of its members were killed, captured, or went into hiding, and the division was effectively disbanded following Germany's surrender. How is the history of the SS Wiking Division viewed in contemporary scholarship? Contemporary scholarship regards the SS Wiking Division as part of the Waffen-SS's broader involvement in Nazi war crimes and atrocities. Its recruitment from Nordic countries is analyzed within the context of Nazi racial ideology, and its military actions are studied for their role in the Eastern Front's brutal campaigns and war crimes. ss wiking the history of the fifth ss division 1941-45 The saga of the Waffen-SS is one marked by fierce combat, complex ideologies, and intricate military organization. Among its most notable formations was the 5th SS Panzer Division, known as SS Wiking. Operating from 1941 until the end of World War II in 1945, this division's history encapsulates the evolution of Nazi Germany's elite military units, their operational deployments across Europe, and their controversial legacy. This article explores the origins, development, key battles, and ultimate demise of SS Wiking, offering a detailed yet accessible account of this significant division. --- Origins and Formation of SS Wiking The Establishment of a Multinational Elite SS Wiking was officially formed in 1940-1941, during a period of rapid expansion of the Waffen-SS. Unlike many other divisions, which primarily drew from German volunteers, SS Wiking was conceived as a multinational unit, embodying the Nazi ideology of a pan-Germanic and Nordic brotherhood. Key points in its formation include: - Recruitment Strategy: The division was assembled from volunteers primarily from Nordic countries—Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland—as well as the Netherlands, Belgium, and other occupied territories. The aim was to create a 'Viking' image, emphasizing Nordic warrior traditions. - Origins of the Name: 'Wiking' (Viking) symbolized the division's intended identity—robust, fearless, and rooted in the Nordic warrior archetype. - Initial Training: Recruits underwent rigorous training in Germany, emphasizing combat skills, ideological indoctrination, and physical endurance. Early Ss Wiking The History Of The Fifth Ss Division 1941 45 6 Military Organization Upon formation, SS Wiking was structured similarly to other Waffen- SS divisions, with components including: - Multiple Panzer (tank) and Panzergrenadier (mechanized infantry) regiments - Artillery battalions - Reconnaissance units - Support and logistical formations This multi-component structure allowed SS Wiking to operate as a self-sufficient combined arms formation. --- Deployment and Early Engagements (1941-1942) Operation Barbarossa and Eastern Front Battles The division's first major combat deployment was in 1941 during Operation

Barbarossa the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Key engagements during this period included: - Advance into the Soviet Union: SS Wiking was assigned to Army Group North, participating in the push towards Leningrad. - Combat in the Baltic States: The division fought in Latvia and Estonia, engaging Soviet forces and participating in the Baltic offensive. - Encounters with Partisans: Like many units on the Eastern Front, Wiking faced irregular resistance from partisan groups, which often involved brutal counterinsurgency operations. Transition to a Panzer Division In 1942, SS Wiking was reorganized into a full-fledged Panzer division, reflecting Germany's emphasis on armored warfare. This transition involved: - Expansion of tank battalions, including the addition of Panther and Panzer IV tanks - Recruitment of more motorized infantry and support units - Increased training in armored tactics and combined arms operations --- Major Battles and Operations (1943-1944) Battles of Kharkov and Kursk SS Wiking's combat record during 1943-44 was characterized by participation in some of the Wehrmacht's most intense battles. Notable engagements include: - Third Battle of Kharkov (March 1943): Wiking played a role in the German counteroffensive, helping to recapture the city from Soviet forces. This operation demonstrated the division's evolving combat capabilities and experience. - Battle of Kursk (July 1943): Although not a primary participant in the Kursk salient, elements of Wiking engaged in the prolonged fighting that characterized this pivotal battle, which was a turning point on the Eastern Front. Western Front and Defensive Operations As the tide of war turned against Germany, SS Wiking was redeployed to the Western Front. - D-Day and Aftermath: The division was involved in defensive actions following the Allied landings in Normandy in June 1944, fighting to repel the Allied advance. - Battle of the Bulge (December 1944-January 1945): Wiking participated in Hitler's last major offensive in the West, aiming to split Allied lines. The division displayed resilience but ultimately could not prevent the Allied breakthrough. Operations in the Balkans and Italy In addition to Eastern and Western Fronts, parts of SS Wiking were sent to combat in the Balkans and Italy, fighting partisan groups and Allied forces. --- Ideology, Controversy, and War Crimes The Ideological Underpinnings SS Wiking, like other Waffen-SS units, was not just a military formation but also an ideological instrument. Its members were indoctrinated with Nazi beliefs, emphasizing racial superiority, anti-Semitism, and loyalty to Hitler. War Crimes and Atrocities The division's history is marred by allegations and documented instances of war crimes, including: - Participation in atrocities against civilians in occupied territories - Ss Wiking The History Of The Fifth Ss Division 1941 45 7 Mass executions of prisoners of war and resistance fighters - Involvement in reprisals and ethnic cleansing While some units adhered strictly to military discipline, others were implicated in brutal actions that have stained the division's legacy. --- The Final Days and Dissolution (1945) The Collapse of Nazi Germany By 1945, the situation for SS Wiking, 5th SS Division, Nazi Waffen-SS, World War II, Eastern Front, SS Divisions, German military history, 1941-1945, Waffen-SS divisions, WWII battles

SS-WikingSS-Wiking5th SS Wiking at War, 1941-1945The 2nd SS Panzer Division Das ReichOperation Barbarossa: the Complete Organisational and Statistical Analysis, and Military Simulation Volume IIA6th SS Mountain Division Nord at War, 1941-1945Waffen-SS Armour on the Eastern Front, 1941-1945World War II German Tank DestroyersAces at KurskAdvance of an SS-Division (motorized) to Lake Ilmen, June - August 1941SS Foreign Divisions & Volunteers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, 1941-19457th SS Mountain Division Prinz Eugen At War, 1941-1945Das Deutsche Heer,

1939-1945 Waffen SS in the East 1941 - 1943 SS: Hell on the Eastern Front Belgian Waffen-SS Legions & Brigades, 1941-1944 Hitler and His Generals Waffen-SS on the Eastern Front, 1941-1945 The Third Reich at War Rupert Butler Rupert Butler Ian Baxter Yves Buffetaut Nigel Askey Ian Baxter Ian Baxter Spencer C. Tucker Pierre Tiquet Christopher A Lawrence Karl Herrmann Ian Baxter Ian Baxter Wolf Keilig Nicholas Milton Christopher Ailsby Massimiliano Afiero Adolf Hitler Ian Baxter SS-Wiking SS-Wiking 5th SS Wiking at War, 1941-1945 The 2nd SS Panzer Division Das Reich Operation Barbarossa: the Complete Organisational and Statistical Analysis, and Military Simulation Volume IIA 6th SS Mountain Division Nord at War, 1941-1945 Waffen-SS Armour on the Eastern Front, 1941-1945 World War II German Tank Destroyers Aces at Kursk Advance of an SS-Division (motorized) to Lake Ilmen, June - August 1941 SS Foreign Divisions & Volunteers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, 1941-1945 7th SS Mountain Division Prinz Eugen At War, 1941-1945 Das Deutsche Heer, 1939-1945 Waffen SS in the East 1941 - 1943 SS: Hell on the Eastern Front Belgian Waffen-SS Legions & Brigades, 1941-1944 Hitler and His Generals Waffen-SS on the Eastern Front, 1941-1945 The Third Reich at War *Rupert Butler Rupert Butler Ian Baxter Yves Buffetaut Nigel Askey Ian Baxter Ian Baxter Spencer C. Tucker Pierre Tiquet Christopher A Lawrence Karl Herrmann Ian Baxter Ian Baxter Wolf Keilig Nicholas Milton Christopher Ailsby Massimiliano Afiero Adolf Hitler Ian Baxter*

the 5th ss division wiking was the first international i e largely non german waffen ss division and the only german panzer division comprised largely of foreign troops the division quickly earned itself a deserved combat reputation but also served as a finishing school spinning off a host of additional waffen ss divisions

this military history examines the ss wiking one of germany s top fighting units in wwii who were largely recruited from foreign volunteers of german occupied countries butler describes their service on the eastern front for the nazi cause

a photographic documentation of the german foreign volunteer unit a valuable addition to any enthusiast s library of wwii military history books firetrench drawing on a superb collection of rare and unpublished photographs the 5th ss division wiking 1941 1945 is the 5th book in the waffen ss images of war series by ian baxter the book tells the dramatic story of the 5th ss panzer division wiking at war the men of the division were recruited from foreign volunteers in denmark norway sweden finland estonia the netherlands and belgium under the command of german officers not all were collaborators the choice they were all too often presented with was join up or be locked up or worse during the course of the war the division served on the eastern front in 1941 it surrendered in may 1945 to the american forces in austria the photos are mostly unpublished before and give an excellent impression of wiking at war we see a good variety of conditions over the 5 years of their war from the height of summer to the depths of winter we see fine detail of their uniforms and personal equipment as well as the development of larger equipment from motorcycles and early panzer ivs to the larger panthers of the final period there is also good coverage of anti aircraft and anti tank weapons as well as heavier artillery there is a good spread of detail in here which will interest the historian as well as the reenactors militaria collectors and modelers alike military model scene

certainly my first recourse from now on when looking at the ss panzer divisions give yourself a treat and buy a copy asap if tanks are your thing army rumour service the das reich division was the most infamous unit of the waffen ss originally a paramilitary formation raised to protect the members of the nazi party it was founded in 1934 as the ss verf<sup>ü</sup>lungstruppe during the invasion of poland the unit fought as a mobile infantry regiment after the battle of france the ss vt was officially renamed the waffen ss and in 1941 the verf<sup>ü</sup>lung division was renamed reich later das reich by the time das reich took part in the battle of moscow it had lost sixty percent of its combat strength it was pulled off the front in mid 1942 and sent to refit as a panzer grenadier division returning to the eastern front das reich took part in the fighting around kharkov and kursk late in the year it was designated a panzer division in 1944 the unit was stationed in southern france when the allies landed in normandy the following days saw the division commit atrocities hanging one hundred local men in the town of tulles in reprisal for german losses and massacring 642 french civilians in oradour sur glane allegedly in retaliation for partisan activity in the area later in the normandy fighting das reich was encircled in the roncey pocket by us 2nd armored division losing most of their armored equipment das reich surrendered in may 1945 another fascinating piece of military history from the opposite point of view this doesn't purport to be an illustrated history of the reich but it damn well is books monthly

operation barbarossa volume iia concerns the wehrmacht all the significant german weapon systems and combat squads used in the campaign are analysed using the quantitative methodology detailed in volume i along with the contextual history an assessment of each weapon system's inherent combat power is provided as well as attributes such as the relative anti tank anti personnel and anti aircraft values volume iia then focuses on the detailed kriegstarkenachweisungen kstn or toe for german land units including those in the west as well as the unit's actual organisation and equipment all significant units in the german army heer waffen ss luftwaffe and security forces are included ranging from the largest panzer divisions down to small anti aircraft companies military police units landesschutzen battalions and rail road and construction companies in all cases the data is presented in detailed tables using the weapon systems and combat squads previously analysed

drawing on a superb collection of rare and unpublished photographs the 6th ss mountain division nord 1941 1945 is the 6th book in the waffen ss images of war series compiled by ian baxter the book tells the story of the 6th ss mountain division nord which was formed in february 1941 as ss kampfgruppe nord ss battle group north the division was the only waffen ss unit to fight in the arctic circle when it was stationed in finland and northern russia between june and november 1941 it fought in karelia until the moscow armistice in september 1944 at which point it left finland it suffered heavy losses in the operation nordwind in january 1945 and in early april 1945 the division was destroyed by the us forces near budingen germany

an illustrated history of nazi germany's panzer units along the eastern front during world war ii hitler's invasion of the soviet union codename operation barbarossa was arguably the pivotal moment of the second world war initially the onslaught was staggeringly successful with as the superb contemporary images in this book show waffen ss armored divisions leading the charge but the nazis

had underestimated the russians determination to defend their homeland and the logistical problems compounded by the extreme winter weather conditions after early victories such as the recapture of kharkov in early 1943 and the kursk offensive commanders and crews of armored vehicles such as pz kpfw i ii iii iv panther tiger king tiger assault and self propelled guns had to adapt their tactics and equipment to what became a desperate defensive withdrawal eventually back across a scarred and devastated eastern front even during the last months of the war as the panzers withdrew through poland and into the reich these exhausted elite units broken down into small battle groups or kampfgruppen fought to the bitter end with authoritative text supported by a plethora of rare fully captioned photographs this classic images of war book informs and inspires the reader revealing the key role played by waffen ss panzer units in this most bitter campaign

designed with the more visual needs of today's student in mind this landmark encyclopedia covers the entire scope of the second world war from its earliest roots to its continuing impact on global politics and human society over 1 000 illustrations maps and primary source materials enhance the text and make history come alive for students and faculty alike abc clio's world war ii a student encyclopedia captures the monumental sweep of the big one with accessible scholarship a student friendly image rich design and a variety of tools specifically crafted for the novice researcher for teachers and curriculum specialists it is a thoroughly contemporary and authoritative work with everything they need to enrich their syllabi and meet state and national standards ranging from the conflict's historic origins to vj day and beyond it brings all aspects of the war vividly to life its origins in the rubble of world war i its inevitable outbreak its succession of tumultuous battles and unforgettable personalities students will understand what the war meant to the leaders the soldiers and everyday families on home fronts around the world featured essays look at pearl harbor the holocaust the atomic bomb and other crucial events as well as fascinating topics such as signals intelligence and the role of women in war a separate primary source volume provides essential source material for homework test preparation or special projects with a wealth of new information and new ideas about the war's causes course and consequences world war ii will be the first place students turn for the who what when where and more importantly the why behind this historic conflict

an unusually well detailed pictorial history of the entire class of vehicles including the hornisse jagdpanzer 38 jagdpanzer iv and elefant amps from the early days of world war ii it was clear that the wehrmacht's antitank units would need to be motorized as existing horse or automobile drawn units were too slow to be effective initially antitank guns were mounted onto available usually obsolete tank chassis such as the panzerjäger i and ii however german engineers would soon turn to the heavy chassis of the panzer iv the panther and the tiger for their tank hunters it became apparent during the invasion of france that enemy antitank guns were both more powerful and better armored and improvement became a priority during barbarossa as german units faced off against the new soviet tanks the appearance of the soviet t 34 in july 1941 meant that the germans had to quickly come up with something equally powerful the result was the motorized panzerjäger faster and more mobile than older towed versions this was followed in 1942 by the introduction of the 7 5cm gun further designs and modifications were informed by reports from the front line some of

these conversions were very successful and resulted in fearsome tank destroyers deployed to great effect by the wehrmacht the lightweight hetzer for example was based on a modified panzer 38 t and entered service in 1944 this small tank became germany s main tank destroyer during the final stages of the war and would continue in use around the world even after 1945 though they may not have looked that intimidating the landser were soon won over and were comforted to have something reliable to stand between them and the soviet tanks this account illustrated by hundreds of period photos examines the development and deployment of various models of tank destroyers during world war ii a very nice reference resource with lots of detail and diorama inspiration for modelers military model scene

the battle of kursk in july 1943 is known for being the largest tank battle in history a russian victory it marked the decisive end of the german offensive capability on the eastern front and set the scene for the soviet successes that followed while many have focused on the tank engagements especially the battle of prokhorovka there was an intense air battle going on overhead that was bigger than the battle of britain as part of the german offensive the luftwaffe s viii air corps deployed around 1 100 aircraft in the south alone while the opposing soviet second and seventeenth air armies initially deployed over 1 600 aircraft there was a similar effort surrounding the german attack in the north the battle in the south began with a soviet air strike on german airfields and a fight for control of the air that continued throughout the day across the front on the first day of the battle 5 july 1943 the germans flew at least 2 387 sorties in the south while the two soviet air armies flew 1 688 sorties that first day of battle resulted in 19 to 27 german planes and 189 soviet aircraft shot down this was an aerial engagement like no other ever seen before involved on the german side were the 52nd and 3rd fighter wings the 52nd fighter wing was the most accomplished fighter wing in history and many of its top aces were involved in the combats over the kursk battlefield these included walter krupinski 197 claimed kills in the war günther rall the third highest scoring ace in history 275 claimed kills and the highest scoring ace in history erich hartmann 352 claimed kills opposing them were what were to become three of the top five soviet aces kirill yevstigneyev 53 claimed kills nikolai gulayev 55 claimed kills and the top scoring allied ace of the war ivan kozhedub 62 claimed kills this was indeed the battle of the aces but there was also the massive ground attack effort by both sides including the junkers ju 87 stuka fitted with 37mm anti tank guns flown by the man who would become most decorated soldier of the third reich hans ulrich rüdel the aerial battle involved hundreds of soviet sturmoviks or il 2s stalin s armored ground attack plane the battle featured the famous attack by luftwaffe hs 129s and fw 190s on soviet armor on 8 july 1943 aces at kursk is not just a war story but a revealing investigation that analyses the entire air battle that turned the tide of the war on the eastern front

drawing on a superb collection of rare and unpublished photographs ss foreign divisions volunteers of lithuania latvia and estonia 1942 1945 describes how the occupying nazis recruited lithuanian latvian and estonian conscripts into the waffen ss unlike her latvian neighbor lithuania had no plans to provide germany with a national legion although volunteers came forward the majority did not this was not the case for latvia and estonia which undertook huge recruitment programs and thousands of men were drafted into their own foreign legion of waffen ss grenadier divisions after intensive

training these divisions saw action on the eastern front around leningrad in the ukraine before vicious defensive operations as the red army smashed its way through the baltic states in 1944 even in the last dying weeks of the war what was left of the baltic soldiers of the 15th 19th and 20th waffen ss grenadier divisions continued to fight alongside their wehrmacht and waffen ss counterparts until they were either destroyed or surrendered the story of these divisions is graphically told with detailed captions and text together with many contemporary images in true images of war style

this volume of rare wwii photographs presents a pictorial history of the nazi mountain infantry division that fought in croatia and the balkans drawing on a superb collection of rare and unpublished photographs this book tells the story of the 7th ss mountain division during the second world war formed in 1941 it consisted of both volunteers and conscripts from the banat independent state of croatia hungary and romania the prinz eugen ss division fought a brutal counterinsurgency campaign against the communist led yugoslav partisan resistance forces in occupied serbia and montenegro it was given the title prinz eugen after prince eugene of savoy a 17th century military leader of the habsburg empire covering the divisions history from formation to the end of the war this volume includes chapters on operation weiss guerilla warfare and other topics

this is the illustrated history of the waffen ss on the eastern front the life and death of the waffen ss can be traced in the surviving photographs and the brooding saga of the decline from triumph into disaster is told through these powerful images which clearly document the reality of combat on the russian front these rare images capture the optimism of opening stage of the war and the challenges of barbarossa more clearly than words can ever tell the seasons of mud and the white hell of a russian winter are encapsulated in this excellent selection of evocative images introduced and described by historian and author nicholas milton essential reading for anyone with an interest in the course of the war in the east and the role played by the waffen ss

with more than 100 photographs ss hell on the eastern front is a detailed account of every aspect of the waffen ss s war on the eastern front its battles against the red army and soviet partisans its organisation its recruitment of non germans its tactics and equipment orders of battle and its mentality

this new account featuring detailed colour plates of uniform and insignia recounts the battle history of the french and flemish speaking belgian ss up to their final transformation into full divisions in the winter of 1944 45

the only complete edition in any language of all the known stenographic conferences these are the first verbatim records in history of military planning at the highest level

an incredible up close and personal look at the men machines and operational history of the waffen ss msc review connect this book in the popular images of war series covers the deeds of the waffen ss on the eastern front during the second world war with extensive text and in depth captions with many rare and unpublished photographs it is an absorbing analysis of the part they played on the

eastern front it reveals in detail how this elite band of men fought during the opening phase of barbarossa the invasion of russia how it supported and took part in the victory at kharkov demyansk and other battles in the soviet union the book reveals the waffen ss s role at kursk and how it was forced to withdraw in the face of overwhelming enemy superiority and were rushed from one danger zone to another to plug gaps in the front often these troops faced an enemy ten times their strength and it was for this reason they were feared and respected by their enemy although by early may 1945 the waffen ss was all but destroyed having battled across half russia and gone on to protect the withdrawals of the rest of the german army to the very gates of berlin in addition to the images we get a fairly extensive appendix showing the order of battle of the waffen ss on the eastern front and details on uniforms weapons and equipment the book would be very useful as a visual aid for living history exponents and model makers war history online

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