Foreign Legions of the Third Reich

DAVID LITTLEJOHN

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by
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Foreign Legions of the Third Reich

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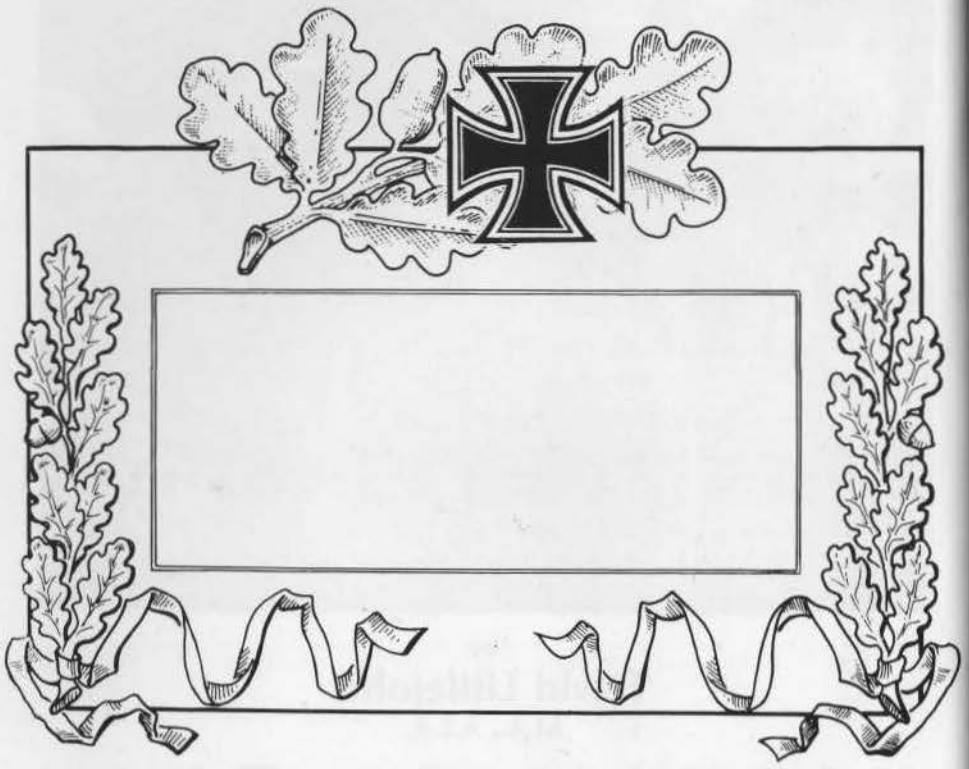

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Introduction

The author would like to thank all those who wrote in after the publication of the first volume of this series with additional information and/or corrections. Rather than wait for a supplement to the final (fourth) volume of this series before collating all the supplementary information that had been acquired in the course of its publication (as was suggested in the "Introduction" to Volume 1), it has been decided that each successive volume will include an "Addendum" embodying all extra information or corrections relating to the previous volume (or volumes). At the end of the present volume, therefore, readers will find supplementary information on the three countries dealt with in the first volume (Norway, Denmark and France).

The current volume deals with the remaining countries of western Europe - Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Great Britain, and, as before, the author would welcome any corrections, amendments or expansions.

In addition to those whose assistance has already been acknowledged in the preface to Volume 1, the author would like to thank: Albert E. Barrows, Peter Buch, James van Fleet, Adrian Forman, Jan Poul Petersen, John Scurr and (with particular reference to the section on Belgium) Christopher Ailsby, Eric Carr, Albert Flipts, Dr. Marc Mattelaer, VK Ager, Bob Hopkins, Claude Morin, Marc Guerini, Adrian Weale, Don Frailey, Rene Smeets, Jean Pierre Chantrain, C. Van Wiele, Ray Embry, Jost Schneider, Barney Tomberlin and Herb Rickards. My special thanks goes to Stan Cook for his special editing efforts and his dedication to historical accuracy.

The next volume in this series will deal with Central and Southeastern Europe.

BELGIUM

Belgium is really two countries joined as a single political unit. One part, Flanders, is Germanic in language and race; the other, Wallonie, is French-speaking and of racially mixed Celtic and Romanic origin. The only strong bond is a common religious faith - Roman Catholicism.

The Nazis always drew a clear distinction between the two peoples of Belgium, at first favoring their racial "cousins," the Flemings, but later discovering that in the Walloon leader, Léon Degrelle, they had found a much more valuable disciple. Since the military and para-military formations of the two parts of Belgium were always kept separate by the Germans, we shall here deal with Flanders and Wallonie as though they were in effect two different countries.

FLANDERS

The people of Flanders have long suffered from a feeling of resentment against the Walloon dominated French-speaking state created in 1830. Until 1914 Flemish nationalism had been mainly intellectual, but with the German occupation of Belgium in the First World War, it began to take active shape to become a political movement in its own right. In February 1917 a Council of Flanders, consisting of some 200 Flemish autonomists, was set up in Brussels under German patronage and granted the status of a provisional government of Flanders. Even within the Belgian army, actively fighting the Germans, an influential separatist faction known as the Front Movement *(Frontbeweging)* had sprung up. Later this became the Front Party *(Frontpartij)*.

Although, after the war, the leaders of the Council of Flanders were tried for high treason, none was actually executed and by an act of clemency in March 1929, all were set free. Despite the taint of association with collaboration, the Flemish nationalist movement did well in the 1919 election and returned three Deputies to the Belgian parliament. Ten years later this had risen to nine. The strength of the *Frontpartij* can be gauged from the fact that in a by-election in Antwerp in December 1928, August Borms, former head of the Council of Flanders, was returned with a majority of 40,000 over his opponent.

Dinaso

But by the early 1930's dissention had begun to split the ranks of the *Frontpartij* and a new element, fascism, entered into the Flemish demand for autonomy. This fresh development manifested itself in October 1931 with the formation of a break-away party known as the *Verbond van Dietsche Nationaal-Solidaristen* - the Union of "Netherlandish" ("Dietsche" has a wider connotation than just "Dutch") National Solidarity. This cumbersome title was usually abbreviated to *Verdinaso* or simply *Dinaso*. The leader of *Dinaso* was a young lawyer and former army officer (although stripped of his commission when his nationalist sympathies became apparent), Joris van Severen. At first *Dinaso* demanded the break-up of Belgium, with the Flemish parts joining Holland in a greater Netherlands Community. But in 1934 there was a complete reorientation of policy with van Severen now favoring the continued existence of the Belgian state on the grounds that he had just discovered that the Walloons were of common Frankish (i.e. Germanic) descent!

The green-shirted storm troopers of *Dinaso* were known as the *Dinaso Militie* until 1934 when they were re-named the *Dinaso Militanten Orde* (D.M.O.). The motto of the D.M.O. (it was also the name of their newspaper) was "Recht en Trouw". Jozef ("Jef") Francois was the D.M.O.'s leader. There was also a youth section, the *Verbond van Jongdinaso Vendels* (Association of Young Dinaso Companies). The *Dinaso* emblem was a plough, sword and cog wheel within a circle. The *Jongdinaso* badge was a stylized sea-mew above a wave in a circle.

Two members of the green uniformed D.M.O. - the "storm troops" of Dinaso.

In July 1934 the Belgium government banned the wearing of political uniforms and the D.M.O. could no longer parade in its green shirts.

War came to Belgium (neutral until that time) on 10 May 1940. Within little more than a fortnight the country was overrun and occupied. Dozens of suspected "Fifth columnists" were arrested and carried off to France by the Belgian police in a panic at the speed of the German advance. On 20 May at Abbeville in northern France, 22 of these were shot dead without trial. Among the victims was Joris van Severen. With his death, *Dinaso* suffered a mortal blow; no successor of his caliber could be found and the party was deeply divided over the question of how far, if at all, it should co-operate with the Germans. Those who favored collaboration were obliged to do so within the framework of a party which was to emerge as the leading exponent of working with the Germans. This was the:

V.N.V. (Vlaamsch Nationaal Verbond)

In October 1933, two years after the creation of *Dinaso*, a number of Flemish nationalist parties banded together under the leadership of Gustave ("Staf") de Clercq to form the *Vlaamsch Nationaal Verbond* (Flemish National Union) or V.N.V. Its political aspirations were much the same as those of *Dinaso* at that time, that is to say it advocated the break-up of Belgium and the establishment of a Greater Netherlands which would embrace all peoples of Dutch/Flemish stock from German Friesland in the north to French Flanders in the south. As the region forms a delta between the rivers Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt, the V.N.V. adopted as its emblem a triangle within a circle.

Where the V.N.V. differed from *Dinaso* was in its attitude toward religion. Whereas van Severen was passionately anti-clerical, the V.N.V. was devoutly Catholic; priests were prominent among its leadership.

The organization of the V.N.V. as it existed under German occupation will be described in due course but first we must deal briefly with some other minor fascist groups that existed in Flanders.

Devlag

In 1935 a small faction calling itself the German-Flemish Working Community *(Duitschen-Vlaamsche Arbeidsgemeenschap)* was formed. Its title was conviently abbreviated to *Devlag* (The Flag). On the surface it was a harmless "cultural" body dedicated merely to fostering greater artistic contacts between Germany and Flanders. The reality, however, was quite different. Its leader, Jef van de Wiele, was a fanatical apostle of Adolf Hitler and envisaged himself as the *Führer* of a national-socialist Flanders under the benevolent protection of the Germans. The emblem of *Devlag* was the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield held in the claws of a black German eagle - a significant symbolism since *Devlag* aimed at nothing short of the wholesale incorporation of Flanders into the German Reich!

Although, before the war, *Devlag* was only on the outer fringe of politics, under the occupation it was to drop its "cultural" camouflage and emerge as a serious rival to, and even an enemy of, the V.N.V.

N.S.B. i V.

The Dutch National-Socialist Movement, the N.S.B. (see chapter on Holland) maintained a section in Flanders known as the *Nationaal-Socialistische Beweging in Vlaanderen* (National-Socialist Movement in Flanders, or N.S.B. i.V.) with headquarters in Antwerp. But it lost its identity in May 1941 when, on German orders, it was compelled to merge with the V.N.V. The N.S.B.i.V. badge was a silver "Wolf hook".

Volksverweering

The *Volksverweering* (The People's Defense) was a rabidly anti-semitic movement whose headquarters were also in Antwerp. It operated in Wallonie under the title *Ligue de la Defence du Peuple* (League for the Defense of the People). It ran two newspapers, "Volksaanval" in Flemish and "Ami du Peuple" in French. After a brief resurgence during the occupation, it appears to have petered out before the end of 1943. The emblem of the movement was a yellow outlined black "Odelsrune" on a white background enclosed in a yellow and black circle (black being the outer color).

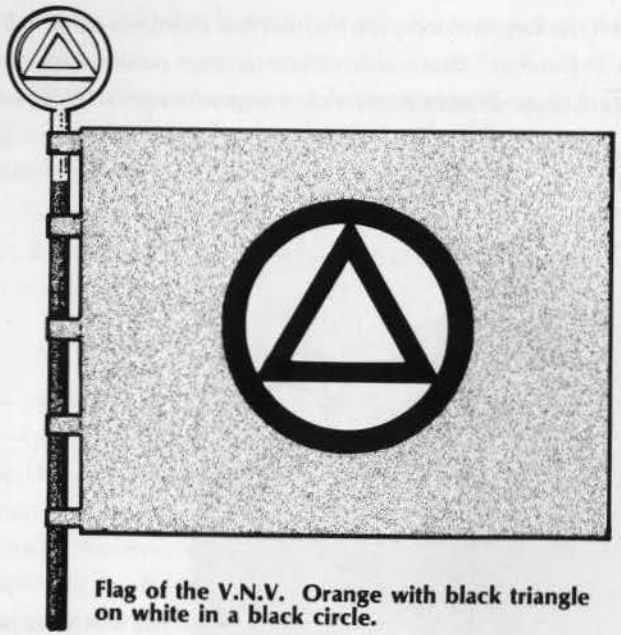
Wartime Organization of the V.N.V.

On 11 May 1941 the German occupation authorities announced that "all authorized political parties in Flanders" (Since only collaborationist parties were "authorized," this in effect meant all pro-Nazi factions) must merge with the V.N.V. or be dissolved.

The V.N.V. Leader, Staf de Clercq, receives a bouquet from a D.M.S. girl at a rally in Brussels.

However, an exception was made for "cultural" bodies which allowed *Devlag* to escape the net. The pro-collaboration section of *Dinaso* formed a *Groupe Joris van Severen* within the V.N.V. and some former *Dinaso* leaders were accorded prominent posts within the V.N.V. Also some of the symbolism of *Dinaso* was carried over into the V.N.V.

Staf de Clercq "promoted" himself from Leader *(Leider)* to General Leader *(Algemeen Leider)* and renamed the party the *Eenheidsbeweging V.N.V.* (Unity Movement V.N.V.)* The V.N.V. always stressed its *Dietsche* connection even to the extent of referring to Flanders as the "South Netherlands" (The North Netherlands being, of course, Holland). The three provinces of this "South Netherlands" were held to be Flanders (this included Ghent and Bruges), Brabant (this included Brussels and Antwerp) and Limburg. These three regions were sub-divided into *Gouwen* (the Flemish counterpart of the German *Gaue*) then into *Arrondissements* and finally into *Sections*. There were 860 *Sections* in Flanders and a further 40 among Flemish ethnic communities in Wallonie. At the Party's congress in June 1942 it was announced that the V.N.V. had a membership of 100,000 of whom about 10,000 were in its Women's Section *(Vlaamsch Nationale Vrouwen Verbond*, or V.N.V.V.) and about 12,000 in its Youth Branch. A Social Movement of the V.N.V. known as the *Vlaamsche Arbeidsorde* was founded by a leading Party activist, Victor Leemans.



Flag of the V.N.V. Orange with black triangle on white in a black circle.

*De Clercq died in October 1942 and was succeeded as General Leader by Dr. Hendrik Elias.

The V.N.V. liked to underline its faith in Flanders as being part of the Netherlands rather than Belgium by flying the Dutch (traditional) flag (orange, white, blue) alongside its own, by adopting the same Party greeting, "Hoo Zee" (roughly "Hold steady") and by having the "wolf hook" as the common symbol of the Dutch and Flemish party militias. Flemish youth leaders had the Dutch colors as part of their cap badge and Flemish lads were exhorted to emulate the example of heroes of the Dutch past - these latter included the Prince of Orange. That Flemings, a staunchly Catholic people, should be encouraged to admire William, Prince of Orange (the "King Billy" of Ulster Protestant hagiolatory) seems a bit ironic, although hardly less so than the fact that, on Hitler's express orders, *all* contact between Flemish and Dutch Nazis was forbidden!

Probably the most important part of the V.N.V. was its uniformed militia, the *Dietsche Militie* (D.M.) which was brought into being by an amalgamation of the V.N.V.'s former grey-shirted *Grijze Werfbrigade* (Grey Defense Brigade) and the D.M.O. of the disbanded *Dinaso*. This combined militia was sub-divided into four sections:

(I) **D.M. - Z.B. *(Dietsche Militie - Zwarte Brigade)*** The D.M. "Black Brigade" was originally the voluntary "storm troop" of the Party open to young men between the ages of 18 and 25, but after May 1942 conscription was introduced and all physically fit male party members up to the age of 40 were required to serve in this, or one of the other branches, of the D.M. Service was non-regular, that is to say, carried on outside normal working hours. Firearms were not usually carried. In a token mobilization of the entire D.M. held in July 1942, it was reported that 12,000 men took part.

(II) **D.M. - W.B. *(Dietsche Militie-Wacht Brigade)*** This "Guard Brigade" was a regular and armed branch of the D.M. used on internal security within Belgium.

(III) **D.M. - M.B. *(Dietsche Militie - Motor Brigade)*** This was the motorized section of the D.M. equipped with a miscellany of vehicles - trucks, motor cars and motorcycles.

(IV) **D.M. - H.B. *(Dietsche Militie - Hulp Brigade)*** The Auxiliary Brigade consisted of older men who acted as stewards at meetings or rallies. It was non-regular and unarmed.

The uniforms of the above were as follows:

D.M.-Z.B. An all-black uniform consisting of a black tunic, black breeches, black top boots, black peaked cap (less commonly worn, a black forage cap), black shirt and black tie. The only non-black items were the green collar patches and green shoulder straps. The piping of the peaked cap was also green. On the left upper arm an orange-yellow shield with a black "wolf hook" was worn. A "wolf hook" also featured as the upper part of the cap badge. The lower part was the V.N.V. triangle-in-a-circle emblem within an open oak leaf wreath. A black leather belt with a rectangular German-style metal buckle was worn. The buckle sometimes had the V.N.V. motto, "Het Vaderland Getrouw" (True to the Fatherland) and sometimes the *Dinaso* motto, "Recht en Trouw" (Trusty and true).

The first commander of the combined militia was Reimond Tollenaere, former chief of the *Grijze Werfbrigade*. His deputy was the erstwhile D.M.O. leader, Jef Francois. When both men left to join the S.S., command of the *Dietsche Militie* passed to

another former *Dinaso* officer, Joris van Steenlandt. Members of the disbanded D.M.O. serving in the Militia of the V.N.V. were allowed to wear a commemorative badge showing the *Dinaso* emblem on a shield within a circle upon an upward pointing sword. This is found in two versions. One bears the inscription, in Latin script, "Verdinaso, Abbeville 10 mei 1940"; the other, "Trouw ann Joris van Severen, Abbeville 20 mei 1940", in Gothic lettering.

Rank was indicated on the right collar, with the unit number being shown on the left collar. Higher ranks had the rank grading on both collars. There was a complete change in the style of the ranks also in the type of collar patch upon which they were worn. Initially only officers wore rank on the collars (non-commissioned ranks were indicated on the shoulder straps). The collar patch was then irregular shaped, vaguely like that of the Italian army. The grades were based fairly closely on those of the Belgian army. Then an entirely new scheme was introduced based on S.S. ranks. For a short time this could be worn on the irregular shaped collar patches, but later this was changed to rectangular patches, again of the type used by the S.S.

Above: The leader of the Flemish D.M. (the militia of the V.N.V.) Joris van Steenlandt awards the Tollenaere Commemorative Badge to a wounded Flemish Legion *Unterscharführer*. Note the unusual version of the Black Brigade arm shield worn by van Steenlandt. On the wall behind is a portrait of Tollenaere.

An officer and file of men of the D.M.-Hulp Brigade (the Auxiliary Brigade of the Dietsche Milite) acting as stewards at a V.N.V. rally.

Tollenaere Commemorative Badge

Right: Madame Odile Maréchal, the Leader of the V.N.V.V. (the Women's section of the V.N.V.). Madame Maréchal had the distinction of being only the second woman to be elected to the Belgian Senate (before the war).

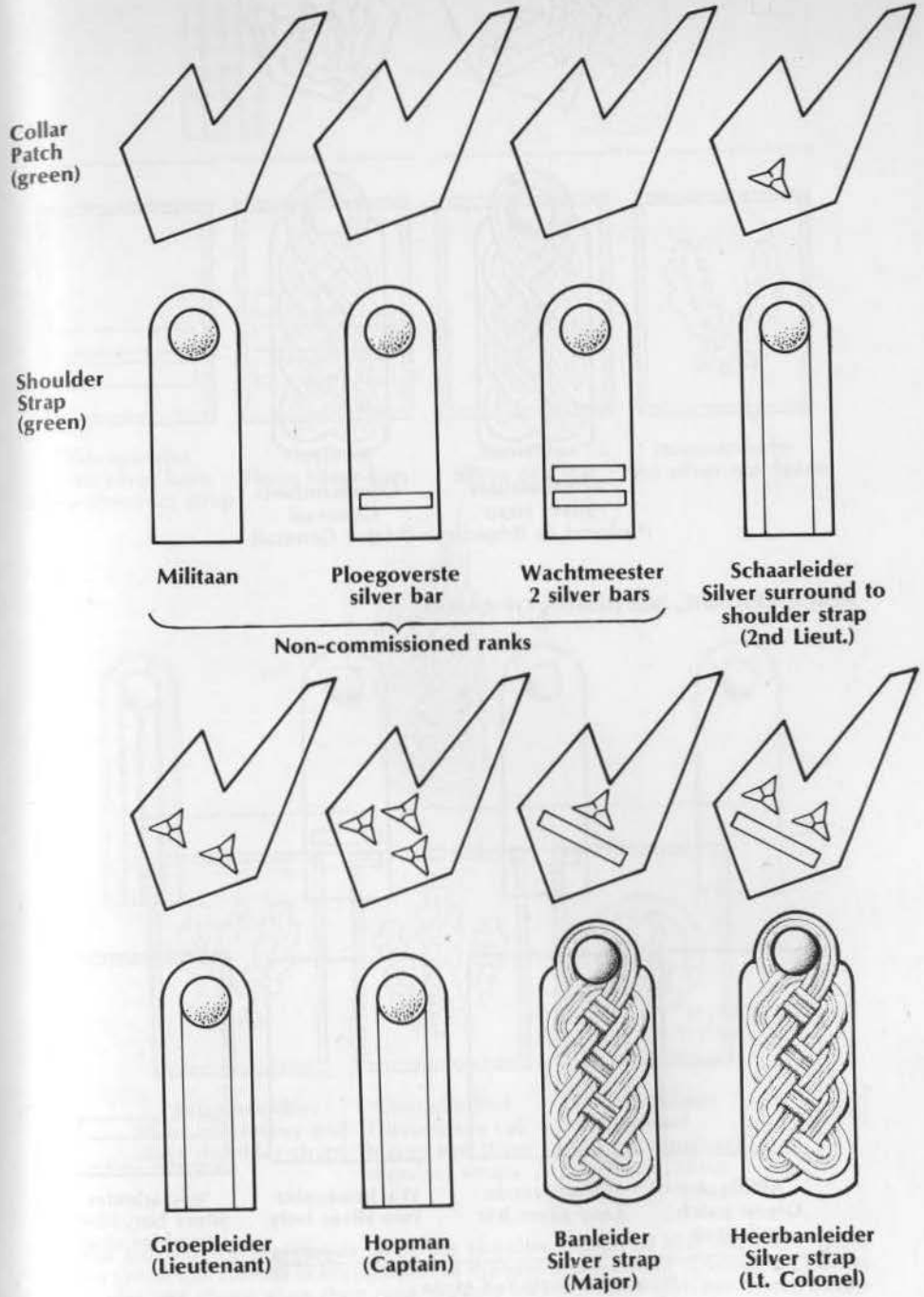
On the extreme left and right are two officers of the Groupe Joris van Severen (i.e., former members of the Dinaso Militia now transferred to the D.M.-Z.B.) Second from the left is an officer of the youth movement of Devlag. The other two men are Hitler Youth officers. Note how closely the Devlag Youth uniform resembles that of the Hitler Youth. In fact it is an identical uniform apart from the brassard with a black "Sig rune" in place of a swastika. The upper part of the cap badge is a black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield, the lower part is the "Sig rune," this time in silver wire. The man on the extreme right (Leo Joffe) wears on his left breast pocket the Commemorative badge of Joris van Severen. The author has been unable to identify the shield badge worn on his left upper arm (it would appear to be a bugle).

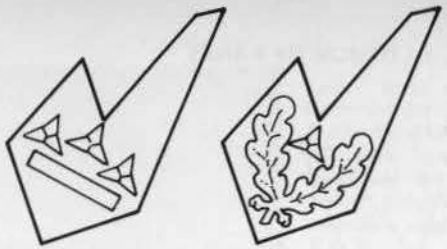
Left: Joris van Steenlandt as Commandant Generaal of the D.M. He wears the second type of rank insignia (a mobile swastika) on the first design collar patch. This use of a swastika was unique for the V.N.V.

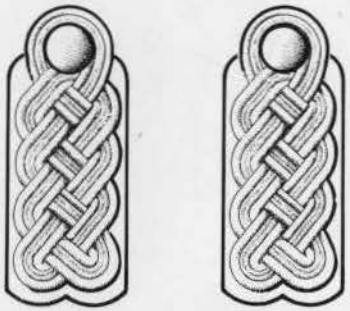
Above: The V.N.V. party members enamel badge. Approximately actual size.

Right: an unidentified Banleider (Colonel) of the Black Brigade. Note his Party membership badge worn on the left breast pocket.

BLACK BRIGADE, 1st DESIGN OF RANKS



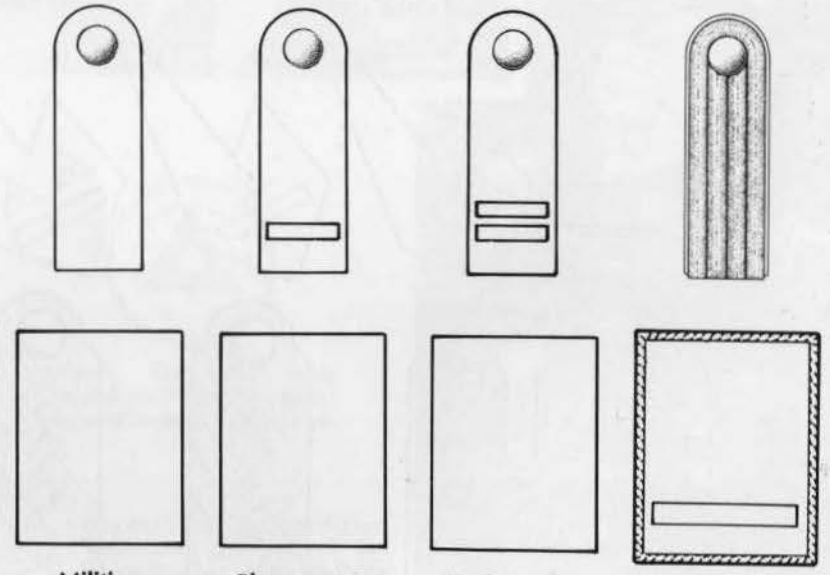




Brigadeleider
Silver strap
(Colonel or Brigadier)

Commandant-Generaal
(Major General)

BLACK BRIGADE, 2nd DESIGN OF RANKS



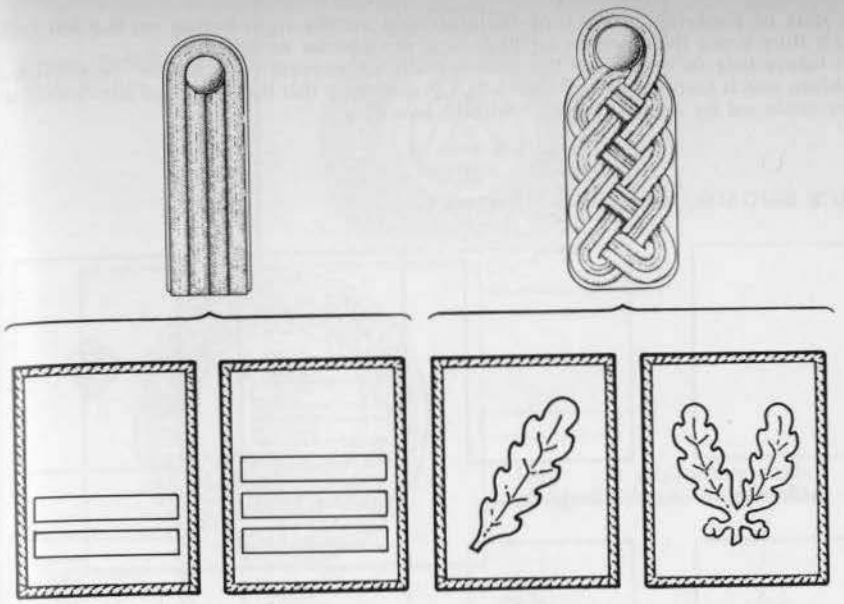
Militiaan
Green patch and strap

Pleogoverste
One silver bar

Wachtmeester
Two silver bars

Schaarleider
Silver bar, silver shoulder strap

Non-commissioned ranks



Groepleider
Two silver bars, Silver shoulder strap

Hopman
Three silver bars

Banleider
Silver oak leaf

Heerbanleider
Two silver oak leaves

Brigadeleider
Silver oak leaves and silver shoulder straps

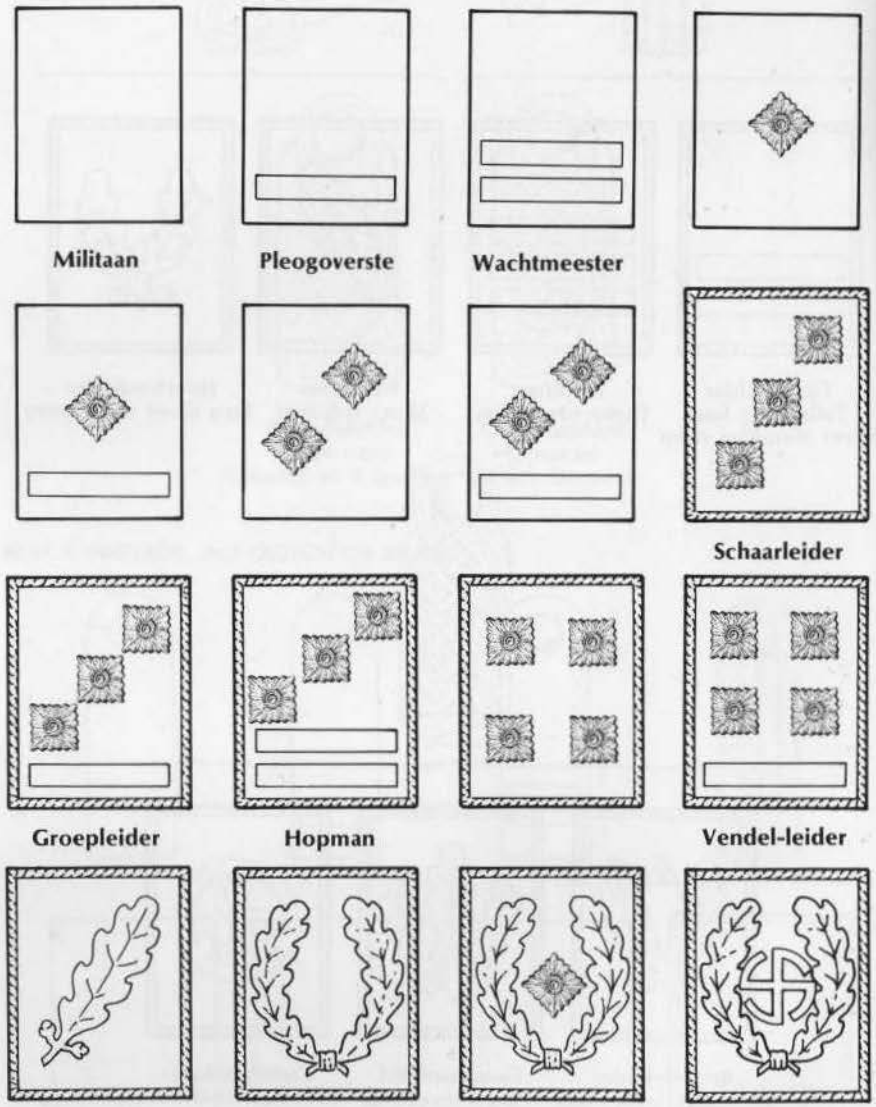
Commandant
Three silver oak leaves and silver shoulder straps

Commandant-Generaal
A silver "sunwheel" (Zonnerad), silver shoulder straps

All collar patches were green as were the shoulder straps of the first three ranks (perhaps green was chosen in recognition of the green uniform of "Dinaso"). Officers of Banleider and above wore their rank insignia on both collar patches, those below

the rank of Banleider wore rank insignia only on the right collar; on the left collar patch they wore the number of their unit (in Roman numerals).
It is interesting to note how the Commandant-Generaal "sun wheel" resembles an emblem much favored by the Dutch N.S.B. and how this three legged sun-wheel was later replaced by a four legged "mobile swastika."

BLACK BRIGADE, 3rd DESIGN OF RANKS

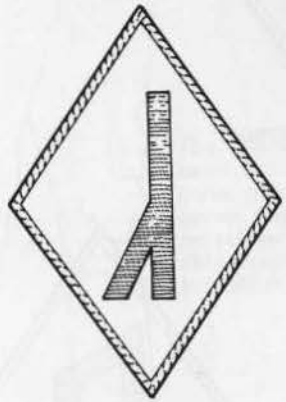


This final scheme of ranks is quite clearly based on that of the S.S. The names of some of the ranks are not known, also the type of shoulder strap to go with each rank, but very probably the shoulder straps followed the same pattern as for the German Allgemeine S.S.

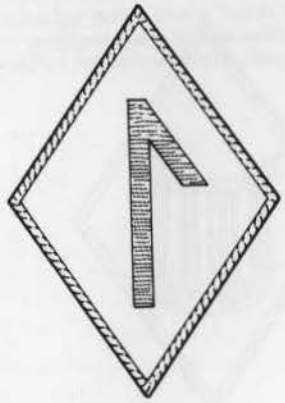
Right: Belt buckle, first design.

Left: an alternative design of Black Brigade belt buckle.

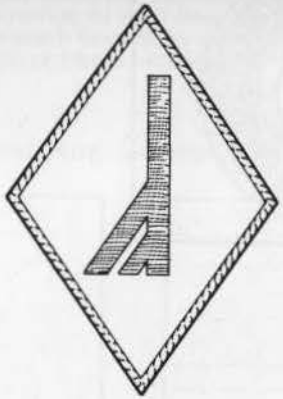
These emblems below (which with the exception of Bandmaster and Medical Personnel are supposed to be runic symbols) were worn on the left cuff. Silver wire designs on green.



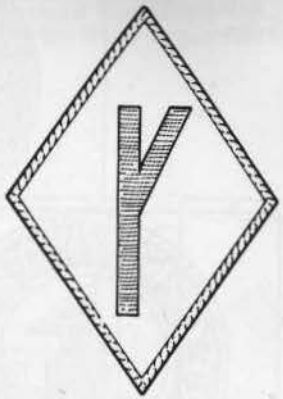
Military Inspectors



Military Instructors

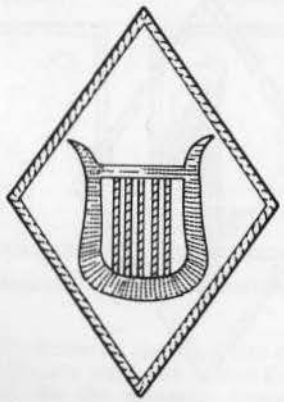


Political Instructors

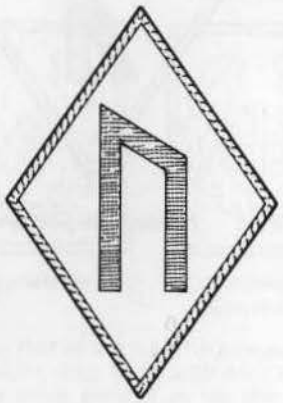


Physical Training Instructors

Medical Personnel



Bandmaster

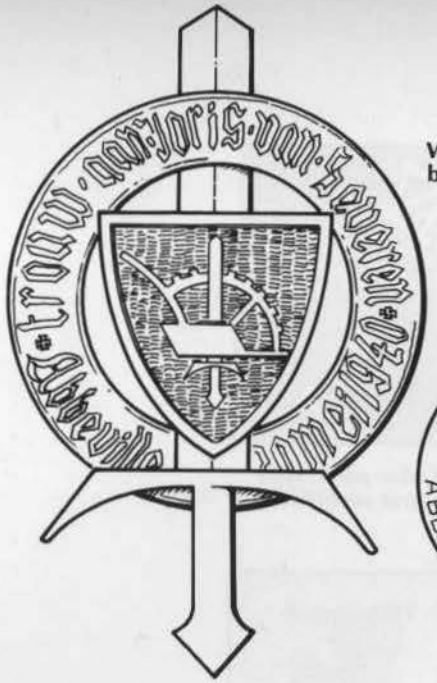


Administrative Staff

Collar patch with unit number.

Arm badge

The "Black Brigade" uniform was all black (cap, tunic, shirt, tie, breeches, boots) becept for the collar patches and shoulder straps which were green. The arm badge was a black "wolf hook" on yellow. The cap piping was green with black chin straps for other ranks and silver chin cords for officers.



Variant of the van Severen badge (not to scale).

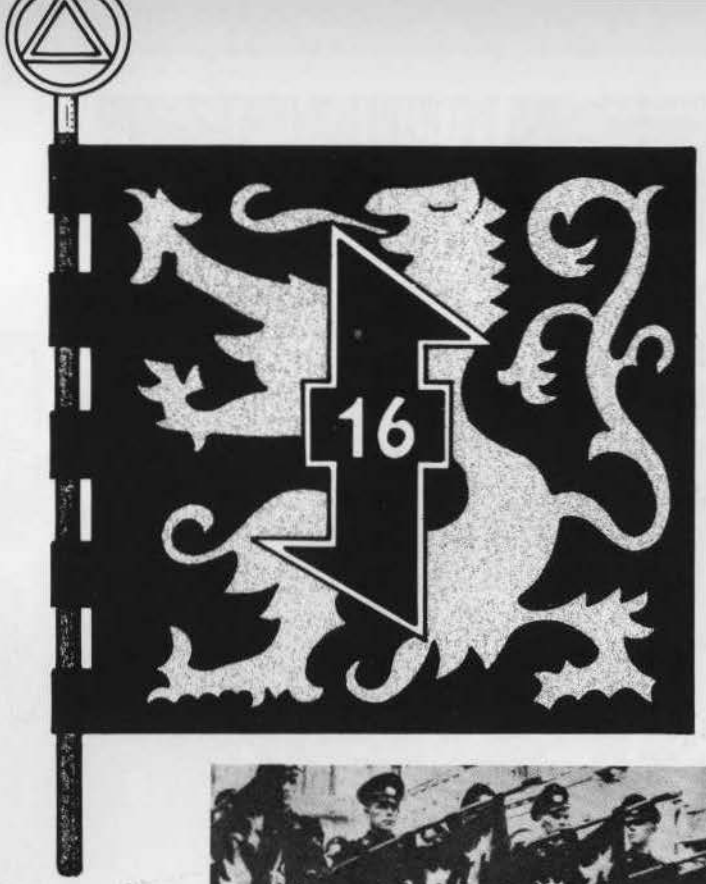
Commemorative badge of Joris van Severen (of "Dinaso")

Two senior officers of the Black Brigade wearing 1st or 2nd type of collar patch. (Note the Joris van Severen commemorative badge worn by officer nearest camera.)

Above: Staf de Clercq presents the Dietsche Militie with a banner on which are the commemorative badges of Joris van Severen and Black Brigade commander, Reimond Tollenaere. The photo must date from mid-1942 (i.e. *after* Tollenaere's death in January '42 and *before* de Clercq's death that October). Behind de Clercq (to left) a V.N.V. "Political Leader"; (to right) a N.S.J.V. officer, then a Black Brigade standard bearer (half obscured), between them is an officer of the V.N.V. Women's Section.

Above and Below: mass rally of the D.M. in Brussels. Below: V.N.V. Leader Staf de Clercq reviews Black Brigade volunteers.

A parade of V.N.V. para-military formations awaits to move off in the outskirts of Brussels. The leader, who appears to be a Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht officer (note his winged cap badge, just visible), carries the orange banner with a triangle in a circle of the V.N.V. Behind him are three standard bearers of the Black Brigade evidently from Brabant companies of the Brigade since their flags have a black lion on yellow upon which can be seen the wolf hook badge with the regimental number (a 34 in the case of the man nearest the camera). In the background is a group of D.M.S. girls.



Flag of 16th Regiment of the Black Brigade. For Black Brigade in Flanders it is a black lion on yellow; for Brabant it is as left (a yellow lion on black.) For Limburg it is a red lion on a white flag.

Standard bearers of various Brabant Black Brigade regiments parade their flags through Brussels.

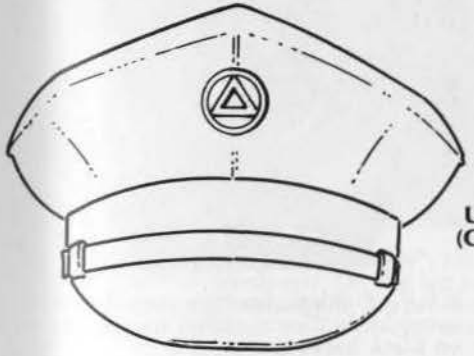
Sports Badge of the Black Brigade. One class only - bronze

D.M.-W.B. The uniforms of this important organization will be dealt with in full detail later in this chapter.

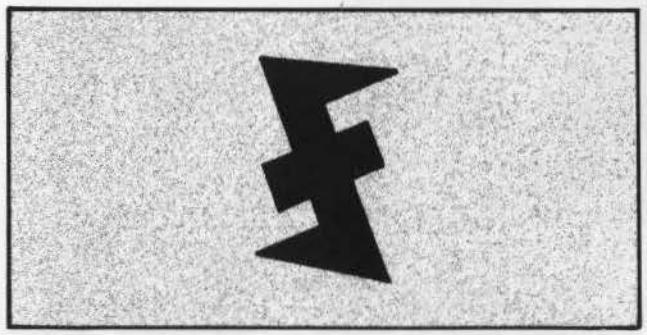
D.M.-M.B. The Motor Brigade wore the same uniform as the Black Brigade with the addition of a white winged V.N.V. badge surmounted by a "wolf hook" and the letters D.M.M.B. (all on a dark blue background). *Where* this emblem was worn is not certain, possibly above the right breast pocket in the manner of the German army eagle-and-swastika badge since its wing span (89mm) is roughly the same as its German counterpart. The D.M.-M.B. was so drained of its membership by the recruiting agents of the N.S.K.K. that is dwindled away into insignificance and by July 1943 ceased to exist.

Dietsche Militie Motor Brigade (D.M.M.B.) badge - white on dark blue (actual size is 89mm across "wings").

D.M.-H.B. The Auxiliary Brigade wore a modified version of the Black brigade uniform consisting of a black tunic, black trousers, white shirt, black tie and a special type of peaked cap rather like that of the American police. The cap badge was simply the V.N.V. triangle-in-a-circle emblem (worn on the peak). On the left upper arm a yellow brassard with a black wolf hook was worn. Officers wore ranks (presumably the same as those of the Black Brigade) on both collars; non-commissioned ranks wore their insignia in the form of stars on the shoulder straps.



Uniform cap with metal badge (Officers had a silver visor cord)



Brassard, worn by all ranks. Black "wolf hook" on yellow (very similar to Dutch "Hulp Landwacht" brassard).

V.N.V. Political Leaders

The leadership corps of the V.N.V. also wore a black uniform. It consisted of a black tunic, black trousers, white shirt and black tie. The peaked cap, also black, has a badge which differs from that of the Black Brigade in that the upper part, the "wolf hook", is replaced by a "bird" (of indeterminate species, but presumably a sea-mew). Rank was indicated on both collars. The scheme of ranks is not known, but Staf de Clercq wore three oak leaves on a collar patch. Others are shown in photos as having twin oak leaves with a three-pointed star in the middle - this was possibly the "Gouwleider" rank. Insignia may well have undergone changes since some photos show de Clercq without collar patches *with* epaulettes, others show him with collar patches but *without* epaulettes.

This V.N.V. Political leader is shown interviewing a combat veteran from the Flemish Legion.

V.N.V. Political Leader's cap badge (worn by de Clercq). Silver wire design on black backing.

Collar patch worn on both sides by Staf de Clercq as "General Leader of the V.N.V." Silver oak leaves on possibly a crimson background color.

Alternative center piece to P.L. cap badge - orange (outer) and blue (inner) circles with blue triangle. In this version the oak leaf wreath is also different (has more oak leaves and is more oval).

Arm badge of regular staff of the V.N.V.

The V.N.V.'s second "General Leader", Dr. Hendrik Elias presents Fidelity badges to Flemish N.S.K.K. volunteers. On the left arm of his great coat (also of his tunic) he wears a new badge not worn by his predecessor - presumably the "General Leader" insignia, since no other V.N.V. official wore this particular badge.

Right: An impression of the above badge - the V.N.V. triangle-in-a-circle emblem within a wreath of oak leaves, the whole in silver wire.

Marc Guerini

Dr. Elias presents Fidelity Badges to Flemish volunteers in the N.S.K.K. It is interesting to note that the steel helmet decal here is that of the N.S.K.K. and not of the Luftwaffe, and that the arm shield is the black lion of Flanders. The date of this photo is unknown, but it must be after October 1942 (when Dr. Elias took over the leadership of the V.N.V.). (It is almost certainly the same occasion as photo on previous page.)

Award badges of the V.N.V. Left: the Military Sports badge (in three classes - bronze, silver and gilt). Actual size is 42mm. Motto is "Who would live, must fight". Above: Civil badge of Merit (also in three classes). Size is as illustrated. Motto is "Loyal to the Fatherland". Both were instituted in 1943.

N.S.J.V. (Youth Branch of the V.N.V.)

When, in May 1942, the V.N.V. was granted a political monopoly in Flanders, its youth branch, the N.S.J.V. *(Nationaal-Socialistische Jeugd Verbond*-Nat. Soc. Youth Union) was declared to be the only permitted youth movement in Flanders. All other youth groups had to merge with it or face dissolution. This meant that it acquired the important youth branch of *Dinaso (Jong-Dinaso)*, the less significant young peoples section of Rex-Vlaanderen (the Flemish branch of the Walloon Rexist Party) as well as the right wing A.V.N.J. *(Algemeen Vlaamsch Nationaal Jeugdverbond* - General Union of Flemish Nationalist Youth), but *not* the youth of *Devlag*.

Dr. Edgar Lehembre, former youth leader of *Jong-Dinaso*, was appointed the new *Jeugdleider* of the N.S.J.V., while similarly the *Dinaso* girls leader, Jetje Claessens, was given charge of the N.S.J.V. girls. The N.S.J.V. also took over from *Dinaso*, with only a slight modification, its youth emblem - a stylized stormy petrel (called in Flemish the *Blauwvoet*) in a circle. This odd looking bird featured prominently on the N.S.J.V. uniforms and flags.

The name of the organization was changed to *Nationaal-Socialistische Jeugd Vlaanderen* (Nat.-Soc. Youth Flanders) although this, of course, meant that its initials remained the same.

The N.S.J.V. was a voluntary organization open to young people of both sexes between the ages of 10 and 18 years. It was divided into two sections:

(I) **D.B.V.** ***(Dietsche Blauwvoet Vendels*** - literally the Netherlandic Stormy Petrel Companies) for the boys.

(II) **D.M.S.** ***(Dietsche Meisjes Scharen*** - the Netherlandic Maidens Platoons) for the girls.

In the course of the occupation a variety of uniforms was worn. Initially the boys wore a green shirt (another legacy from *Dinaso*) with dark blue shorts, but later a black uniform which, in its winter version was virtually identical to the winter Hitler Youth uniform, was adopted. Officers wore a uniform rather similar to that of the Black Brigade. Rank in their case was indicated on the shoulder straps. Ranks appear to have been closely modeled on those of the Hitler Youth. All ranks and both sexes wore the sea-mew, or stormy petrel, badge on a black circle on the left arm (at first this was worn on the cuff but later its location was raised to mid-arm). The sea-mew in a circle was also the cap badge.

There was a Naval Section *(Dietsche Marinejeugd der N.S.J.V.)* who wore a naval type uniform with the name of their ship (or training unit) on the cap band below a metal sea-mew in a circle. There was also a small Air Section, the J.V.S. *(Jongvliergerscharen* - Young Flying Platoons) for boys in the 14 to 18 age group, but their "flying" would seem to have been confined to launching model gliders or powered model aircraft!

Green shirted youths of the Youth Branch of Dinaso (Verbond van Jongdinaso Vendels). Note how closely the "bird" on their flag resembles that of the N.S.J.V.

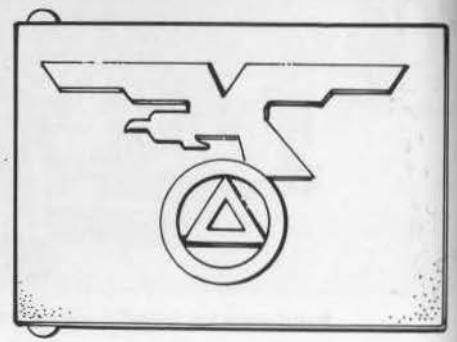
Green shirted buglers of Jongdinaso.

Bandsmen of Jongdinaso and the N.S.J.V. parade together.

Left: Leader of the N.S.J.V., Dr. Edgar Lehembre. He wears on both collars a sea-mew within an open oak leaf wreath. On his left breast pocket flap he wears the V.N.V. badge in a version with oak leaves.

V.N.V. Party Member's badge with the addition of golden oak leaves. Given as an award for merit. Date of institution of this V.N.V. equivalent of the "Golden Party Badge" is unknown but certainly was late in the war, possibly 1943.

D.B.V. on march. Boys in green shirts, officer (at side) in black.



Belt buckle for all ranks of N.S.J.V.

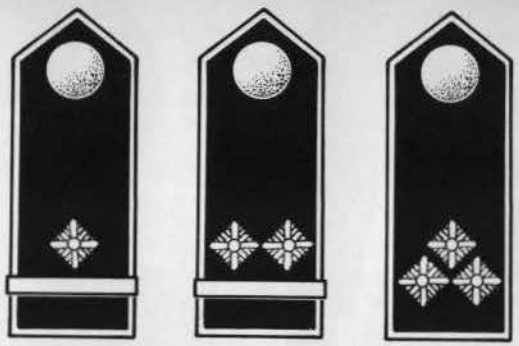
N.S.J.V. officer

N.S.J.V. officer's cap badge. Silver wire oak leaves enclosing a shield in the traditional Dutch national colors - orange/white/blue. The upper part of the cap badge is a metal sea-mew in a circle.

Right side collar patch, silver sea-mew on black with red piping. Sometimes, the sea-mew was in a circle (as on cap badge.)

N.S.J.V. Officer Rank Insignia

Vendelleider



Schaarleider Opperschaarleider Hopman

Hoofdhopman Hoofdploegleider Departments-leider Stamheer

NOTE:
The above are black with red piping, the stars and bars are silver.

Above: silver lion badge worn on both collars by officers above the rank of Hopman (but later this was changed to a scheme of one, two and three "bars" - in the form of "waves" on both collars).

Above: Sea-mew emblem worn by both officers and non-commissioned ranks. White cotton on black for non-commissioned ranks, in silver wire for officers. It was worn on the left cuff.

Marine N.S.J.V. Naval type uniform with cap badge as below. This boy is with the German H.J. Marine Training ship *Schulschiff Horst Wessel.* With this uniform the same belt buckle was worn as in the other section of the N.S.J.V.

Flemish youth emblem. It appears to combine the Flemish lion with the Dutch lion.

Young flier's Merit badge (Jong Vlieger Vaardingheidskenteken). Worn on left upper arm.

Below: Youth Leader Dr. Lehembre addressing volunteers for the Landdienst. Note that the second type uniform (black, Hitler Youth style) is now being worn.

Merit Badge (Vaardigheidsteeken) of the N.S.J.V. as illustrated in "De Blauwvoet" of March 1944. The actual size is not stated, but it is probably smaller than illustrated above.

C. van Wiele

Sports badge of Honor of the N.S.J.V. Instituted in October 1942. It is in three classes. Worn on right breast pocket (Lichamelijke Opvoeding - Physical training).

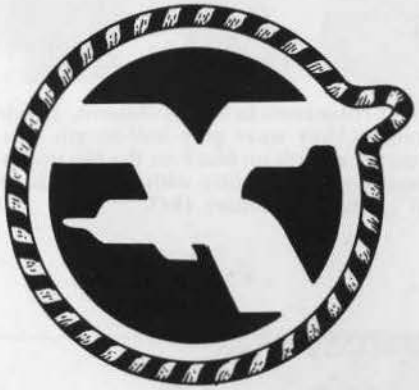
Badge of Jongdinaso (Youth Branch of Dinaso). Note how closely the N.S.J.V. sea-mew emblem is based on this original badge. Former members of Jongdinaso enrolled in the N.S.J.V. were allowed to wear this badge on the left breast pocket as a commemorative item. It could also be worn on adult uniforms of the V.N.V. (for example it is shown as being worn on Black Brigade uniform).

Fa-rune

Tyr-rune

Odals-rune

NOTE:
The above badges were worn on the left upper arm by the D.M.S. girls. The Fa or F rune was worn by the youngest age group; the Tyr or T rune by the middle group and the Odal or O rune by the eldest girls. Note that this Flemish Odals-rune differs from the German type in that the ends do not turn up. The runes are also associated with the months of the year: the Fa-rune with May; the Tyr-rune with February; the Odals-rune with September.



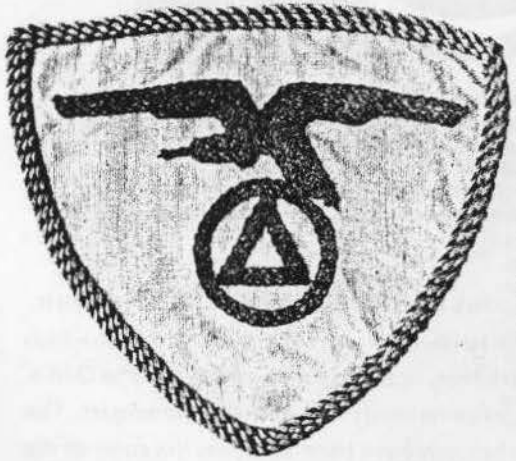
Second issue of sea-mew badge. This type was worn on the left upper arm, not on the cuff. It is larger than the previous type and is white cotton on black with a black/grey surround. The above is actual size (from an example in the Brian Ambrose Collection).

The D.M.S. girls wore white blouses, dark blue neckerchiefs and dark blue skirts. On the left upper arm they wore a runic symbol indicative of the age group to which they belonged. Officers could wear dark blue, or black, tunics and skirts. The D.M.S. uniform appears to have undergone fewer alterations than its male counterpart. The scheme of ranks for girls is not known but may have been based on the color of the lanyard (in the German fashion).

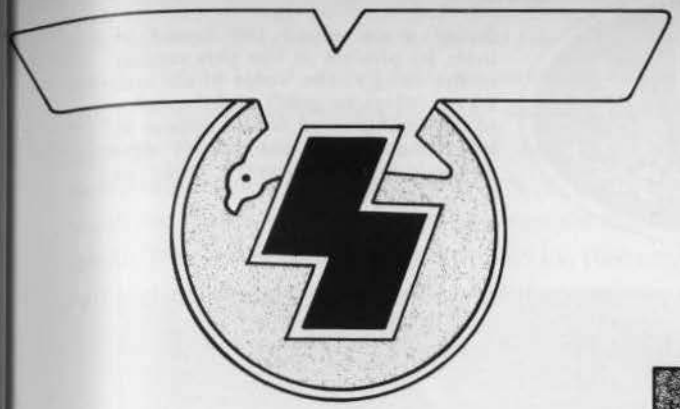
The N.S.J.V. worked in close co-operation with the Hitler Youth. Hundreds of D.B.V. boys between the ages of 14 and 16 went to Germany in 1942 to help with the

harvest, and the N.S.J.V. established its own *Landdienst* (Agricultural Service) which sent some 300 boys and 200 girls to work in the Warthegau (German annexed Poland). By the summer of 1943 there were around 2,500 young people from all over occupied Europe in the Warthegau working alongside some 4,000 boys and girls from the Hitler Youth's own *Landdienst*.

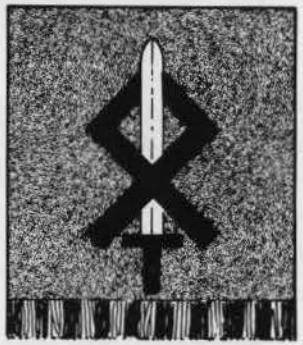
D.M.S. girls as volunteers in the Landdienst. In addition to their regular uniform they wear grey half-length rain coats with a white sea-mew emblem on black on the left upper arm. On the left cuff they wear a cuff title with the words "Germaansche Landdienst". Photo: January 1943.



Badge for wear by D.M.S. girls on sports kit. Royal blue emblem on white within a light blue and black frame. Actual size. On the sports kit the boys wore a large version of the sea-mew in a circle device, also in blue.



Breast badge of Vlaamse Jeugd. Introduced towards end of 1943. Black sigrune outlined in white on red circle. White sea mew.



Fanfare trumpet banner of Flemish Landdienst. (Note the "Flemish"type of Odals-rune.)

Flag of the N.S.J.V.

Badge worn above left breast of tunic by officers of the girls section of the N.S.J.V. The color of the oak leaves (silver or gold) and the color of the background would appear to have been the means of distinguishing the different ranks of D.M.S. officer.

Dr. Edgar Lehembre addresses volunteers from Flanders for the Germanic "Landdienst." Note the Landdienst fanfare trumpet banner (right). June 1943.

Z.V.J.

Before moving on from the subject of fascist youth in Flanders, one other very minor "Flemish" youth group deserves mention. This was the *Zuid Vlaamsche Jeugd* (South Flemish Youth, or Z.V.J.) which was established in the Flemish regions of northern France. Its aim was to break away from France and join that greater Netherlandic union advocated by the V.N.V. Like the N.S.J.V., the South Flemish Youth wore green shirts. On these they wore the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield. They occasionally participated in N.S.J.V. ceremonies - for example they took part in the Dixmude "pilgrimage" of 1943 honoring the war dead of Flanders.

Labor Service (V.A.v.V.)

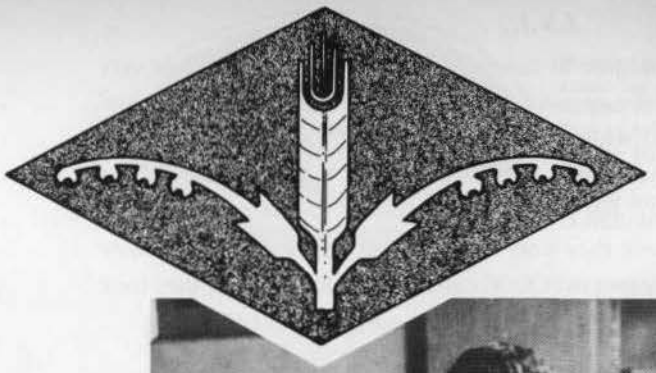
In July 1940, shortly after the start of the occupation, Henri Bauchau, a Brussels lawyer, started a voluntary work camp at Limal in Brabant to give employment to demobilized youth and assist in the clearing up of the devastation left by the recent fighting. Other voluntary work camps followed, mainly in Flanders. In November of the same year the Belgian Ministry of the Interior took over all these unofficial camps and reorganized them on a state basis with separate sections for Wallonie and Flanders.

The Flemish section was known as the V.A.v.V. *(Vrijwillige Arbeidsdienst voor Vlaanderen* - Volunteer Labour Service for Flanders). Male volunteers between the ages of 18 and 25 could sign on for a regular engagement with a minimum limit of 6 months. A year later the V.A.v.V. was ready to take on girls; female leaders having by this time been trained for this purpose in R.A.D. camps in Germany. By the end of 1942 three women's camps had been opened in Flanders. Later the female V.A.v.V. opened its own female leadership school in Antwerp (which town was also the headquarters of the V.A.v.V.). Male personnel were trained as officers at Schoten or, as N.C.O.'s, at Brecht (both places are near Antwerp).

From the start the V.A.v.V. was dominated by the V.N.V. The Labor Service chief, Rene van Thillo was a leading member of the V.N.V., and naturally enough, supporters of collaboration were given prominent positions in the V.A.v.V.'s organizational structure.

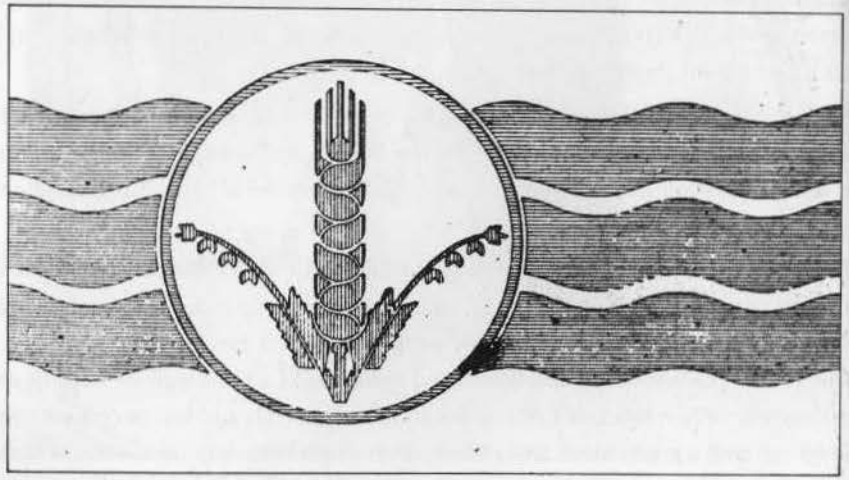
The V.A.v.V. claimed that it enrolled about 2,400 male and about 500 female members each year. On leaving the service, male personnel were given preferential treatment if they applied to join the rapidly expanding police forces.

The V.A.v.V. uniform was dark brown and consisted of a tunic with six buttons and green collars, brown trousers (officers could wear breeches and top boots), a brown peaked cap with a green band, and a black, silver or gilt chin strap (according to rank). As an alternative to the peaked cap, a forage cap could be worn. This was piped in green, silver or gold again according to the rank of the wearer. On both collars of the



Badge worn by female leaders of Flemish Labor Service on left breast pocket.

Senior officers of the Women's Section of the Flemish Labor Service. Rank was probably indicated (as in the R.A.D.) by the color of the brooch worn at the throat.



Flag of the Flemish Labor Service (V.A.v.V.). White field with blue "waves." In center is a golden head of barley.

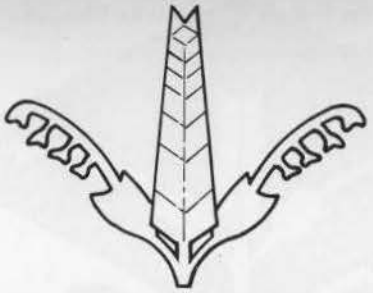
tunic colored patches were worn which indicated the branch of the service (they also carried the rank grading). The branch of the service colours were as follows:

Light green	- service personnel
Light blue	- training cadre personnel
Brown	- work leaders
Dark blue	- administrative staff
Black	- propaganda department
Grey	- statistical and personnel branch

In addition to being shown on the collar patches, rank was also indicated on the shoulder straps. Non-commissioned personnel had dark green woolen straps, officers of the middle grade - green leather straps, senior officers - white leather.

Andrew Mollo

Rene van Thillo, leader of the V.A.v.V., with senior officers of the Service. Taken in August 1942.



Emblem of the V.A.v.V. This was worn as the cap badge and on the left cuff.

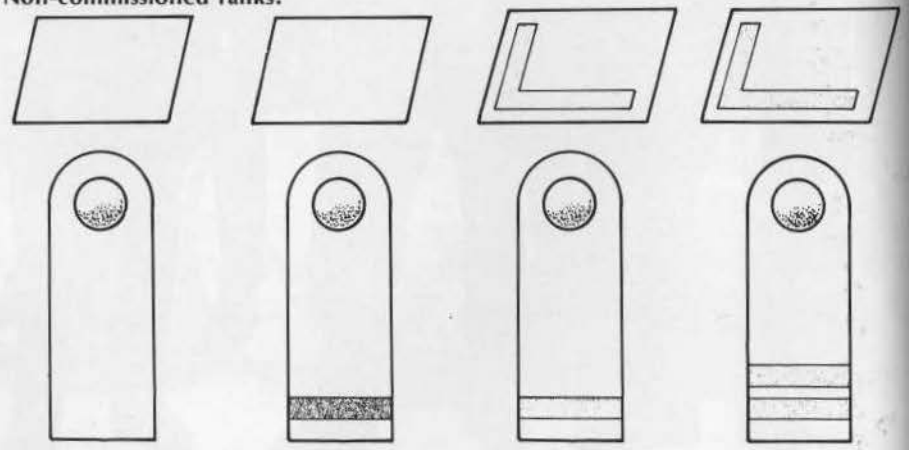
The badge of the V.A.v.V., worn as a cap badge by all ranks and also as an arm badge on the left cuff, is a head of barley on either side of which is a sprig of bell-heather - an unusual emblem for a labor service, but explained officially as "the flower which grows on the banks of the Schelde and symbolizes the union of land and water." On the cuff this device was in green outlined in red, on the cap the barley head was yellow, the bell-heather green. Medical officers wore a gold wire Aescapulus staff on a green circle above the V.A.v.V. badge on the left cuff, Legal Branch officers gold wire scales of justice on green.

Female uniform was a brown tunic, skirt and hat worn with a white blouse. Shoes were black and were worn either with white knee-length socks or full length black stockings. The V.A.v.V. badge was worn above the left breast pocket instead of on the left cuff.

The flag of the V.A.v.V. was white with three blue "waves" representing the River Schelde with, in the center, the barley head and bell-heather emblem. The main work done by the V.A.v.V. was the reclamation of land in the Schelde estuary by means of polder building.

Labor Service Rank Insignia

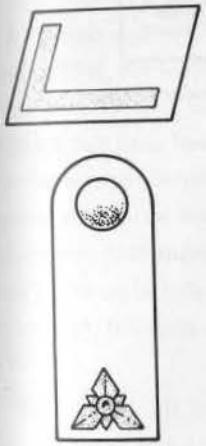
Non-commissioned ranks:



Arbeidsman — **Voorman (brown "bar")** — **Ploegleider (orange "bar")** — **Senior Ploegleider (two orange "bars" and orange Chevron)**

Officer ranks:

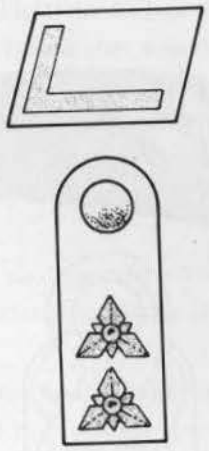
Onderveldmeister (silver chevron and silver star)



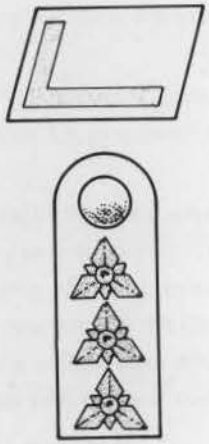
Veldmeester

Chris Ailsby Collection

A non-commissioned officer calls his men to attention with a whistle. His belt buckle appears to be plain.

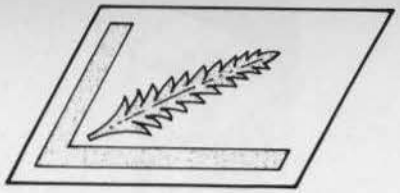


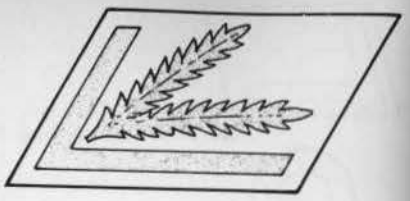
Opperveldmeester



Hopman

(All the above have green leather shoulder straps with gold stars and gold chevrons on the collar patches)





Arbeisdoverste

Opperarbeidsoverste

Arbeidsleider

(All the above are white leather shoulder straps with gold stars; collar patches have gold chevrons and gold heads of barley.)

V.A.v.V. on parade in Belgium.

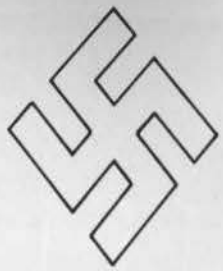
The Flemish General S.S.

A Flemish equivalent of the German Allgemeine S.S. was set up in Antwerp in September 1940, the brain-child not of the V.N.V., but of two pro-German Flemings, Ward Hermans and René Lagrou. Hermans had, it is true, once been a prominent member of the V.N.V., but had quarrelled with the leadership of the Party which he then quit (just as he had, before this, quit *Dinaso* after a quarrel with Joris van Severen!) This private enterprise corps began by enrolling 130 supporters of the New Order. By November 1941 there were 1,580 members with a further 4,000 "Sponsoring Members". Thereafter, due to the constant loss of members to the German armed forces, its strength fell away considerably (although it was never, at any given time, less than 300).

The original title of the corps was *Algemeene Schutsscharen Vlaanderen* (General S.S. Flanders), but it was often referred to simply as the Vlaamsche S.S. or as the S.S. Vlaanderen.

In September 1941, having by this time attained regimental strength, it was known as *1. S.S. Standarte Flandern* (1st S.S. Regiment Flanders - the spelling here is German). In October 1942, in accordance with Himmler's policy of bringing all non-German General S.S. formations within a single German orbit, the corps now became the Germanic S.S. in Flanders *(Germaansche S.S. in Vlaanderen)*. It had a welfare association known as the *Vlaanderen-Korps*, and a short-lived Youth Front (but this was compelled to amalgamate with the N.S.J.V. under the great merger of May 1941).

The policy of the Flemish S.S. was very much at odds with the cautious attitude of the V.N.V. It was, like *Devlag*, openly pro-Nazi advocating much greater German control in Flanders. *Devlag*, in fact, maintained a close relationship with the Flemish S.S. and the *Devlag* leader, Van der Wiele, held an honorary commission in its ranks.



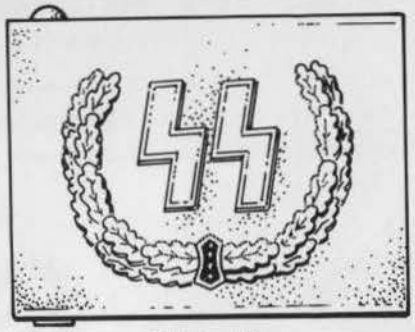
Metal cap badge

Emblem worn on left upper arm by all ranks (here for non-commissioned ranks with black/silver piping; officers had all silver piping).

The black uniform of the Flemish S.S. was virtually identical to that of the German Allgemeine S.S. The only points of difference were: the upper part of the cap badge which features a diamond-shaped white metal swastika instead of the eagle-and-swastika of the Germans (when a forage cap was worn this elongated swastika was worn on the side with a death's head button on the front); on the left upper arm the S.S. runes on a black diamond were worn instead of the swastika arm band of the German Allgemeine S.S. This black diamond was piped in black and white thread for non-commissioned ranks and in silver wire for officers. Rank insignia worn on the left collar was identical to that of the German S.S. The right collar patch showed the Regimental number (in theory there were three regiments, but these must have been largely paper creations) with the number in aluminum thread. Members of the staff wore plain black right collar patches.

Ray Embry

S.S.-Vlaanderen cuff title



Belt buckle

Andrew Mollo

Members of the Germanic S.S. in Flanders carry the coffin of their comrade, S.S. Onderstormleider August Schollen (killed by the resistance on 4 December 1942) through the streets of Brussels on 8 December. Their uniform is virtually identical to that of the German Allgemeine S.S., apart from the upper part of cap badge. Note that the man on extreme left wears a forage cap with the elongated swastika on the side.

On the left cuff a black and silver cuff title with S.S.-Vlaanderen was worn. The usual belt buckle was the S.S. runes in a wreath of oak leaves, but other types of buckle, including German S.S., may have been worn.

The Vlaanderen Korps wore a similar black uniform with, on the left cuff, a silver and black Vlaanderen Korps cuff title. In civilian clothes, members of the Germanic S.S. in Flanders could wear a lapel badge with a white swastika on a black background within a narrow white circle. "Sponsoring Members" *(Beschermende Leden)* could wear a diamond-shaped lapel badge with white S.S. runes and B.L. on black.

The nominal strength of the Flemish, or Germanic, S.S. as of 30 June 1944 was 3,499, but of these 1,660 were absent on active service with the Waffen S.S., 939 with the N.S.K.K., and 501 were in the Vlaanderen Korps, leaving only 399 men, of whom 98 were still "probationers."

Sponsoring Member badge (B.L. - Beschermende Leden)

Civil lapel badge

Forage cap (black with silver piping and silver swastika. On front a death's head button)

Member of the Vlaanderen-Korps in conversation with a nurse. The uniform is similar to that of the Flemish (Germanic) S.S. but without the S.S. runes in a diamond on left arm.

Ray Embry

Westland and Nordwest Regiments

In May 1940 the German S.S. established a Standarte (Regiment) "Westland" in which Dutch and Flemish volunteers between the ages of 18 and 25 could train, they were told, "for police duties" in their respective homelands. Recruiting did not get underway until that autumn, but the response seems to have been more than favorable. Sufficient volunteers offered themselves for the Regiment to be up to full strength in a matter of weeks. During the winter of 1940/41 the Westland was absorbed into the Waffen S.S. as part of the Wiking Division (see Chapter on Norway).

His success in finding Dutch and Flemish volunteers encouraged Himmler to raise, on 3 April 1941, a second volunteer regiment for young men from Flanders, Holland and now Denmark. This was the *Freiwilligenstandarte* (Volunteer Regiment) "Nordwest". Unlike the Westland volunteers, those in the Nordwest were granted a special collar patch of their own. This took the form of a three-legged mobile swastika. They also had a cuff title "Nordwest" (white Latin script on black). The 1st, 6th and 8th Companies of the Nordwest Regiment were Flemish.

Westland cuff title

Collar patch of the Standarte Nordwest

Cuff title of the Standarte Nordwest

Flemish Legion

When, in July 1941, Hitler invaded Russia, the Nordwest recruits were still under training in Hamburg. There was a widespread desire among all the volunteers to participate actively in the campaign. When, shortly afterwards, a Flemish Legion was announced there was a mass transfer to this new "national" unit known variously as the *Verband Flandern, Landesverband Flandern, Bataillon Flandern,* but finally, in September 1941, as *Freiwilligen Legion Flandern* (Volunteer Legion Flanders) - this, like all the foregoing, is in its German version. The 1st, 6th and 8th Companies of the Nordwest became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Companies of the Legion.

The Legion was open to men between the ages of 17 and 40, preference being given to ex-regular soldiers, especially officers and N.C.O.'s who were promised that they would be given an equivalent rank in the Legion to their former Belgian army grade. Enlistment had to be "for the duration" except for those below the age of 23 who could sign on for a specified period - the minimum being 12 months.

On 6 August 1941 a draft of 405 young Flemings, mostly ex-Black Brigade (and including its erstwhile commander, Reimond Tollenaere), joined the volunteers now quartered in the General Government of Poland. By the end of the month there were 875 Flemings in the Legion.

Since the various nationals, Flemings, Dutch and Danes, were being drawn off into ethnic legions of their own, the Nordwest shrank to such an extent that it was no longer able to carry on as a regiment and was disbanded on 24 September 1941. It may be observed at this point that many of the transferees from the disbanded Nordwest continued to wear their three-legged mobile swastika collar patch for a time in their respective national legions - a fact which has, quite understandably, caused some confusion among post-war students of the Waffen S.S.!

The Flemings found discipline in the German controlled Legion a good deal harsher than they had expected. The promised "equivalent ranks" were not immediately forthcoming, word of command was German not Flemish, almost all the cadre personnel were German and there was little appearance of a "national" (i.e., all Flemish) unit. Complaints poured into V.N.V. headquarters in Brussels and de Clercq was moved to raise the matter with Himmler personally. The Reichsführer S.S., to his credit, did try to remedy at least some of the grievances. The complement of Flemish officers and N.C.O.'s was increased and some attempt made to honor the "equivalent ranks" pledge. German cadre personnel were required to take a course on Flemish life and culture, although they were not required to learn Flemish.

By November 1941 the unit was deemed ready for active service and was sent to the front at Leningrad as part of the 2nd S.S. Motorized Infantry Brigade. It must be stressed that the Flemings in the Wiking Division (at this time they numbered 696 men) were *not* transferred to the Legion, nor, by one of those strange quirks of logic characteristic of Himmler's mental processes, was the Legion regarded as being part of the

Waffen S.S., although for all practical purposes (apart from a very slightly lower physical standard) it was.

The first commander of the Flemish, or Germanic S.S., René Lagrou, was among the original Legion volunteers. He fell in action as did the Black Brigade's former commander, Reimond Tollenaere (at Kopsy in January 1942 - he became the Horst Wessel of the V.N.V.) In April 1942 the Legion's German commander, Michael Lippert was badly wounded and his place was taken by Konrad Schellong, a German transferred from the Wiking Division.

Jost Schneider

Konrad Schellong is shown wear the "Nordwest" collar patch, plus the "Black Lion of Flanders" shield above the Langemarck cuff title.

In June 1942, after six months active service at the front, the Legion was pulled out of the line. It returned to action in August '42, but in May '43 it was transformed into the S.S. Volunteer Assault Brigade "Langemarck" (its history as such will be given later in this chapter).

Uniforms: in all respects the Legion wore standard Waffen S.S. garb. The only concessions to nationality were:

(a) a black and silver cuff title *Frw. Legion Flanderen* (Volunteer Legion Flanders - the wording is German) worn on the left cuff.

(b) a yellow shield with a black lion rampant of Flanders worn just above the cuff title. At least five variants of this basic design exist. The shape and size of the shield varies, some have a black outline, others do not; the design of the lion also varies.

The Legion had a strength of around 3,000 men; this figure includes the German cadre personnel.

Frw. Legion Flandern

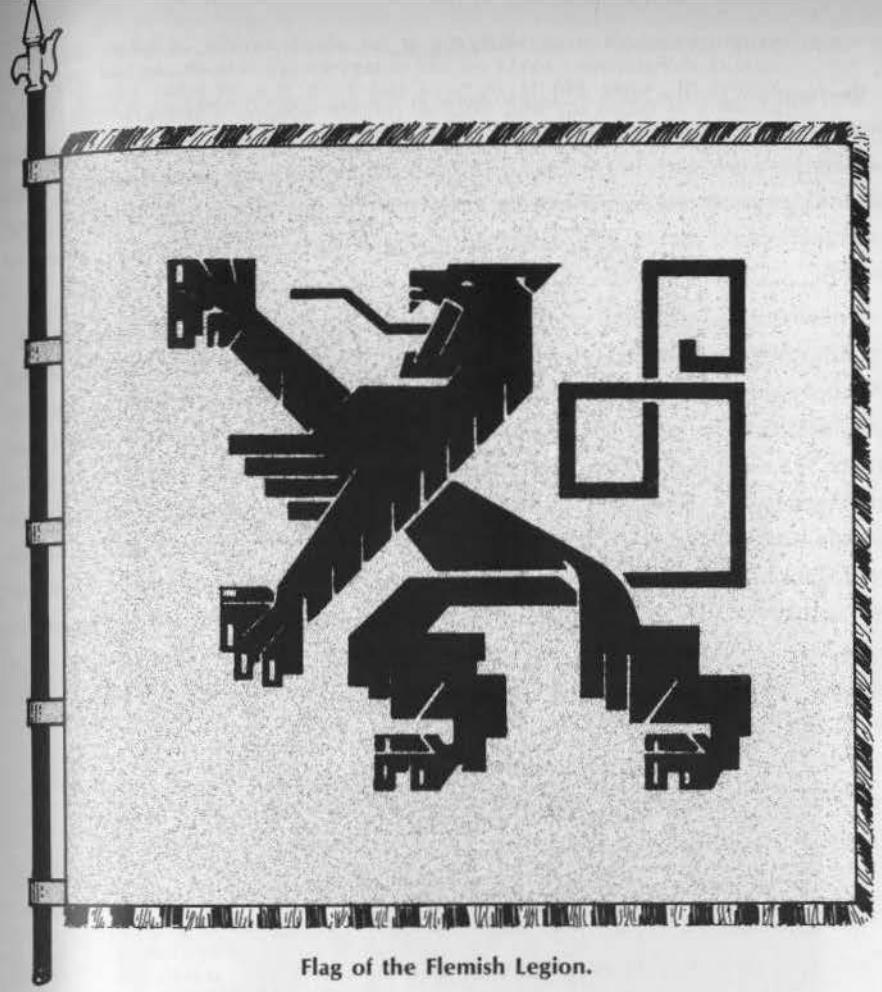
Frw. Legion Flandern cuff title

Jules Geurts, the first Flemish volunteer to win the Iron Cross 1st Class.

(a)

(b)

(a) - (d): Variants of Flemish Legion arm shield. All are a black lion on yellow. Some of these were also used in the N.S.K.K.



Flag of the Flemish Legion.

(c)

(d)

N.S.K.K.

Recruitment for the N.S.K.K. began early in the occupation and was, it must be admitted, fairly successful. According to German sources of the time, 2,500 enlistments of Flemings were made in 1941, and a further 1,500 the following year. Age limits were 18 to 45, physical requirements were lower than for the Legion or Waffen S.S., and volunteers could sign on for a specified period of service - the minimum being 12 months.

Virtually the whole of the D.M.-M.B. was absorbed into the N.S.K.K. as N.S.K.K. Transportbrigade Flandern. Flemish volunteers were allowed to wear a shield on the left upper arm with the black lion of Flanders on yellow within a black frame. Later, in July 1943, the Flemish N.S.K.K. volunteers were linked with Walloon, Dutch and French N.S.K.K. volunteers to form the N.S.K.K. Transportgruppe Luftwaffe.* In this combined force the Flemings wore on the left upper arm the same badge as the Black Brigade, that is to say a black "wolf hook" on a yellow or orange shield. Uniforms were Luftwaffe blue with N.S.K.K. ranks and other insignia. One item of N.S.K.K. insignia that the Flemings, and other non-German volunteers, did *not* wear was the N.S.K.K. eagle on the left upper arm. In its place they wore their national shield. As a background color to their forage cap badge, and as the underlay of their shoulder straps, the Flemings had green.

Original arm badge of Flemish N.S.K.K. Transport Brigade, but later an arm shield of the type worn by the Legion replaced this version (see previous page). The Lion of Flanders shield was not worn after July 1943 when it was replaced by the black "wolf hook" on yellow. "Wolf hook" and lion of Flanders were never both worn together.

*Like many other German formations, this went under a variety of designations:

N.S.K.K. Regiment Luftwaffe
N.S.K.K. Transportregiment Luftwaffe
N.S.K.K. Gruppe Luftwaffe
N.S.K.K. Motorgruppe Luftwaffe
N.S.K.K. Transportgruppe Luftwaffe

It is impossible to date all these changes.

Flemish N.S.K.K. officer (note he wears Tollenaere Commemorative badge). The occasion is the funeral of Staf de Clerq - various V.N.V. (and even Rexist officials) pay their last respects at the grave. In center foreground a Hulp Brigade officer; behind him (to right) is a Rexist "Political Leader."

Arm badge of the Replacement Regiment of the 1st Company, Flanders. Worn by the staff of the N.S.K.K. Training School at Vilvoorde (outside Brussels). Black and white with red fox.

Wolf Hook emblem worn on upper left sleeve. Black wolf hook on either orange or yellow background.

Todt Organization

The defense forces of the Organization Todt, the so-called *Schutzkommando* began to recruit in Flanders in the autumn of 1941. Recruitment of civilian workers had, of course, begun practically with the start of the occupation and had, if German sources are to be believed, been highly successful. The enlistment of the 30,000th Flemish (civilian) worker in the O.T. was celebrated in the middle of 1942. To protect its property and doubtless also keep watch over their compatriots, the *O.T. Schutzkommando* took on some four or five thousand Flemings. Service could be in any part of occupied Europe.

Flemish volunteers wore the standard *O.T. Schutzkommando* brown uniform with black shoulder straps and, on the right sleeve the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield within a dark navy blue frame surmounted by the word FLANDERN in yellow. This is a straight-sided shield and not the same type as worn by the N.S.K.K. Transportbrigade Flandern (which is "German army style").

Arm badge (actual size) worn on right sleeve by Flemish members of the O.T. Schutzkommando. Very dark navy blue lion and surround, yellow shield and "FLANDERN" (German spelling).

Germany Navy

Recruitment of Flemings for the Kriegsmarine started officially only in July 1943 although, as in other occupied countries, private enlistments had certainly taken place before this authorized date. A recruiting office was opened in Antwerp, later moved to Brussels. Volunteers had to be between the ages of 17 and 45 and had to sign on for

Flemish volunteers in the Schutzkommando of the Todt Organization. Note the lion of Flanders and FLANDERN arm shield. Also note the variety of footwear - German top boots, Belgian army puttees, and what would appear to be British army anklets! (Although these latter may be German since they copied the British pattern later in the war.)

Chris Ailsby Collection

Schaarleiter (2nd Lieutenant) of Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht.

Military band of the Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht. Points of interest (a) 2nd design of V.F.W. cap badge. The "wolf hook" replacing the lion of Flanders in the center of wreath; (b) cuff title with V.F.W. on either side of V.N.V. emblem; (c) Bandsman's harp in a diamond cuff badge.

either two years or the duration of the war. Service was usually either in U-boats or in E-Boats (motor torpedo boats). All recruits, whether former members of the Belgian Navy or not, had to go through a twelve week period of training. In November 1943 it was announced that 300 Flemings had enlisted. In all there may have been about 500 Flemings in the Kriegsmarine. Atlhough German naval regulations allowed foreign volunteers to wear a shield in their national colors, (presumably in the case of Flemings this would mean a black lion on yellow) there is no evidence that, in fact, any such emblem was worn by a Fleming in the German navy.

Internal Security Forces in Flanders

(a) Vlaamsche Wacht and Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht.

In May 1942 a Flemish Guard unit *(Vlaamsche Wacht*, or in German, *Flämische Wachtabteilung)* was established to assist the Gendarmerie keep order. A second Flemish security formation, the *Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht* (also known as the *Dietsche Fabriek Wacht)* was brought into being in October of the same year in order to protect German installations in Belgium (or Belgian installations working for the Germans) from sabotage. These two formations were jointly known as the D.M.-W.B. (Dietsche Militie-Wacht Brigade) - already mentioned earlier in this chapter - and were under the control of the V.N.V. until July 1943 when a major reconstruction of internal security resulted in the disbandment of the *Fabriek Wacht* and the placing of the *Vlaamsche Wacht* under the jurisdiction of *Luftgau Belgien-Nord Frankreich* (Air District of the Luftwaffe Belgium-Northern France).

At first the *Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht* (Flemish Factory Guard) wore the uniform of the Black Brigade with a black cuff title with V.F.W. *(Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht)* in silver on either side of the V.N.V. triangle-in-a-circle emblem. Later the V.F.W. got a

Silver and black cuff title for the V.F.W. (Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht)

special green uniform with a cap badge which has a flying sea-mew (so designed that it bears a striking resemblance to the flying eagle of the Luftwaffe) holding in its claws the V.N.V. triangle within a cog wheel. On the peaked cap this badge was worn above an open wreath of oak leaves which enclosed either a "wolf hook" or a shield with the lion of Flanders (both appear to have been worn at different times). When a forage cap was worn, this sea-mew badge was worn on the front, in silver wire for officers or in white metal for non-commissioned ranks. The piping on both the peaked and forage caps was yellow. The design of the belt buckle is not known for certain, but it

seems likely that it was the lion rampant on a shield within an oak leaf wreath surrounded by the motto, "Het Vaderland Getrouwe."

The more important *Vlaamsche Wacht* wore a dark blue, or black, uniform (sometimes Belgian army dyed!) The most distinctive feature was the Company *(Abteilung)* number worn above the right breast pocket. This is a black oval with a white outline within which is a Roman numeral (I, II, III or IV) in either red or white above a white cluster of oak leaves. This same device, but about half the size, was worn on the front of the black forage cap. Black collar patches, piped in yellow, were worn on both sides. Non-commissioned ranks were originally indicated by means of white rings round the cuff (one, two, three or four), but later German style ranks were adopted (black shoulder straps with yellow piping and silver tress for senior N.C.O.'s). Officer ranks are not known but photographs show stars worn on German style collar patches and also German style shoulder straps.

Small black and silver lapel badge for civilian wear by members of the Vlaamsche Fabriekwacht (1941-42)

Forage cap for officer rank. (Green with yellow piping, silver wire badge on front; non-commissioned ranks had a white metal badge.)

Belt buckle. Motto means "Loyal to the Fatherland"

Cap badge set for officer's peaked cap. Black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield within an open oak leaf wreath. The upper half is a sea-mew (in a more naturalistic representation) holding the V.N.V. triangle in a cog wheel, in white metal (also existed in silver wire). The peaked cap on which this was worn (in a private collection) is green with yellow piping.

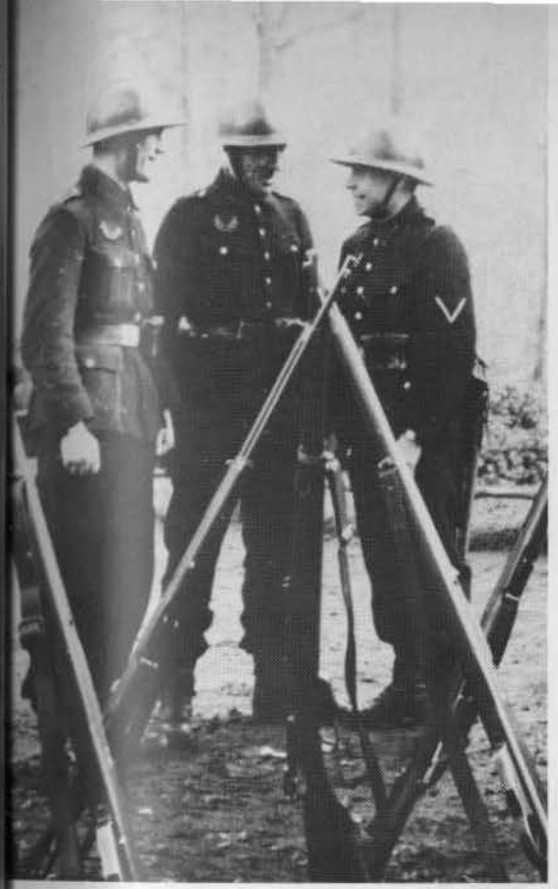
Member of the Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht with first design cap badge. The lion of Flanders in a wreath of oak leaves.

Musicians of the Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht (Flemish Factory Guard).The cuff title with Gothic V.F.W. on either side of the V.N.V. triangle in a circle emblem can just be seen (on left cuff of both men).

Civil lapel badge of Vlaamsche Fabriek Wacht, 2nd design (1942-44).

Cap badge (here of 1st "Abteilung." Black or very dark blue with white oak leaves and red numeral).

Badge worn on right breast pocket. The numeral (which is usually in red or white) indicates the "Abteilung", or Company. Numerals can be I, II, III or IV).



Note the helmet emblem, collar patches and breast badge worn by the above members of the Vlaamsche Wacht.

Emblem worn on Dutch-type steel helmet (silver oak leaves on light blue).

Chris Ailsby Collection

Private (Wachter) in Abteilung I.

Collar patch - black or very dark blue with yellow piping.

Chris Ailsby Collection

Corporal (Brigadier) in Abetilung I.

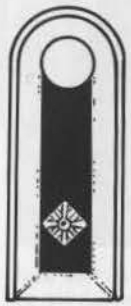
Arm chevrons
(left upper sleeve)

Wachter

Brigadier

Opperbrigadier

Onderofficier



Wachtmeester

NOTE:
Above are the non-commissioned ranks, sometimes the "Abteilung" numerals in metal was worn on the shoulder strap. All shoulder straps are black or very dark blue with yellow piping. This is the revised scheme of ranks after the use of rings round the cuff had been abandoned.

Officer of the Vlaamsche Wacht lectures recruits on identification of aircraft types.

A young officer of the Vlaamsche Wacht. He belongs to Abteilung I since the "I" can be seen on his cap badge and is also worn (less obviously) above the right breast pocket. The carrying of a dagger is interesting - possibly it is German.

The V.O.S. *(Vlaamsche Oud Strijders* - Flemish Military Veterans), a collaborationist association, was active in recruiting from among its members for the Vlaamsche Wacht. Almost all Vlaamsche Wacht officers were ex-Belgian army, but one German officer was attached to each company. Drill was German. There were four *Abteilungen*, one in each of the main Flemish cities:

Abt. I Ghent
Abt. II Antwerp
Abt. III Oudenarde
Abt. IV Brussels

In addition there was a *Wachkompanie* attached to the S.D. headquarters in Brussels and an *Eisenbahn Wachabteilung* (Railway Guard Company) drawn from Abt. IV which, along with German Railway Police, patrolled the railway stations of the Belgian capital. There was also a motorized unit, the *Kraftfahrzeugüberführungs-Abteilung z.d.V.* (roughly: Stand-by Motor Transport Auxiliary). Upper and lower age limits were extended to 17 and 45 years. At its maximum the *Vlaamsche Wacht* may have had a strength of some 4,000 men. On duty Belgian or Dutch army steelhelmets were worn. Later, as supplies allowed, these were replaced by German helmets of the

lighter variety worn by the Police. A silver oak leaf wreath on blue was worn on the front of the (non-German) steel helmet. When the Wacht Brigade was taken under German command, the Luftwaffe eagle was worn on the side of the German steel helmet.

The *Vlaamsche Wacht* was armed but only with "second hand" weapons - Dutch, Belgian or French rifles or German pistols. The *Vlaamsche Wacht*, under Luftwaffe control was more frequently referred to simply as the *Wacht Brigade*. Headquarters, and main training center, was at Vilvoorde near Brussels.

After the Allied landings in France in the summer of 1944, the *Vlaamsche Wacht* was issued with German field grey and informed that it would now function as part of the armed forces of the German Reich and as such take part in the defense of Belgium. In fact, as we shall see later, most of the *Vlaamsche Wacht* was carried off to Germany to end the war as part of the Waffen S.S.

In addition to using the *Vlaamsche Wacht* as guards, the Luftwaffe in Belgium also recruited Flemings for its *Flakbrigade* to man its anti-aircraft airfield defenses (with 20mm or 88mm guns).

Military band of Vlaamsche Wacht in the service of the Luftwaffe (note the Luftwaffe steel helmets).

Flag of the Vlaamsche Wacht (black lion of Flanders on yellow).

Fanfare trumpet banner of Wacht Brigade.

(b) Gendarmerie and Boerenwacht

After the occupation started, the strength of the Belgian Gendarmerie was increased by an additional 1,000 men and the force was now divided into a Flemish and a Walloon section; the former had its headquarters in Antwerp. Special mobile squadrons were created in November 1941. V.N.V. men were encouraged to join the Flemish Gendarmerie or, alternatively, assist the German Gendarmerie as auxiliaries. When they served as such they wore a green brassard with, in black, HILFS-GENDARMERIE.

All farmers and producers or distributors of food were required by law to belong to the collaborationist controlled C.N.A.A. *(Corporation Nationale d'Agriculture et d' Alimentation)*. In the autumn of 1941 the C.N.A.A. decided to form its own "police" to protect crops and food supplies from sabotage. This force, the Rural Guard *(La Garde Rurale* in French, or *De Boerenwacht* in Flemish) was at first unarmed, but after some of its members had been killed by the resistance, rifles and revolvers were issued on a limited scale. Service was voluntary although local Burgomasters had powers to

conscript if sufficient numbers could not be raised by voluntary enlistment. By the summer of 1942 the *Boerenwacht* had 27,790 members. Uniform was the same as that of the Police except that it was dark green, and officers wore a peaked mountain cap rather like that of the German forces. On duty Belgian/French army steel helmets could be worn. Conscripted members often had only a brassard. Officer ranks were worn on Belgian army style, dark green collar patches and appear to have followed the scheme used in the Belgian army. Above the rank insignia on the collar, the *Boerenwacht* emblem was worn - this was a sword upon two crossed ears of barley. Besides being worn on both collar patches, this same device was also used as the cap badge.

Men of the Boerenwacht with Belgian army steel helmets.

Chris Ailsby Collection

Officer of the Boerenwacht.

Rural Guard (Boerenwacht) Cap badge.

Right: collar of senior officer of Boerenwacht (equivalent to Lt. Colonel). Gold wire on dark green (from an example in a private collection).

(c) S.H.D.

With the increasing hazard of Allied air raids, the German S.H.D. *(Sicherheits und Hilfsdienst)* in Belgium began to recruit Flemish helpers. They wore a green brassard with the name of the organization in its Flemish form - *Zekerheids en Hulpdienst* in black lettering.

Langemarck Brigade (later Division)

In May 1943 the Flemish Legion was withdrawn from the front-line and sent to a training depot in Bohemia where it was joined by a fresh draft of volunteers from Flanders. On 20 April 1942 the 4th S.S. Totenkopf Infantry Regiment was awarded the honorary title "Langemarck." It became the *Stamm-Einheit* (or basic formation) upon which a Flemish Brigade was to be constructed. But even though the S.S. had by now no fewer than twenty-three recruiting offices throughout Belgium, the numbers coming forward were still insufficient, and it was only by adding a Finnish S.S. battalion that the Brigade could be brought up to the required strength. It was then christened the *S.S. Freiw. Sturmbrigade "Langemarck"* (S.S. Volunteer Assault Brigade "Langemarck"). In December 1943 the Brigade, under its German commander, S.S. Obersturmbannführer Konrad Schellong, was dispatched to the front in the Ukraine sector.

In July 1944 it was at the other end of the long Russian front in Estonia and took part in the celebrated "battle of the European S.S." at Narva. On 21 September 1944 S.S. Unterscharführer Remi Schrynen became the first Fleming to gain the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.* By this date most of Belgium had been liberated. Many Flemish military collaborators, N.S.K.K., *Vlaamsche Wacht, O.T. Schutzkommando,* Luftwaffe and naval volunteers accompanied the retreating Germans. These now found themselves "unemployed" in Germany. By conscripting the bulk of the physically fit into the Waffen S.S., Himmler was able to raise the Flemish Brigade to a Division.

On 18 September 1944 the creation of the 27 S.S. *Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Division "Langemarck"* was announced. In reality the new "division" had hardly a quarter of the strength of a "Grenadier" (i.e. Infantry) Division since it consisted of no more than 3,000 men. The grandly-styled "Division" was sent back to a collapsing eastern front in December 1944 and was virtually annihilated in the closing months of the war.

Uniform: members of the Sturmbrigade were authorized to wear the so-called "trident sun wheel" (the three legged swastika as worn by the Nordwest Regiment) and this was also the collar device intended for the 27th Division, but in practice the normal S.S. runes collar patch was more frequently worn. Schellong, who continued to command the Division (after its "promotion" from Brigade), wore this trident sun wheel as an example to others, but on the whole it was an unpopular device which seemed to imply that its wearers were less than full S.S. men. A new version of the black lion on a yellow shield arm badge was manufactured in Germany and was worn below the S.S. eagle on the left upper arm. Flemish nurses serving with the German Red Cross wore this same badge but on the *right* arm. A cuff title "Langemarck" was created for the original "Langemarck" Regiment; its use was carried on by the Division.

*Two other Flemings won the Knight's Cross, but neither in a Flemish unit. One was a member of a Latvian division, the other was in the L.A.H.

Jim van Fleet Collection

Three variations of the Langemarck cuff title.

Member of the 27th S.S. Volunteer Grenadier Division "Langemarck" wearing the trident sun wheel of the Division. On his left arm he wears, below the S.S. eagle, the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield. Note that the Belgian nurse who is seated next to him wears the same type of German-made badge but on her *right* arm.

Three-legged swastika or trident sun wheel authorized for wear by Langemarck Division, but normal S.S. runes were frequently worn instead. There also appears to have been some confusion over which way up the patch should be worn (in photos it is sometimes shown as being worn the other way round!)

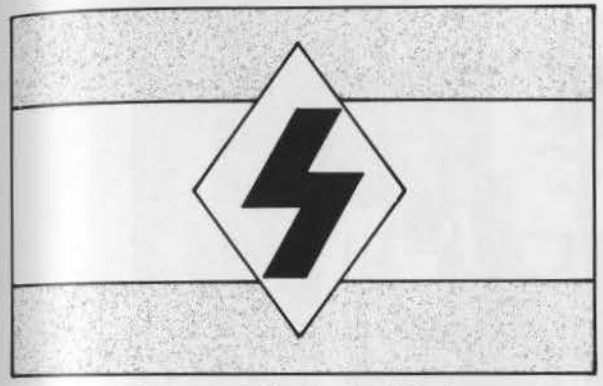
Arm badge of the Langemarck Division (German made).

Vehicle sign of the Langemarck Division

Children in Arms

As the war situation worsened for Germany, the internal conflict between "moderate" collaborators, like the V.N.V., and passionate pro-Nazis like *Devlag* intensified. The prestige of *Devlag* had increased enormously as had its influence when, in November 1941, Gottlob Berger, head of the S.S. Main Office for Foreign Recruitment, agreed to become its President. Friction between the V.N.V. on the one hand and *Devlag* and the Flemish, or Germanic, S.S. on the other became daily more bitter. Jef van de Wiele dropped all pretence that *Devlag* was non-political and entered the fray, challenging the V.N.V.'s claim to the political leadership of Flanders. In August 1943 *Devlag* claimed a membership of 51,000 and van de Wiele spoke of it as, "The largest fighting formation in Flanders." Hitler Youth units had always existed in Flanders (even before the war). These were for the children of *German* residents, but in the summer of 1943 a Hitler Youth Flanders was established in which Flemish youths could serve. In November 1943, *Devlag* assembled several hundred of its youthful members at its National-Socialist School at Antwerp and van de Wiele then handed them over to the Hitler Youth Flanders. Their uniform was identical to that of the German Hitler Youth except that on the left cuff a black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield

Officers and boys of the Youth of Devlag with a Hitler Youth officer.



Brassard of the Youth of Devlag

Boys of the Youth of Devlag with a notice which reads that Devlag is providing Flemish children with a four-week holiday in Germany.

was worn, and that the unit triangle (worn by all Hitler Youth formations on the left upper arm) had:

Hitlerjugend
Vlaanderen

whereas German units in Flanders had:

H.J.
Flandern

The lion of Flanders and the word Vlaandern was carried in the upper left corner of the swastika flag.

Standard Hitler Youth uniform with the addition of the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield. Note the "VLAANDERN" badge added to the swastika flag. The Hitler Youth Flanders was for Belgian children with one German parent or for members of "Devlag" youth branch handed over by their leader, Jef van de Wiele, to the Hitler Youth. There were also companies of German Hitler Youth in Belgium (the sons of German residents there or of families evacuated to Belgium for safety from air raids). These, however, wore the normal Hitler Youth district triangle with "H.J. Flandern."

Cap badge (a tentative sketch only. The V.N.V. triangle, for example, may have been enclosed in a cog wheel as it was for the adult Wacht Brigade.)

Arm badge (black lion on yellow).

Formed in April 1944 in Antwerp as an ancillary formation of the Flemish Wacht Brigade to assist in the guarding and defense of Luftwaffe installations in Belgium, the Kadettenkorps (also referred to as the Jongerenkorps) consisted of Flemish youngsters of the 15-18 years age group. They wore the Hitler Youth winter style uniform with the black lion of Flanders on a yellow shield on the left cuff.

The Waffen S.S. went out of its way to encourage these 16 and 17 year old lads to attend what were known as Military Toughening-up Camps *(Wehrertüchtigungslager)* in Germany. Once there, they were put under strong pressure to join the Waffen S.S. So many did so that it was possible to form a Volunteer Battalion out of these underage lads. It was sent to join the Langemarck Division on the Oder defense line where it was virtually wiped out.

The V.N.V. responded to German demands that it play a more active part in the defense of Flanders by allowing youths in the 15 to 18 years age group to join the *Vlaamsche Wacht* and its *Kadettenkorps.* The Cadet Corps (also sometimes referred to as the *Jongerenkorps)* was the Flemish equivalent of the Hitler Youth Flak helpers. They served on Luftwaffe airfields in Belgium usually manning anti-aircraft guns or

search-lights (or in any other auxiliary capacity required of them.) They wore a uniform very similar to the winter uniform of the Hitler Youth with, on the left cuff, a yellow shield with the black lion of Flanders - this is of a slightly different design from that worn by the Hitler Youth Flanders. As a cap badge they wore (it would appear from photographs) a version of the Vlaamsche Fabriekwacht cap badge - a sea-mew holding the V.N.V. triangle-in-a-circle emblem in its claws.

The last days

The Allies landed in France in June 1944 and by the autumn of that year most of Belgium had been liberated. There was one significant exception - the important port of Antwerp which still remained in enemy hands. The Higher S.S. and Police Leader in Belgium, S.S. Gruppenführer Richard Jungclaus, linked the remnants of the Germanic S.S. and the militants of *Devlag* into a Security Corps *(Sicherheitskorps)* of some 2,500 men. A battalion of this Corps fought alongside the German defenders of Antwerp in the battle which lasted throughout September and November 1944. It was one of the rare examples of western European collaborators being used to fight against the Allies (most military and para-military collaborators who saw active service did so in Russia).

Post-war estimates of the number of Flemings who served with the German military forces in the Second World War place the figure at around 23,000. Sentence of death for military collaboration* was pronounced in 4,170 cases, although of these only 230 were actually carried out. Belgium was in fact, more severe on its collaborators than was any other country except Norway.

*In both parts of Belgium.

Flanders: Miscellaneous Insignia

Algemeen Vlaamsch Nationaal Jeugdverbond badge

Volksverwering (The People's Defense). Black Odalsrune outlined in yellow, on white. Black and yellow surround.

V.O.S. (Vlaamsche Oud Strijders Verbond - Flemish Old Soldiers Union.

The war correspondent at right is shown wearing the second version of the "Devlag" badge.

(I)

(II)

(I) and (II). Two versions of the badge of "Devlag." The right one is the more usual and was even worn, possibly unofficially, on military uniform (eg., Waffen S.S. uniform).

Emblem of the Vlaamsche Arbeidsorde (Social movement of V.N.V.)

Emblem of "Dinaso" (or Verdinaso)

Unie voor Hand en Geestesarbeiders (Union of Manual and Intellectual Workers) i.e. Flemish equivalent of U.T.M.I.

N.S.B. in Vlaanderen (i.e. Flemish Section of Mussert's Dutch Nazi Party).

WALLONIE

Racial theory had, to start with, made the Germans favor the Flemings rather than the Walloons, but later they were to discover that in Wallonie there was a far more dependable and charismatic collaborator than could be found anywhere in Flanders. This notable individual was Léon Degrelle, founder in 1935 of the spectacularly successful political movement Christus Rex (better known simply as the Rexist Party) which, within one year of its creation, had won 21 seats in the Lower House of the Belgian parliament and 8 in its Senate.

However, the fortunes of the Rexists had gone into a sharp decline in the months immediately preceeding the Second World War and revived only as a consequence of German conquest and occupation.

In May 1941 the Rexists were declared to be the only authorized political party in Wallonie (just as, at this same time, the V.N.V. was given the political monopoly in Flanders). But unlike the the V.N.V., Rexism was very much a "one man show" and certainly had a much narrower base of popular support in Wallonie than the V.N.V. had in Flanders, due to the fact that the Walloons had no outstanding grievance that the Germans could exploit to their advantage as they could in the case of the Flemish desire for autonomy. It is difficult to assess the actual numerical support that Rex enjoyed because it never published membership figures, but it can be said with certainty that everything in Wallonie was on a much smaller scale than in its Flemish counterpart.

Despite, or perhaps because of, its paucity in numbers, Rex always maintained a grandiose facade. In the beginning the Rexists had stressed their Christian (Roman Catholic) affiliation by taking as their symbol a cross and crown combined with the word Rex (short for Christus Rex - Christ the King), but during the occupation this symbolism was dropped in favor of a new device - the cross of Burgundy. This is two ragged twigs or branches in the form of a St. Andrew's cross (usually colored red). This emblem had been that of Charles V, Duke of Burgundy and Holy Roman Emperor - in his day, like Adolf Hitler, master of most of central (Catholic) Europe.

Rex had its own "Storm Troopers" known as the *Formations de Combat* (F.C.)* who wore a dark blue uniform - usually only a blue shirt and blue trousers, but later an overalls-type of uniform, not unlike British "battle dress," was introduced. Officers could wear a tunic and breeches with black top boots, white shirt, black tie and black "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap. On the left breast pocket all ranks wore a red Burgundian cross. Due to the constant depletion of its strength through members volunteering for more active forms of service in the German forces, the F.C. had, by the end of 1943, virtually ceased to function.

The Walloon equivalent of the Flemish D.M.-M.B. was the *Brigade Vollante Rex*. There were three of these so-called "flying brigades" in Brussels. Their special badge was a red inverted triangle with a winged wheel above the unit number (a 1, 2 or 3) upon a black Burgundian cross.

The Political Leaders of Rex wore a very dark blue or black uniform - tunic, peaked cap and breeches with white shirt and black tie. Piping was red. Rank was indicated on both the shoulder straps and the collar patches. The actual scheme of ranks is not known. The equivalent of a German *Kreisleiter* was a *Chef de Cercle*. There were 28 such *cercles* in Wallonie, there was also a branch of the party in Flanders (known as *Rex Vlaanderen*, but this disappeared with the enforced merger of May 1941 to become part of the V.N.V.)

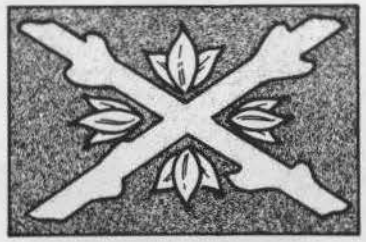
The cap badge of a Political Leader of Rex was a rather melodramatic phoenix rising from the flames of a burning Burgundian cross. This is found both in a metal and in a cloth version. The metal version is in one piece, the cloth types in two - a silver wire phoenix worn on the peak of the cap and a red cloth Burgundian cross with yellow "flames" worn on the band.

There was a women's section, *Les Femmes Rexistes* (F.R.) who wore a dark blue uniform (hat, tunic and skirt) with a white shirt and dark tie. On the left breast pocket they had the red Burgundian cross. Rank appears to have been indicated by "bars" worn above the right breast pocket.

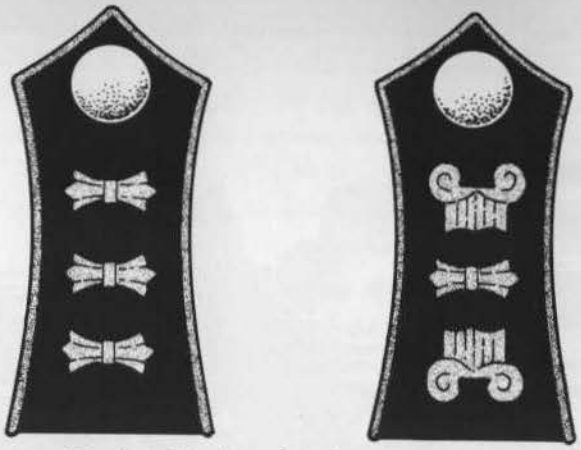
Metal cap badge - silver phoenix and red crossed twigs.

*First formed in August 1940 and consisting of *fanions* of about 30 or 40 men. Even at full strength it is doubtful if the F.C. ever amounted to more than 1,500 men in all.

Rexist "Political Leaders" at a Brussels rally. Note that the man on left of waving civilian has the embroidered cap badge, whereas the man to his right has the metal badge.



Embroidered type of P.L. cap badge. Silver wire eagle, red crossed twigs, with yellow "flames". Both these were worn on dark blue caps with red piping. (made as two separate pieces and sewn on dark blue cloth.)



Above: Two types of Rexist Political Leaders shoulder straps of rank (names of ranks unknown). These were worn with a black tunic with four pockets; on right breast pocket, a red Burgundian cross.

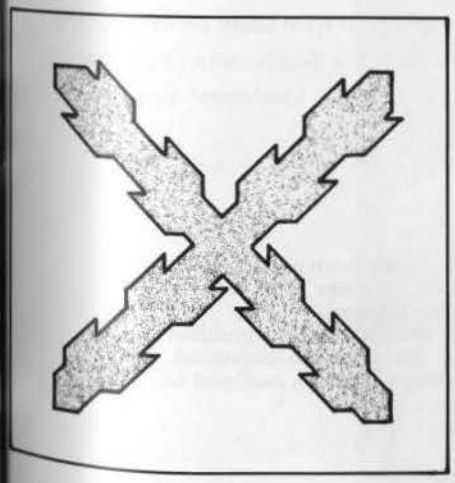
Left and below: Femmes Rexistes - the Women's branch of the Rexist Party. The "bars" above the right breast pocket may be rank insignia.

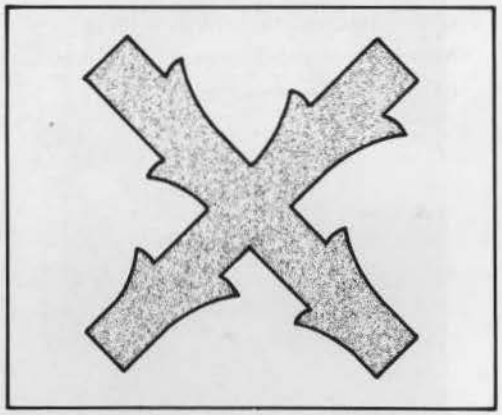
(a) (b) (c)

Three types of Rexist girls brooches possibly indicating ranks. (a) is greyish white metal, (b) is bronze, (c) is greyish white metal, but this type also exists in gilt (examples in Dodkins Collection).

The original Rexist emblem of "cross and crown". This badge was dropped some time during the early days of the German occupation in favor of the crossed twigs of Burgundy.

Rexist "Blood Order" or Honor Badge of Rex. Awarded in silver and bronze. A special class in gold with diamonds was the highest award of the Rexist Party.





Two versions of the Rexist flag with a red Burgundian cross on white. The first is of a rather formalized version of the twigs, the other a more naturalistic representation.

The Youth Branch, *Les Serments de la Jeunesse Rexiste*, was a voluntary movement for boys and girls between the ages of six and eighteen. At eighteen boys were expected to join the Formations de Combat. Claims of a membership of 3,000 were advanced for *Les Serments*, but no rally was ever able to muster more than a thousand (of both sexes).

In March 1943 *Les Serments* was dissolved and replaced by a more broadly based youth organization, the *Jeunesse Légionnaire* which embraced the youth movements not only of Rex but also of Agra and the C.C.W. (see below). It was not necessary to have belonged previously to a political youth movement since the Jeunesse Legionnaire was, in theory, non-political. In practice it was entirely Rexist dominated. The green shirt of the *Les Serments* was carried over into the new, enlarged corps. On the left breast pocket of this shirt a white Burgundian Cross on a green shield was worn. In the center of the cross a rather odd-looking black double headed eagle appears. This same badge, in colored enamels, was worn as a civil lapel badge.

Girls wore white shirts with green neckerchiefs and green skirts. Officers wore green peaked caps with a black band and red piping. Upon the black cap band a very elaborate metal badge in the form of a red Burgundian cross supported by two Doric columns entwined by a scroll with the motto "Nec plus ultra" was worn. The Doric column and scroll with the Latin motto had been the personal device of the Emperor Charles V (another echo of the Burgundian past!).

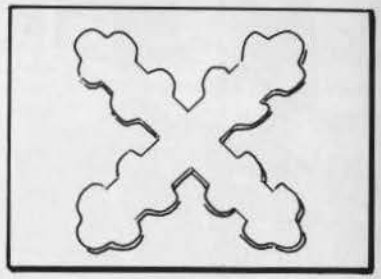
The Leader *(Prévôt)* of the Rexist youth movement (he had also been its founder) was John Hagemans, a former *Dinaso* youth leader. Hagemans was killed in action as a volunteer with the Walloon Legion and his place as youth leader was taken by Roger Dutherme, but when the *Jeunesse Légionnaire* was formed in March 1943 the leadership was assumed by a disabled Walloon Legion veteran, Paul Mezetta (also a member of Rex).

A youth leadership school was opened at Charleroi to train cadre personnel. The course was rounded off by a month's sojourn at a Hitler Youth camp in Germany. Members of the *Jeunesse Légionnaire* also took part in Landdienst work in the General Government of Poland.

Marc Guerini

Cloth badge worn on left breast pocket. Rather odd-looking double-headed "eagle" on white shield, white Burgundian cross, on green background. The green shield is outlined in white.

(above) Boys of the Jeunesse Legionnaire in their winter uniform. (right) The summer uniform.

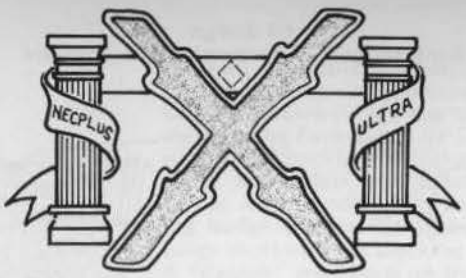


J.L. belt buckle.

Black shoulder strap with red piping. Metal badge - black eagle and white cross on green shield outlined in white.

John Hagemans

The leader (or "Prévôt") of the Jeunesse Légionnaire, John Hagemans. He wears a green peaked cap with a black band and red piping.
The cap badge is in the form of the Rexist emblem, the crossed Burgundian twigs supported by two Doric columns around which is a scroll bearing the words "Nec plus ultra" (the motto of the Emperor Charles V).
The photo was taken on the occasion of Hagemans' departure for the front.

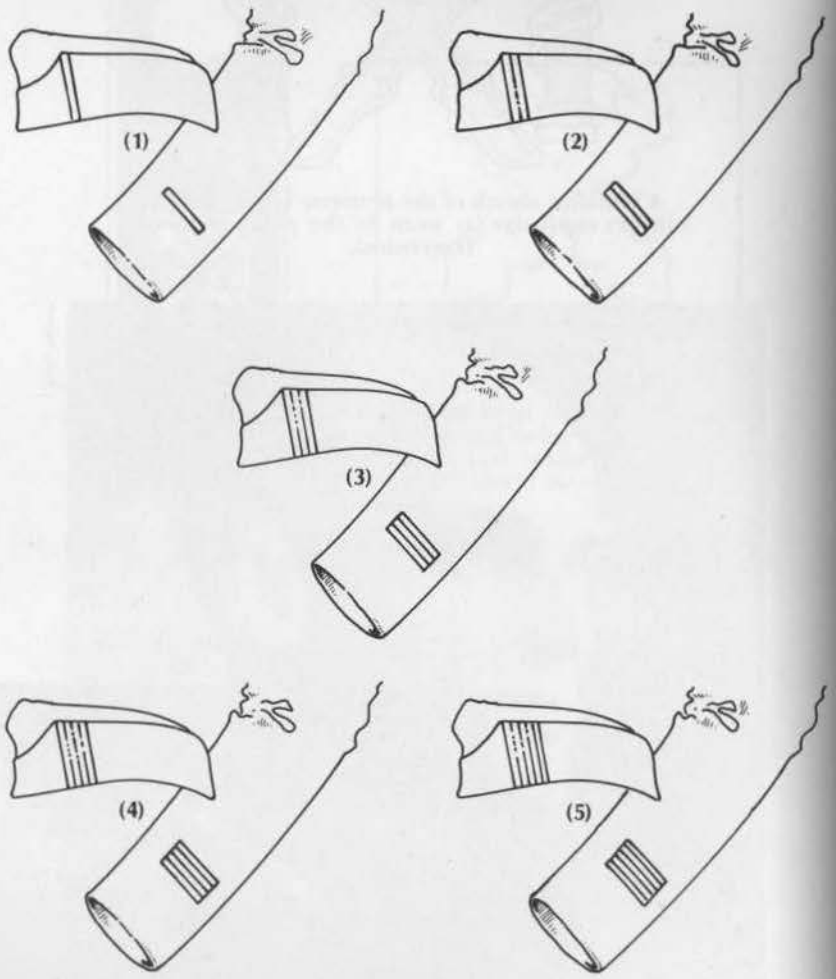


A tentative sketch of the Jeunesse Legionnaire officer's cap badge (as worn in the photo of John Hagemans).

Rene Smeers

John Hagemans wearing the uniform of a German Army Unteroffizier (note Wallonie arm patch).

1st design
Rank Insignia of Serments de la Jeunesse



Officer Ranks:

(1) Chef des Serments: one silver bar (50mm long) on both cuffs and one silver bar on side of forage cap.
(2) Chef des Jeunes Serments, and Chef des Serments dans les Provinces: two silver bars on both cuffs and two silver bars on forage cap.
(2a) Sécretaires d'arrondissement: two red bars on both cuffs and two red bars on side of the forage cap.
(3) Chef de Provinces: three silver bars on cuff and three on forage cap.
(4) Chef National des Jeunes Serments: four silver bars on cuff and four on side of forage cap.
(5) Prévôt de la Jeunesse: five silver bars on both cuffs and five on side of forage cap. Adjutants had the same number of bars as their chiefs, but these were in green.
(5a) Sécretaires des Regions I, II and III: four red bars on both cuffs and four red bars on side of forage cap.

Uniform for non-commissioned ranks (known as Compagnons - companions, and Chevaliers - knights). Brown forage cap of the same type as worn by the Formations de Combat. Black belt with metal buckle with the cross of Burgundy on it. Black shirt with black buttons, brown shorts. A red neckerchief with, on the toggle, the badge of Rex. Black shoes with white or beige short socks or stocking of the same color. A "dagger" was worn on the left side. On its hilt was the Rexist badge. The "dagger" would appear to be like the Hitler Youth camp knife.

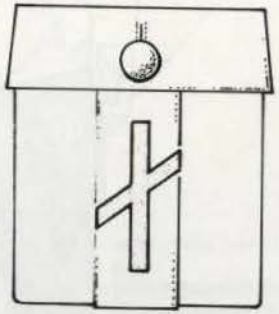
Officer's uniform. Forage cap of the same sort was worn by the other ranks in brown. Same black shirt with black buttons, black riding breeches with black top boots. Brown military style tunic with four pockets. Bright red tie with a tie-pin with the badge of Rex. In bad weather a brown great-coat could be worn (other ranks had a cape). Rank was indicated by "bars" (galons) on both cuffs and on the left side of the forage cap. On the left breast pocket the red cross of Burgundy was worn.

Left: Chef d'équipe: red bar on left upper arm and red bar on side of forage cap. But as this did not count as an officer grade, the Chefd'équipe was not entitled to wear a tunic.

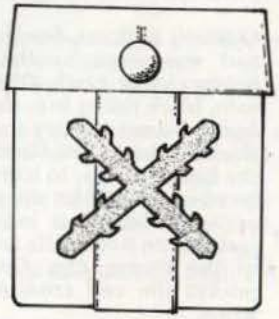
On the upper left arm both officers and boys wore a small shield with the arms of the Province from which they came. Above this they wore a shoulder flash with the name of the actual location of their unit. This was preceeded by the letters "J.S." (for Jeunes Serments) or "S" for Serments (the older boys). For example, a unit located in the Brussels suburb of Laeken would have, in red, J.S. LAEKEN.

The young boys *Jeunes Serments)* could, after they had satisfactorily passed their three months' probation, wear on the right breast pocket the so-called "rune of honor." (This was said to derive from the earliest runic writing found in Belgium.) This could be in either white or red according to the nature of their enlistment.

The older boys *(Chevaliers)* wore on the left breast pocket the Cross of Burgundy, again either in white or in red according to the form of engagement. Although the original text of these orders is far from clear, it would appear that white indicated a less regular type of engagement than red.



Rune of Honor



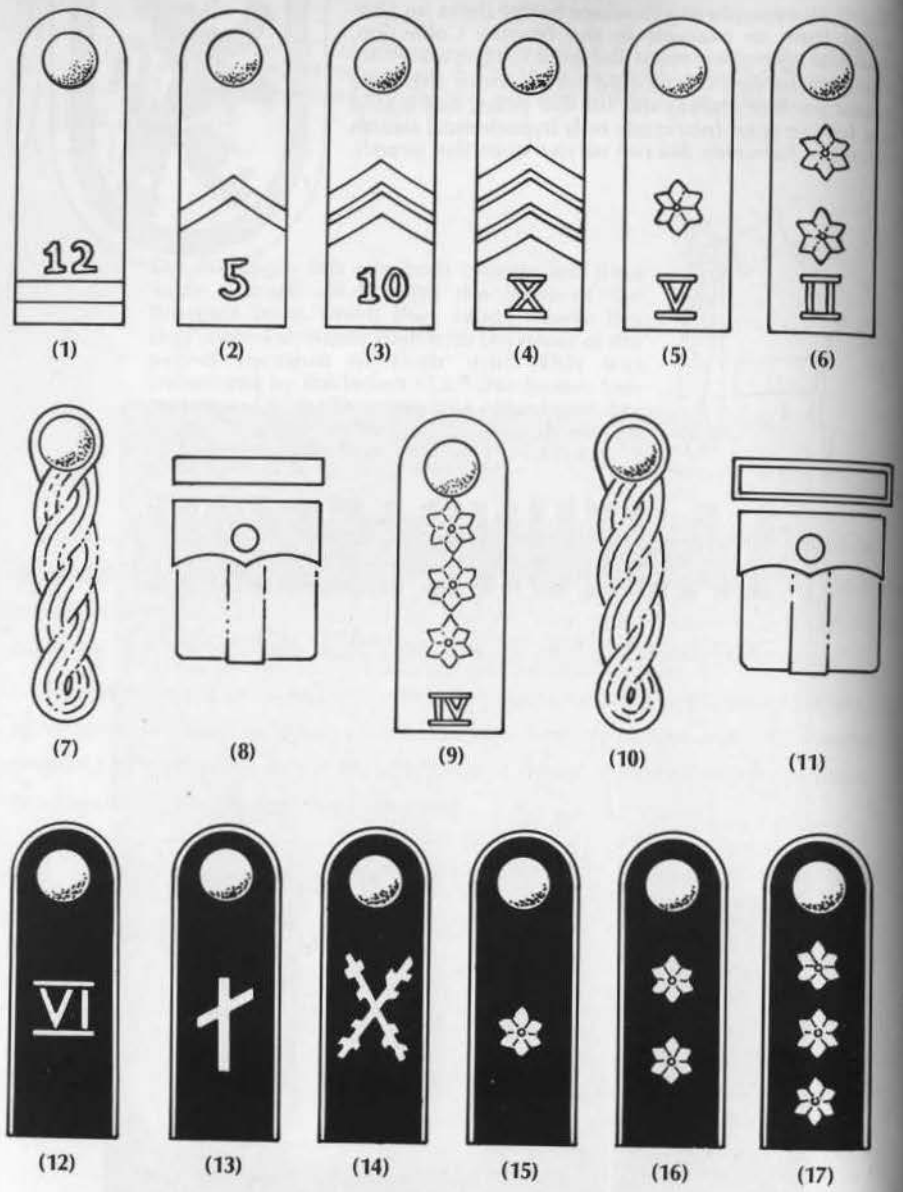
Cross of Burgundy

Right: an example of a Province badge (here for Limburg) from an example in the Forman Collection. Red lion with gold crown and gold tongue on white. For long service boys could wear, above the right breast pocket, a silver star for five years, and a gold star for ten years (obviously only hypothetical awards since the *Serments* did not survive even five years!).

Rene Smeets

Front cover of "La Jeune Legion," the bi-monthly magazine of the Jeunesse Legionnaire (2nd issue of February 1944).

2nd design
Rank Insignia of Serments de la Jeunesse



(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

(7) (8) (9) (10) (11)

(12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17)

(1) Both boys and girls wore shoulder straps. They were green for boys and in black for the girls. At the end of the shoulder strap a band, or slip-on tab, was worn in a color which indicated the squad (équipe) the boy or girl belonged to.

The colors were as follows:

Yellow:	1st squad
Blue:	2nd squad
Green:	3rd squad
Red:	4th squad

In addition each boy or girl had the number of his/her platoon (serment) in brass Arabic numerals on both shoulder straps.

Ranks were indicated as follows (where the female rank is different from its male equivalent, this is given second):

(2) Chef d'équipe: a 15mm wide silver chevron on shoulder straps plus a green lanyard worn from the left breast pocket to the second button of the shirt.

(3) Chef de Serment: two silver chevrons and a white lanyard.

(4) Chef d'enseigne
Cheft. de Groupe : three silver chevrons and the number of the company (etendard) in silver Roman numerals. An orange lanyard in same place as above.

(5) Chef de Fanion
Cheft. de Ronde : a silver star and silver Roman numeral. A longer lanyard than above, worn this time from the left breast pocket to the left shoulder strap.

(6) Chef de Bannière
Cheft. de Contrée : two silver stars and silver Roman etendard numeral. A white lanyard from left breast pocket to left shoulder strap.

(7) Member of Headquarters staff of a Bannière (or Contrée): on left shoulder only a red twisted cord strap.

(8) Assistant Designate (Nommé Adjoint) on the Headquarters staff of a Bannière (or Contrée): a red "bar" worn above the left breast pocket. This "bar" being of the same width as the pocket itself.

(9) Chef de Pays: three silver stars and silver Roman etendard number. An orange lanyard from left pocket to left shoulder strap.

(10) Member of the Headquarters staff of a Pays: a red twisted cord strap worn on both shoulders.

(11) Assistant Designate of a Pays Headquarters staff: a red "bar" with a gold wire "frame" worn above left breast pocket, the same width as the pocket.

(12) Chef d'Etendard
Cheft. de Ban : black shoulder straps with orange piping. Silver Roman etendard numeral. A black and orange lanyard worn from left pocket to left shoulder strap.

(13) Chef des J. Serments: black shoulder straps with orange piping. On each shoulder a silver wire "rune of honor" (rune de l'honneur). A black and white lanyard from left pocket to left shoulder.

(14) Chef des Serments: black shoulder straps with orange piping. A silver wire Cross of Burgundy on both. A black and red lanyard worn from left pocket to left shoulder.

(15) Chef de E.M. Fédéral (Officer on the Federal Headquarters Staff): black shoulder straps with gold piping and a single gold star.

(16) Adjoint au Chef Fédéral (Deputy Federal Leader): black shoulder straps with gold piping and two gold stars.

(17) Chef Fédéral des Serments: black shoulder straps with gold piping and three gold stars.

Rene Smeets

A comrade prays over the body of John Hagemans. Note the bandaged left wrist, his only visible wound.

Other Political Movements

(I) AGRA

Although, in theory, the Rexist Party was the only authorized political party in Wallonie, others also existed. This can be explained by the fact that the original ordinance granting the political monopoly in Wallonie to Degrelle's party ordered the disbandment of "existing political parties." Thus any created *after* May 1941 could claim to be immune to this circumscription. Obviously the only political parties likely to come to life under a foreign occupation would be those sympathetic to the conquerors. A second way round the ban was to hide under the disguise of a "cultural movement. This was the camouflage used by the "Friends of the Great German Reich" (*Amis du Grand Reich Allemand* - AGRA for short) founded in Liege in March 1941 and which escaped suppression two months later by claiming that it was "non-political" (as ludicrous an assertion as that made for itself by *Devlag* in Flanders). Although small in numbers, perhaps hardly more than a few hundred - it was the most outspokenly pro-German faction in Wallonie. "Members of the Society," its constitution states, "recognize Adolf Hitler as the unquestioned head of the New Europe. They adhere wholeheartedly and without reserve to the doctrines of National Socialism." So much for being non-political! About a year later AGRA changed its title to the *Mouvement Socialiste Walloon* (M.S.W.) in an attempt to emphasize its socialist character, but the new name never caught on, and it continued to be known by its original designation.

It had its own *Service de Protection,* dressed in blue tunics with, on the left sleeve, the AGRA emblem. This device is a yellow mobile swastika, usually on an orange or red background, within a yellow circle (some versions have a cog wheel). There was a *Jeunesse Agra* but this small youth branch was, as we have noted, forced to merge with the *Jeunesse Légionnaire* in March 1943. AGRA's greatest claim to our attention here is the success with which it recruited on behalf of the German armed forces, particularly the N.S.K.K. (as we shall see shortly).

(a)

All AGRA volunteers in the N.S.K.K. wore the Luftwaffe uniform with N.S.K.K. rank insignia, one or other of (a) or (b) was worn on left upper arm.

(b)

(a) and (b) examples of arm badges worn by AGRA volunteers in the N.S.K.K. (a) is half actual size and is yellow on Luftwaffe blue, (b) is approximate actual size and is yellow on orange. There is a version of (a) which is yellow on crimson.

AGRA Badge (yellow on orange - actual size. From an example in the Dodkins Collection)

AGRA emblem, mobile swastika within a cog wheel.

Andrew Mollo

Members of AGRA as volunteers in the N.S.K.K. They wear the yellow mobile swastika on an orange circle of AGRA on the left upper arm. The rest of the uniform is Luftwaffe (but note the absence of jack boots!). Rank insignia is that of the N.S.K.K. This photo was taken on the occasion of the fusion of N.S.K.K. AGRA with N.S.K.K. Rex to form N.S.K.K. Wallonie. Léon Degrelle was present as the representative of Rex and M. Gerits as the representative of the leadership of AGRA.

(II) C.C.W. (Communauté Culturelle Wallonne)

Formed at the same time as AGRA (March 1941), the Walloon Cultural Community aimed at being the Walloon equivalent of *Devlag*, but never achieved anything like comparable significance. It was confined to a small group of right wing intellectuals under the leadership of the Namur sculptor, Georges Wasterlain. It had a small youth branch, but this, like the AGRA youth, was absorbed into the Rexist dominated *Jeunesse Légionnaire* in March 1943.

(III) Mouvement National Populaire Wallon.

Formed in September 1941 by a disgruntled Rexist official, Antoine Leclercq, who quit after a quarrel with Degrelle; this movement was centered in Liège. It had only a small following in that city and virtually none outside it. Its emblem was the red fighting cock of Wallonie on a yellow background inside a black frame on which is the motto "Wallon toujours" (Wallonie forever).

(IV) U.T.M.I. (Union des Travailleurs Manuels et Intellectuels)

This union of Manual and Intellectual Workers (U.T.M.I. in its French and U.N.I.E. in its Flemish abbreviations) was founded shortly after the start of the occupation by a leading Blegian economist and writer, Henri de Man. Under a German decree of 4 July 1941, all Belgian trade unions had to join U.T.M.I. or face dissolution. Many preferred that latter alternative. In April 1942 Henri de Man, whom the Germans never fully trusted, was replaced by Edgar Delvo, a more overt collaborator. U.T.M.I. was the sole Belgian "trade union" allowed among Belgian workers (voluntary or conscripted) in German industry.

Labor Service

As has already been mentioned, Henri Bauchau, early in the Occupation, initiated a private labor service *(Service des Volontaires du Travail)* in order to utilize demobilized soldiers and unemployed youths on work of national reconstruction. This service was originally a single organization, its uniform being simply Belgian army with rank and other insignia removed. Headgear was the large beret of the *chasseurs ardennais* (Belgium's "alpine" troops). The emblem of the Service was a pick crossed with a spade. But on 30 November 1940 the service was made official and divided into two ethnic sections:

(a) Voluntary Labor Service for Flanders *(Vrijwillige Arbeidsdienst voor Vlaanderen* - the V.A.v.V.)

(b) Volunteer Labor Service for Wallonie *(Service Volontaire du Travail pour la Wallonie* - S.V.T.W.)

These two sections were kept entirely separate and bore no resemblance to one another in uniform, ranks or other insignia. It has proved much more difficult to obtain information on the S.V.T.W. than on the V.A.v.V. It would appear (from photographs, that the S.V.T.W. uniform was dark blue. Possibly only cadre personnel

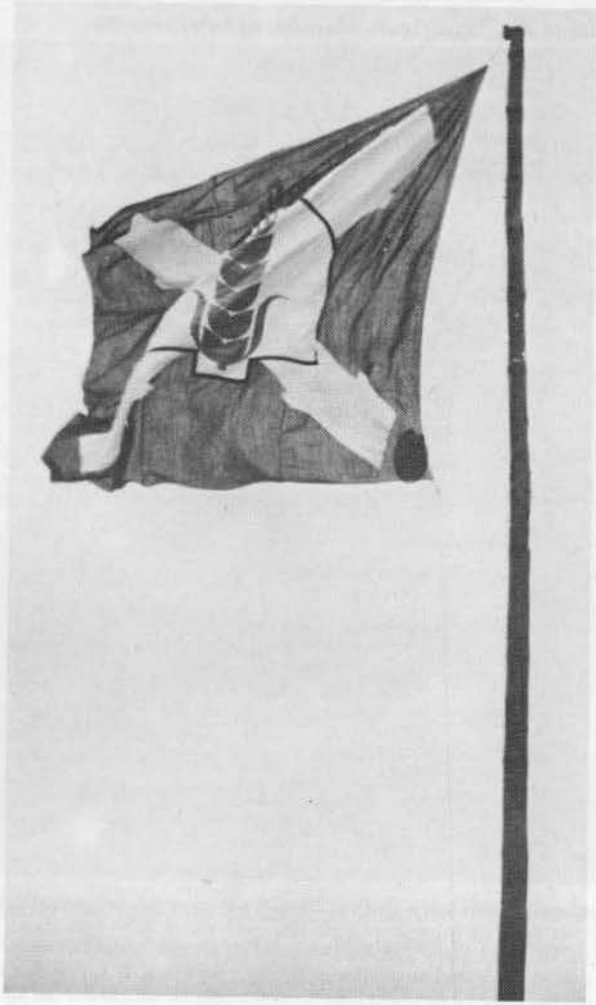
had a full uniform. There can be little doubt that the Walloon section was much smaller than its Flemish counterpart.

In July 1943 Bauchau was relieved of his command, and both branches of the Labor Service fell prey to collaborationist influence to a much greater degree than before.

The S.V.T.W. accepted volunteers as young as 15 (perhaps to bulk out its numbers). The upper age limit was 25 years. There was an N.C.O. Training School at Uccle (Brussels) and an Officers Academy at Namur.

The first camp for the girls section of the Walloon Labor Service (the *Service Féminin des Volontaires du Travail)* was opened in April 1942.

Male personnel could engage for a minimum of six months, female for as little as three. It is doubtful if, with such a brief period of service, the girls, apart from the regular cadre staff, wore anything like a full formal uniform.

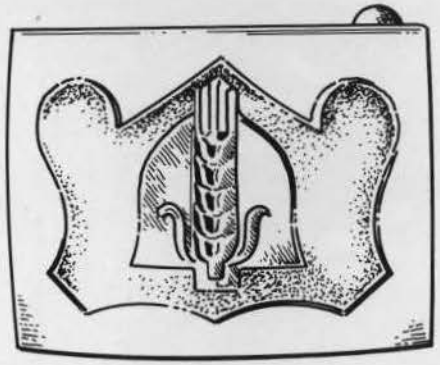


Flag of the Walloon Labor Service.

Andrew Mollo

Two officers of the Walloon Labor Service

Badge of the S.V.T.W. Worn on both collars and also as a cap badge.



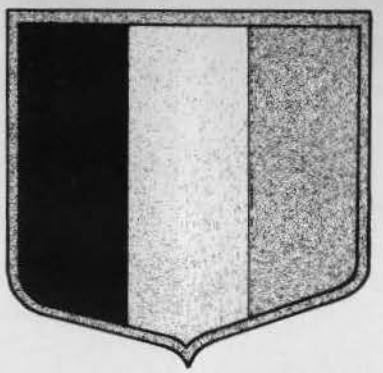
S.V.T.W. belt buckle

Walloon Legion

After Hitler attacked Russia, the Walloons were invited to participate in the "crusade" to rid the world of Bolshevism, but were denied the privilege (granted to the Flemings) of doing so within the Waffen S.S. Walloons had, at least in the beginning, to content themselves with being part of the German Army. There was, however, no lack of volunteers. Within weeks 1,200 had come forward, among them Léon Degrelle. The Germans were willing to offer the Rexist leader an immediate commission, but he declined on the grounds that he had no previous military experience - he had been too young to serve in the First World War (he was born in 1906) and had managed, as a student, to avoid conscript service in the Belgian army.

On 8 August 1941 the first draft, including Private Degrelle, left Belgium for basic training in Poland. The Walloon Legion, known very briefly as the *Corps Franc Wallonie* (Free Corps Wallonie) was registered as Infantry Battalion 373 of the German Army. All members wore standard German army uniform with, on the left upper arm, the Belgian national colors, black/yellow/red on a black framed shield surmounted by the word WALLONIE in yellow.

Between November 1941 and February 1942 the Legion was employed mainly on anti-partisan operations in the rear of the German front in Russia. Later it was attached to the German 100th *Jäger* (Light Infantry) Division. In February 1942 Degrelle was promoted to Corporal, very shortly afterwards to Sergeant and awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class. In May 1942 he was granted a commission and presented with the



"Home made"type of shield in Belgian national colors said to be a Belgian-made first design for the Walloon Legion arm shield. The above is from an example in the Forman Collection.

Iron Cross 1st Class. In the same month the Legion's original commander, Lt. Col. Pauly was replaced by an officer who, by a very odd coincidence, had the same surname as the commander of the Flemish Legion. Lt. Col. Lucien Lippert was not, however, related to the Fleming's German commanding officer (he was a Belgian, born in Arlon in 1913).

The Legion was at this time acting as a reserve unit of the 68th German Infantry Division, but was shortly thereafter put into the front line as a battalion of the German 97th *Jäger* Division. It saw heavy fighting on the Don front and later in the Caucasus. In one action alone the Walloons suffered 854 casualities. Degrelle was among the badly wounded. During the course of his time at the front, Degrelle was to be wounded four more times.

Early in 1942 the minimum age limit was reduced from 18 to 16 years and the maximum raised from 36 to 45 in an attempt to bring in more volunteers. That March a further 400 men came out from Belgium, among them John Hagemans, the *Prévôt* of the Rexist Youth and Joseph Pevénasse, commander of the Formations de Combat. In May a further draft of 380 volunteers joined the trainees at Meseritz in Brandenburg. In September an intensive recruiting campaign among Belgian workers in Germany succeeded in raising another 140; while in November 226 more came out from Belgium. By May 1943 the Legion had attained a total strength of 1,600 even though, only six months previously, it had been reduced, through battle losses to 187 men. In June 1943 the Legion was granted the "honor" of admission into the Waffen S.S. Its history as such will be recounted later in this chapter.

Army Lieutenant Degrelle meets with Himmler in mid-1942.

First version of the Legion flag (red cross on black field, silver fringe)

Flag of the Rexist Formations de Combat presented to the Legion as a Brigade flag on 8 August 1941. (Red cross on black.)

Company flag - here for the 3rd Company. Each of the eight companies of the Legion had a similar flag (apart from the number). Red cross on white, silver armored arm and sword, bluish-grey cloud. "3eme compagnie" in yellow. Outer edges are black, white and gold (fringe).

N.S.K.K.

Recruitment for the N.S.K.K. among the people of Wallonie proved to be even more fruitful than for the Legion. Both Rex and AGRA contributed to its success, and both were rewarded for their efforts by being granted the right to wear their respective Party emblems on the N.S.K.K. uniform.

Most of the *Brigade Vollante Rex* was absorbed into the N.S.K.K. to become "N.S.K.K. Rex". Members of this formation wore on the left upper arm a red Burgundian cross on a black shield within a red frame. They had as the background color to their forage cap triangle and as the underlay of their shoulder straps, yellow. A very interesting oddity in this connection is a version of the N.S.K.K. driver's arm lozange in which the German eagle and swastika is replaced by the Rexist phoenix with red Burgundian type twigs in its claws. Above the wheel is the word REX. An example of this very strange badge is in the possession of the Army Museum in Brussels.

Former members of AGRA in the N.S.K.K. were allowed to wear the yellow mobile AGRA swastika within a yellow circle upon a shield in Luftwaffe blue, which has a yellow frame. The AGRA forage cap triangle color and shoulder strap underlay is described as "rust colored".

In July 1943 N.S.K.K. Rex and N.S.K.K. AGRA were merged as part of the larger N.S.K.K. Motor Group Luftwaffe. Thereafter all Walloon volunteers (whether from Rex, AGRA or non-political) wore yellow as their *Waffenfarbe*. They were now known simply as N.S.K.K. Wallonie.

Possibly about 6,000 Walloons served in the N.S.K.K. The minimum engagement was twelve months, but like their Flemish compatriots, many found themselves drafted eventually into the Waffen S.S.

Arm badge of Rexist volunteers in the N.S.K.K. (red and black)

O. Spronk

A very interesting and rare version of the N.S.K.K. driver's badge which has not only the addition of the word "REX" but which substitutes for the Reich eagle and swastika, the Rexist phoenix and crossed Burgundian twigs emblem.
(This example is in the Army Museum in Brussels - Non-public Section).

Barney Tomberlin

The first version of the Legion Flag carried in formation.

Andrew Molle

An interesting and unusual photograph of foreign volunteers in the N.S.K.K. in that it shows volunteers from three different regions in the same squad. From left to right the men are (as indicated by their respective arm badges; from Flanders (black "wolf hook" on yellow), from Wallonie (red Burgundian cross on black), and from Holland (yellow "wolf hook" on red/black triangle). Only the man second from the left standing behind wears the N.S.K.K. arm eagle and must, presumably, be the only German. All three men on the ground also have on the left cuff the N.S.K.K. driver's diamond-shaped emblem.

Badge worn on the side of the black forage cap by Walloon volunteers. It is the N.S.K.K. emblem on yellow for Rexist volunteers, but on "rust" color for volunteers from "AGRA".

Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks (yellow piping for Rexist volunteers, "rust" colored for "AGRA" volunteers).

Internal Security Forces in Wallonie

(a) La Garde Wallonne. In July 1941 it was announced that a guard unit would be raised in Wallonie on the same lines as the *Vlaamsche Wacht* in Flanders, but by January 1942 only a single battalion of this "Garde Walloone" was ready. (The term "Garde Walloone" was the name given to the 17th century Walloon mercenaries who served in the armies of Spain in her wars against the British.)

The uniform was, like that of the *Vlaamsche Wacht*, dark blue but with red piping instead of yellow. Later a special *Batailon Chemin de Fer* (Railway Battalion) was raised with the exclusive duty of protecting rail installations against sabotage.

(a)

(b)

Officer of the Garde Wallonne

(a) Cap badge set of Garde Wallonne. The rosette is red with black center. The unit number (here a I) appears in center of oakleaf wreath. In this case the wreath is simply that of the German army (in aluminum) but later homemade wreaths replaced this German type.
(b) White oak leaves on light blue worn on front of a Belgian army steel helmet by Garde Wallonne when on duty.

(b) Gendarmerie and Garde Rurale. Walloons, mainly Rexists, acted as auxiliaries of the Belgian Gendarmerie. There was also a *Garde Rurale* as the Walloon equivalent of the Flemish *Boerenwacht*. It had the same uniform and, by May 1942 numbered some 38,000 members (actually *more* than the Flemish section). Most of these wore no more "uniform" than a brassard with the name of the organization.

Paul de Middeleer, Adjutant General of the Garde Wallonne. His dagger is probably Luftwaffe type.

The Walloon S.S. Assault Brigade (later Division)

In May 1943 Himmler decided that the Walloons had proved themselves worthy of admission into the élite ranks of the Waffen S.S. This did not, however, imply any question of merging them with the existing Flemish Waffen S.S. The only co-ordination between the two was the conjunction of their respective welfare organizations. The Flemish *Voorzorgs Komiteiten* (Welfare Committee) was merged with the Walloon *Honneur Légionnaire* under the title of National-Socialist Assistance to the Waffen S.S. in Flanders and Wallonie (E.A.N.S. in French; N.A.S.O.V. in Flemish).

On 1 June 1943 the Walloon Legion became the *S.S. Strumbrigade Wallonie (La Brigade d'Assault Wallonie* in French). In November of that year it joined the Wiking Division in the southern Ukraine. In January 1944 it found itself caught up in the celebrated action at Cherkassy where 56,000 German troops were trapped in what threatened to become a lesser Stalingrad. The German effort to fight their way out lasted for several weeks and was enormously costly. On 14 February over 200 members of the Walloon Assault Brigade were killed including its commander, Lucien Lippert. Degrelle was promoted to replace him. When the Germans finally broke out, the Wiking Division was down to 4,000 men and of the original 2,000 Walloons, only 632 came through unscathed.

The survivors were sent to Wildflecken in Franconia to regroup, but in fact, got little respite. A desperate situation had developed in Estonia and the Walloon Assault Brigade had to be rushed there to take part, alongside its Flemish compatriots, in the "battle of the European S.S." at Narva in July 1944. After the battle, in the course of which they again sustained heavy losses, they were brought back to Germany - to Brunswick this time. Degrelle who had won the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 20 February 1944 had the "Oak Leaves" conferred on him personally by Hitler on 27 August 1944 - a rare award for a foreign volunteer.

By September most of Belgium had been liberated and hundreds of Belgian collaborators had flocked to Germany for protection. By a combination of vigorous recruitment among Belgian workers already in Germany and the virtual press-ganging of the military and para-military Walloon refugees, Himmler was able not only to rebuild the Brigade but, at least on paper, increase its strength to that of a Division. On 18 September 1944 the formation of the S.S. Volunteer Grenadier (Infantry) Division "Wallonien" was announced. The following month it joined the numbered sequence of Waffen S.S. Divisions as No. 28; while in December of the same year, by the addition of its own complement of armor, it became a panzer-grenadier division.

In January 1945 the newly created Division was again ordered to the front as part of the majestically misnamed "S.S. Army Corps West" (it consisted in reality of three badly under strength foreign volunteer divisions - the Walloons, the Flemings and the

Léon Degrelle takes the salute at a parade of the Wallonie Division on their return to Belgium after the battle of Cherkassy.

French). It joined battle with the Russians in the region of Stettin and within a matter of weeks was reduced to a strength of little more than 700 men. By mid-April what was left had been well nigh destroyed on the west bank of the Oder River. Some remnants of the shattered division were evacuated by sea to Denmark. Degrelle made his way from Copenhagen to Norway and then by air to Spain (where he lives to this day).

Uniforms: The Walloons carried over into the Waffen S.S. the insignia that they had worn as part of the army. That is to say, the army pattern shield with black/yellow/red and "Wallonie". It may be noted at this point that this same shield was worn by at least some Walloon volunteers in the Luftwaffe (as examples of it on blue Luftwaffe uniform have come to light). Two other versions of the arm shield exist: (a) the Belgian colors on a plain sided shield (i.e. of the S.S. variety) with "WALLONIE" in white at the top of the black surround, and (b) a white shield with the red Burgundian cross. It is very doubtful if either of these, particularly the second, was ever actually worn, although both were certainly produced. The collar patch was the standard S.S. runes. The use of the cross of Burgundy as a collar device was approved, but this type of collar patch was never put into production. A cuff title WALLONIEN was certainly both made and worn. A cuff title with WALLONIE exists but there is no evidence that this was either official or worn.

This army-type shield was worn by the Walloon volunteers in the Legion (Army) but also carried over to the Waffen S.S. uniform. (It has also been seen on a Luftwaffe tunic.)

Arm shield which may have been intended for the Wallonien Division (this example is from one in the Mollo Collection), but there is no evidence of such a design ever having actually been worn.

Normal S.S. runes worn by Walloon volunteers.

Special "cross of Burgundy" collar patch for Wallonien Division - approved by Himmler in June 1943 but probably never worn.

Red Burgundian cross on white. Projected as a possible arm device for Wallonien Division. Never worn as far as can be ascertained (the above example is from the Forman Collection).

Edelweiss arm badge (army style) worn by Legion and later carried over to the Waffen S.S. uniform.

Wallonien

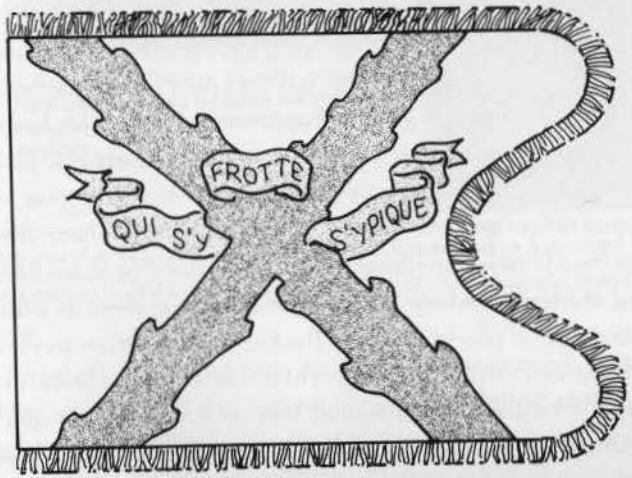
Cuff title of the Wallonien Division (silver and black)

An interesting aspect of the division's uniform was the fact that, on the somewhat tenuous grounds that the Legion had once served as part of a mountain division, its veterans wore an Edelweiss (symbol of the German alpine troops). In the Legion they wore this, of course, in its army form, but this army type of alpine insignia was carried over when the Walloons became part of the Waffen S.S. Thus they had the doubly unique distinction of being the only non-mountain division of the Waffen S.S. to wear the Edelweiss, and the only ones to wear this insignia in its *army* form.

All the flags of both the Legion and the Brigade/Division have the red Burgundian cross of Rex - testimony to the predominance of Degrelle's party in both.

B.L. Davis

The flags of both the Brigade Staff and the Headquarters Company are carried on parade in Belgium.



Flag of the Brigade Staff of the Legion. Red cross of Burgundy on a white field with yellow scroll on which in black (each word started with a red letter) is "Qui s'y frotte, s'y pique" ("He who rubs up against it, gets scratched"). This motto was originally that of the Belgian recruited "Blancs Becs" Regiment in the service of the Empress Maria Theresa. This flag was presented on 8 August 1943. On its reverse are the words "Campagne d'URSS Légion Volontaire Wallonie" (Campaign in the U.S.S.R. Walloon Volunteer Legion). The flag of the Headquarters Company is the same as above but has the motto "Dur et pur Rex Vaincra" (Strong and pure, Rex will conquer").

Léon Degrelle

The so-called "Blood Order" of Rex was also permitted to be worn on German military uniform. In its bronze version it was awarded for services *by* members of Rex, in its silver version, for service *to* Rex (that is to say as a reward for persons not members of Degrelle's party). Examples of awards of the badge in silver are: to Colonel Meyer, liaison officer between the German army and the Walloon Division; to Major Baumann of the Military Administrative Staff in Belgium; to Major Bode, commander of the camp at Meseritz where the Walloon Legion received its initial training. All three officers were, of course, German. The Rexist Blood Order also exists in Gold and Gold with Diamonds versions. Reference to this latter is to be found in a report which appeared in the Belgian collaborationist press of 8 August 1944 which, referring to Degrelle's return to the fighting front in the east, says, "Before his departure the Chef de Rex [Degrelle] awarded Victor Matthys the Cross of Burgundy in gold with diamonds, the badge of honor of the *milice*, which constitutes the highest distinction of the [Rexist] Movement." Matthys stood in for Degrelle as Party Leader during the time that his Chief was on active service. The "Cross of Burgundy" was an alternative title for the "Blood Order" (neither designation seems to have been finalized). Degrelle himself probably also wore this version with diamonds.

Freshly uniformed Walloon volunteers in the Waffen S.S. (Note army type arm shield) talk to (on left) members of the Rexist "Formations de Combat". These latter wear dark blue overall type uniforms with, on the right breast pocket the red Burgundian crossed twigs on a black square - as illustrated at right. Note that the Rexists wear a Belgian shield on a black brassard (probably indicating that they too are in the German service).

The vehicle sign of the Walloon Division is often illustrated as a crossed sword and scimitar; it seems more probable, and also more logical, that it was, in fact, the crossed Burgundian twigs.

Through his personal courage and dedication to the German cause, Degrelle eventually eclipsed the leadership of the numerically superior Flemish party. In the end the V.N.V. chiefs became disillusioned with Nazi bad faith and turned against, or at least ceased to cooperate whole-heartedly with, their erstwhile German patrons. Degrelle, on the other hand, was increasingly spoken of as a possible leader of a reconstituted "Burgundian" state of Belgium-Holland-Northern France. Whether Hitler actually intended to bring this into being, or whether indeed he had any precise vision of what the "New Europe" (so frequently talked about in Nazi propaganda) should be, must forever remain a matter of conjecture.

Forman Archive

A cleverly worded appeal to Belgians to support Germany: "You are defending Belgium when you fight on the Eastern Front." "Join the S.S. Armored Division "Wallonie." An exaggerated claim since the Wallonie was a Panzer-Grenadier, not a Panzer Division!

German recruiting poster for the S.S. Division "Wallonien." "Come to us, S.S. armored division "Wallonie." Shield in Belgian colors surmounted by word "Wallonie" in yellow.

Vehicle pennant of the 28th S.S. Volunteer Panzer-Grenadier Division "Wallonie"

WALLONIE - MISCELLANEOUS INSIGNIA

Arm badge of the 2nd "Brigade Vollante Rex" (Rexist Flying Column). There were three of these so-called "flying columns" (i.e. motorized units) in Brussels. They were raised in 1942 as auxiliary transport formations. Each "brigade" had its number in white superimposed upon a black Burgundian cross. The wheel is black with a white wing picked out in red. The rest of the badge is red with a narrow black inner frame.

Brassard worn by Rexist civilians in the service of the German army. Black eagle on white with narrow inset black edges.

Badge of the U.T.M.I. (Union des Travailleurs Manuels et Intellectuels)

Badge of the Mouvement National Populaire Wallon. The red cock of Wallonie on yellow with black surround and white lettering.

Emblem of the Service des Volontaires du Travail, forerunner of the S.V.T.W. (dissolved in November 1940)

The Leader of the Rexist Youth Movement instituted and awarded a badge to members of the movement for meritorious service. It takes the form of a stylized "wolf hook" (an unusual emblem for the Walloons, since this is more usually associated with the Dutch and Flemings) within a wreath, which consists of oak leaves on the left and laurel leaves on the right. On these are "S" and "J" standing for Serments de la Jeunesse." At the base is a scroll with the motto, "Je tiens" (I hold on). The badge is in bronze. The illustration on the following page is not to scale.

The information on the "Je tiens" badge comes from the "Charte de la Jeunese Légionnaire", which also lists an "Ordre de la Jeunesse" Badge (but gives no illustration or other details of this).

Other "rexiste" youth awards mentioned in this publication are "lanyards of honour" (cordelieres d'honneur) which are listed as:

For acts of courage: red
For outstanding work: white
For successes in recruiting: green
For good comradship and solidarity: blue

Left: Badge of Honor of the Serments de la Jeunesse. This badge is known to exist in bronze, but it is possible that silver and gilt classes may also have existed.

Badge of Honor of 10 May 1940 of Rex. Awarded to members of Rex arrested and/or imprisoned at the time of the German invasion in May 1940. About 300 awarded. It is 23mm by 17mm and shows the original Rex emblem of "cross and crown" upon a red background. This is framed in yellow, then in gilt (not black as shown on page 97 of the author's "Orders, Decorations, Medals and Badges of the Third Reich" Vol. 2).

GREAT BRITAIN

The notion that British prisoners-of-war could be induced to volunteer to fight in an anti-bolshevik "legion" on the eastern front originated, not in the fevered imagination of Dr. Goebbels, but in the mind of a scion of a distinguished British political family, John Amery. The eldest son of Leo Amery, Churchill's Minister for India, John Amery was in Paris at the time of France's downfall. His outspoken anti-semitic and anti-communist utterances became known to the Germans who believed that he could be useful to them as a broadcaster of propaganda (in the manner of the celebrated, or notorious, "Lord Haw Haw"). He was invited to Berlin to take part in English language transmissions, but Amery's ambitions extended beyond mere propagandizing. He saw himself as the leader of what he wished to call a "Legion of St. George," drawn from British prisoners-of-war in Germany and equal in numbers and importance to the L.V.F. (see Vol. 1) whose leaders were personally known to him from his time in Paris. At first the Germans were not receptive to the idea. The army was opposed to the recruitment of prisoners. It may have been the sense of impending doom engendered by the disaster at Stalingrad that finally persuaded them to agree to Amery's request that he be allowed to tour the P.O.W. camps and raise "a Brigade of around 1,500 men." In April 1943 he set off on his proselytizing jaunt. It was a fiasco. Only one volunteer offered himself.

The Germans decided to jettison Amery although not the concept of a British volunteer corps. The propaganda campaign was intensified and some 40 to 50 volunteers were collected at Hildesheim near Berlin.* The Germans disliked the name "Legion of St. George" *(St. Georgs Legion)* since it conveyed little to the average German mind. (How many Germans knew who was the Patron Saint of England; also Himmler, who by this time had started to take an interest in the project, seems to have imagined that he could readily recruit white South Africans - a presumption utterly confounded by reality; finally, St. George is associated with other countries, Greece, Imperial Russia, etc., as well as England.) Why not simply "The British Legion" *(Britische Legion)* he wanted to know. The Britons had to point out that there

*The author has been able to ascertain 58 names of known members of the Freikorps. This list may not be complete, but it is doubtful if the total exceeded, perhaps, 70.

already was a "British Legion" (like the American Legion, a war veterans association!). The name British Free Corps *(Britische Freikorps)* was therefore adopted (it would appear about October or November 1943).

Many details concerning the B.F.C. still remain shrouded in mystery. Only one thing is certain - that the effort and time expended upon it was wholly incommensurate to its worth (or potential worth) as a fighting unit. We can only be left with the assumption that its usefulness to the Germans was as a weapon of propaganda. This may explain why it was allowed to feature its national origin in three prominent ways:

(i) a collar patch with the three lions of England

(ii) a cuff title with *Britische Freikorps*

(iii) an arm badge of a Union Jack flag.

Three lions of St. George collar patch. This was certainly made and worn.

Union Jack worn on left arm.

Black and silver cuff title "British Free Corps."

The aims and principles of the B.F.C. as laid down in its own propaganda were:

"(1) The British Free Corps is a thoroughly British volunteer unit, conceived and created by British subjects from all parts of the Empire who have taken up arms and pledged their lives in the common European struggle against Soviet Russia.

"(2) The British Free Corps condemns the war with Germany and the sacrifice of British blood in the interest of Jewry and International Finance and regards this conflict as a fundamental betrayal of the British people and British Imperial interests.

"(3) The British Free Corps desires the establishment of peace in Europe and the development of close friendly relations between England and Germany and the encouragement of mutual understanding and collaboration between the two great Germanic peoples.

Chris Ailsby Photographic Collection

A British S.S. Rottenführer. Note the three lions collar patch.

Two members of the British "Freikorps." Note cuff title and Union Jack above it.

Otto Spronk

Right: a propaganda poster for the Freikorps showing the Union Jack alongside the flags of Germany and Italy. It would seem that the British flag is even larger than the Italian!

"(4) The British Free Corps will neither make war against Britain or the British Crown nor support any action or policy detrimental to the interests of the British people."

The Wehrmacht having disclaimed any interest in either a Legion of Saint George or a British Free Corps, the S.S. as the self-appointed custodian of foreign volunteers, became its patron. According to Ronald Seth ("Jackals of the Reich") the commander of the B.F.C. was *Hauptsturmführer* (Captain) Johannes Roggenfeld of the "Wiking" Division who had lived in the U.S.A. and spoke English fluently. According to Dr. K-G Klietmann ("Die Waffen-S.S.: eine Dokumentation") it was *Hauptsturmführer* Roepke, followed (in November 1944) by *Obersturmführer* (Lieutenant) Kühlich.

Uniform was standard field-grey with a mountain cap with a death's head on the front. It would seem that the special three lion collar patch, cuff title and arm shield started to be issued in April 1944. Prior to that the collar patch had been either the normal S.S. runes or a plain black one. With astonishing arrogance the Britons objected to having to wear the Union Jack *below* the S.S. eagle and, incredibly, obtained permission to wear it above!

It was the Germans' intention that the Freikorps be trained as an Assault Engineer Unit, and for this purpose it was sent to Dresden. There it suffered its first casualties when, ironically, two of its members were killed in the course of the celebrated fire-raid on that city by the R.A.F.! The only arms carried by the Korps at this time were unloaded pistols (by its one British officer, a Hauptsturmführer and one of its N.C.O.s). In February 1945 it was sent to Berlin and for a time issued with rifles. Two of its members lost their enthusiasm for the Nazi cause and were returned to their P.O.W. camp, two others became medically unfit for further duty. In March the unit was assigned to the "Nordland" Division, which at that time was in process of refitting. Before the "Nordland" was ready to return to action, the majority of the Freikorps volunteers had decided to opt out. Only four remained on active service with the "Nordland" and of these one was on non-combatant duty as a Medical Orderly (his previous function in the British Army). The other three fought as infantrymen. One fell in action, one escaped from Berlin, the other two were captured by the Russians who handed them over to the British authorities. What still remained of the Freikorps in the West was incorporated into the Volkssturm and, along with the rest of that inglorious body of men and boys, surrendered to the Allies (in this case the Americans who turned them over to the British Army for punishment).

Chris Alsby Photographic Collection

An unshaven John Amery, founder of the British Freikorps, at the time of his capture.

Fellow-Countrymen!

We of the British Free Corps are fighting for YOU!
We are fighting with the best of Europe's youth to preserve our European civilisation and our common cultural heritage from the menace of Jewish Communism.

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT! Europe includes England. Should Soviet Russia ever overcome Germany and the other European countries fighting with her, nothing on this earth would save the Continent from Communism, and our own country would inevitably sooner or later succumb.

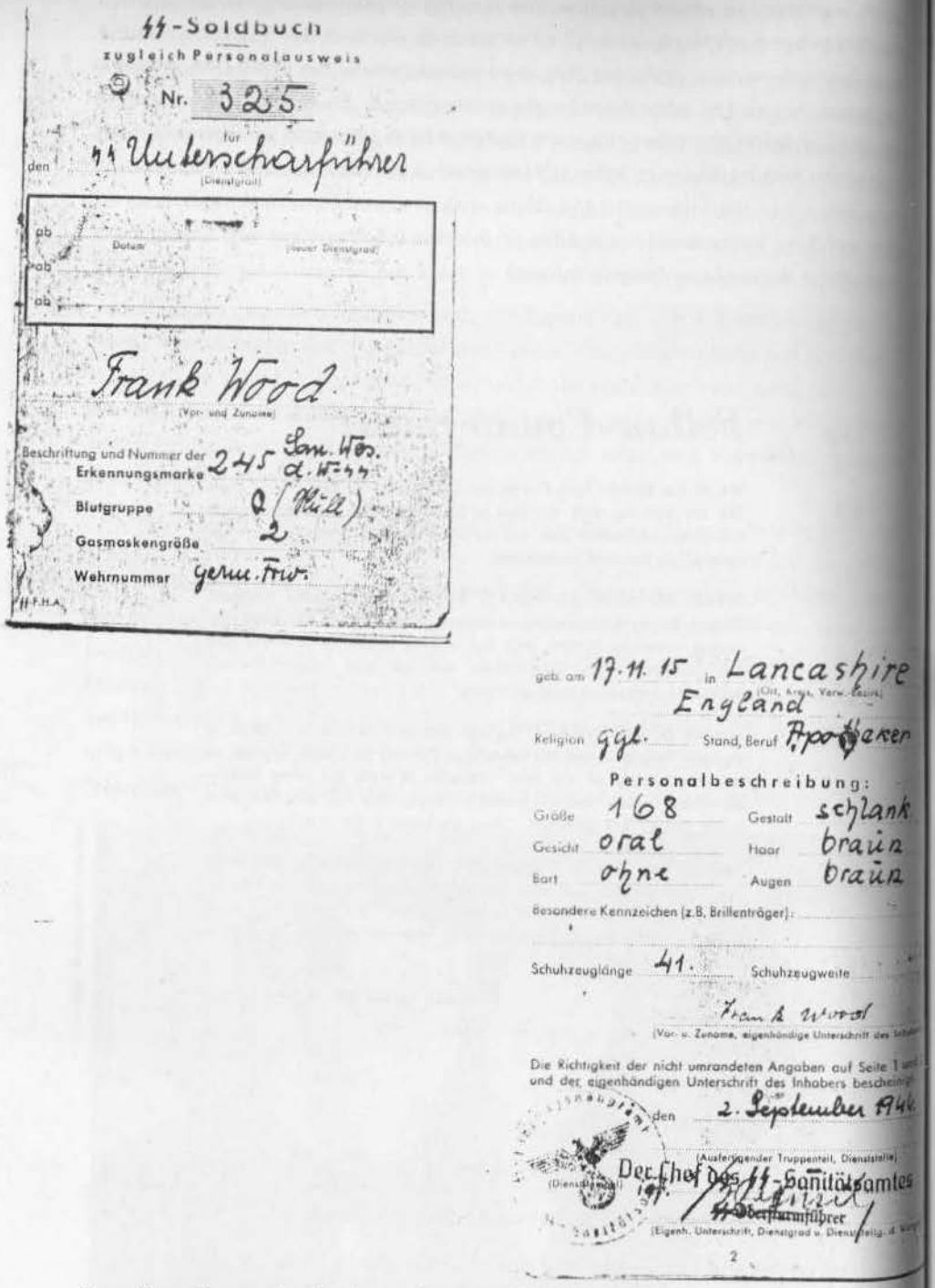
We are British. We love England and all it stands for. Most of us have fought on the battlefields of France, of Lybia, Greece, or Italy, and many of our best comrades in arms are lying there—sacrificed in this war of Jewish revenge. We felt then we were being lied to and betrayed. Now we know it for certain.

This conflict between England and Germany is racial SUICIDE. We must UNITE and take up arms against the common enemy. We ask you to join with us in our struggle. We ask you to come into our ranks and fight shoulder to shoulder with us for Europe and for England.

Published by the British Free Corps.

Propaganda leaflet of the British Free Corps.

A few Britons and half-Britons (one had a German mother) were brought to trial after the war, but the authorities found it difficult to take the B.F.C. seriously and prison sentences were not unduly harsh. John Amery, however, was regarded as a major traitor and was hanged at Wandsworth Prison in London on 19 December 1945.



SS-Soldbuch
zugleich Personalausweis
Nr. 325
für
den SS Unterscharführer
(Dienstgrad)
ab
Datum (neuer Dienstgrad)
ab
ab
Frank Wood
(Vor- und Zuname)
Beschriftung und Nummer der Erkennungsmarke 245 San. Wos. d. W-SS
Blutgruppe 0 (Null)
Gasmaskengröße 2
Wehrnummer germ. Frw.
H.F.H.A.

geb. am 17.11.15 in Lancashire England
(Ort, Kreis, Verw.-Bezirk)
Religion ggl. Stand, Beruf Apotheker

Personalbeschreibung:

Größe 168 Gestalt schlank
Gesicht oval Haar braun
Bart ohne Augen braun
Besondere Kennzeichen (z.B. Brillenträger):
Schuhzeuglänge 41. Schuhzeugweite
Frank Wood
(Vor- u. Zuname, eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers)
Die Richtigkeit der nicht umrandeten Angaben auf Seite 1 und und der eigenhändigen Unterschrift des Inhabers bescheinigt
den 2. September 1944
(Ausfertigender Truppenteil, Dienststelle)
(Dienstgrad)
Der Chef des SS-Sanitätsamtes
SS-Obersturmführer
(Eigenh. Unterschrift, Dienstgrad u. Dienststellg. d. Ausf.)
2

Pages from the pay-book of "Frank Wood." This was, in fact, a pseudonym. All the Britons who enlisted in the "Freikorps" did so, at the suggestion of the Germans, under false names. A later page in this pay-book gives "Frank Wood's" unit as SS San. E. Batl. Stettin (S.S. Medical Replacement Battalion, Stettin)

HOLLAND

The Dutch are the Germans' "next door neighbors" and are related to them both racially and linguistically. Before the Second World War some 52,000 Germans lived and worked in Holland. It is not, therefore, too surprising that a number of imitation Nazi/fascist movements sprang up in the Netherlands during Hitler's years of triumph. To deal with the least important of these, they were first:

(a) The Fascist Union "The Broom" *(Fascistenbond "De Bezem")* formed in 1931. The following year it changed its title to General Dutch Fascist Union *(Algemeene Nederlandsche Fascisten Bond, A.N.F.B.).* It had its own Fascist Storm Troopers *(Fascistische Stormafdeeling)* dressed in black uniforms, and its Fascist Youth Union *(Fascistische Jongerenbond, F.J.B.)*

(b) Troelstra Movement *(Troelstra Beweging)* This short-lived party was founded by Paul Kies, a retired army officer. The name of the movement derived from the celebrated leader of Holland's Social Democratic Party, P.J. Troelstra. The movement adopted the swastika as its emblem. Kies eventually became tired of trying to go it alone and joined forces with the N.S.N.A.P. (see below).

(c) The Black Front *(Zwart Front)* Founded by Arnold Meyer in November 1933 as a break-away from the A.N.F.B., this was the most violently anti-semitic of the Dutch fascist parties. In the elections of 1937 the Black Front got only 8,178 votes (0.2% of the poll). In April 1940 Meyer changed the name of his party to Nationaal Front. The party uniform was all black. Its emblem was a sword between a ram's horns.

(d) N.S.N.A.P. *(Nationaal-Socialistische Nederlandsche Arbeiderspartij)* This National-Socialist Dutch Workers' Party was, as its name indicates, a faithful replica of Hitler's N.S.D.A.P. It had, however, an erratic and fissiparous history, so riven by internal strife that it ended up as several parties rather than just one! It was originally conceived in December 1931 (i.e. *before* Hitler's accession to power in Germany) by Adalbert Smit, E.H. Ridder van Rappard, and Albert van Waterland, but shortly thereafter each member of this original triumvirate proclaimed himself the sole and exclusive leader. The result was that there were now *three* N.S.N.A.P.'s! To make matters worse, Major C.J.A. Kruyt defected from van Rappard's branch of the Party to form his own *(Nationaal-Socialistische Partij (N.S.P.)* which, to add to the confusion,

he later rechristened the N.S.N.A.P. Smith and van Waterland seem to have given up fairly quickly and quit the field leaving as the main claimants to the title of N.S.N.A.P. the parties of van Rappard and Major Kruyt.

Both N.S.N.A.P.'s were slavish facsimilies of German originals. Banners carried the exhortation "Nederland ontwaak" (Netherlands awake) in blatant imitation of Hitler's "Deutschland erwache" (Germany awake). The swastika was, of course, the principal symbol of both. The van Rappard faction had this in black on an orange circle on a black flag (or brassard), Major Kruyt's version was closer to the original being blue on white within a red circle. The S.A. of the N.S.N.A.P. wore a brown shirt, brown tie, black breeches and the brown peaked cap with a black cap band. The black collar patches carried a system of ranks exactly modeled on that of the German S.A. The Dutch S.A. badge was the lion of the Netherlands upon an oak leaf wreath which encloses a black swastika. The N.S.N.A.P. had its own "Hitler Youth," known as the National-Socialist Holland Youth *(Nationaal-Socialistische Holland Jeugd,* or N.S.H.J.).

Service badge of the S.A. of the N.S.N.A.P.

Brassard worn by all ranks. Black with black swastika on orange circle.

"Storm flag" of an S.A. unit
Black flag, black swastika on orange circle.

Flag of the N.S.N.A.P.
Motto means "Holland awake"
Black flag, black swastika on orange circle. Yellow lettering.

Arm badge of a driver in the motor section of the S.A.

Don Frailey

Two versions of N.S.N.A.P. (Kruyt) lapel badge. (a) Blue swastika on white, red surround, silver lettering. (b) Blue swastika on sloping red/white/blue, orange surround with blue dots.

Badge of the Storm Troop of the N.S.N.A.P. (Kruyt) as worn on the tie.

N.S.N.A.P. of Van Rappard

Badge of the Troelstra Movement

"Old Fighter" (veteran Party member) of the N.S.N.A.P. (of Van Rappard)

Badge of Arnold Meyer's Black Front (later National Front)

Two versions of the badge of the Haighton Group "De Bezem" (The Broom).

The policy of both sections of the N.S.N.A.P. was quite simply the incorporation of the Netherlands into a Greater German Reich. With such a platform, it is not surprising that the N.S.N.A.P. did not command a mass following among the Dutch electorate! A strictly nationalistic *Dutch* fascist movement was to prove much more successful in this respect. It was the:

N.S.B.*(NATIONAAL-SOCIALISTISCHE BEWEGING)*

The N.S.B. (National-Socialist Movement) was founded on 14 December 1931 by civil engineer Anton Adriaan Mussert and, although clearly inspired by German example, did not adopt the swastika as its symbol. Instead it tried to stress its *Dutch* patriotism. The Party badge was a red/black triangle with, in the center, the national arms of the Netherlands - a gilt lion rampant on a shield of horizontal orange/white/blue.

In 1935 the N.S.B. polled 294,284 votes in municipal elections and won 44 seats on local councils. In the same year it extended its activities to the Dutch East Indies. In May 1937 it fought its first national election. It secured 171,137 votes - about 4% of the total poll and gained four seats (out of fifty) in the upper house of the Dutch parliament and four (out of one hundred) in the lower chamber. The leader of the N.S.B. parliamentary party was Marinus Rost van Tonningen.

In the municipal elections of 1939 the N.S.B. polled rather less than half the votes it had in the 1935 contest. Very clearly its fortunes were on the wane.

On 10 May 1940 the Germans invaded Holland. After only four days of confusion and panic, the Dutch surrendered. On 18 May Holland was declared to be a Reichskommissariat under the leadership of Arthur Seyss-Inquart. The N.S.B. once again came into the limelight, now as the most significant advocate of collaboration with the occupier. Mussert, as yet, held no official position and briefly his authority seemed to be challenged by a new nationalistic movement which sprung, almost unbidden, into being. This was the Netherlands Union *(Nederlandse Unie,* or N.U.). Created in July 1940 by a trio of leading Dutch citizens, it enjoined its fellow countrymen to adopt a "loyal" attitude towards the occupying power. It favored a "strong" government on corporatist and authoritarian lines and stressed the need for patriotism, but, on the orders of the Germans, avoided any reference to the House of Orange. The growth of N.U. was meteoric. Within seven months of its inception, it claimed a membership of 800,000 (eight times greater than that of the N.S.B.). But its decline was equally rapid. Its initial success had been due to misconception by both sides, the Germans mistook it for a collaborationist movement, the Dutch for a "patriotic" (i.e. anti-N.S.B) rally. When it turned out to be neither, the Dutch deserted it and the Germans suppressed it. After Hitler invaded Russia the N.U. refused to underwrite the German "crusade against Bolshevism" on the grounds that the Soviet Union was an ally of Great Britain. That was too much for the German authorities. Its

weekly newspaper "De Unie" was ordered to close down. Membership dropped; the party disbanded itself voluntarily, and the political field was left open to Mussert.

In November 1940 the N.S.B. gained a small legacy in the shape of the Dutch branch of Dinaso (see chapter on Belgium). A further minor gain was the adherence of Major Kruyt's N.S.N.A.P. which voluntarily merged with the N.S.B. But greater triumphs were to follow. On 14 December 1941 (the 10th anniversary of its foundation) the N.S.B. was granted, by the Germans, an exclusive political monopoly in the Netherlands. All other parties had to merge with it or face disbandment. Most preferred the latter. The majority of Arnold Meyer's Nationaal Front went over to Mussert, but Meyer himself quit politics in disgust. Ridder van Rappard was on active service with the Waffen SS and his 10,000 strong N.S.N.A.P. was already in an advanced state of disintegration. Its N.S.H.J. was, in August 1941, officially absorbed into the Hitler Youth (in Holland). Most active party members were already serving as volunteers in the German armed forces; what was left now fell in line behind Mussert.

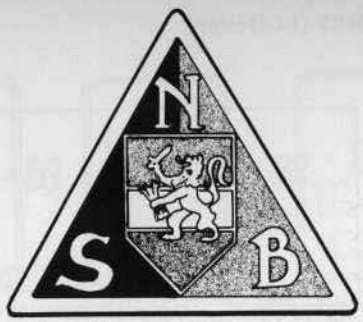
WARTIME ORGANIZATION OF THE N.S.B.

The N.S.B. was a highly organized and fully uniformed party with twenty-five Districts *(Streken)*, seventeen "Main Departments" and around forty "Fronts and Guilds" (i.e. corporatives for such groupings as civil servants, doctors, teachers, lawyers, businessmen, technicians, university students, etc.). There was even a Corps of Orators *(Sprecker-Corps)* to ensure a regular supply of public speakers and lecturers. It had, of course, its own "storm troopers" (the W.A.), Youth Branch *(Nationale Jeugdstorm)* and Women's organization (N.S.V.O.)

Uniforms: the basic N.S.B. uniform was all black - shirt, tie, tunic, trousers (or breeches), shoes (or top boots), peaked (or forage) cap. Political Leaders wore on the left arm an embroidered version of the triangular Party badge - in four different sizes according to rank. "Sympathizers" *(Sympathiserende Leden)* were allowed to wear a black shirt. On the lapel of their civil jackets they wore the gilt lion rampant on the national colored shield (i.e. the center piece only of the N.S.B. emblem). There were about 100,000 full members and around 30,000 "sympathizers."

(a) Political Leaders. With their all black uniforms, Political Leaders of the N.S.B. wore light blue collar patches with rank insignia as illustrated. The *Spreckercorps* had its own distinctive collar ranks. The "Fronts and Guilds" wore green collar patches, General Supervisory personnel - yellow, the Supreme Disciplinary Council - black patches with their own special rank insignia.

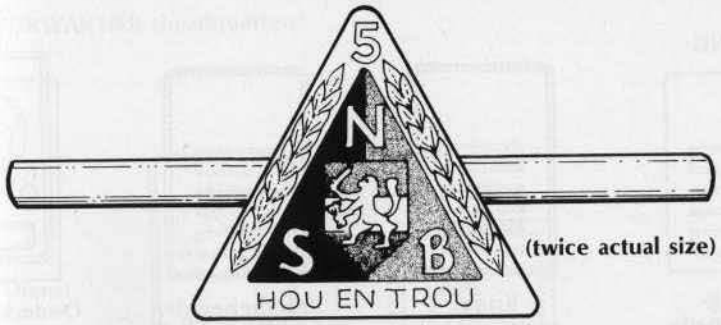
Early in 1942 the entire scheme of ranks was revised. It now followed almost exactly that of the SS, except that the rank insignia was gold on light blue or gold on black according to circumstances. Members of the "Fronts and Guilds" wore their Front or Guild emblem on the left breast pocket. Mussert wore only rank insignia on the shoulder - a gilt hand clasping a bundle of arrows. His Deputy, Rost van Tonningen,



Emblem of the N.S.B.

The above emblem was worn by Political Leaders of the N.S.B. on the left upper arm of their all-black uniform. It was in four different types depending on the rank of the wearer as follows:
(a) Small size, 60 x 60 x 60mm with a narrow gold outer "frame"
(b) As above but with a broad outer "frame"
(c) Large size, 75 x 75 x 75mm with narrow gold outer "frame"
(d) As above but with a broad gold outer "frame."

"Sympathizers Badge" of the N.S.B.



(twice actual size)

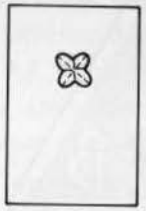
N.S.B. Five Years Service badge for female party members. The men's badge is exactly the same but without the brooch "bar." This is the normal membership badge with a gold surround, *"Hou en Trou,"* and numeral "5" at the apex.

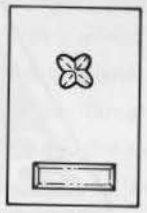
also had his own individual insignia - this was a gold wolf hook within an oak leaf wreath, worn on both collars. Political Leaders wore on their peaked caps the triangular N.S.B. badge on the band with the lion rampant of the Netherlands on the peak. The N.S.B. colors were red and black, these feature on all their flags and most of their medals and other emblems.

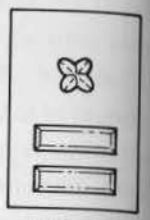
N.S.B. POLITICAL LEADERS (1st Design)

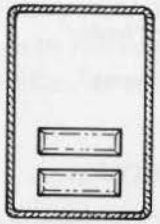
(A) BLOK and GROEP

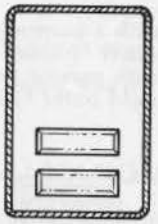
Werkend Lid

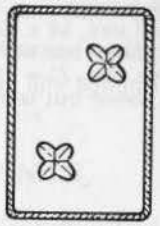

Blokleider


Buurtleider

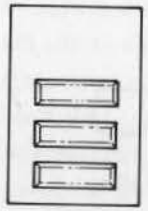

Groeps-functionaris

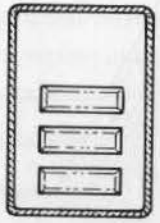

Groeps-administrateur (silver surround)

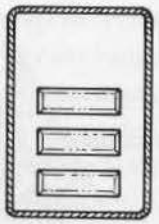

Groeps-beheerder (gilt surround)

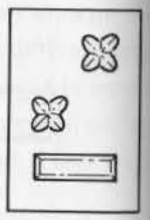

Groepsleider

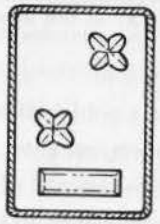
(B) KRING

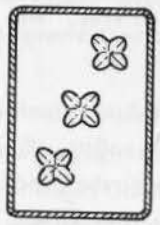

Kring-functionaris


Kring-administrateur (silver surround)


Kringbeheerder (gold surround)

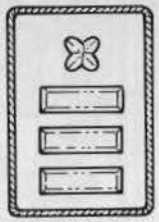

Onderkringleider

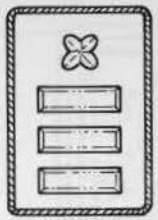

Plv. Kringleider

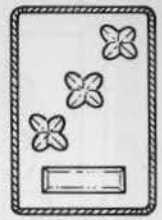

Kringleider

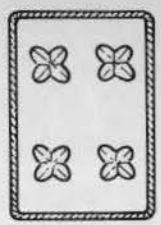
(C) DISTRICT

Districts-functionaris

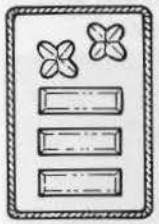

Districts-inspecteur (silver surround)

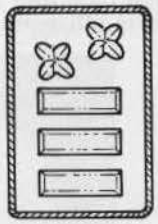

Districts-beheerder (gold surround)

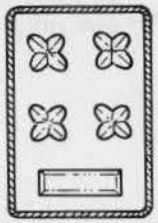

Plv. Districts-leider


Districts-Leider

(D) GEWEST


Gewestlijk Inspecteur (Admin. Finance, etc.) (silver surround)

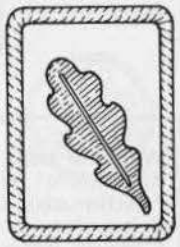

Geswetlijk Inspecteur (Personnel, Training, etc.)


Allgemeen Inspecteur (gold surround)

(E) HOOFDKWARTIER (headquarters)

Hoofd van Dienst

Editor of the magazine "Vova"


Plv. Hoofd van Afeeeling

Hoofd van Afdeeling

Adviseur van der Leider (all silver)

Gemachtigde van den Leider

Secretaris-Generaal

Note:
All collar patches are light blue with gilt emblems and gold wire surround unless where otherwise stated.

Right: C.J. Huygen, Secretary General *(Secretaris-Generaal)* of the N.S.B.

Vocabulary

Werkend Lid: Active Member
Buurtleider: Neighborhood Leader
Functionaris: Official
Beheerder: Manager or Director
Gewest: Region
Plv. (Plaatsvervanger): Deputy

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Helper

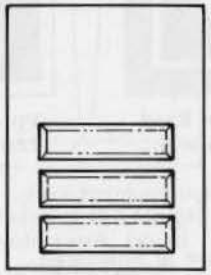
Medewerker

Leidinggevend Medewerker

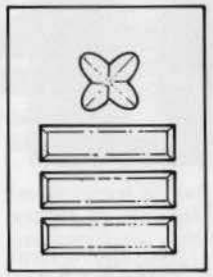
Adjunct Hoofd van Dienst (actual size from an example in Dodkins Collection).

Note:
All the above are silver on light blue

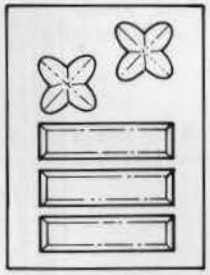
GENERAL SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL (ALGEMEEN TOEZICHT LEDEN)



Kringsapporteur



Districtshoofd



Gewestelijkhoofd

Hoofd van Dienst

Note:
All the above are silver on yellow

N.S.B. HOOGE RAAD VAN DISCIPLINE (SUPREME DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL)

(I) Lid 4 Schaar
(silver and black)

(II) Leider 4 Schaar
(silver and black)

(III) Lid van den Raad
(silver and black)

(IV) Leider van den Raad
(silver and black)

(V) Lid Hooge Raad
(gold and black)

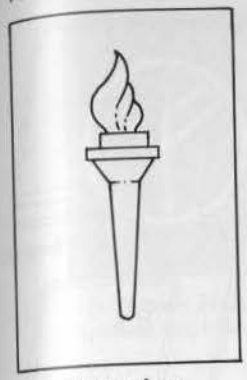
(VI) Plv. Leider Hooge Raad (Deputy Leader)
(gold and black)

(VII) Leider Hooge Raad
(gold and black)

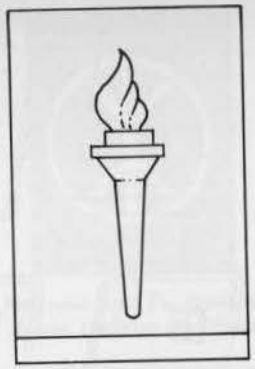
The above (and left) are as illustrated in the N.S.B. Year Book, but on the right is an actual example of the Leider van den Raad rank as in the Dodkins Collection.

(not to scale)

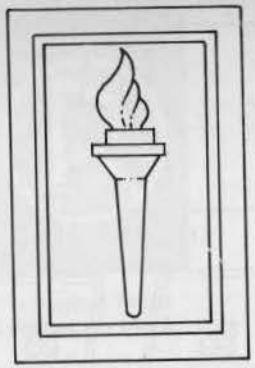
N.S.B. SPREKERCORPS (CORPS OF ORATORS)



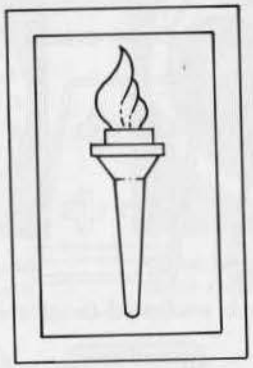
(I) Spreker
(gold torch)



(II) Inspecteur
(gold torch,
gold bar at base)



(III) Plv. Leider Sprekercorps
(Deputy Leader of the Corps)
(gold torch, gold inner "frame")



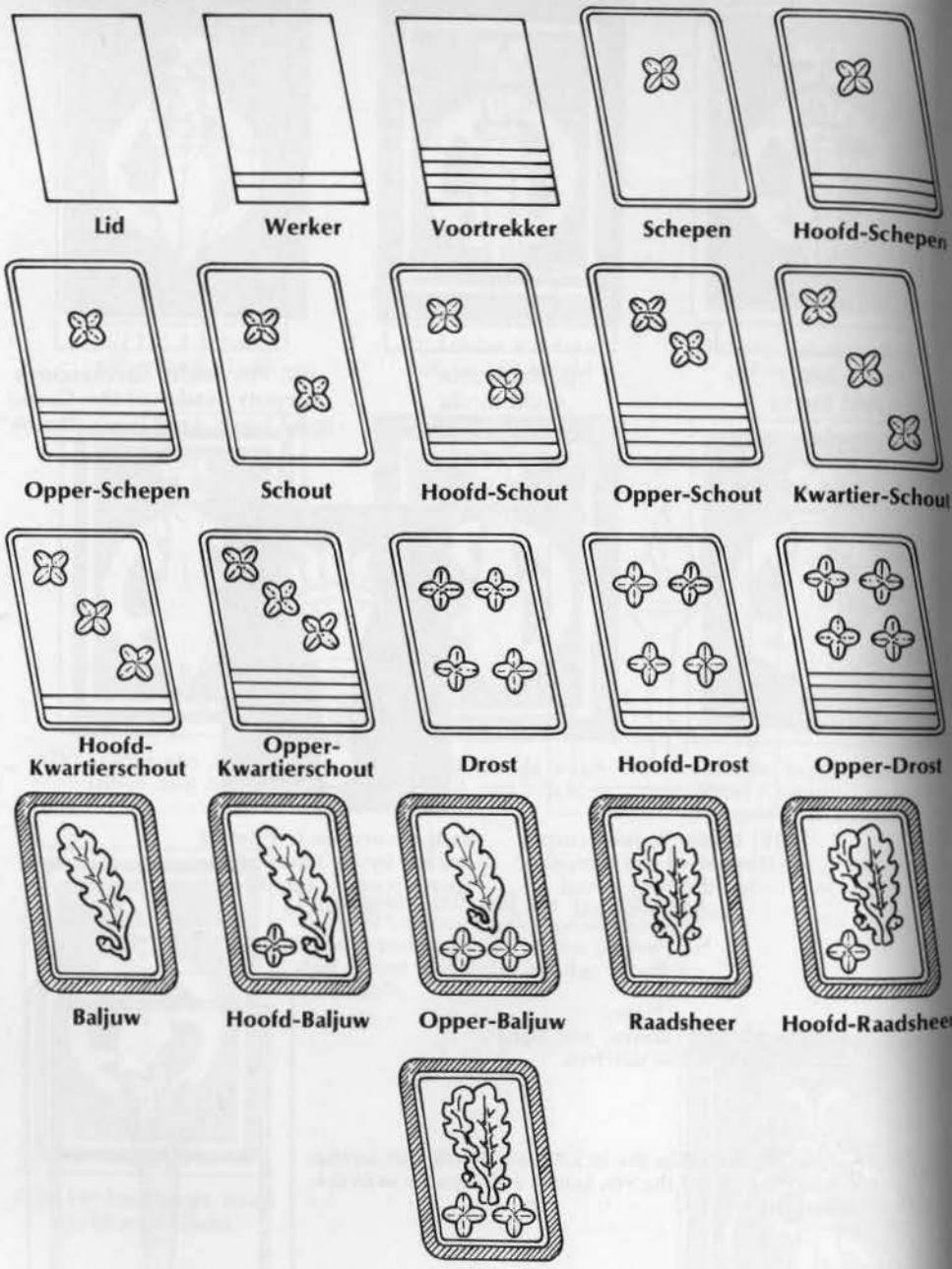
(IV) Leider Sprekercorps
(Leader of the Corps)
(gold torch, broad
gold surround)

Badge worn on left breast pocket by all ranks of the Sprekercorps. (gold torch on black)

Note:
All the above are light blue collar patches.

The above are as illustrated in the N.S.B. Year Book, but on the right is an actual example of the Plv. Leider collar patch as in the Dodkins Collection.

N.S.B. POLITICAL LEADERS COLLAR PATCHES
(2nd Design - 1942)



All the above are either gold on black or gold on blue according to function.

N.S.B. BREAST BADGES OF THE "FRONTS" and "GUILDS"

All the above are approximately half actual size.

(b) Leader's Bodyguard *(Lijfwacht v.d. Leider)* In August 1939 a "Mussert Garde" was formed from selected W.A. men to act as a personal bodyguard to the Party Leader. It was disbanded early in 1940 but reformed after the German occupation under the name *Lijfwacht v.d. Leider* (Bodyguard of the Leader). Like the rest of the para-military bodies of the N.S.B. it wore an all black uniform. At first there were a modest eight ranks (the highest being only Captain), but later this was expanded to thirteen with new rank insignia closely modeled on that of the SS, being worn on the left collar patch (gold on black). On the right collar patch the Leader's emblem (the hand with the arrows) was worn. This applied to all ranks except the three lowest which had the Leader's emblem on both collars. This same emblem featured as a belt buckle and as the lower half of the cap badge set. The upper part (worn only by officers) was the lion rampant in gilt. Cuff titles: *Lijfwacht v.d. Leider; Lijfwacht Mussert* and *Overste Mussert* (each is gold lettering on black) exist and were worn at different periods.

Ray Embree

Anton Mussert

Left: shoulder strap worn by the N.S.B. Leader (i.e. Mussert himself). Metal hand and sheaf of arrows in gilt. Mussert wore no other rank insignia. Right: Collar patch for Deputy Leader of the N.S.B. Gold oak leaves and "wolf hook" - worn on both collars. Black patch, gold wire "frame."

RANKS OF THE MUSSERT BODYGUARD (1st Design) (shoulder straps only)

Weerman (Trooper)

Konstable (Senior Constable)

Wachtmeester (Sergeant)

Opperwachtmeester (Senior Sergeant)

Vaandrig (Ensign)

Kompaan (2nd Lieut.)

Opperkompaan (1st Lieut.)

Hopman (Captain)

Note:
Rank insignia not worn on collar with this series.

RANKS OF THE MUSSERT BODYGUARD (2nd Design)

Weerman

Konstabel
(gold bar)

Wachtmeester
(2 gold bars)

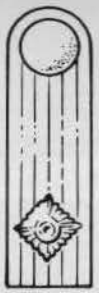
Opperwacht-
meester

Vaandrig

Kompaan

Opperkompaan

Deputy Leader's car pennant
Gold "wolf hook" on black
within a gold frame.



Hopman

Opperhopman

Onderbanleider

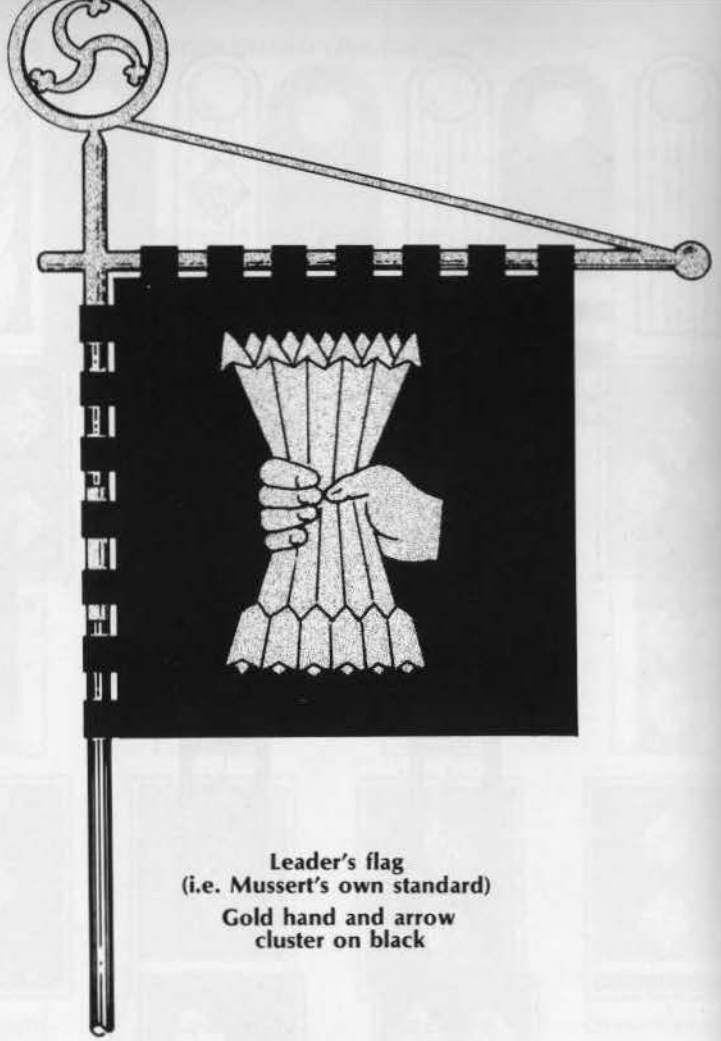
Banleider

Opperbanleider

Heerbanleider

Right: Collar patch worn on both sides by the three lowest ranks and on the right by all other ranks.

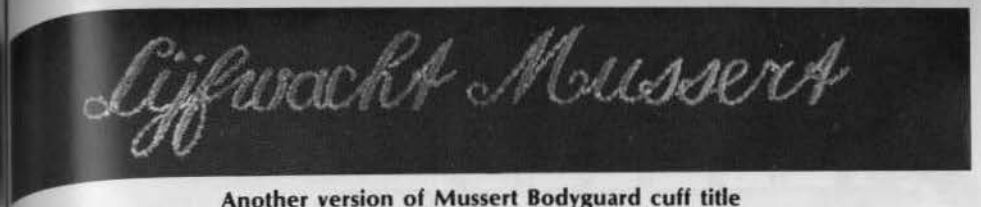
All the above are gold and black



Leader's flag
(i.e. Mussert's own standard)
Gold hand and arrow
cluster on black

Yellow design on black
(roughly "Chief" Mussert)

Yellow design on black
(Lijfwacht v.d. Leider - Bodyguard of the Leader)



Another version of Mussert Bodyguard cuff title
(yellow lettering on black)

Left: Officer's belt buckle of the Leader's Bodyguard - gold metal (example in Dodkins Collection).

Right: Officers' cap badge of the Leader's Bodyguard. Gilt metal. Non-commissioned ranks have only the lower half (i.e. they wore only the hand and sheaf of arrows, not the lion).

Right: Commemorative badge of the Mussert Guard. Silver wolf hook on red, black surround, silver lettering. But an alternative version has a gilt wolf hook and gilt lettering which reads "Mussert Garde Augustus 1939-1940."

District Flag *(Kringstandard)* of an N.S.B. District (here the number One District - Utrecht where the N.S.B. Headquarters were located).

Black flag with red/black edges. Word and numeral in gold. Party badge in full colors.

Flag of the N.S.B. (black: upper half; red: lower half. Party badge in full color in center).

(c) The W.A. *(Weer Afdeelingen)* These "Defense Sections" were the storm troopers of the N.S.B. They were first formed in November 1932 but had to be disbanded in December 1935 as a consequence of a prohibition of all political militias by the Dutch government following serious street disturbances.

On 15 May 1940 Mussert ordered ex-army Sergeant, A.J. Zondervan, to reactivate the W.A. Service was, at that time, voluntary and part-time - two or three evenings a week plus any special parades or other ceremonial occasions.

The uniform of the W.A. was all black with bright red collar patches. The reserve units (the R.W.A.) wore green patches. There was a Motor W.A. which developed from the pre-war Volunteer Motor Service (V.M.D.) and was to prove, from the Germans' point of view, the most useful branch of the W.A. So much so that, in January 1943 it was allowed to exchange its black uniform for the field grey of the German army. In August 1944 it became the *Nationaal-Socialistische Motor Korps* (N.S.M.K.)

There was a small flying branch *(Luchtvaart W.A.* or "Luwa" for short) and a Cavalry, or Mounted, W.A. *(Bereden W.A.* or "Berwa"). There were also Pioneer and Signals formations as well as a Naval Section *(Marine W.A.* or "Marwa"). The Music Corps of the W.A. wore black and red "swallows nests" on both shoulders.

The W.A. was organized as follows:

Unit	Under the command of (approximate English equivalents in brackets)	Consisting of
Vijfmanschap	*Konstabel* (Lance Corporal)	5 men
Wacht	*Wachtmeester* (Sergeant)	10 men
Schaar	*Vaandrig* (Ensign)	20 men
Groep	*Kompaan* (Leiutenant)	40 men
Vendel	*Hopman* (Captain)	80 men
Ban	*Banleider* (Major)	448 men
Heerban	*Heerbanleider* (Colonel)	896 men
Brigade	*Brigadeleider* (Brigadier)	1,792 men

Since, in reality, no single unit ever reached the strength of a Brigade, this last rank was never actually employed. In its place the rank of Opperheerbanleider was created and a Brigade became an Opperheerban.

There were nine Heerban as follows:

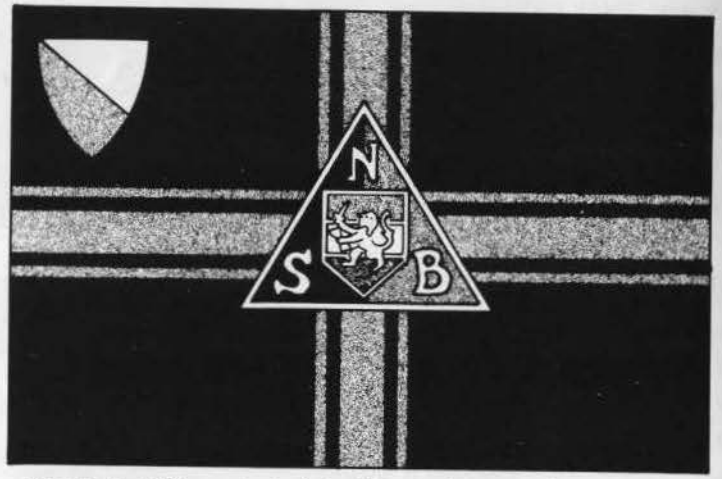
Heerban I	Amsterdam
Heerban II	The Hague
Heerban III	Rotterdam
Heerban IV	Tilburg
Heerban V	Maastricht
Heerban VI	Arnhem
Heerban VII	Deventer

Heerban VIII Groningen
Heerban IX Düsseldorf (Germany)

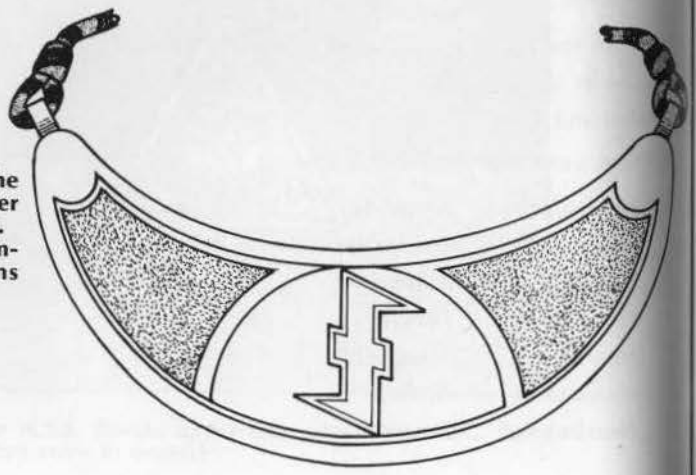
In addition there was an independent formation *(Ban I)* in Utrecht, the headquarters town of the N.S.B.

Each *Vendel* (Company) had its own *Stormvlag* (Battle flag) with, in the upper left quarter, a shield with the arms of the district to which it belonged. Reserve W.A. units had this shield outlined in green.

The W.A. had its own Police, or as it was later termed, Patrol, Service *(W.A. Politie,* later *W.A. Patrouilledienst)* whose members wore, on duty, a metal gorget with the wolf hook emblem. After 1943 they wore instead a white brassard with W.A.P. in black on the right upper arm.



"Battle flag" (Stormvlag) of the W.A. In the upper left quarter is the emblem of the District (here: Utrecht). Black with red cross and Party badge in full color in center.



Right: Gorget of the Police of W.A. Silver with red/black cord. (drawn from an example in the Dodkins Collection)

Vendel Peter Ton (Peter Ton Company) cuff title. Peter Ton was the first W.A. man to be killed by the resistance (on 7 September 1940). White lettering on black, white edges.

Vendel Hendrik Bannink cuff title.

Vendel Dietschland cuff title (white on black).

Certain units were granted the right to wear a cuff title. The first of these was the title *"Vendel Peter Ton"* issued on 5 November 1940 to honor the memory of the first W.A. man to be killed by the resistance (on 7 September of that year). Other known examples are:

Vendel Hendrik Koot
Vendel Hans Pelzer
Vendel Jacob Janse
Vendel Hendrik Bannink

All the above were issued under similar circumstances, i.e. all were named after fallen W.A. men. There was also a cuff title *"Vendel Dietschland."* The word *Dietschland* might be translated here as "Netherlandic region" (as distinct from the kingdom of the Netherlands) and this may have been for W.A. units in Flemish Belgium, although contact between Dutch and Flemish Nazis was expressly forbidden by the occupation authorities.

There was also a cuff title *INSTRUCTEUR* (Instructor) worn by officers engaged on training duties.

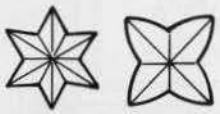
All W.A. men wore on the left upper arm a black/red triangle outlined in yellow with a yellow "wolf hook" in the center. In the case of administrative personnel, the yellow parts were replaced by silver. The top three ranking officers of the W.A. wore a rather larger version of this arm badge than the others. Rank was indicated by a system of stars and bars on the collar patch. These were in silver metal for administrative personnel, in bronze for others, and in gold wire for the highest ranking officers.

Arm badge for a W.A. Doctor (yellow on black)

A group of senior W.A. officers with, on the right, their "battle flags." The officer on the extreme right wears a cuff title INSTRUCTEUR (Instructor).

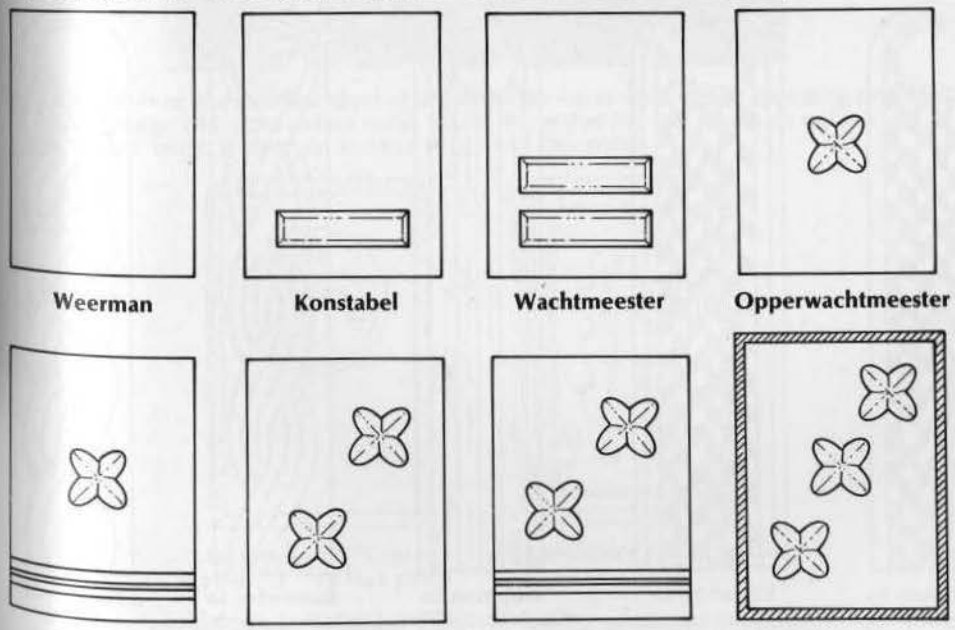
Arm triangle worn by all ranks on the left upper arm. It is two sizes, the larger being worn only by the top three officer ranks. (black/red with yellow wolf hook)

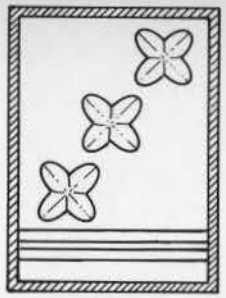
W.A. civil lapel badge. (blue wolf hook on white, with orange surround)



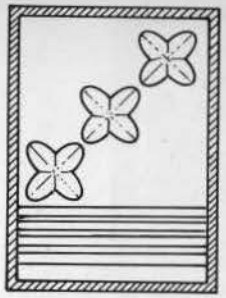
Two types of rank stars worn on the collar patches. (bronze)

W.A. RANKS
(Collar patches - all are gold designs on red and worn on both collars)

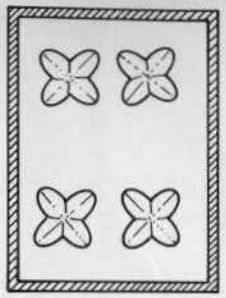




Opperhopman

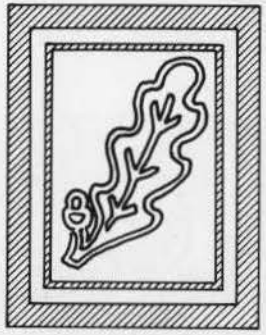


Onderbanleider



Banleider

Opperbanleider

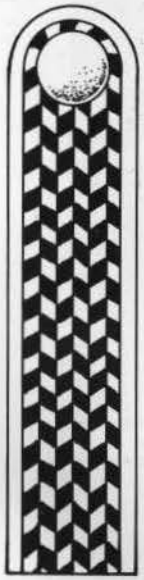


Heerbanleider

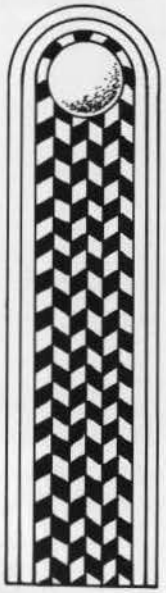
Opperheerbanleider

Commandant

W.A. SHOULDER STRAPS



Weerman to Opperwachtmeester (black and red)



Vaandrig to Opperkompaan (black/red/gold)

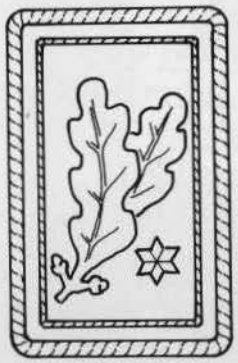
Hopman to Onderbanleider (gold)

Banleider to Opperheerbanleider (gold)

Commandant (gold)

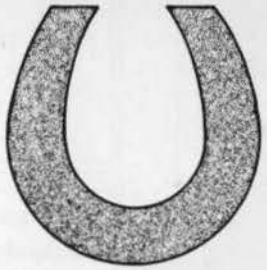
A.J. Zondervan, the Commandant of the W.A. He wears what would appear to be the second design of Commandant collar patch. Note that the oak leaves do not enclose the central circle as they do in later version of this patch.

1st design of "Commandant" collar patch



Brigadeleider collar patch

The above two ranks are shown in "De Zwart Soldaat" of 1940, but were replaced shortly thereafter.



Mounted W.A.
(This badge, like the other three is red for non-commissioned ranks, yellow for officers) (worn on left cuff)

Music Corps of W.A. (worn on left cuff)

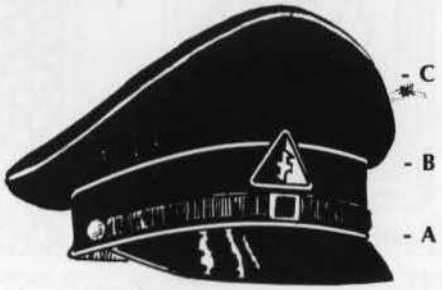
Motor W.A. (worn on left cuff) Also worn by members of the Transportactie

Flying Branch (officer)

The cap badge, worn on the band of the cap, was similar to the arm badge. Officers had the addition of a gilt lion rampant on the peak of the cap. Originally all personnel were entitled to wear the peaked cap, later its use was restricted to officers and senior N.C.O.'s. Other ranks wore the so-called *"Schiffchen,"* or forage cap. Officers could also wear this type of headgear off duty or on the march or in camp. Like the peaked cap, this black side cap was piped with red with, on the front, a gold "wolf hook." The *"Schiffchen"* is somewhat Spanish in appearance.

In August 1941 Mussert drew up an order that service in the W.A. would henceforth be obligatory for all physically fit male Party members between the ages of 18 and 40 years. By the autumn of 1942 the W.A. claimed a membership of 15,000.

There was an Officers Academy at Doorn and an N.C.O. Training School at Amersfoort.

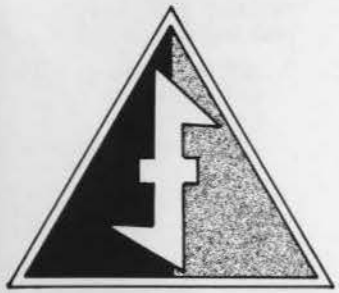


W.A. Konstabel's peaked cap (black with red piping)

Weerman
A & B are red
(There is no C)
Konstabel - Opperwachtmeester
A, B & C are red
Vaandrig - Opperkompaan
A & B are red; C is gold
Hopman - Banleider
A is red; B & C are gold
Opperbanleider - Commandant
A, B & C are gold

W.A. forage cap. Black with red piping, gold "wolf hook" on front.

Above: Mussert (left) with A.J. Zondervan, the Commandant of the W.A. Zondervan wears the third design collar patch with the oak leaves extended.



Above: cap badge for officers, triangle in black and red with gilt wolf hook and outline. The upper part is a silver lion which can be metal or as here, white cotton on black backing. Non-commissioned ranks wore only the lower part of the cap badge (i.e. the triangle).

W.A. officer with a very unusual collar patch not shown in the year book of the N.S.B. Possibly some honorary or inspectorate rank.

W.A. Sports (or Military Sports) Badge. It is in two classes - silver (i.e. white metal) and "gold" (i.e. bronze gilt). It was first awarded on 13 September 1941. (actual size is 53mm in diameter)

Combat Sacrifice plaque

Combat Sacrifice Badge (not actual size)

"Serve and Endure" Badge (not actual size)

The Combat Sacrifice badge was instituted in December 1941 and awarded to N.S.B. members who had "made personal or material sacrifices on behalf of the Party." The "Serve and Endure" badge was given to women members of the Party who had at least five years' service to their credit, "for outstanding acts of devotion to the Party."

W.A. "Old Fighters" medal

(d) The Dutch (Germanic) S.S. On 11 September 1940 the N.S.B. took the bold step of establishing its own S.S. within the framework of the Party. The initiative came, not from Mussert, but from the former leader of the Mussert Garde, J. Hendrik Feldmeyer. He created what was, at first, known simply as the *Nederlandsche S.S.* (Dutch S.S.). This he envisaged as the counterpart of the German *Allgemeine* (General) S.S., that is to say a "police" rather than a military formation. The uniform was the basic black one of the N.S.B., but ranks, worn on the left collar, were an exact facsimile of those of their German original, the names being merely literal translations into Dutch. On the left upper arm a badge similar to that of the W.A. was worn except that the "wolf hook" (and outline "frame") are silver instead of yellow - i.e. silver wire for officers, white cotton for others. The peaked cap had the same death's head badge as the German S.S., but above this was a silver metal "wolf hook." It may be pointed out here that this differs slightly from the "wolf hook" worn in the same place by members of the Flemish "Black Brigade." The Flemish version is smaller and sometimes found in silver wire, the Dutch version, on the other hand, is larger and always in metal.

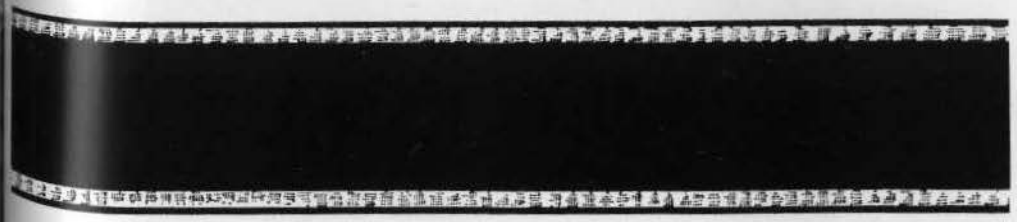
J.H. Feldmeyer, the leader of the Dutch, or Germanic S.S.

On the right upper arm the S.S. runes were worn on a black diamond in silver wire for officers, in white cotton for others. The "frame" or outline of this diamond is also silver wire for officers, other ranks had black/white intertwined cotton. On the right collar (up to the rank of *Standaardleider)* the regimental number was worn. Staff personnel had a plain black patch. Officers collar patches were piped in silver wire, other ranks had black/white cotton. All ranks wore on the left cuff a silver lined black cuff "title" (the word is put in inverted commas because, in fact, no unit ever received an actual name). All personnel could wear a "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap.

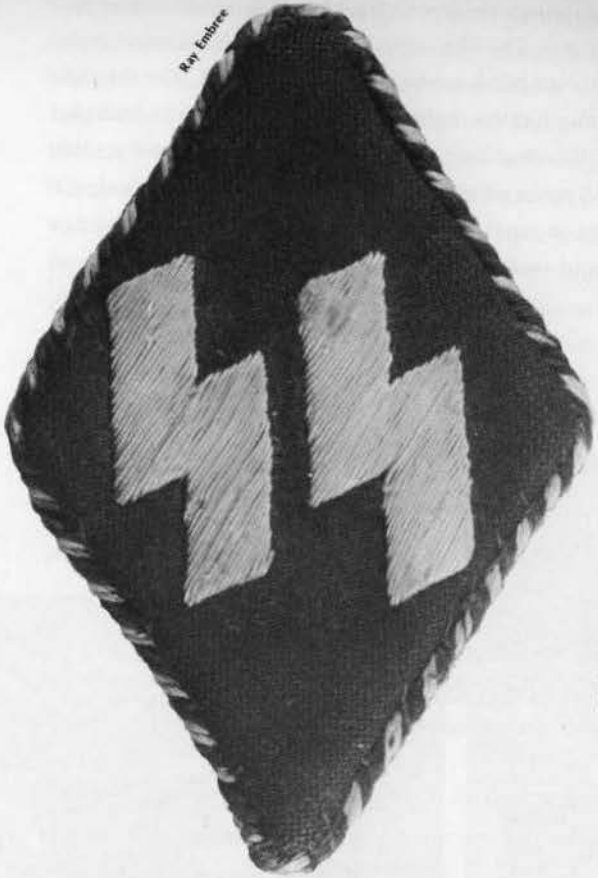
Cloth badge worn on left upper arm by all ranks.

Collar patch (both sides) for "Voorman"

Right collar patch for non-commissioned members of 5th Regiment.



Plain "blank" arm band worn by all ranks of the Germaansche S.S. in Nederland.



Lapel Badge for a "Sponsoring Member"
Black and silver. Numbered on the reverse.

Badge worn by all ranks on right upper arm. Officers have silver surround.

Feldmeyer had the unique rank of *Voorman* (Commander) and wore a unique collar device (on both collars) - a three-legged trifos (a symbol which occurs quite frequently among N.S.B. insignia). But after March 1943 Feldmeyer adopted the regulation single oak leaf collar device of an S.S. Colonel and now called himself *Standaardleider* (Dutch equivalent of *Standartenführer).*

On 1 November 1942 the name *Nederlandsche S.S.* was replaced by the more general term *Germaansche S.S. en Nederland* (the Germanic S.S. in the Netherlands). Up till this time the Dutch S.S. had been unquestionably one of the para-military subformations of the N.S.B., now, however, Mussert's control of it was greatly circumscribed since it was part of a greater Germanic S.S. under Himmler's orders. The Dutch S.S. men had to take an oath of loyalty to Adolf Hitler.

The Dutch (Germanic) S.S. had, on paper, a strength of five regiments plus an S.S. Police Regiment, but its membership, nominally 3,727 was in fact constantly depleted by voluntary enlistments in the Waffen S.S.

The concept of "Sponsoring Members" was also copied from Germany. Contributions of not less than one Florin per month (no upper limit was set!) entitled an individual to sport an oval badge with the S.S. runes and the letters *B.L. (Begunstigende Leden* - Sponsoring Member) and a white swastika. By 1944 there were some 4,000 of these "Sponsoring Members."

In addition to the Germanic S.S. in Holland itself, there were also Dutch volunteers (perhaps as many as 7,000) in the so-called *Germanische Sturmbann,* that is to say, General S.S. formations raised from among the large numbers of Dutch (and other) "nordic" workers in Germany. They were allowed to wear *Allgemeine S.S.* uniform, or parts of it (usually without the tunic) and were affiliated to existing German *Allgemeine S.S.* units in towns or cities with large concentrations of foreign workers.

Above: member of the Dutch, or Germanic S.S. with practice stick grenades.

Flag of the Dutch, or Germanic S.S.

(e) Women's Branch (N.S.V.O.) The Women's Organization of the N.S.B. *(Nat.Soc. Vrouwen Organisatie)* was first formed in November 1938 but due to doctrinaire beliefs that "a woman's place is in the home" it remained a comparatively secondary affair. It was divided into two sub-sections, *"Meta"* for adults and *"Pullen"* for girls.

(f) Youth Branch *(Nationale Jeugdstorm)* The youth section of the N.S.B. dated from May 1934 when it was established by Cornelis van Geelkerken who was to remain its "National Leader" *(Hoofdstormer)* throughout its existence. Before the war it had only about 1,200 members, but by the autumn of 1942 this had swelled to 18,000. The *Jeugdstorm* was divided into the following groups:

Meewen (Sea Mews): boys between the ages of 10 and 13 who wore a light blue shirt, navy blue tie, navy blue (or black) short trousers, belt, blue/grey knee length stockings and an astrakhan cap.

Meewkes (Sea Mews - female!): girls between the ages of 10 and 13 years. Their uniform consisted of a light blue shirt, navy blue (or black) skirt, (no belt), navy blue tie, navy blue stockings, the same type of headgear as the boys.

Stormers (Storm Troopers): boys between the ages of 14 and 17 years. They wore the same uniform as the *Meewen* except that they had the addition of a cross strap with the belt and, on the left upper arm, a sea mew on a circular background.

Stormsters (Storm Troopers - female!): girls between the ages of 14 and 17 years. They had the same uniform as their younger sisters except that they were allowed to wear a belt (without a cross strap). On the left upper arm they had a sea mew above the letter "M" on a diamond shaped cloth background.

The above was the summer dress. In winter the boys wore a dark blue "battle dress" type of tunic and long trousers of the ski variety - in fact very much the same uniform as that of the Hitler Youth (winter).

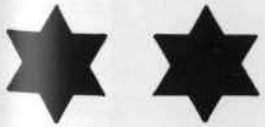
Rita Fleischmann

O. De Ruiter, leader of the N.S.V.O. in 1942.

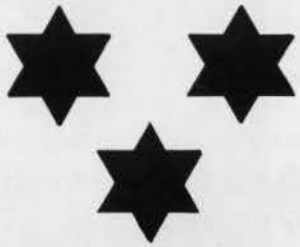
Rita Fleischmann

Cornelis van Geelkeerken

N.S.B. JEUGDSTORM RANKS (1st Type)



Troepleider



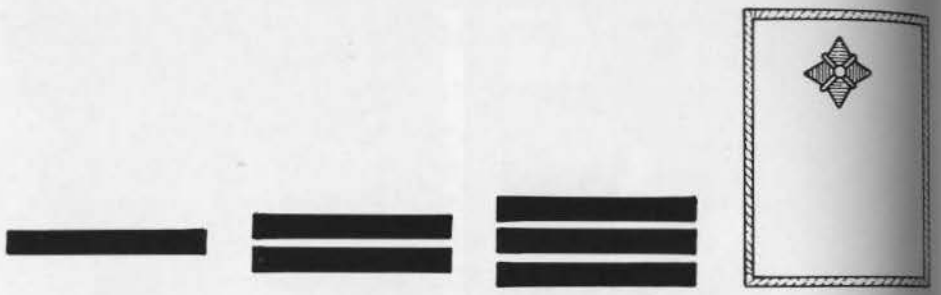
Vaandrig

(a) Troepleider: two black stars and black aguilette from right shoulder to left breast pocket.
(c) Vaandrig: three black stars and a black aguilette
(c) Onderkompaan: one silver star and an orange aguilette
(d) Kompaan: one gold star and a black aguilette

(e) Standaard Kompaan: one gold star and an orange/black aguilette
(f) Onderhopman: two silver stars and an orange aguilette
(g) Hopman: two gold stars and a black aguilette
(h) Onderkommandant: three silver stars and an orange aguilette
(i) Kommandant: three gold stars and a black aguilette. Also a 30mm wide orange stripe down the outer seams of the trousers.

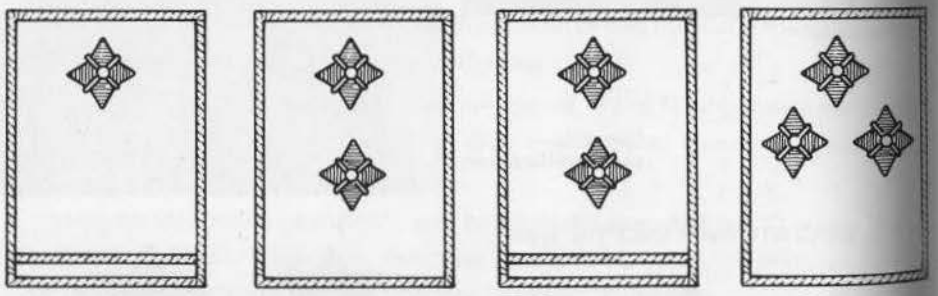
The Dutch regulations state that the above stars of rank are to be worn on the left upper arm, but photographs show the stars being worn on the flap of the left breast pocket (by both boys and girls).

N.S.B. JEUGDSTORM RANKS (2nd Type after 1942) BOYS (STORMERS)

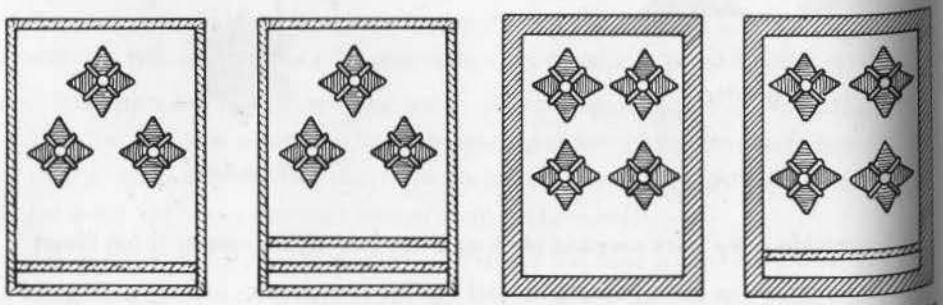


(1) Voortrekker (2) Wachter (3) Opperwachter (4) Vaandrig

Ranks (1) to (3) worn on arm or pocket of shirt (black bars)



(5) Oppervaandrig (6) Kompaan (7) Opperkompaan (8) Hopman



(9) Opperhopman (10) Hoofdhopman (11) Stamheer (12) Opperstamheer

(13) Hoofdstamheer (14) Banheer (15) Opperbanheer (16) Kornel

(Ranks 4 to 10 are gold wire on royal blue. Ranks 11 to 16 are silver wire on royal blue.)

Above: Badge of Honor of the Jeugdstorm. (a gilt sea mew on blue circle with gilt surround, colored enamel)

Brassard for Hoofdstormer" (i.e., national leader). Half actual size (Dodkins Collection). Black brassard with gold wire sea mew and gold wire waves on light blue circle with gold wire surround.

Nationale Jeudgstorm officer's belt buckle.

Nationale Jeugdstorm non-commissioned ranks belt buckle.

Wim. Saris

"German style" belt buckle for non-commissioned ranks.

Right: badge worn on the black astrakhan side cap by all Jeugdstorm ranks (actual size)

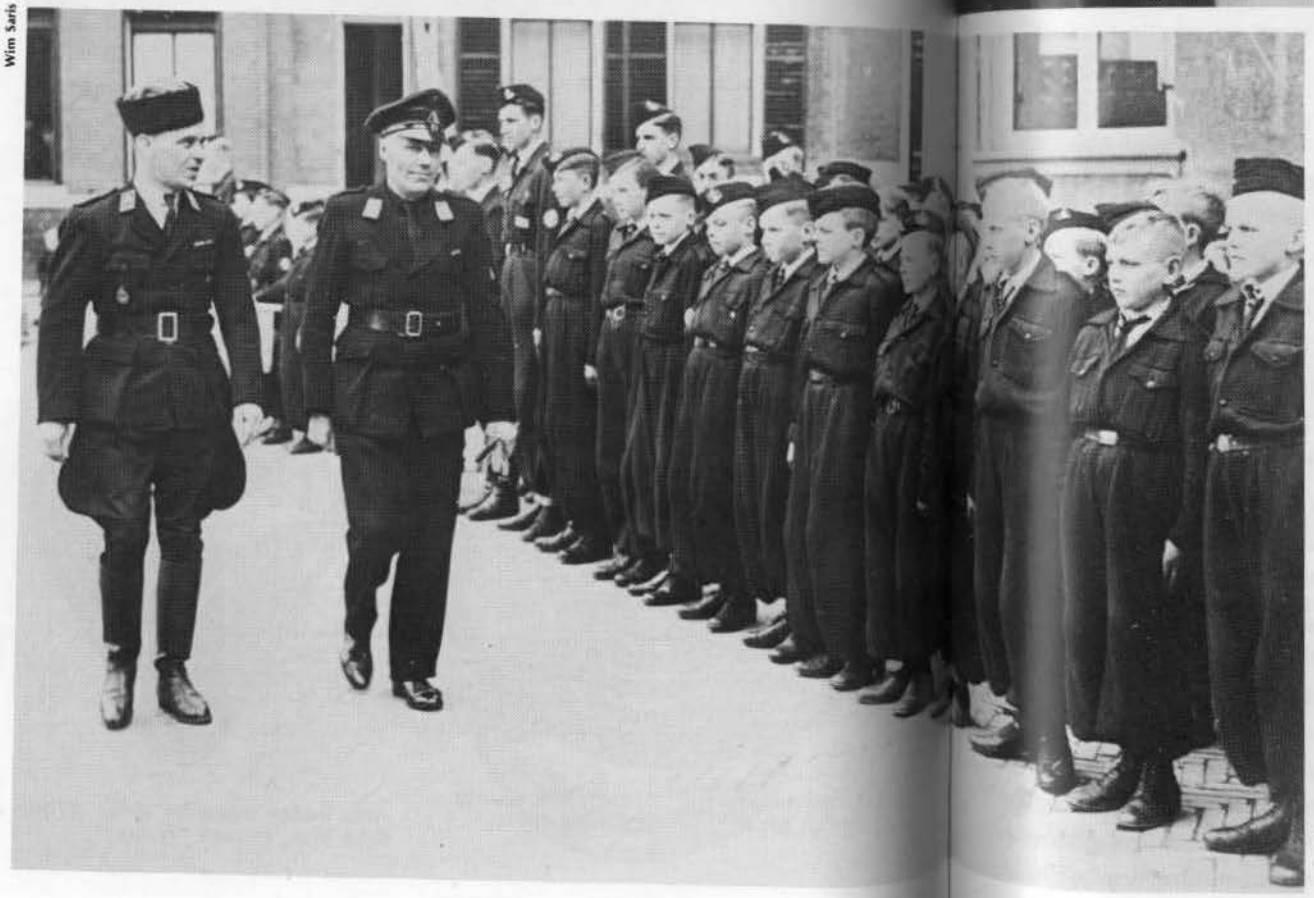
Parade of boys and girls of the Jeugdstorm (circa 1943).

Arm badge worn by Stormers. White design on light blue, orange circle.

Arm badge worn by girls. White on light blue, orange "frame."

Cloth badge for sports vest. White on light blue, orange circle.

Wim Saris

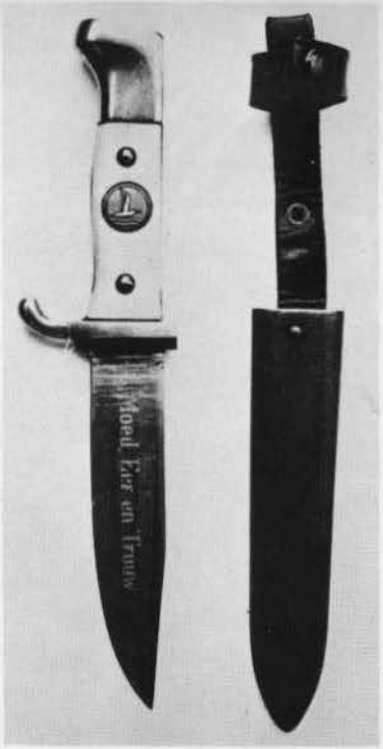


The Jeugdstorm of Zutphen parade in honor of the inauguration of the new mayor (April 1944).

O. Spronk

A Jeugdstorm officer (obviously a veteran from the Eastern Front) drills young recruits (note the German style belt buckle).

F. J. Stephens



Left: dagger of the Jeugdstorm. The motto on the blade "Moed, Eer en Trouw" means "Courage, Honor and Loyalty."

(a) (b)
Above: N.S.B. Jeugdstorm Sports badges (a) for girls; (b) for boys. (Both badges are bronze.)

There was a Motor Section and an Air Section *(Luchtvaartjeugdstorm* - raised in 1943) and a *Marine Jeugdstorm* (raised in 1944 and dressed in naval type uniform). All *Jeugdstorm* members, officers and boys (except the *Marine Jeugdstorm)* wore a black astrakhan cap with a red top and, on the left side, a white sea mew on a blue circle. It is interesting to note that both the Dutch and the Flemish youth used this sea bird as their principal emblem, although the Dutch bird takes a much more naturalistic form.

Male officers (adults over 18 years) could wear black breeches and top boots; those above the rank of *Hopman* (Captain) could also wear a black tunic and "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap. Female officers wore a black skirt and tunic with a beret which had the sea mew in a circle badge on the left side.

There was a major change in rank insignia sometime in 1941. Initially ranks had been indicated by a combination of different colored stars and lanyards (or aguilettes). The stars were worn on, or above, the flap of the left breast pocket (even though dress regulations state "the left upper arm!"). This original type of insignia was worn by both sexes, but the new gradings took different forms for each sex. Male officers wore ranks on royal blue collar patches; while female ranks were in the form of circles on the left arm. The male ranks make an interesting comparison with (a) the Hitler Youth and (b) the Flemish N.S.J.V. For example, the *"Stamheer"* rank has four stars as it has in both the N.S.J.V. and the Hitler Youth (where it is called *Stammführer).* There are many other such similarities.

Other features of the *Jeugdstorm* uniform were: Leaders of a Region *(Gewest)* had broad silver piping round both collar patches, also on the left breast pocket they wore a shield with the coat of arms of their region. The following initials were worn by specialist officers on the left shoulder strap:

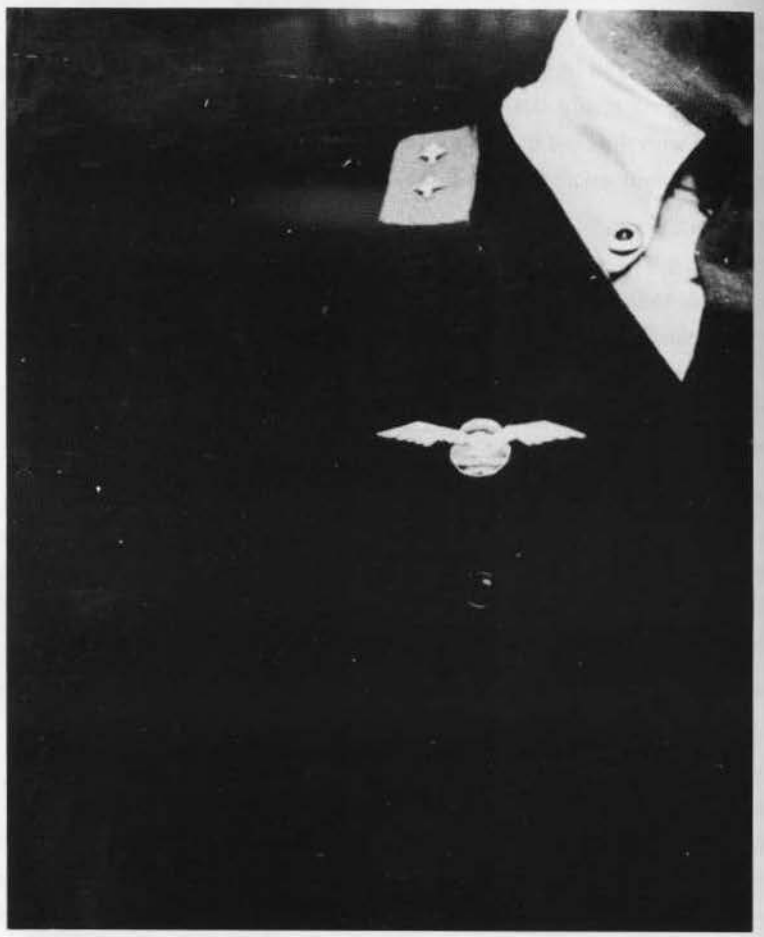
A for Administration
F for Finance
P for Propaganda
S for Secretarial Staff
I for Instructors
VI for Company Instructor
TI for Troop Instructor.

Jeugdstorm Inspectors wore standard officer uniform but with the addition of a black cuff band with a silver wire sea mew. Musicians wore, originally, orange colored "swallows nests," but after 1940 this was changed to a blue tassel from each shoulder. In 1944 a badge for drummers was introduced. This is a white lyre on a blue circle; 1st Class drummers had this enclosed in a narrow light blue circle.

On the left sleeve specialist instructors wore a badge to indicate the subject they taught as follows:

Horn playing: a French horn
Drumming: Crossed drum sticks
Music (other than the above): a harp
Sport: a football
Unarmed combat: a hand
Signaling: crossed signal flags
First aid: An Aesculapius staff
Swimming: two "waves"

Left: Badge of a Jeugdstorm Medical Officer.



A Jeugdstorm officer (Kompaan) wearing the "wings" badge. This is for a pilot. Probably introduced about 1942.

Officer's cap badge (gilt wire on navy blue). Actual size. (From an example in the collection of Count Vitetti.)

Marine Jeugdstorm cap band. Gold lettering on black (Dodkins Collection).

Daggers do not appear to have been standard, but may have been given as a mark of distinction. The blade is inscribed *Moed, Eer en Trouw* (Courage, Honor and Loyalty). Photos show Dutch Legion men being presented with honorary *Jeugdstorm* daggers.

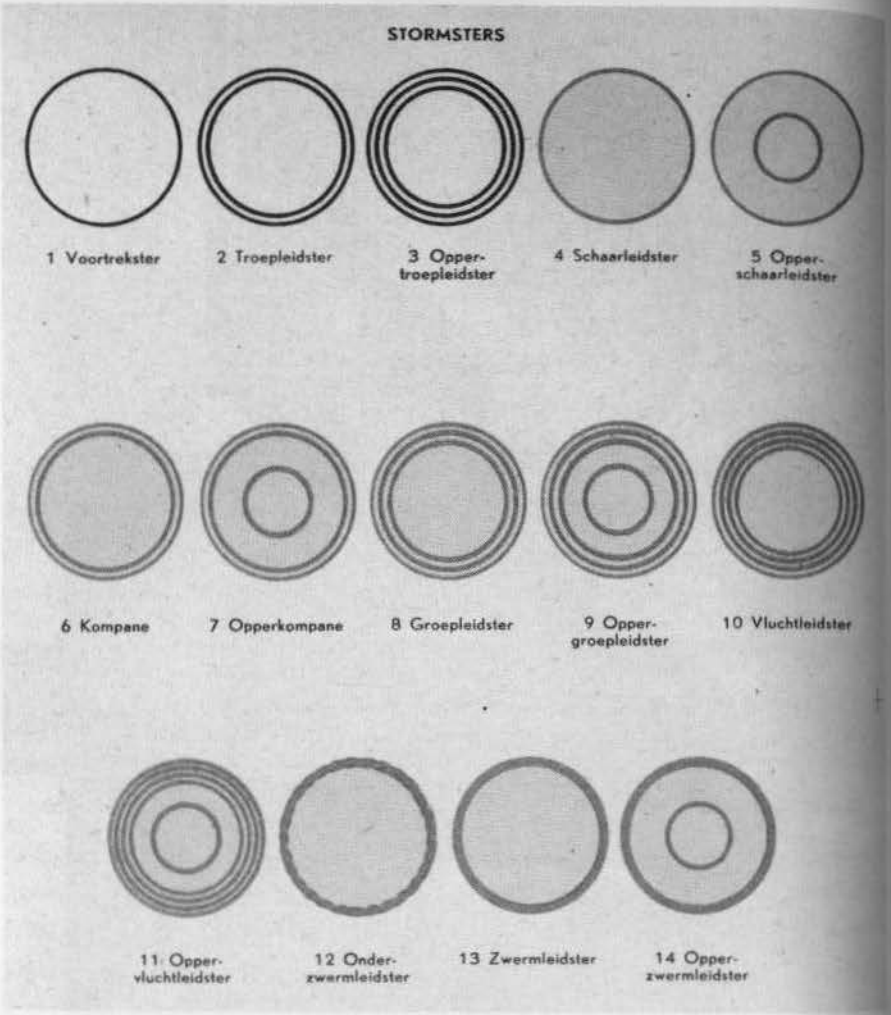
The *Jeugdstorm* organization was as follows (the boys formations are given first, the girls, where the title differs, second in brackets):

Trek ..... about six persons
Wacht (Troep) ..... about twelve persons
Schaar ..... about thirty-nine persons
Vendel (Groep) ..... 160 persons
Stam (Vlucht) ..... 650 persons
Ban (Zwerm) ..... 3,200 persons.

There were cadre schools at Ommen, Wijk aan Zee and Zandvoort for male officers, and at Blaricum (near Hilversum) for female officers. The normal duration of an officer course was three months.

(g) *N.S. Studentenfront* The National-Socialist Student Front is not to be confused with the *Jeugdstorm* as its members were older than the upper age limit for the

N.S.B. JEUGDSTORM - STORMSTERS (FEMALE SECTION) RANKS



Jeugdstorm, and were students either at Dutch universities or at German universities with a large Dutch student body.

(h) Dutch Labor Front *(Nederlandsche Arbeids Front,* the N.A.F.) A "Dutch Labor Front" was set up in direct imitation of the German D.A.F. in July 1940 by the N.S.B.'s spokesman on labor questions, H.J. Woudenberg. It turned out, however, to be something indistinguishable from a fiasco since all the important Dutch trade unions refused to have anything to do with it.

(i) *Landstand* Hardly more successful than the above was the *"Landstand"* - a Dutch facsimile of the German *Reichsnährstand* (National Food Estate). Under the leadership of another top N.S.B. official, E.J. Roskam, it was intended to introduce corporatist practices into Dutch agriculture but made little headway against the opposition of Dutch farmers. Food production was too important to risk disruption by the

imposition of unwelcome doctrinaire concepts, so the Germans did not permit the *Landstand* to press its policies further than mere propaganda and exhortation.

DUTCH LABOR SERVICE

With the collapse of armed resistance in May 1940 some 300,000 Dutch soldiers were taken prisoner. Unlike their French counterparts they were almost at once set free and allowed to return home. In order to absorb this sudden influx of men onto a disorganized labor market, a Reconstruction Service *(Opbouwdienst)* was created in June 1940. This Service, originally of about 64,000 men, wore an olive green uniform and was under the direction of Major J.N. Breunese, a Dutch army officer, not an N.S.B. man. But on 23 May 1941 the *Opbouwdienst* was replaced by the Dutch Labor Service *(Nederlandse Arbeids Dienst,* or N.A.D.). Service in its ranks was now made obligatory for young persons of both sexes on attaining the age of eighteen. In fact compulsion was not actually applied until well into 1943 and then only to males. The period of service for conscripts was six months; volunteers and cadre personnel could sign on for longer periods. At any given time there would be some 21,000 young persons (around 15,000 male and 6,000 female) on service at its 48 units *(Abteilungen)* in various parts of the Netherlands.

In the autumn of 1941 Major Breunese resigned in protest at the ever increasing infiltration of the service by members of the N.S.B. After his departure the N.A.D. became more openly collaborationist.

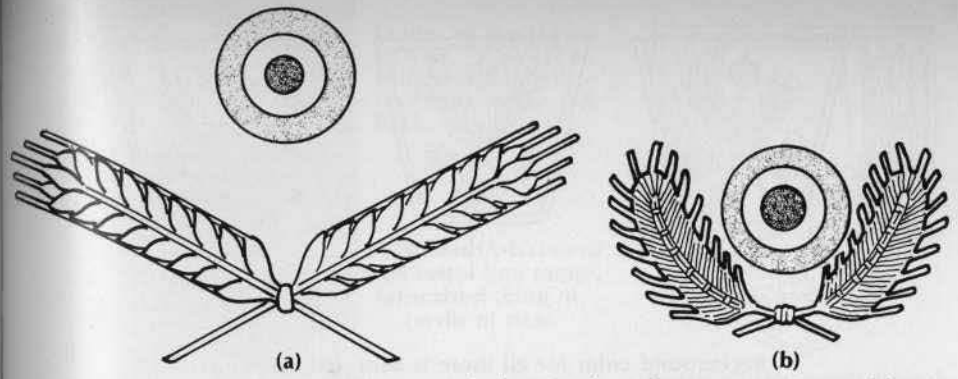
Although normally duty was done only in the Netherlands, the N.A.D. sent a corps of volunteers, the *Groupe Oost* or *Oostkorps van de N.A.D.* (Group "East," or East Corps of the N.A.D.), to serve alongside German R.A.D. units in the German rear in Russia in the spring of 1943. Members of this formation wore a wine red cuff title with the word *OOSTKORPS* in white.

The uniform of the N.A.D. was brown and consisted of a tunic buttoned to the neck (officers could wear it open with a white shirt and black tie), trousers or, for officers, breeches, forage cap or, for officers and senior N.C.O.'s, a peaked cap. Officers wore top boots, other ranks jack boots or, off duty shoes. The female branch *(Arbeidsdeinst voor Meisjes,* or A.D.M.) had an open necked brown tunic and brown skirt. Their headgear was a brown beret.

Rank was indicated on wine red collar patches on both sides. The scheme of ranks being based roughly on that of the Dutch army although new names were coined to avoid giving the impression of too military a body. The men's emblem was a spade within ears of barley and with the motto *Ick dien* (I serve). The girls had a three-legged mobile swastika within a circle of barley ears. This was worn as a brooch at the throat; rank (there were only seven female grades) may have been indicated by its color in the manner of the female R.A.D. The N.A.D. was unarmed, although it did perform a type of arms drill with spades.

C.M. Dodkins

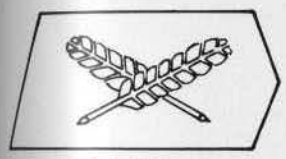
N.A.D. "Onderhopman" (roughly 1st Leiutenant)



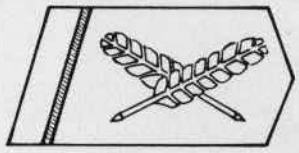
(a) (b)

(a) and (b): two versions of officers cap badge. With (a) the rosette is in metal, but with (b) the rosette is woven into the cap band. There is also a version of the cap badge with red barley leaves instead of yellow. This was for senior non-commissioned ranks.

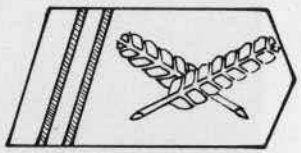
N.A.D. (LABOR SERVICE) RANKS (worn on both collars)



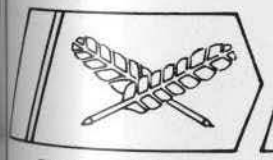
Arbeidsman
(heads of barley in bronze)



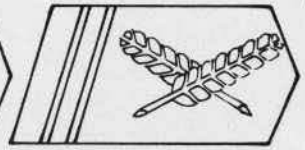
Voorman
(bronze heads of barley plus one vermillion stripe)



Werkmeester
(as before but with two vermillion stripes)



Onderopzichter
(bronze heads of barley, gold stripe)



Opzichter
(as before but two gold stripes)

Hoofdopzichter
(gold wire, silver button)

Adspiranthopman
(gold wire barley, silver star)

Onderhopman
(as before but two silver stars)

Hopman
(as before but with three silver stars)

Arbeidsleider
(gold wire barley, silver star, gold piping)

Hoofdarbeitsleider
(as before but with two silver stars)

Opperarbeidsleider (as before but three silver stars)

Generaal-Arbeidsleider (upper and lower stars in gold, horizontal stars in silver)

Commandant (four gold stars)

Background color for all these is wine red (maroon).

A Dutch Labor Service Senior N.C.O. (Opzichter) who wears the N.A.D. Sports Badge and, above this, what would appear to be the civil badge of the German R.A.D. It may be that members of the N.A.D. who completed courses at an R.A.D. camp in Germany were allowed to wear this badge. The ribbon from his second buttonhole is probably that of the German War Merit Cross (K.V.K.) 2nd Class.

Leader of the Dutch Labor Service, Generaal Arbeidsleider L.A.C. De Bock.

Badge of the men's branch of the N.A.D. The motto means "I serve."

Above: Sports Badge of the N.A.D. In one class only, silver. Worn on the left breast pocket. Can also be worn as a miniature on a ribbon.

Andrew Mollo

Officers and N.C.O.'s of the N.A.D. Note the triangular collar patches on the greatcoats.

Brooch worn at throat by female section of the N.A.D.

OOSTKORPS

Cuff title of Oostkorps (or Groupe Oost) of the N.A.D. White lettering on wine red (example in Dodkins Collection).

(a)

(b)

Left: Arm badge worn by female members of the N.A.D. (a) is actual size and was worn by non-commissioned ranks. The edge is white cotton. (b) is officer's type (not actual size) and has a silver wire wreath and silver wire edge.

"Gruppe Niederlande" der R.A.D.

In addition to having a Labor Service of their own, the Dutch also provided volunteers (possibly about 300 in all) for the German State Labor Service (the R.A.D.). The number was sufficient for an all-Dutch unit to be formed, known as *Gruppe Niederlande.* They wore the standard R.A.D. uniform but with an orange-red/white/blue shield on the left upper arm, in the center of the white part of this shield was the word *NEDERLAND* (Dutch spelling) in black. Dutchmen also graduated as R.A.D. officers. Like the *Oostkorps* of the N.A.D., the *Gruppe Niederlande* saw active service in the German rear in Russia (between May and October 1942). Normally R.A.D. personnel were unarmed, but due to Partisan activity, guards were permitted to carry rifles or revolvers.

Dutch shield worn on left upper arm.

Dutch volunteers in the German Labor Service.

S.S. Regiments *"WESTLAND" and "NORDWEST"*

In the summer of 1940 the S.S. established at Munich a *Standarte* (Regiment) *"Westland"* which volunteers between the ages of 17 and 23 from the Netherlands and Flanders were invited to join. The response was good. By February 1941 a contingent of some six hundred Dutchmen and a slightly smaller number of Flemings, had joined the Regiment at its Munich depot. During the winter of 1940/41 the *"Westland"* was absorbed into the Waffen S.S. to form one of the three constituent regiments of the freshly raised 5th S.S. Division *"Wiking."* Volunteers wore a cuff title *"Westland"* and the standard S.S. runes collar patch.

Encouraged by the readiness with which "nordic" young men were coming forward, Himmler ordered that a second non-German regiment, the Volunteer Regiment *"Nordwest,"* be raised. This order was dated 3 April 1941. The new formation

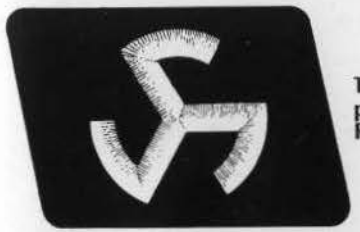
was now open to Danes as well, as previously to Dutchmen and Flemings. But unlike the previous volunteers, those of the *"Nordwest"* were granted the distinction of their own special collar patch. This was the so-called trident sunwheel - a three-legged mobile swastika. The strength of the Regiment was set at 2,500. Again there was no lack of volunteers. Training was carried out initially in Hamburg, later in the "General Government" (Poland) where the regiment was split into two separate contingents - one Dutch, the other Flemish.* By the end of August 1941 the *"Nordwest"* had a strength of 1,400 Dutch, 805 Flemings and 108 Danes, but the war against Russia had already broken out and national "legions" were being raised in each of these three countries with the result that, the following month, the *"Nordwest"* was disbanded and its constituent nationals redistributed to their respective ethnic legions.

*The Dutch were at Krakow, the Flemish at Radom.

Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks in the Westland Regiment. White cotton "W" (sometimes in the form of a slip-on tab). Officers have a metal "W."

Cuff title of the Westland Regiment.

It has to be pointed out that although the *"Nordwest"* Regiment ceased to exist, two other formations bearing the name *"Nordwest"* continued in being. The Higher S.S. and Police District Nordwest embraced Holland. Members of the staff of this District wore a cuff title *"Nordwest"* - this can, however, be distinguished from the cuff title of the *Standarte Nordwest* in that it is in Gothic script, whereas the regimental type is in Latin script. A guard unit set up by the Higher S.S. and Police District Nordwest, after the disbandment of the Nordwest Regiment, took the title *S.S. Wach-Bataillon "Nordwest"* (S.S. Guard Battalion "North West"). This unit had four companies, one of which was largely for ceremonial duties (at S.S. Headquarters in the Hague), the others acted as guards at the concentration camps which were now being established in various parts of the Netherlands. The Guard Battalion *"Nordwest"* consisted of Dutch volunteers with German cadre personnel. It does not appear to have had a cuff title, but may have worn as its collar patch an upright "wolf hook."



Three-legged mobile swastika collar patch introduced for the Northwest Regiment in April 1941.

THE DUTCH VOLUNTEER LEGION

After Hitler's attack on Russia on 22 June 1941 immediate appeals were put out by both the N.S.B. and by Ridder van Rappard's (at that date still extant) N.S.N.A.P. for patriotic young lads to volunteer to help in Germany's struggle. On 10 July the German *Reichskommissar* in the Netherlands, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, announced the establishment of a Dutch Volunteer Legion.* This was to be placed under the control of one of the N.S.B.'s "star" members, Lt. General H.A. Seyffardt, the 69-year-old former Chief-of-Staff of the Netherlands Army (in retirement since 1934).

Lt. Gen. H. A. Seyffardt

*Known in German as: *Freiwilligen-Legion Niederlande* and in Dutch as: *Vrijwilligers Legioen Nederland.*

On 26 July the first draft of volunteers paraded in the Hague, some in civilian clothes, some in N.S.B. black, a few in the uniform of the Dutch Army. The next day the new legionnaires were presented with a flag in the traditional Dutch colors - orange/white/blue.* They were then moved by rail to hamburg to begin basic training. A second contingent followed on 17 August bringing the total number of Dutch volunteers to around one thousand. Sufficient members of the W.A. enlisted to allow for the formation of an all-W.A. Battalion within the Legion. It became the 1st (W.A.) Battalion of the 2nd Regiment of the Legion. On 11 October 1941 General Seyffardt personally handed it a special pennant with the W.A. "wolf hook" emblem.

*The present-day Dutch flag is red/white/royal blue. The change to darker colors is variously accounted for by heraldic experts, the simplest explanation is that it made for greater clarity at sea.

In January, 1942 the Legion was sent to the front at Leningrad accompanied by its own all-Dutch Red Cross unit and its own Propaganda company (of some 50 reporters and press cameramen). The Legion served continuously at the front until April 1943 when it was brought home to Holland and the following month officially disbanded 20 May 1943 at Grafenwohr, Germany. Its survivors then became the basis of the Panzer-Grenadier-Brigade *"Nederland"* whose history will be related in due course.

Uniforms: from the start the Legion wore standard Waffen S.S. uniforms but with its own distinctive right hand collar patch - the so-called "wolf hook." This was found in two types: (a) horizontal and (b) vertical. The latter variety was sometimes white cotton, sometimes silver wire, occasionally silvered metal. Horizontal, in white cotton, was the "regulation" type introduced under a German order of November 1941 supposedly to replace the previous locally made types, although in practice, the vertical types continued to be worn by some members of the Legion (as well as by others, the normal S.S. runes!).

Note the vertical "wolf hook" (Dutch made) being worn on the right collar.

Forman Collection

(a)
(1st Type Dutch made)

(b)
(Dutch made)

Forman Collection

(c)
(Dutch made)

The SS-Oberschütze at right wears the tyle "C" arm badge and the collar patch with the horizontal "wolf hook."

Forman Collection

(d)
(Dutch made)

German made arm shield. Red rather than orange, royal blue rather than sky blue, also a royal blue surround.

Armband "Frw. Legion Nederland." Silver on black. Note that Nederland is in the Dutch, not German, spelling.

German made "official" collar patch (introduced 11 November 1941).

Dutch made patch with metal "wolf hook."

Dutch made patch with woven "wolf hook."

The same diversity applied to the arm shield and cuff title. The Dutch were permitted to wear on the left arm a shield in their national colors. At least four Dutch-made versions exist: (a) horizontal red/white/blue rectangle, (b) small shield with orange/white/light blue, the colors sloping from upper left to lower right, (c) a rather larger shield with the same colors but sloping in the opposite direction; it is rounded at the base and (d) as before but the colors sloping the opposite way, i.e. the same direction as type (b). The German "regulation" type (introduced in November 1941) is rather like the Type "C" Dutch-made version except that the orange-red is replaced by bright red, and the light blue by royal blue. There is also an inner "Frame" of blue. Like the other types, it is backed with black. The national emblem was intended to be worn just above the cuff title on the left cuff, but some early versions were worn mid-arm.

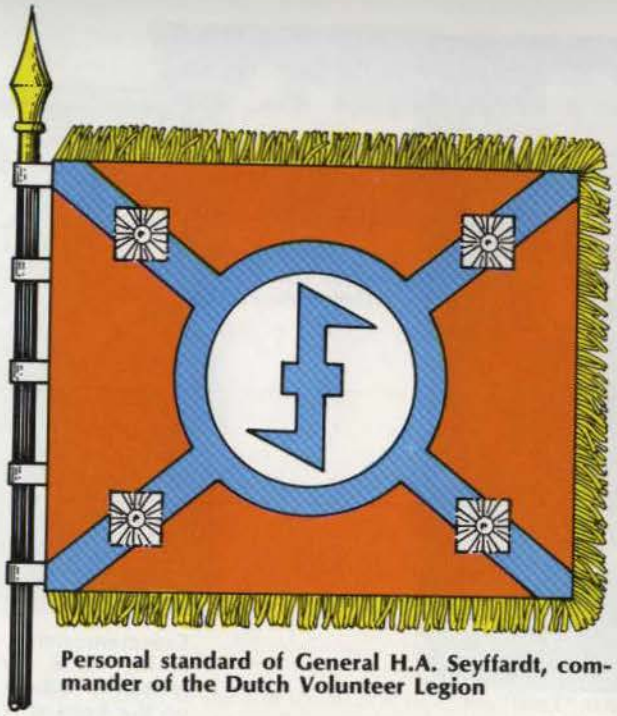
The cuff title was likewise subject to considerable variation. Correctly it is in German spelling as *Frw. Legion Niederlande* (Volunteer Legion Netherlands) - this was laid down in the German ordnance of November 1941 which also standardized the collar patch and arm shield designs. However, before this official version had been produced, the Dutch had improvised a *Legion Niederlande* cuff title (not very expertly made if one is to judge from existing examples!). A German-made version exists with *Frw. Legion Nederland* (that is to say, with the last word in *Dutch* spelling, although the other two are still in German).

After the assassination by the Dutch resistance of General Seyffardt on 5 February 1943, Hitler honored his memory by awarding the 1st Company of the Dutch Legion a cuff title, *GENERAL SEYFFARDT.*

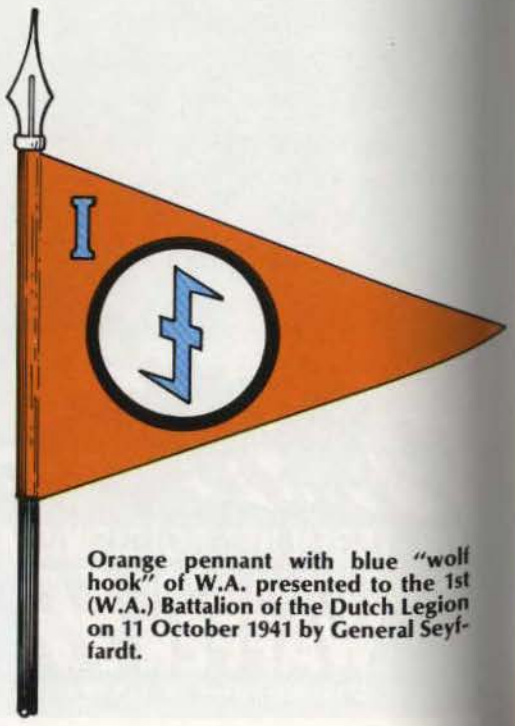
Mussert Cross

Commemorative plaque of the N.S.B. for former members killed fighting on the Russian Front.

"Prove you are a true Dutch man, join the Waffen S.S." (shade of Admiral De Ruyter in the background.)



Personal standard of General H.A. Seyffardt, commander of the Dutch Volunteer Legion



Orange pennant with blue "wolf hook" of W.A. presented to the 1st (W.A.) Battalion of the Dutch Legion on 11 October 1941 by General Seyffardt.

Mussert, on his own initiative, instituted a special decoration, the so-called "Mussert Cross," for bravery in the Legion, but Hitler would not permit its distribution on the grounds that the Dutch volunteers were eligible for all German war decorations and war badges. Indeed, shortly before the disbandment of the Legion, *S.S. Rottenführer* Gerardus Mooyman became the first "Germanic" volunteer to be honored with an award of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (for, it is said, knocking out 17 Soviet tanks in only two days).*

Dutch Red Cross personnel serving with the Legion wore the Legionary national shield on the left upper arm of their German Red Cross uniforms.

S.S. Rottenführer Gerardus Mooyman is invested with the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (March 1943). He was the first Dutchman to receive the Knight's Cross. Note the Dutch arm shield worn above the cuff title of the Volunteer Legion.

*Mooyman was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class on 4 February 1943, the 1st Class on 10 February, and the Knight's Cross on 20 February. The actual conferment of the Knight's Cross took place on 17 March 1943.

N.S.K.K., *TRANSPORTACTIE, Etc.*

Almost as active as the S.S. in the recruitment of Dutchmen was the N.S.K.K. The victories of 1940 which left Hitler master of most of central Europe also placed an additional burden on Germany's overstretched military transport arm. The occupation authorities were consequently always on the outlook for foreign drivers. In Holland the Motor W.A. provided a useful pool of these. Shortly after the start of the occupation an *Alarmdienst* (Alarm, or Emergency Service) was formed to provide auxiliary transport for the German forces in Holland. Members of this formation wore their Motor W.A. (or other N.S.B) uniform, or if not members of Mussert's party, civilian clothes. But on 12 January 1943 the service was renamed the *Transportactie* (literally: Transport Action) and went into German field-grey - or, if this was not immediately available, into ex-Dutch Army uniform which, at that date, was of a shade not unlike field-grey. On the left upper arm all members, whether ex-Motor W.A. or otherwise, wore the black/red triangle with the yellow "wolf hook" which was the W.A. arm badge and also, on the left cuff, the red wheel of a Motor W.A. driver. Collar patches were not W.A. red, but black.

In addition to the above, the German army also raised a small unit of civilian drivers, mainly to assist with work on military construction projects. This was known as the *Kraftfahrt Transport Dienst* (Motor Transport Service), later, after April 1942 as the *Kraftfahrzeug Überführungs Kommando* or K.u.K. (Motorized Transportation Commando). On duty in the Netherlands its Dutch members wore a brassard with a metal tag with *Auslandischer Kraftfahrer der Wehrmacht Kfz. Überführung*...(Foreign Driver of the Armed Forces Motorized Transportation...below this was the number of the unit). When, under the pressure of circumstances, some K.ü.K. drivers had to be pressed into service in the German rear in Russia, they were allowed to wear uniform - usually ex-French Army khaki dyed black and were permitted to carry arms for their defense against Partisan attack - again mainly "second-hand" French Army weapons.

The N.S.K.K. was so successful in drawing into its ranks young Dutchmen that Hanns Albin Rauter, the Higher S.S. and Police Chief in the Netherlands, had (in November 1943) to issue an order forbidding the N.S.K.K. to accept anybody under the age of 30; younger volunteers were to be directed to the offices of the Waffen S.S.!

The Dutch section of the N.S.K.K. consisted of volunteers in the following formations:

N.S.K.K. Gruppe Luftwaffe
N.S.K.K. Staffel W.B.N.
N.S.K.K. Todt/Speer

In the autumn of 1943 the aforementioned *Transportactie* and K.ü.K. were made part of the *N.S.K.K. Staffel W.B.N. (Wehrmachts-Befehlshaber - Niederlande* - Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Netherlands). Volunteers signed on for one year or the duration of the war and wore field-grey with N.S.K.K. rank and other insignia.

Left: example of "Foreign Motor Transport Driver of the Armed Forces" metal tab sewn on the brassard of a Dutch civilian driver in the service of the German army.
Kfz (Kraftfahrzeug) Überführung III - Motorized Transportation (Section) III

Dutch volunteers in the N.S.K.K. They wear Luftwaffe uniform with N.S.K.K. collar patches and shoulder straps. They wear as their "nationality badge" the arm badge of the W.A.

Dutch volunteers attached to the N.S.K.K. sections of the *Todt* (later *Speer*) construction service wore either *Todt Organisation* brown or olive green. In both cases with N.S.K.K. insignia and ranks. Only one item of N.S.K.K. uniform was not worn by the non-German volunteers. This was the N.S.K.K. arm badge. In its place foreigners wore an emblem indicative of their country of origin. Each country also had its own *"Waffenfarbe"* (i.e. the color which backed its shoulder straps and forage cap triangle). The Dutch *"Waffenfarbe"* was red. Their nationality emblem was a black/red triangel with yellow "wolf hook" - the badge of the W.A., but worn by *all* Dutch volunteers whether ex-N.S.B. or not.

Badge worn on side of black forage cap. N.S.K.K. emblem on red triangle.

Arm badge worn by Dutch N.S.K.K. (even though not members of the N.S.B.) Also by members of Transportactie.

Unidentified cuff title, possibly for the N.S.K.K. motor School "Niederlande" at Limburg, or for the N.S.K.K. Regiment Niederlande sent to the Eastern Front. (Example in the possession of W.P.B.R. Saris).

Cuff title of N.S.K.K. Nederland.

Right collar patch with metal N.S.K.K. badge on black.

Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks (red piping).

Mussert inspects N.S.B. volunteers in the N.S.K.K. Staffel W.B.N. (Transport Unit of the German Commander-in-Chief Netherlands).

In October 1942 the N.S.K.K Todt and N.S.K.K. Speer were renamed N.S.K.K. *Transportgruppe Todt* (later N.S.K.K. *Gruppe Speer*, later still, in 1944, *Transportkorps Speer*). In these formations a curious melange of dress was worn, often foreign uniforms dyed black. It was decided to standardize an olive green for both German and non-German personnel, but this came too late in the war to effect a complete change with the result that field-grey, black, O.T. brown and olive green uniforms were all worn concurrently! Foreign volunteers in the *Transportkorps Speer* were allowed to wear an arm shield in their national colors - presumably, in the case of the Dutch, a red (or orange)/white/blue horizontally-colored shield - but there is no photographic evidence of this.

Dutch N.S.K.K. volunteers at the funeral of a comrade. They appear to wear a mixture of Dutch Motor W.A. and German N.S.K.K. uniform. The breeches are Dutch, and the tunic is German! The all-black uniform is Dutch W.A. An interesting feature is the

National Archives

"wolf hook" emblem on a black shield on the side of the steel helmet. The collar patch badge is the N.S.K.K. eagle.

Most, in fact, of the Dutch N.S.K.K. volunteers came under the jurisdiction of the German Luftwaffe and wore its blue-grey uniform (with, of course, N.S.K.K. insignia). In January 1942 N.S.K.K. *Gruppe Luftwaffe* was created under Air Force General Wimmer in Brussels which brought together under one command Flemish, Walloon and Dutch N.S.K.K.

The Dutch N.S.K.K. saw active service in Russia as the N.S.K.K. *Regiment Niederlande* (a cuff title N.S.K.K. *Nederland* exists and may have been worn by this Regiment). At a conference on 6 August 1942 General Kraus reported to Göring: "We have thousands of Dutchmen in transport regiments in the East. Last week one such regiment was attacked. The Dutch took more than a thousand prisoners and were awarded twenty-five Iron Crosses." Scores of Dutch N.S.K.K. men fought and perished as part of the German 6th Army at Stalingrad (a fact seldom mentioned in accounts of this epic battle). Possibly around eight or nine thousand Dutchmen served in the various branches of the N.S.K.K.

Left: arm shield possibly for Dutch members of the Schutzkommando of the Todt Organization.

An interesting collection of Dutch Nazi uniforms. Left to right: a Hopman of the N.A.D. (Labor Service), member of the Volunteer Legion "Niederlande" with "wolf hook" collar patch, member of the Dutch (or Germanic) S.S. Dutch Waffen S.S. volunteers with normal S.S. runes collar patches (between them, in the rank behind can be seen a Volunteer Legion "Niederlande" man with the German made horizontal "wolf hook" collar patch.

OTHER MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY VOLUNTEERS

(I) Navy Rather surprisingly for a nation with an adventurous and distinguished marine tradition, more Dutchmen were to be found in Germany's land forces than in her navy. Perhaps only about 1,500 Dutchmen served in the *Kriegsmarine*. The first appeal for naval volunteers (in the 18 to 35 age group) was not made until as late as May 1943. A German recruiting poster shows a Dutch volunteer wearing on his left upper arm a shield in the Dutch colors surmounted by the word *NEDERLAND*, but the Dutch archives have failed to produce any photographic evidence to substantiate the existence of such a badge, and it must be assumed that it was never worn. Volunteers wore only standard German naval uniform.

(II) *Schutzkommando der O.T.* The Guard Unit *(Schutzkommando)* of the *Todt Organisation* enrolled Dutch volunteers over the age of thirty, many of them former W.A. men. The W.A. newspaper *"Zwarte Soldaar" speaks of "thousands of former W.A. men serving with the Schutzkommando* throughout Europe." It is not certain if the Dutch had a special arm badge, but a rather oddly shaped Dutch national shield on a brown backing does exist (in a private collection in England) and this may have been the Dutch *Schutzkommando* arm badge.

(III) Technical Emergency Service The *German Technische Nothilfe (Teno)* or, in Dutch, *Technische Noodhulp*, was introduced into Holland in July 1941 as a semi-civilian (albeit uniformed) formation for technicians and engineering specialists. About 60 to 70 Teno units of varying sizes were quartered in the Netherlands under the control of the Luftwaffe. Dutch volunteers wore either the blue-grey of the Luftwaffe or the black Teno uniform (which was not unlike that of the N.S.B.). It does not seem that the Dutch wore any distinctive national emblem. Often "uniform" was no more than white overalls with the *Teno* cog wheel badge on the left upper arm.

(IV) *Wachabteilung* (Guard Detachment) Set up in July, 1943, this was a home-based unit for men too old for active service - a fact which won for this geriatric unit the sarcastic nickname of "The Bismarck Youth!" Their uniform is described as "frog green" with a Nazi eagle and swastika of the army type worn above the right breast pocket. On the left upper arm an orange/white/blue shield was worn. The *Wachabteilung* incorporated the former *Westdeutscher Wach- und Schutzdienst* (West German Guard and Defense Service) formed in March 1941 as an auxiliary of the Luftwaffe. It also took over the *Wachdienst Niedersachsen* (Lower Saxony Guard Service), a factory security formation which had also been formed in 1941; both of these former units had included some Dutch volunteers. The *Wachabteilung* carried out roughly the same type of duties as the *Garde Wallonne* and *Vlaamsche Wacht* in neighboring Belgium, that is to say, they formed part of the static defense of German military installations, airfields, or native factories working for the occupation authorities. The *Wachabteilung* carried small arms.

Forman Archive (U.K.)

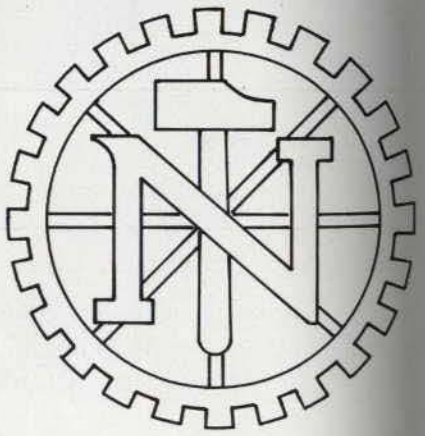
Dutch volunteers being sworn in to the German Navy. But none wear any special Dutch insignia. The uniform is entirely German.

(V) S.S. *Postschutz* The Postal Defense Force of the S.S. also employed a number of over-age Dutch volunteers. Whether they wore any special national arm badge is not known.

(VI) German Army Dutchmen served in the German army as individual volunteers, never, as in the Waffen S.S., in an all-Dutch unit. It is highly doubtful if they wore any distinctive nationality emblem of any sort.

A recruiting poster for Dutchmen to join the German Navy. It reads: "Out of harbor!" "Dutch honor revives" "Join up in the Kriegsmarine." The interesting feature is the Dutch national arm shield surmounted by the word "Nederland" worn on the left upper arm. This poster is, of course, only an "artist's impression" and the author can find no evidence of the existence of such a national arm shield with, or without, the word "Nederland."

Above: A German officer reviews Dutch volunteers in Teno. The Dutchmen do not appear to have any special Dutch insignia. On the left upper arm of their white overalls they wear the Teno badge as illustrated (right).
The two men nearest the camera are Dutch Police who are also S.S. members (it is just possible to make out the S.S. runes both wear on, or below, left breast pocket). The cuff title of man nearest camera is "Syberen Tulp."



POLICE AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES

In addition to bringing in their own police (both civil and military), the German occupation authorities set about reorganizing the admittedly rather chaotic structure of the Dutch police which had remained more or less unaltered since its establishment by a previous conqueror (Napoleon!). A new body, the Communal Police, replaced the multifarious municipal forces in the larger cities (each of which had, prior to this, its own distinctive uniform). The S.S. designed the Communal Police uniform which they modeled on their own. (Black, but without an open neck and tie.)

NATIONAL POLICE RANK INSIGNIA

Collar patches blue with silver wire stars or "bars" Left: actual size of officer rank star. (Also found with black collar patches - possibly for original Landwacht.)

The occupation authorities decided that the Dutch police required to be "stiffened" with an infusion of politically more reliable members. As a first move in this direction, some 3,000 soldiers from the demobilized Dutch army were selected for special training under S.S. direction. For this purpose the Police School at Schalkhaar (near Apeldoorn) was used. The new officers of the law were consequently referred to by the Dutch public as the *"Schalkhaar Police"* - a force which quickly acquired an ugly reputation. Some police units wore cuff titles in the manner of the S.S., and any policeman who was also a member of the Dutch (Germanic) S.S. could wear the S.S. runes on the left breast pocket of his tunic.

A Volunteer Police Auxiliary *(Vrijwillige Hulp-Politie)* was formed in May 1942. This could be called out to take part in any special "emergency action" - the term included the round-up and deportation of Dutch Jews. In Amsterdam alone there were 1,047 of these Volunteer Police. In October 1942 the W.A. was granted "police powers in the event of an emergency" by Seyss-Inquart.

The task of guarding the concentration and Jewish transit camps which had sprung up all over Holland was undertaken by the Nordwest Guard Battalion and the so-called Control Commando (*Kontroll Kommando* or K.K.), a body first formed in June 1941 with the dual task of supervising prisoners and Dutch workers compulsorily drafted for labor in Germany. The K.K. wore field-grey uniform with black collar patches with the letters "K.K." They took an oath of loyalty to Hitler and could be required to serve outside their homeland. The K.K. probably never amounted to more than about two or three hundred men (the highest rank was equivalent only to Police Inspector) and its members were frequently "lost" to either the Waffen S.S. or the Nordwest Guard Battalion, with the result that in October 1944 it was dissolved and what was left of its strength incorporated into the Dutch State Police.

Left: collar patch of the Kontroll Kommando. Uniform: field-grey or black. On left cuff a black cuff title with Kontroll-Kommando in silver was worn.

One other, somewhat grotesque "police" force remains to be mentioned; this was the Jewish Order Service *(Orde Dienst,* or O.D.*) which operated in, and also outside the Jewish transit camp at Westerbok. This strange formation, formed from inmates of the camp in July 1942, wore a species of "uniform" consisting of green overalls, a peaked cap and a red brassard with the letters "O.D." in black. The sub-unit of the O.D. which actually participated in round-ups of Jews outside the camp was known as the "Flying Column" *(Fliegende Kolonne)* and wore instead brown overalls with a yellow brassard with "F.K." in black.

**This must not be confused with another O.D. (also standing for Orde Dienst) which was a branch of the Dutch resistance!*

PANZER-GRENADIER BRIGADE "NEDERLAND"

In the early part of 1943 the Dutch Legion was pulled out of the line and sent to Thuringia to rest and regroup. Himmler wanted to pool all "nordic" volunteers into a single division, that is to say bring together all Dutch, Danish, Norwegian and Flemish S.S. men. Mussert was outraged by this suggestion, and complained that since the Dutch outnumbered all the rest, they were entitled to an ethnic unit of their own. Hitler supported this complaint and ordered Himmler to withdraw the Dutch component from the projected Division (The Nordland). An attempt was made to form an all-Dutch Division. Some 2,500 survivors of the Legion were joined by about 3,000 freshly raised volunteers from the homeland. But the sum total fell far short of divisional strength. It was, however, sufficient to constitute a Brigade. Thus the 4th S.S. Volunteer Panzer-Grenadier Brigade "Nederland" came into being. It comprised two regiments - the "General Seyffardt" (carried over from the Legion) and a "De Ruyter" Regiment named after the Dutch Admiral, Michael de Ruyter, who had humiliated the English fleet in the 17th century by burning it while still at anchor in the Thames - the title was, therefore, really more appropriate to a naval than to a land-based formation!

The Brigade first saw action in Croatia against Tito's Partisans, but in January 1944 it was sent back to its former battle station outside Leningrad.

The Dutch were now regarded as full Waffen S.S. men and were allowed to wear the S.S. runes as their collar patch (although the "wolf hook" was for a time carried over from the Legion). A new version of the national shield was worn on the left cuff. This is slightly smaller than before and the orange-red/white/blue stripes do not slope (in either direction!)

The 1st Regiment, now listed as *Frei.* (Volunteer) *Panzer-Gren. Rgt. 48,* wore the "General Seyffardt" cuff title; the 2nd Regiment *(Frei. Panzer-Gren. Rgt. 49)* the cuff title "De Ruiter" (the German spelling of the Dutch hero's name). All other items of uniform were standard Waffen S.S. Steel helmets, for example, bore the usual S.S. runes and not the Dutch colors.

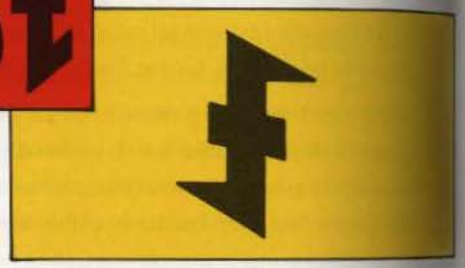
LANDWACHT AND *LANDSTORM*

On 11 March 1943 the N.S.B. headquarters issued a statement to the effect that a *Landwacht Nederland* (Territorial Home Guard Netherlands) had been set up and that all physically fit male members of the Party between the ages of 17 and 50 would be required to serve in it. Draft notices went out on 6 May and the first contingent of conscripts took an oath of loyalty to Hitler on 30 May. On 16 October 1943 control of the *Landwacht,* now renamed the *Landstorm,* was taken over by the S.S. Thus, at one stroke, Mussert was robbed by the Germans of the best of what was left of the Party's young manhood.

In November of the same year a second *Landwacht* was formed for which the upper age limit was now extended to 55 years. The second *Landwacht* may safely be said to have represented the very dregs of the Party. It was sub-divided into two sections (a) a regular full-time unit *(Beroeps Landwacht)* of perhaps around 3,000 men and (b) an Auxiliary *Landwacht (Hulp-Landwacht)* which was part-time although it could be "mobilized" in an emergency.

Originally the *Landwacht* wore W.A. (or Germanic S.S.) uniform with a red brassard with *LANDWACHT NEDERLAND* in black between two black "wolf hook" emblems. Later, black Dutch Police uniforms were issued; eventually, as supplies permitted, both *Landwacht* and *Landstorm* went into German field-grey. The Auxiliary *Landwacht* did not normally wear uniform, only a yellow brassard with a black "wolf hook." It is interesting to note that this is almost exactly like its Flemish counterpart, the D.M. *Hulp-Brigade*.

Brassard worn with civilian clothes. Black on red.



Brassard worn by Auxiliary Landwacht (Hulp-Landwacht) with civilian clothes. Black "wolf hook" on yellow.

The *Landwacht* wore as a collar device an exploding grenade. This was sometimes on a black patch, sometimes worn directly on the collar. A cuff title *LANDWACHT* was issued (it can be found in at least four different makes). The original *Landwacht* wore on the left arm the S.S. eagle and swastika, with - below - a Dutch lion rampant above it the word *LANDWACHT* and a laurel wreath. After October 1943, with a change of name, the word *LANDSTORM* replaced the word *Landwacht* (the rest of the badge remained the same).

The *Landstorm* wore as their left collar patch either the normal S.S. runes or, like the *Landwacht*, an exploding grenade. An exploding grenade replaced the death's head on officers' and N.C.O.'s peaked caps (the upper part of the cap badge set was still the S.S. eagle). A cuff title *LANDSTORM NEDERLAND* was issued. Most of the German cadre personnel secunded to the *Landstorm* were former members of the German State Police, and it would appear that the *Landstorm* was intended to act as an internal security force rather than a combat unit. It did, however, see some real action in Sep-

Herb Rickards

S.S. Unterscharführer Willi van Bynen, killed at Narva on August 21, 1944. Note the exploding bomb on the cap band and directly on the right collar.

(above) Decals worn on the left and right sides of a German steel helmet. Either for the Landwacht or Landstorm (from a helmet in the Albert E. Barrows Collection).

Landwacht officer's collar patch (actual size). Some times the grenade was worn directly on the collar, not on a black patch.

Unidentified collar patch in a private collection. Possibly a transport company of the Landwacht (this sketch is only approximately accurate).

Below: Landwacht on the march. This is the first type of Landwacht uniform (black and similar to that of the State Police). Later the uniform that was adopted was German field-grey. Note the wearing of rank on both collars at this time.

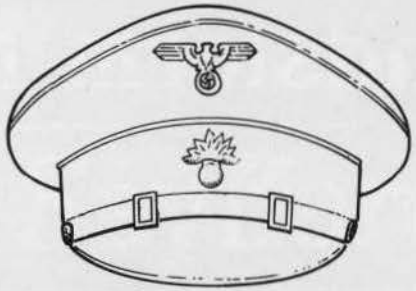
Above: Lower part of Landwacht/State Police cap badge. Actual size. Top part was a flaming grenade.

tember 1944 when one of its three battalions found itself engaged in the fighting around Arnhem.

Between them, the *Landwacht* and the *Landstorm* effectively absorbed what was left of the W.A. The *Landwacht* was nominally under the command of C. van Geelkerken, leader of the N.S.B. youth branch, but in reality, Rauter, as Higher S.S. and Police Leader in the Netherlands, exercised sole authority. Mussert felt that van Geelkerken was altogether too submissive in his relations with the S.S. command and ordered him to step down from his post as Inspector General of the *Landwacht*. Rauter informed Mussert that van Geelkerken was indispensible and could not be replaced. The result

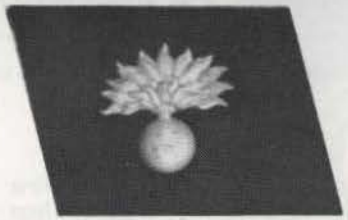
of this unhappy confrontation was that van Geelkerken, after a brief face-saving "suspension from duty," continued as before while Mussert was left to swallow his wounded pride. The N.S.B. had, by now, lost almost all its para-military forces to the Germans in one form or another.

Left: badges worn on left arm by first Landwacht until October, 1943 when word in middle was changed to "LANDSTORM"



Peaked cap for an N.C.O. Flaming grenade replaces normal death's head.

Four different versions of the "Landwacht" cuff title



Collar patch, flaming grenade, either metal or woven.

Alternative collar patch. Normal S.S. runes.

Cuff title

Unidentified cloth badge (actual size) but probably for Landstorm Nederland.

23rd S.S. VOLUNTEER PANZER-GRENADIER DIVISION "NEDERLAND"

On the Eastern Front the Panzer-Grenadier Brigade Nederland which in June 1944 had a strength of 6,713 men, was now in full retreat before the bludgeoning Red Army. In July it took part in the "battle of the European S.S." at Narva where its "De Ruiter" regiment was virtually annihilated. In December 1944 the Brigade was upgraded to divisional status as the 23rd S.S. Volunteer Panzer-Grenadier Division Nederland. In February 1945 the Division was evacuated by sea from Libau on the Baltic coast to Stettin. After only a brief respite there, it was back in action in Pomerania. Later it was moved south to Fürstenwalde. This was a piece of good fortune for the Dutch since it meant that they ended the war as prisoners of the Americans, not the Russians.

Vehicle sign of the 23rd S.S. Division.

Divisional cuff title

Cuff title for Frei. Panz.-Gren. Rgt. 48 of the above Division.

Cuff title for Frei. Panz.-Gren. Rgt. 49 of the above division.

Collar patch. Normal S.S. runes, but the "wolf hook" of the former Netherlands Legion may still have been worn for a time.

Arm badge (left cuff).

34th S.S. GRENADIER-DIVISION LANDSTORM NEDERLAND

The *Landstorm Nederland* was fully integrated into the Waffen S.S. In November, 1944 to become the *S.S. Frei. Grenadier-Brigade "Landstorm Nederland."* By this date the western allies were at the very gates of Holland - indeed some southern parts of the Netherlands were already liberated, but after the failure of the airborne landing around Arnhem, most of the Netherlands had to resign itself to yet another winter of hardship and occupation. The country now became "Fortress Holland" and the Germans set about mobilizing every resource in the defense of their continued presence in the land. The Youth of the N.S.B. was called on to furnish a *Jeugdstorm-Compagnie* for the *Landstorm Nederland.* The S.S. Nordwest Guard Battalion *(S.S. Wach-Bataillon 3)* was incorporated into the *Landstorm* (in November 1944) to become *Panzerjäger-Abteilung* (Antitank Section) *"Nordwest."* The staffs of the various training establishments, recruiting offices and other normally non-combatant functionaries were drafted into the *Landstorm*, as were about 6,000 Dutchmen brought back from the *Germanische Sturmbann* in Germany. Thus, in March 1945, the *Landstorm* was able to attain sufficient numerical strength to count as a full Division. It was now named the 34th S.S. Grenadier-Division *"Landstorm Nederland."* The uniform remained as previously described.

The Division consisted of two infantry regiments (Grenadier Rgt. 83 and Grenadier Rgt. 84), an antitank Section, an artillery "regiment," an antiaircraft battery (the former *S.S. Flak Batterie "Clingendaal"*), signals and pioneer companies. Its Replacement Battalion *(Feldersatz Bataillon 60)* was at the Germanic S.S. Training School (originally located at Avegoor, near Arnhem, but due to the proximity of the front, removed in September 1944 to Hoogeveen in Drenthe Province). The Division saw some minor defensive fighting against the Western allies (including its compatriots in the Free Dutch forces), but finally surrendered on 5 May without attaining any of the distinction won by its sister Division, the 23rd, whose (German) commander, Jürgen Wagner, was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross in recognition of the achievements of the men under his command. The leader of the "General Seyffardt" Regiment (also a German) was similarly honored. In addition to these and the celebrated tank-destroying Mooyman, three other (Dutch) members of the 23rd Division were awarded the Knight's Cross.

Vehicle symbol of the 34th S.S. Division.

THE DUTCH EAST COMPANY (N.O.C.) AND THE *WERKDIENST* HOLLAND

The Germans drew up extravagent and wildly unrealistic plans for "repopulating" Russia with Germanic settlers once the war had been won. They did not, however, propose to wait until it actually *had* been won before beginning to put these lunatic schemes into operation. Work on the colonization of the East had to start at once. Of the new settlers, a large percentage were, so the Germans envisaged, to be Dutch - indeed it may even have been hoped that if sufficient numbers would emigrate east, their places in Holland might be taken by Germans emigrating in the opposite direction!

In order to facilitate this population transfer and to commence the immediate economic exploitation of the conquered territory, a Dutch East Company *(Nederlandse Oost Compagnie,* or N.O.C.) was set up in June 1942. It was headed by *Reichskommissar* Seyss-Inquart, Hermann Göring, Alfred Rosenberg (in his capacity as Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories) and Rost van Tonningen, the N.S.B.'s General Secretary for Economic Affairs. The N.O.C. announced its intentions of settling *three million* Dutch citizens in the Ukraine and the Baltic States. Shortly thereafter it was revealed that this figure had been "revised" to 30,000. In reality, only about one tenth of even this vastly reduced number ever "went east"!

A score of new import and export companies were floated in which Dutch magnates were invited to invest. A few unwise individuals did so.

In the Ukraine a *Werkdienst Holland* (Work Service Holland) was set up in accordance with the Nazi precept of *Wehrbauern* (armed peasants or peasant militia) to both farm and defend the newly acquired land. They wore a brown uniform (tunic, forage cap, trousers) with a khaki shirt and black tie. Ranks were indicated on black collar patches on both sides (the actual scheme of ranks is not clear, but since the *Werkdienst Holland* amounted to little more than 400 men, it was probably only rudimentary). On the left lower arm a black cuff title with *WERKDIENST HOLLAND* in white was worn.

Officials of the N.O.C. were also entitled to wear uniform - its color is described as "light bronze." They had no formal system of ranks, but some elected to add oak leaves to their collars either out of vanity or to impress the Germans. It would seem (from photographs) that originally the N.O.C. office-holders wore only the black garb of the N.S.B. without insignia of any sort. It has to be stressed that the *Werkdienst Holland* and the N.O.C. were in no way connected with the Dutch Labor Service or its *Oostkorps.*

The fate of the N.O.C. and *Werkdienst* was inextricably conjoined to that of the Wehrmacht in Russia. Within one year of its foundation, it had become painfully obvious that the N.O.C. was an unsound investment; within two years all its assets had been liquidated by the Red Army. Dutch entrepreneurs who had foolishly invested capital in such dubious projects as the renovation of the Baltic seaports or the creation

of a sugar-beet industry in the Ukraine, saw their speculations vanish without prospect of compensation. They might have consoled themselves with the reflection that it was only money that they had lost - in the case of some of the would-be settlers, it was their lives.

Members of the Werkdienst Holland. Belt buckle appears to be plain. Rosette on front of cap is probably in the Dutch colors red (or orange), white and blue. Note the cuff title WERKDIENST HOLLAND.

SUMMARY

About 50,000 Dutchmen entered German military service (the term includes the *O.T. Schutzkommando,* German Military Police, as well as the armed forces and N.S.K.K., but not the Germanic S.S.) Under Dutch law any person so doing forfeited his citizenship. This did not, however, apply to minors (under the age of 21), or to women. Since the Waffen S.S. and the N.S.K.K. accepted volunteers as young as 17, several thousands may be added to the official figure of 40,000 persons deprived of their citizenship for this offense by post-war courts. It does not, of course, include the three or four thousand Dutchmen who fell in action.

The death penalty had not existed in Holland since 1873, but was reintroduced to deal with extreme cases of collaboration. In all, 138 death sentences were pronounced, although only 36 were actually carried out. Mussert was shot on 7 May 1946 by a firing squad at Scheveningen where, under the occupation, many resistance fighters had met a similar fate. Seyss-Inquart, classed by the Allies as a major war criminal, was dealt with by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, found guilty and hanged.

In addition to losing their citizenship, those guilty of military collaboration were given prison sentences varying according to their age and former rank (if ex-members of the Royal Netherlands armed forces). Punishments were, on the whole, less severe in practice than on paper. The case of Knight's Cross winner Gerardus Mooyman may serve as an example. Mooyman, the subject of much publicity under the occupation (he had a street named after him), could hardly deny the charge. The prosecution demanded eight years' imprisonment. On being found guilty he was sentenced to six years, but was released after less than two. A generous system of periodic reviews and

amnesties secured similar treatment for many of his fellows. In most cases citizenship was eventually restored and former collaborators reintegrated into the community. The Dutch were prepared to forgive if not to forget.

MISCELLANEOUS N.S.B. BADGES
(None of the below are to scale)

N.S.V.O. (Women's Branch of N.S.B.) The motto means "The heart's fire holy, the hearth's fire safe."

Badge of the Teachers' Guild

Winter Help Charity Organization of the N.S.B.

Nederlands Arbeidsfront (N.A.F.) Dutch Labor Front emblem

Second design of badge of the N.A.F. (Nederlands Arbeidsfront).

Dutch Agricultural Front badge.

Badge of the Nederlandsche Volksdienst (Dutch Peoples Welfare Service). This was the Dutch counterpart of the German Volkswohlfahrt. Established in July 1941, it took over the funds of the Dutch Red Cross and did social welfare work.

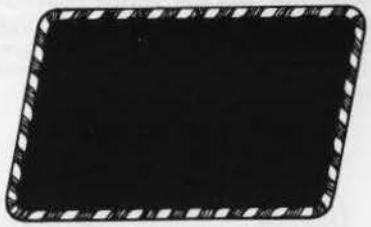
Left: unidentified "Bevo" type badge. Bright gold "wolf hook" on very dark blue; bright gold surround with word "Niederlande" (German spelling) in dark blue at the top. This badge was certainly manufactured but no evidence of its having been worn has come to light. It must therefore be regarded merely as a trial piece that was never issued. It seems too highly colored to have been intended for combat wear.

"GERMANIC" FORMATIONS

In concluding this coverage of the "Germanic" countries (Norway, Denmark, Holland and Flanders) it is necessary to mention a number of German inspired formations common to them all. These were The Germanic S.S., the Germanic Land Service, the Germanic Youth and the Germanic National Schools.

The uniform of the Germanic S.S. was quite simply that of the German Allgemeine S.S. with one or two local variants in insignia (dealt with already in the appropriate chapters), but the scheme of ranks was the same for all. A comparative rank chart is given below; it includes the Danish Schalburg Corps which, although not nominally part of the Germanic S.S., was for all practical purposes its Danish counterpart. To illustrate how closely the rank nomenclature was based on that of the German original, Allgemeine S.S. ranks are listed last. As in the German S.S., officers collar patches were piped in silver wire, those for non-commissioned ranks in black and white cotton.

The Germanic Land Service *(Der Germanische Landdienst)* evolved from the *Landdienst* (originally *Landjahr* - Land Year) of the Hitler Youth. It encompassed volunteers from among the youth of all the "nordic" countries and, latterly, even of



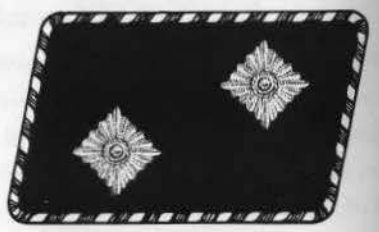
Holland*: S.S. Maat
Norway: S.S. Mann
Denmark: Schalburgmand
Germany: S.S. Mann

S.S. Stormann
S.S. Stormann
No equivalent
S.S. Sturmmann

S.S. Rottenleider
S.S. Rodefører
Tropsfører
S.S. Rottenführer

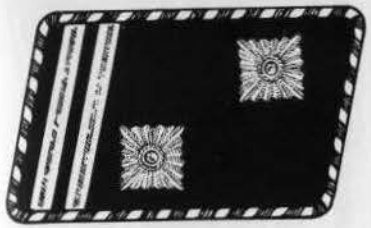
S.S. Onderschaarleider
S.S. Nestlagfører
Overstropsfører
S.S. Unterscharführer

S.S. Schaarleider
S.S. Lagfører
Vagtmester
S.S. Scharführer

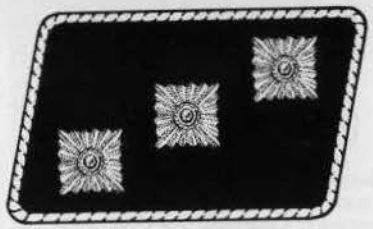


S.S. Opperschaarleider
S.S. Nesttroppfører
Overvagtmester
S.S. Oberscharführer

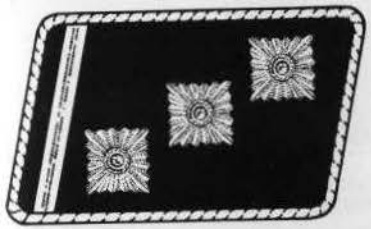
*Includes the Flemish Germanic S.S. It is not known for certain what rank titles they employed, but in all probability they would have been identical to the Dutch (Flemish and Dutch being virtually the same language). The Landwacht used the same terminology except that the preface S.S. was dropped and the lowest rank was Landwachter.



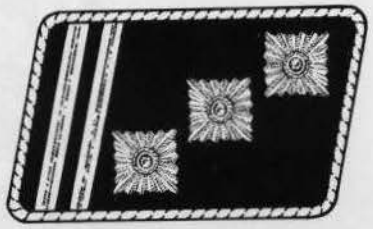
Holland: S.S. Hoofdschaarleider
Norway: S.S. Troppfører
Denmark: Stabsvagtmester
Germany: S.S. Hauptscharführer



S.S. Onderstormleider
S.S. Nestormfører
Faendrik
S.S. Untersturmführer

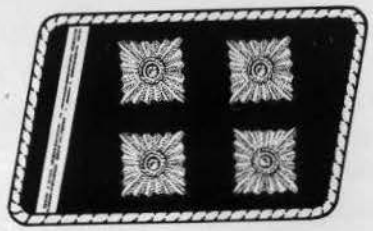


S.S. Opperstormleider
S.S. Stormfører
Løjtnant
S.S. Obersturmführer

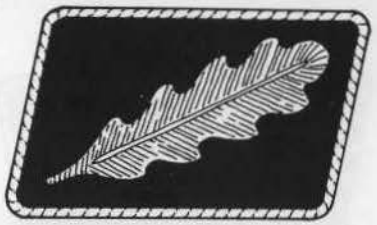


S.S. Hoofdstormleider
S.S. Hovedsmann
Kaptajn
S.S. Hautpsturmführer

S.S. Stormbanleider
S.S. Stormbannfører
Major
S.S. Sturmbannführer



S.S. Opperstormbanleider
S.S. Neststandartfører
Oberstlojtnant
S.S. Obersturmbannführer



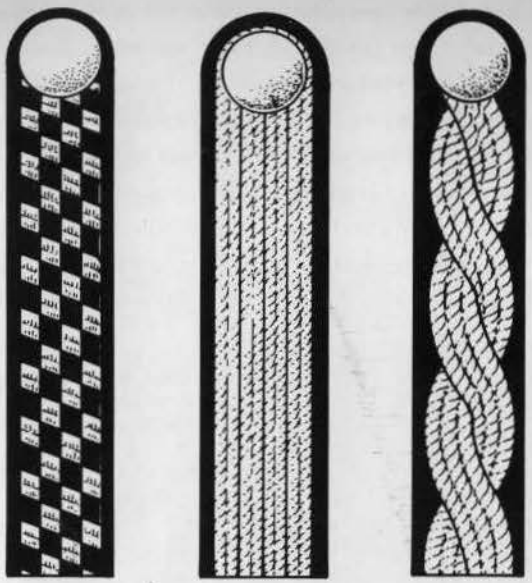
Holland: S.S. Standartleider
Norway: S.S. Standartfører
Denmark: Oberst
Germany: S.S. Standartenführer

S.S. Opperleider
S.S. Nestbrigadefører
No equivalent
S.S. Oberführer

S.S. Brigadeleider
S.S. Brigadefører
No equivalent
S.S. Brigadeführer

Holland: S.S. Oppergroepsleider
Norway: S.S. Stabsleder
Germany: S.S. Gruppenführer

It is extremely doubtful if any of the last three ranks actually existed (except on paper). A point of interest about the Schalburg Corps is that although it adopted S.S. rank insignia, it used the nomenclature of the Danish Police, Lieutenant, Captain, Colonel, etc., and did not, unlike the others, merely translate the German titles into native equivalents.



(a) (b) (c)

Above: shoulder straps (worn only right shoulder)
(a) for non-commissioned ranks
(b) for first three commissioned ranks
(c) for ranks above this

the Baltic States. A cuff title *GERMANISCHER LANDDIENST* exists and was certainly worn. (To those not overfamiliar with the niceties of the German Language, it may be necessary to explain that when prefaced by the definite article, *Der*, this is *Germanische Landdienst*, but when without this prefix, the "r" transfers to the end of the adjective, thus making it *Germanischer Landdienst).*

It may have been that the Germans hoped to expand the concept of a Land Service to one of a universal Germanic Youth *(Germanische Jugend).* The terms Germanic Land Service and Germanic Youth were often used as interchangeable and a cuff title *GERMANISCHE JUGEND* exists and was worn. Possibly it was hoped that the Germanic Youth would become the junior counterpart of the Germanic S.S. in occupied "Germanic" countries. A step which seems to indicate this was the setting up of so-called Germanic National Schools *(Germanische Reichsschulen).* A joint effort on the part of the S.S. and Hitler Youth, there were three such political-cum-military academies:

(a) Valkenburg (near Maastricht in Holland)
(b) Heijthuijsen (also in Holland)
(c) Quatrecht (near Ghent in Belgium).

These schools were open to all "nordic" volunteers not merely to Dutch and Flemish lads (although of course these predominated). Uniform was a mixture of S.S. and Hitler Youth as befitted the joint patronage of these establishments. It consisted of a

brown tunic with a darker brown collar, open at the neck, worn with a yellowish-brown shirt. On the left upper arm the S.S. eagle was worn. Brown shorts with ankle socks and shoes were worn. Headgear was a brown forage cap with the national eagle and swastika (not the S.S. type) on the front above a red/white/black cockade. Officers wore a similar type of tunic to that of the boys but with a collar and black tie. They also wore black breeches and top boots, a peaked cap with a dark brown cap band on which was the red/white/black cockade surmounted by a metal eagle and swastika badge of the "Political Leaders"type. On the left upper arm they could wear either the S.S. type eagle or a swastika arm band (this was not the Hitler Youth type).

Left: A Norwegian girl (of the Gjentehird) wears the cuff title "Germanischer Landdienst."

A leader's brooch of the Germanic Land Service (possibly Dutch made).

Germanische Jugend

Cuff title Germanic Youth (example in the collection of W.P.B.R. Saris).

Pupils (or cadets) at the Germanische Reichsschule at Valkenburg in Holland. Uniform was a brown tunic with darker brown collar, light brown open necked shirt, brown shorts, brown forage cap. The S.S. eagle was worn on the left upper arm. Different types of belt buckle were worn (as can be seen from the above photograph).

Germanische Judge

ITALY

Mussolini's Italy as a sovereign state is outside the spectrum of our present study. Even the rump fascist "republic" (the *Republica Sociale Italiana,* or R.S.I.) left under the Duce's control after his fall (and latter rescue by Hitler) cannot come within the scope of this work. We are concerned only with Italian volunteers in the German armed forces or para-military formations.

The historical background is as follows: on 25 July 1943 Mussolini was voted out of office by his own Fascist Grand Council and subsequently placed under arrest by his erstwhile followers. On 8 September of that year Italy officially quit the war. On 12 September Mussolini was rescued from captivity on Gran Sasso by a German commando unit under the leadership of Otto Skorzeny and flown back to Germany. Later at the town of Salo on the shores of Lake Garda the Duce set up a puppet fascist state, the so-called Italian Social Republic (R.S.I.) or, as it is sometimes referred to, "The Republic of Salo." Virtual civil war had broken out in Italy after Mussolini's deposition and Italy's exit from the Axis camp. Some of the Italian forces actively resisted the Germans and were beaten down and taken prisoner, others deserted to swell the ranks of the resistance, but a few remained loyal to fascism. The Germans were anxious to utilize the pro-fascist elements in the struggle against the now greatly augmented resistance. Above all they were determined to keep open to vital lines of communication between Austria and Northern Italy (the Brenner Pass).

The German Army and the Security Police began enrolling pro-fascist Italians and local *Volksdeutsche* (a large German community existed, and still exists, in the South Tirol - i.e. the Italian side of the Alps). These volunteers and semi-volunteers were mustered into a variety of static, home-based self-defense units and a smaller number of "regular" mobile formations.

The first call to form an "Italian Legion" came from a Bersaglieri officer of the former Italian Expeditionary Corps in Russia, Major Fortunato. An armed regiment consisting of 66 German officers, 350 German non-commissioned officers and 2,950 Italian volunteers was raised in October/November 1943. By the end of the year the Germans had succeeded in assembling some 15,000 pro-Mussolini Italians at the training camp at Münsingen (in the Black Forest area of southern Germany). From among

these they formed an Assault Brigade, known in Italian as the *Prima Brigata d'Assalto della Legione S.S. Italiana* (1st Assault Brigade of the Italian S.S. Legion). In German it was referred to either as the *1.Sturmbrigade Italienische Freiwilligen-Legion,* or *1.Italienische Freiw. Sturmbrigade Milizia Armata* (1st Italian Volunteer Assault Brigade of the Armed Militia).

In January 1944 the Brigade was brought back to Italy and some minor actions followed against the local resistance. But its first taste of full-scale war came in May 1944 when it was thrown into the battle against the Allies at their Anzio beachhead. In September 1944 the Italian Brigade was upgraded to divisional strength and accorded the number "29" (previously intended for a "Russian" volunteer division which never got off the ground). The Italians now became the *29.Waffen Grenadier Division der S.S. (Italienische Nr. 1).*

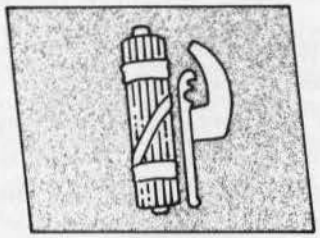
For the rest of the war the Division was engaged mainly in anti-partisan actions. Those of its members unlucky enough to be taken prisoner were usually executed by their captors. At the end of the war, the "Debica" Regiment (one of the two regiments which made up the Division) surrendered to the Americans on 29 April 1945, the "Vendetta" Regiment surrendered (also to the Americans) three days later after only a token "fight to the finish!"

Uniforms: the original Italian volunteers wore a hodge-podge of Italian army garb, usually European service green (a slightly greener shade of green than the "field-grey" of the German army), but quite frequently colonial khaki. A silver fasces on a red collar patch was worn on the right collar, although some officers wore their rank insignia on this side as well as on the left (i.e. officers below the rank of *Standartenführer* who would not normally have been entitled to do so). Silver runes also on a red patch were later used. A special version of the left arm eagle was devised which rather cleverly combines an eagle of roughly the S.S. type with the fasces of Italian fascism. This Italo-Germanic eagle was originally on a red backing. The same type of dual nationality eagle was used as the upper half of the officer's peaked cap badge - the lower part was the normal S.S. death's head. Some photos show members of the Italian Brigade wearing the normal S.S. arm eagle.

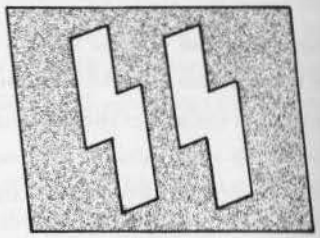
Franco Scandaluzzi

Original arm badge. White cotton or, as here, silver wire (officer type) on red cloth backing. Probably Italian made.

Second type. White cotton or, for officers, silver wire on black. German manufacture.



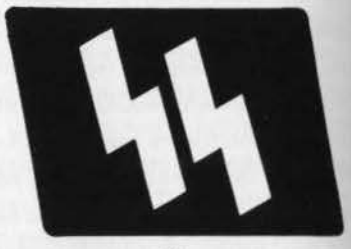
(a)



(b)

(a) and (b): collar patches worn by the Italian S.S. Brigade. Silver fasces on red; silver runes on red. Worn up to June, 1944.

(c)



(d)

(c) and (d): collar patches worn by Italian S.S. Brigade (later 29th Division) after June, 1944 (Battle of Anzio). Silver fasces or silver runes on black. German cadre personnel wore the silver runes on black from the start. It may be noted that the Italian red patches were rather more "square," or slightly less sloping that the German black type.

Black as a background color for both the collar patch and the arm eagle was authorized by Himmler on 15 June 1944 in recognition of the bravery displayed by the Italians in resisting the Anzio landings. Presumably the Italians were now regarded as full S.S. men! The officially-authorized collar patch was the silver fasces on black. German personnel attached to the Division had, of course, always worn silver runes on black and, it is to be assumed, continued to do so. It may be noted that an Italian recruiting poster for the Italian Legion shows a volunteer with a plain black collar patch - whether this was merely the artist's fancy or whether such a variant was also worn is uncertain.

Hugh Page Taylor

Members of the Italian S.S. brigade.

Franco Scandaluzzi

Cap badge set for Italian S.S. officers peaked cap. Metal eagle and fasces, standard S.S. type metal death's head.

Arm badge of the 29th Division. Actual size. Possibly Italian made. Certainly both made and worn. (red outlined fasces on black shield; inset gilt "frame").

Official S.S. type arm shield. Green/white/red on black background. Not certain if this type was actually worn.

"Italia" arm shield (example in Forman Collection). May have been worn by Karstjäger Formations raised in Italy.

Alternative version of 29th Division arm shield.

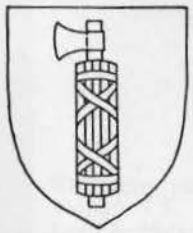
Various versions of the nationality shield, worn below the eagle-and-fasces arm badge, exist. One has a red outlined gold fasces on a black shield, another the Italian colors, green/white/red placed vertically; yet another has these colors placed at an angle. An example with the Italian colors placed horizontally on a shield surmounted by the word *"ITALIA"* in white was certainly manufactured and may have been worn in the early days of the Legion, and/or by members of the 24th Division (see below).

Italian army steel helmets were worn sometimes adorned with larger than normal S.S. runes on the side, however, after 15 June 1944 this practice was forbidden and

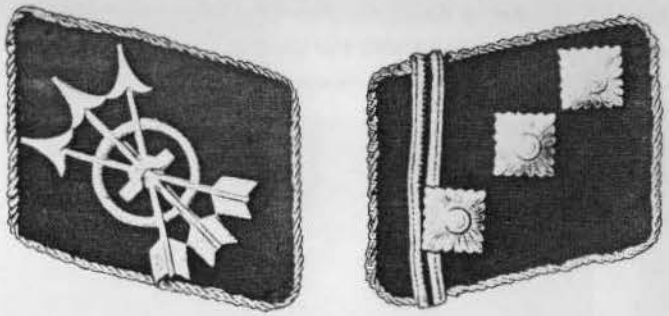
only the official S.S. transfer, or decal, was allowed. Officers wore the standard S.S. officers peaked cap with black band with the cap badge set as described above. The vehicle sign of the 29th Division was a fasces on a shield.

Tom Jayne

An Italian Army helmet with S.S. Runes on the left side and an Italian Green/white/red shield on the right side.



Vehicle sign of the 29th Division



J. van Fleet Collection

Special collar patch said to be for 1st Battalion of the 29th Division.

Obverse

Right: Medal of the 1st Battalion "Benito Mussolini" in the Waffen S.S. The reverse reads: "8th September 1943" "Ever faithful to Duce and to the Führer." A well-made bronze medal on a black ribbon. Presumably this "1st Battalion 'Benito Mussolini' in the Waffen S.S." is an alternative name for the 1st Assault Battalion.

Reverse

It was the practice of Italian army combat divisions (or, even lesser formations) to award a medal simply for having seen active duty with the unit in question. The Italian Legion, or Battalion, appears to have adopted this precept since a well-made medal exists which refers to the unit as "The 1st Battalion "Benito Mussolini" in the Waffen S.S." (the wording is in both German and Italian). This name may have been intended as a title for what was to become the Legion or *Sturmbrigade,* but there is no reference to it in official documents. Members of the Legion, Brigade or Division were, of course, entitled to all German and Italian combat decorations.

"For honor, for life. The Italian S.S. Legion." In this recruiting poster it is interesting to note that not only is the collar patch shown as being red, but the shoulder straps are also red.

Recruiting poster for the Italian Legion in the Waffen S.S. "Volunteer for the S.S. Italian Legion. Italy will arise only with weapons in its hands" (approximate translation). Note that the right collar patch is shown as being plain black.

A rather less-well-known "Italian" Division is the *24 Waffen-Gebirgs (Karstjäger) Division der S.S.* This mixed German *Volksdeutsche* and pro-fascist Italian formation grew out of a special anti-partisan mountain combat company, the *S.S. Karstwehr Kompanie* which was formed in the summer of '42 to fight Tito's Partisans in the Carso *(Karst)* and Julian Alps. In November of the same year it was increased to Battalion strength. After the fall of Mussolini (July '43) and the resultant increase in both Yugoslav and anti-fascist Italian Partisan activity, Himmler decided that the *Karstwehr* Battalion should be augmented by locally recruited *Volksdeutsche* from the South Tirol and, latterly, by Italian fascist "loyalists." A divisional headquarters was established at Moggio in the Italian province of Udine. The Division so formed consisted of two Mountain Infantry Regiments and one Mountain Artillery Regiment. Almost all the actions fought by this unit were against the Partisans with the exception of one very brief brush with the British in the latter stages of the war.

Uniform: an appropriate collar patch was devised for the 24th Division. It was a *Karst* flower - an emblem associated with the Karst Alps in which the Division operated, but although this collar patch is featured on the S.S. map of February 1945,* there is no evidence that it was ever issued or even manufactured. The 24th Division continued to wear the normal S.S. runes. It is possible that members of this Division, or at least those of Italian origin, wore the horizontal green/white/red shield with *ITALIA* (as described above). It is very unlikely, however, that its Reich German personnel would have done so. The non-German part of the Division - Paul Hausser calls them "a mixture of Italians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and Ukrainians" - began to disintegrate in the closing weeks of the war; only the German component fought on to the end, its last action being at Villach in Austria on 6 May 1945 (two days before the official end of the war in Europe). Although the Istrian peninsula (from which many of the "volunteers" came) is now part of Yugoslavia, it belonged, at that time, to the Kingdom of Italy.

Divisional vehicle insignia of 24th Karstjäger Div.

*A reproduction of this interesting "map," which shows the collar patches and arm shields supposedly worn by the S.S. at this time, will appear in Volume 3 of the current series.

POLICE AND LOCAL SECURITY UNITS

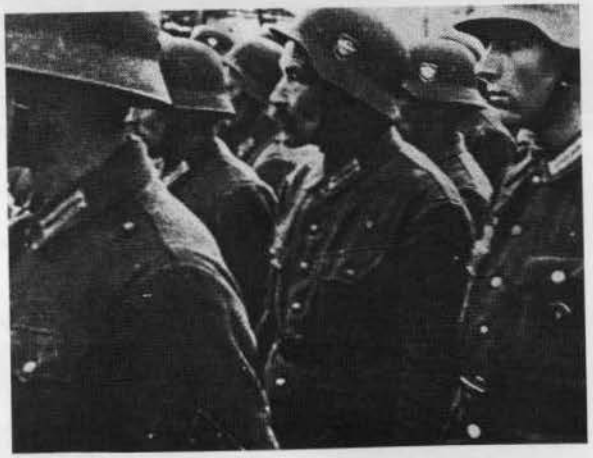
Anti-partisan and anti-terrorist activity was Himmler's province. Since the whole region was swarming with resistance groups, Northern Italy was largely under the control of the S.S. who now tried to establish self-defense "police" formation among the *Volksdeutsche* and pro-Axis Italians of the region.

For example, in October 1943 a *Polizei-Regiment "Südtirol"* (Police Regiment "South Tirol") with a cadre of 250 Germans was set up at Bolzano (or, Bozen in German). Later a three-battalion-strong *Polizei-Regiment Alpenvorland* was formed in Trieste. In the largely German-speaking Italian province of Bolzano (that is the name of the region as well as of the principal town) a *Polizei-Regiment Brixen und Schlanders* (the German names of the towns known in Italian as Bressanone and Silandro) was established in the autumn of 1944, drawing on the local *Volksdeutsche* with a cadre of trained personnel from the German Police. The Police Regiment "South Tirol" was, at this time, renamed the *Polizei-Regiment Bozen* (Police-Regiment Bolzano) and was permitted to use the prefix S.S. The other two police regiments mentioned above also at this time became *S.S.-Polizei-Regimentern.*

In November 1944 a sort of locally-based "Home Guard," known as the *Standschützen* (roughly "Static Defense") was raised in the Tirol on both sides of the Italian/German frontier. In Merano (Meran in German) it had some 3,000 members, in Malles Venosta (Mals in German) around 1,800. Other, smaller units, were to be found in all the towns along the Brenner Pass. Their task was purely that of protecting the vital road and rail links between Germany and Italy against "terrorist" attacks. All *Standschützen* formations, whether on the Italian or the German side of the frontier, wore an arm badge with the red eagle of the Tirol holding a swastika in its claws with, below, the unit name, eg. *Standschützen Bataillon Meran.*

Badge of the Standschützen Battalion of Meran (or, in Italian, Merano).

Bowers Collection



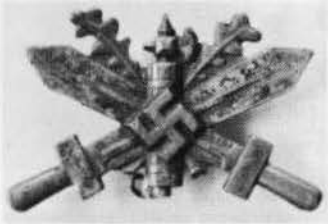
Members of the Standschützen in the Tirol. They wear army uniforms without shoulder straps. The diamond shaped arm badge can be seen on the front man, left. Some of the steel helmets have the German Police emblem. No doubt, any available helmets were used!

In addition to the above there was also a *Südtiroler Ordnungsdienst* (South Tirol Order, or Police, Service), later renamed the *Stadt und Landwacht* (Town and Country Guard) with around 18,000 members, all of whom were locally recruited *Volksdeutsche*. No details of the uniform of this formation are available and it's unlikely that they wore anything approaching a regular uniform, possibly no more, in many cases, than a brassard of cuff title. All the "self-defense" formations were under the control of the S.S. which also assumed command of some purely Italian units. For example, Colonel Juliani, an Italian fascist officer, raised a sort of "free corps" from among fascist loyalists in the Udine Province. This formation was known originally as the Tagliamento Volunteer Regiment (Tagliamento is a river in the Venezia-Udine region). In July 1944 it was renamed the 1st Assault Legion Tagliamento *(I° Leggione d'assalto Tagliamento)*. In the closing stages of the war it was taken over by the S.S. to become *Pol. Freiw. Geb. Jäger Bataillon "Tagliamento"* (Volunteer Police Mountain Light Infantry Battalion "Tagliamento"). Its uniform as such is not known, possibly Italian army with some German Police or S.S. insignia.

At Cremona there was a *Polizei Freiw. Ersatz Bataillon (Italien)* - Volunteer Police Replacement Battalion (Italian) with a strength of 877 men.

ORG. TODT *SCHUTZKOMMANDO*

The German Todt Organization recruited foreign volunteers for its defense force (the *Schutzkommando)*, among these were certainly some Italians. For example, an Italian unit was established at Modena in May, 1944 which actually possessed its own complement of "armor" (although this consisted only of half a dozen ex-Italian army Ansaldo CV-3 tankettes - little better than British army Bren-grun carriers). It was also equipped with two 36mm Czech antitank guns. The Italian personnel wore brown O.T. uniform sometimes with a fascist black shirt. They do not appear to have had any special nationality arm shield. The emblem of this unit (as painted on its tankettes) was a swordfish. Its special task was the protection of road and rail construction work in the Modena-Bologna area. Although this is the only Italian O.T. *Schutzkommando* unit whose existence can be positively vouched for, there were doubtless others. Italians were, of course, recruited in large numbers as civilian workers for the O.T. In this instance they wore only an O.T. brassard to indicate their status.



Franco Scandaluzzi

Metal badge given Italians who had received their military training in Germany.

Andrew Mollo

Italian volunteers in a Luftwaffe flak battery, October 1943. They wear standard Luftwaffe tropical uniform, but with the Italian army star on both collars.

Bevo "Italien" cuff title. This was found among the personal effects of S.S. General Karl Wolff, the military governor of northern Italy. There is no record of this having been worn.

LUXEMBOURG

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Belgium's tiny southwestern neighbor, was invaded by the Germans on 10 May 1940 and overrun after a practically bloodless conquest. (One soldier and six gendarmes were wounded, but no one was killed.)

On 28 June Luxembourg was formally linked to Gau Koblenz-Trier, whose Gauleiter, Gustav Simon, became head of the Civil Administration in the former Grand Duchy. In February of the following year the enlarged Gau was renamed Gau Moselland. Of Luxembourg's 290,000 population, about 17,000 were Germans. There had been several attempts to form an imitation Nazi Party in Luxembourg at the time of Hitler's ascension to power in Germany, but none of these would-be parties seems to have survived even to the end of that year (1933). The *Auslands-Organisation* of the N.S.D.A.P. had cells among Reich-German citizens resident in Luxembourg, as did the Hitler Youth, but these were not open to pro-German Luxembourgers, or even to Volksdeutsche.

In 1936 a cripto-Nazi *Luxemburger National Partei (L.N.P.)* was formed. In 1934 an eighteen-year-old Luxembourger lad, Albert Kreins, had tried to enlist in the Luxembourg branch of the Hitler Youth, but was refused admission on the grounds that the Hitler Youth was restricted to the sons of Reich-Germans. He was, none-the-less, invited to attend, the following year, a seminar held in Germany for the leaders of foreign youth organizations, and, in 1936, was the guest of the H.J. leadership at that year's Nuremberg Rally. He was so impressed by all that he saw that, on his return to Luxembourg, in September 1936, he founded an imitation Hitler Youth movement known as the *Luxemburger Volksjugend(L.V.J.)* whose emblem was a white "life rune" on a black shield. Originally there had been only a handful of members (its thirty founding fathers were each honored with an award of the Golden Hitler Youth Badge in June 1941 - presented to them personally by Artur Axmann, the Hitler Youth chief).

In July 1940, after the occupation of Luxembourg, a *Volksdeutsche Bewegung* (Racial German Movement) or *V.D.B.* was formed under the leadership of 62-year-old Professor Damian Kratzenberg (a Luxembourg citizen, son of a German father and Luxembourg mother). It was declared to be the only authorized political movement in the country. Its avowed aim was "to bring Luxembourg back to the German Reich." The Party badge proclaimed this message with its motto *Heim ins Reich* (Home to the

Reich) - a historically inaccurate claim since Luxembourg, although between 1815 and 1867 a member of the German Confederation, had never been an integral part of the German Reich (which did not come into being until the unification of Germany in 1871!).

Membership of the V.D.B. reached a peak at 84,000, but even the Germans had to admit that barely 5% of these were geniune volunteers. Occupational blackmail forced many to join since the alternative was, in most cases, loss of employment. A rigid policy of germanization was forced upon the Luxembourgers. All the political and para-military organizations of the German state were introduced and rapidly made obligatory. As from January 1941 all manual workers had to belong to the D.A.F. or face dismissal. Compulsory service in the R.A.D. for young persons of both sexes in the "classes" of 1920-1926 was introduced at the same time. The L.V.J. was affiliated to the Hitler Youth although not, at this stage, absorbed into it.

Officials of the V.D.B. wore, at first, a "provisional uniform" consisting of a white shirt, black trousers and swastika armband, but later this was replaced by standard Political Leader uniforms of the N.S.D.A.P.

The German armed forces mounted a recruiting campaign in Luxembourg shortly after their victory over France. Perhaps it was the wake of this spectacular conquest that made their recruitment so successful. They were able to raise something in the region of 1,800 volunteers from among the youth of the tiny Grand Duchy. But this achievement did not suffice to satisfy the authorities for, in August 1942, the process of "home to the Reich" culminated in an announcement that Luxembourg was now part of the German Reich and henceforth its citizens would be subject to call-up for the German armed forces. The "classes" of 1920-1926 were immediately drafted. From August 1942 until the liberation conscription in Luxembourg produced 12,035 of whom 2,752 fell in action, died of wounds or were posted "missing presumed dead." A further 1,500 were severely wounded or disabled and 3,516 deserted (Official post-war figures).

At the same time as conscription was introduced (August 1942) the L.V.J. was absorbed into the Hitler Youth. A German report at the end of that year quotes the following figures for membership of Nazi organizations in Luxembourg:

V.D.B.	69,045
Allgemeine S.S.	110
S.A. (part of Gruppe Westmark)	1,336
N.S.K.K.	1,475
N.S.F.K.	210
Hitler Youth	9,547
B.d.M.	7,133
N.S. Frauenschaft	12,177
D.A.F.	57,666

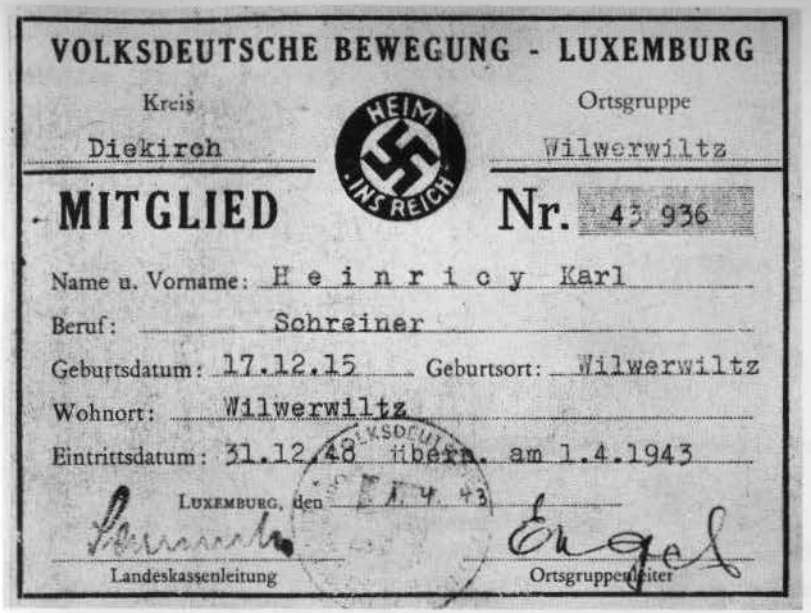
Somewhat illogically the V.D.B. continued to exist even after the total incorporation of Luxembourg into the German Reich. There was also an attempt to form a *Landesgruppe Belgien der V.D.B.* among the 8,000 or so Luxembourg citizens who lived and worked in Belgium. It made little impact. Even less successful was a move to create a parallel organization among Luxembourg residents in France.

Since Luxembourg was regarded by the Nazis as an integral part of the Reich, there was, of course, no "Luxembourg Legion" (the only formation with this designation was a resistance group) and Luxembourg volunteers, and, latterly conscripts, served throughout the various units of the Army, Luftwaffe and Waffen S.S.

After the war hundreds of Luxembourgers were arraigned on charges of collaboration, twelve death sentences were pronounced of which eight were actually carried out. Professor Kratzenberg, *Landsleiter* of the V.D.B., was among those executed.

Gauleiter Simon (giving Nazi salute) reviews members of the V.D.B. in their "provisional uniform." With him is *Landesleiter* Kratzenberg (the shorter of the two V.D.B. officers to his left).

Luxembourg volunteers on their return to Luxembourg.



VOLKSDEUTSCHE BEWEGUNG - LUXEMBURG

Kreis: Diekirch

Ortsgruppe: Wilwerwiltz

HEIM INS REICH

MITGLIED Nr. 43 936

Name u. Vorname: Heinricy Karl

Beruf: Schreiner

Geburtsdatum: 17.12.15 Geburtsort: Wilwerwiltz

Wohnort: Wilwerwiltz

Eintrittsdatum: 31.12.48 übern. am 1.4.1943

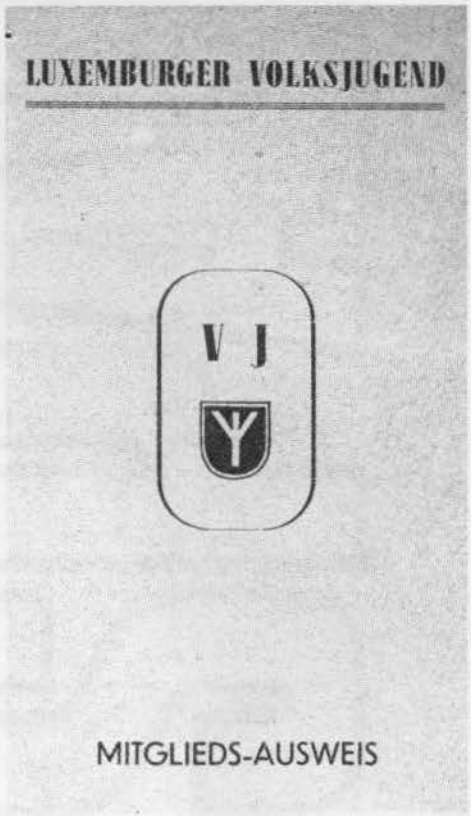
Luxemburg, den 1.4.43

Landeskassenleitung — Ortsgruppenleiter

V.D.B. membership card showing Party badge - a black swastika on white surrounded by red with "Heim ins Reich" in white.

Vk. Ager (New York)

Members of the girls section of the L.V.J. The "life rune" emblem worn on the left is white on black. The pennant which the girl carries has the German spelling LUXEMBURG (not Luxembourg).



LUXEMBURGER VOLKSJUGEND

V J

MITGLIEDS-AUSWEIS

Front cover of the membership card of the Luxemburger Volksjugend (L.V.J.) showing the white "life rune" on a black shield which was the emblem of the L.V.J.

SPAIN

After the fall of France, Hitler urged Franco to join the war on the Axis side reminding him of the debt he owed Germany for the military assistance she had furnished him during the recently-ended Civil War in his homeland. The Spanish dictator resisted the German pressure, but a year later, with the outbreak of hostilities against the Soviet Union, he willingly allowed Spaniards to serve as volunteers in the "crusade against Bolshevism."

Within hours of the German invasion of Russia, an offer of Spanish aid was made to German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop who, on 24 June 1941, secured Hitler's approval for the participation of a Spanish volunteer "Legion" in the campaign. In Spain there was no lack of volunteers. Although only 4,000 were originally asked for, something like ten times that figure presented themselves - most of them veterans of the Civil War. On 27 June it was announced that General Agustin Muñoz Grandes would command the Spanish Legion. Volunteer regiments were raised in Barcelona, Madrid, Seville and other main cities. It was quickly apparent that the authorities could do much better than a mere token "legion" and that they would have no difficulty in raising a full division (in Spanish army terms this meant around 19,000 men). There was, however, a problem of what uniform it would wear. Since Spain was not at war with Russia (or anyone else) it would not be possible for the volunteers to wear the uniform of the Spanish army. A rather odd compromise was reached - at the front they would wear the uniform of the German army with only a Spanish arm shield, but at home or behind the lines, they would wear a "symbolic" Spanish uniform to consist of the red beret of the Carlist movement (i.e. supporters of the claim of Don Carlos to the Spanish throne), the blue shirt of the Falangist movement (Franco's fascist party) and the khaki trousers of the Spanish Foreign Legion (this latter being chosen on account of the fact that Muñoz Grandes was a veteran of the campaigns in Spanish Morocco). Officers wore a khaki tunic with a blue collar and blue cuffs.

Before being sent into action the Spaniards were obliged to exchange their colorful garb for the sombre field-grey of the German army. On the right upper arm they sported a shield in their national colors, red/broad yellow/red surmounted by the

General Agustin Muñoz Grandes

Note the red/yellow/red decal on the side of this Spanish volunteer's helmet.

word *ESPAÑA*. A considerable number of variants of this shield exist, many produced locally in Spain (some of these are rather crudely made, others much more elaborate). A shield in the same colors could be worn on the right side of the (German) steel helmet in place of the German national colors. Volunteers were allowed to wear any Spanish decorations that they might hold, also even some other items of purely Spanish origin - for example the insignia of the J.O.N.S. (The Falangist Youth) worn, by some ex-members, on the left breast pocket of their German uniforms.

Above: Five variants of the Spanish Blue Division arm badge (in the Dodkins Collection). Only the last (bottom right) is the official German made "Bevo" type. All the others were probably made in Spain. All are the Spanish national colors - red/yellow/red within a black frame. There may well have been other locally produced variants.

On 13 July 1941 the first batch of volunteers left Madrid for Grafenwöhr (Bavaria) where they became officially the 250 Infantry Division of the Germany Army with a strength of 17,924 officers and men in the four infantry regiments of the Division. It was in accordance with the Spanish practice to have four regiments to a division, but German custom demands only three which meant that one of the Spanish regiments had to be disbanded and its personnel re-allocated among the three remaining regiments. The three resultant regiments were numbered Infantry Regiment 262 (its members being mainly from Barcelona), Infantry Regiment 263 (mainly from the Valencia region), and Infantry Regiment 269 (mainly from Seville). Each regiment had three battalions each with four companies.* An artillery regiment (numbered 250 like its parent Division) was added. This consisted of three batteries of 105mm guns, and one of 150mm heavy guns. Neither the German nor the Spanish authorities could furnish the new division with much mechanical transport with the result that it had to rely mainly on more literal "horse power" (the animals in question having been hastily rounded up from cavalry depots in Czechoslovakia and the recently defeated Balkans!) The horses were of rather inferior stock and their would-be handlers, for the most part, were unfamiliar with this type of work!

George Petersen

*Three infantry and one machine gun and mortar company.

The Blue Division crossing the Soviet frontier.

On 20 August 1941 the Division was regarded as adequately trained after its five weeks at Grafenwöhr and was taken by train to the German/U.S.S.R. border. The front line was, at this time, over one thousand kilometers away, and to reach it the Division had to proceed *on foot*. On arriving at Smolensk, where it had expected to join Army Group Center in its offensive against Moscow, it found itself redirected north to Leningrad. There it formed part of the German 16th Army. The Spaniards saw their first action on 12 October 1941 when they were put into the line in the sector between Lake Ilmen and the west bank of the Volkhov River. A major German offensive against Leningrad opened four days later. Both that action and the bitter cold took their toll. Death, wounds, and frost bite so seriously depleted the Spanish ranks that there was alarm in Madrid that the Blue Division was about to disintegrate. Since the honor of Spain rather than just the fate of one division was at stake, replacements were rapidly rushed to the front. The Division was to remain as part of the force besieging Leningrad for the rest of its time in Russia. At times the Soviets mounted counter-offensives, and then the Germans would launch another assault in an attempt to break into the city. The Spaniards were always in the vanguard of these actions.

But as the war situation deteriorated for the Axis, the British put increasing pressure on Franco to declare Spain's absolute neutrality and to remove his forces from Russia. By the spring of 1943 the Spaniards had begun negotiations with the Germans for the withdrawal of the Blue Division, although the actual order to do so was not given to General Emilio Esteban-Infantes (who had replace Muñoz Grandes as commander in

General Emilio Esteban-Infantes

George Petersen

George Petersen

The Spanish Blue Division celebrates Christmas on the north-eastern front in December 1942.

December 1942) until 14 October 1943. To mollify the resentment of the Germans and indeed of many of the volunteers themselves, it was announced that a "Spanish Legion" (of 1,500 men) would be allowed to stay on and continue the battle. Known as the *Legion Espanola de Voluntarios (L.E.V.)* it was commanded by Colonel Navarro and was assigned to the 121st Division (of the German army). However, even this token force was ordered by the Spanish government to return home in March 1944.

Andrew Mollo

Young volunteers in the Spanish Blue Division. Note the use of the Falangist emblem as a cap badge (the rest of the uniform is German).

Although the nominal strength of the Blue Division was 18,000 men, by a system of regular rotation of troops, and also of course, taking into account battles losses, as many as 45,000 may have seen service with the 250 Infantry Division between June, 1941 and October, 1943. Of these, some 4,500 fell in action and around 16,000 more were wounded, made invalid with frostbite, or taken prisoner (Spanish P.O.W.'s continued to be released from Russia up to as late as 1954). Muñoz Grandes received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross with Oakleaves in December 1942.* The Germans struck a special medal (in January 1944) to commemorate the service of the Spanish volunteers (a unique honor for a non-German volunteer formation).

*This was a high honor for a non-German. His successor, Esteban Infantes was awarded the Knight's Cross on 4 October 1943.

Note that the Blue Division soldiers above are wearing Spanish uniforms, decorations and rank insignia, as was the practice behind the front lines.

The Blue Division was not, however, the only Spanish military unit to serve on the Russian front. A fighter squadron was formed from veterans of the Civil War. It left Madrid on 27 July 1941 (a fortnight after the departure of the Blue Division). Not surprisingly this unit was promptly nicknamed the Blue Squadron *(Escuadra Azul)*. It was commanded by one of Spain's leading Civil War air aces, Captain Angel Salas Larrazabal. Equipped with Messerschmitt 109 E fighters, the Blue Squadron was numbered 15/JG 27 (that is, the 15th Squadron of Fighter Group 27).

All members of the squadron, whether air crew or ground staff, had to wear German (Luftwaffe) uniform with only a Spanish national shield to indicate their origin. Air crew were, however, allowed to wear their Spanish flying badges if they so desired. In November 1941 JG 27 was transferred from the Russian front to southern Italy, but the Blue Squadron remained behind in Russia and was reallocated to the 51st Fighter Group as 15/JG 51.

In March 1942 most of the Spanish air crew were replaced by a fresh batch of volunteers from the homeland. In October of the same year a further exchange of personnel took place. In January 1943 the Spanish squadron had its Messerschmitt fighters replaced by the more up-to-date Focke-Wolf 190's. But, like the Blue Division, the *Escuadra Azul* was pulled out of front-line service before the end of 1943 and returned to Spain in the early months of the following year.

Above and below: Spanish volunteers of the Blue Squadron wearing the Luftwaffe uniform with German and Spanish decorations, plus the Spanish national shield on the upper right sleeve. Note the Spanish air force uniform at lower right.

Above: Two examples of cloth arm shields in the Dodkins Collection. These were probably worn by veterans of the Blue Division on their return to Spain. It is unlikely that they were worn in service with the Division itself.

Right: Medal awarded by the Germans to Spanish volunteers in Russia. The ribbon is like that of the Iron Cross plus the addition of a yellow stripe down the center - thus combining the national colors of both Spain and Germany.
Left: Medal awarded by the Spanish government to Spanish volunteers in Russia. The ribbon is white (no doubt to represent snow) with, on the left, the Spanish national colors and on the right the German national colors. The reverse shows a number of domed buildings in the Russian style, below this: Rusia
1941

Above: Spanish Blue Division officers in German army uniform with a flag presented to the Division by the Germans.
Left: Young soldier in the Spanish uniform of the Blue Division with the flag of the Regiment Pimentel (it took its name, like the other two regiments, from the name of its commander). The Pimentel Regiment was officially Regiment 262 of the Blue Division.

Right: Badge of the J.O.N.S. (Syndicate of Organized National Youth). This Spanish fascist youth badge was sometimes worn on the left breast pocket of German army uniform by former members of the organization on service with the Blue Division. A silver "bird" with a green fascist emblem on its chest; all on a blue-grey background.

Left: Vehicle sign of the Blue Division as shown on photographs. Colors are unknown, but probably red/yellow/red as for the arm shield. Possibly "Espana" in yellow.

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

Emblems of the five squadrons which made up the Blue Wing on the Russian Front. All these badges incorporate the emblem of Garcia Morato's Squadron (of the Spanish Civil War fame), in fact, the first of these is the same except for the addition of the Roman numeral II to distinguish it from the original.

The term "Blue Division," although widely used (it derived, of course, from the blue shirts), was not the *official* designation which was the *Division Española de Voluntarios (D.E.V.). Latterly by no means all its members were voluntarios;* conscription had to be applied to keep up the numbers! Genuine volunteers, however, continued to remain in the German forces even after Spain had declared her neutrality. These were, in part, members of the L.E.V. who refused to return home after the official withdrawal of the Legion and partly fresh volunteers smuggled across the Pyrenees to Lourdes, France, where a special army unit *(Sonderstab F)* collected these illicit warriors and passed them on to the Waffen S.S. A Spanish Volunteer Battalion under *Hauptsturmführer* Miguel E. Sanchez served with the Waffen S.S. to the very end taking part in the final defense of Berlin in April-May 1945.

The information on the Spanish Battalion and the name of its commander comes from "Hitler's Spanish Legion" by G.R. Kleinfeld and Lewes A. Tambs (1979), a detailed and thoroughly researched history of the Blue Division. But the editors of "Der Freiwillige" (the magazine of the War Veterans Association of the Waffen S.S.) supplied the following information regarding Spaniards in the S.S.:

"In June 1944 Spaniards who were ex-members of the Blue Division were formed into a special unit at the Stablack Camp (near Köningsberg). Taking its name from the camp, this formation was known as Volunteer Unit Stablack. It was then at a strength of only a single Company, but by March 1945 a second Spanish S.S. company had been formed. These two were then known as:

S.S. Freiwilligen-Kompanie 101 (span.)

S.S. Freiwilligen-Kompanie 102 (span.)

The two companies were not, however, kept together. Their personnel were dispersed among various Waffen S.S. units. The Spaniards continued to wear the "army type" Spanish arm shield (as used previously by the Blue Division). They wore standard S.S. runes as their collar patch. There was no special cuff title."

The book, "Germany's Spanish Volunteers, 1945-45," by John Scurr gives the name of the commanding officer of the Spanish S.S. unit as Miquel Ezquerra and refers to it as "Unit Ezquerra." This may possibly have been its unofficial title since in the Spanish army it was common to refer to military formations by the name of their commander rather than a number. The same source gives the additional information that the Blue Squadron in the course of its service at the front shot down a total of 156 enemy planes for a loss of only 22 of its own pilots.

SWEDEN & SWITZERLAND

Some 700 or 800 volunteers from the German-speaking parts of Switzerland found their way into the Waffen S.S. Of these, the largest concentration was in the "Wiking" Division which had its own all-Swiss Company. In the course of the war, 33 Swiss S.S. men achieved commissioned rank. Although the S.S. map features an arm shield in the form of the Swiss national flag (a white cross on red) there is no photographic evidence of this having been worn. Likewise the Swedish flag is also shown as an arm shield, but again without supportive evidence it is hard to believe that this would have been used since Swedish volunteers amounted to less than a company. (The S.S. Statistical Department lists only 39 Swedish volunteers in 1942, although this figure may have been higher before the end of the war).

Both countries had, of course, pro-Nazi movements and the German *Auslands Organisation* maintained contacts in these, as in other neutral countries.

Swiss and Swedes were also to be found in the "Kurt Eggers" Regiment of the Waffen S.S. This war correspondent's unit was the first truly "Germanic" formation of the S.S. since it included not only the above but also Danes, Norwegians, Finns, Dutch, Flemings and Icelanders!

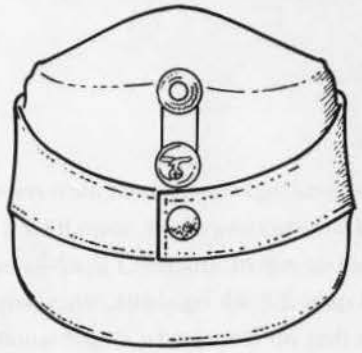
Cuff title "Kurt Eggers" (white cotton on black).

ADDENDUM

Corrections and Additional Information Relating to Volume One of this Series

Page 12: The two N.S. cap badges illustrated are, in fact, actual size, not larger than "life."

Page 17: **Førergarden (Leader's Bodyguard)**



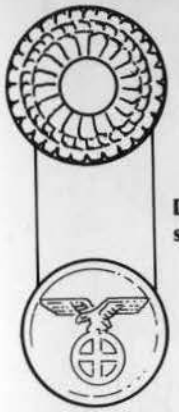
Ski cap and badge

Page 20: At the time of publication, it was not possible to provide an actual photo of members of the Norwegian Unghirdmarinen. The author has, since, obtained one and it is reproduced below.

Andrew Mollo

An officer and boys of the Unghirdmarinen. Note the sun cross and swords emblem on the left upper arm and the Hird rank of Nestsveitfører worn on the shoulder by the officer who is obviously a veteran of the Norwegian Legion since he wears, in addition to the Iron Cross Ist Class, the Wound Badge and the Infantry Assault Badge.

As an alternative to the forage cap, members of the Førergarden could wear a ski cap. The badge worn on the front of this cap was a red rosette with a yellow center connected by a green/grey cloth bar (with a metal backing) to a grey button on which has the N.S. eagle and sun cross emblem. This is the type known to have been worn by non-commissioned ranks; it is possible that, in the Norwegian fashion, officers may have had a silver or gold button and silver or gold braid on the connecting bar between button and rosette.



Detail of ski cap badge

Page 36: Line 23 "invasion," not "invastion."
Page 40: Line 17 should read, "be subject to Norwegian, not German, military law," instead of "but subject."
Page 40: Line 24 "offered," not "offerred."

Page 43:

Instances where the Norwegian Legion collar patch shows a lion which appears to have mislaid its axe are not fortuitious. For some reason which is not immediately apparent, the German authorities objected to the axe and on some examples of the patch this was omitted (see right). Sometimes a metal lion was used on the collar patch instead of the more usual woven white cotton type. Again, in some cases, the metal axe was broken off to conform to German wishes. The lion collar patch, with or without the axe, appears, in any case, to have been short lived.

Hugh Page Taylor

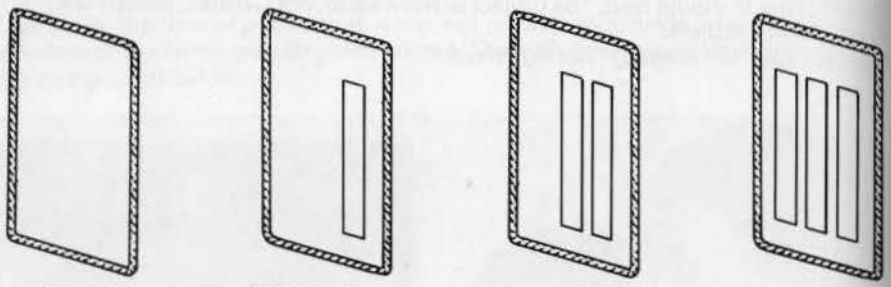
Page 51: The Norwegian Ski Battalion was not disbanded in September 1943 but remained with the "Nord" Division until January 1945 as Ski Battalion 506.

Page 67:
Photograph of Front Sister badge shown previously only as a tentative sketch. There is also a half size miniature which could be worn with civilian clothes.

Hugh Page Taylor

Pages 79-80:
The original seven S.A. of the D.N.S.A.P. ranks were later expanded to thirteen as shown below.

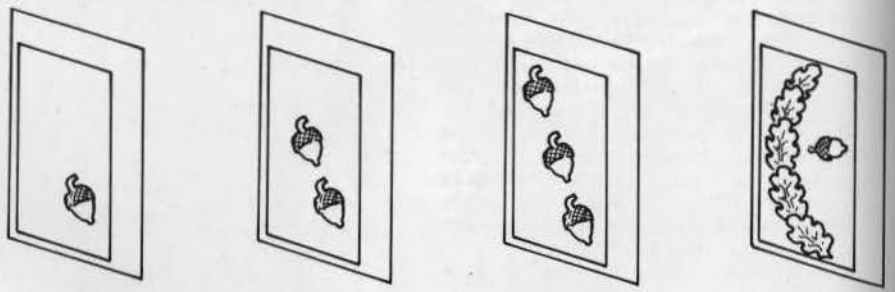
N.C.O.s and Men: (worn on both collars)



Menig — Sektionsfører — Gruppefører — Overgruppefører

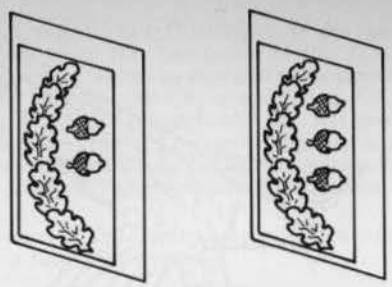
Red collar patches with red/white piping. White "bars" for non-commissioned ranks.

Officers: (worn on both collars)



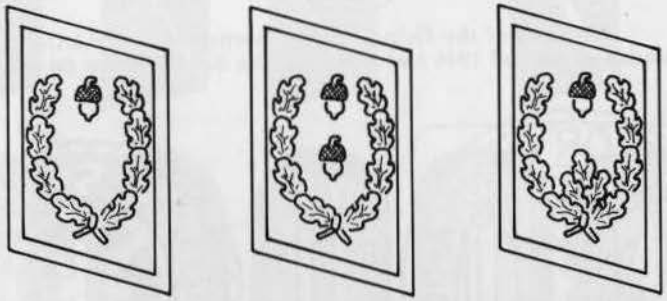
Stormfører — Overstormfører — Kolonnefører — Fylkefører

Colors uncertain, but possibly red patches with silver surround and silver emblems.



Overfylkefører — Kommandant

Possibly gold surround and gold emblems.



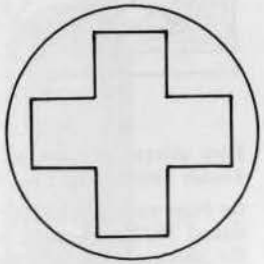
Brigadefører — Divisionsfører — S.A. Stabschefen

Possibly gold surround and gold emblems.

Specialist Arm Insignia of the S.A. of D.N.S.A.P.

Fife and Drum Corps — Members of a full military band — Signalers

Technical officers and Commissariat personnel



Medical Personnel (NOT red cross on white, possibly white cross on red)

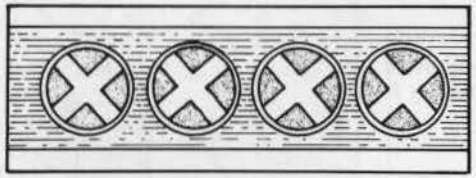
Colors for the above badges (worn on the left cuff) are not known, possibly white on black or white on red.

Pages 84-85:

Emblem of the Flying (gliding) section of the N.S.U.
Introduced around 1944 and replacing the badge shown on page 84.

Badge for Merit in Sport of the N.S.U. Note the use of a runic "S" in the letters N.S.U. against a background of the St. Andrew cross in a circle device of the N.S.U.
Possibly instituted around 1943 or 1944.

Badge for N.S.U. girls working as volunteer nurses in military hospitals either in Denmark or in Germany. Instituted in January 1945.



(a)

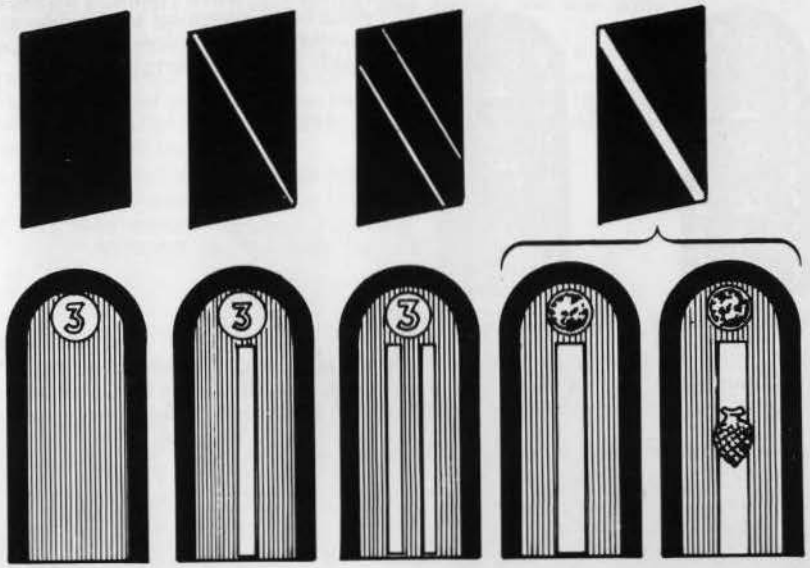
(b)

Two other versions of the collar rank insignia of the Landsungdomsfører (National Youth Leader) of the N.S.U.

(a) Four red and white "buttons" on a white, or silver, collar patch. Shown in a photo dated 1941 and worn on both sides.
(b) Shown in an undated photo. Sword piercing the N.S.U. emblem. Worn on both collars with the blade of the sword slanting outwards (i.e., the hilt of the sword faces inwards to the wearer's tie).

Pages 90-92: The author can now furnish illustrations of the rank insignia of the Danish Labor Service. These come from the Yearbook of the D.N.S.A.P. but are, unfortunately, given only in black and white, so that the color scheme can only be guessed at. The same applies to the ranks of the S.A. of the D.N.S.A.P. except that the author has seen an actual example of a collar patch and this was red with red/white piping and three white "bars" (for the rank of Overgruppefører). It is certainly possible that (as in the German S.A.) the color of the collar patch varied with the nature of the unit concerned. For example, it is believed that Medical personnel wore a dark blue collar patch.

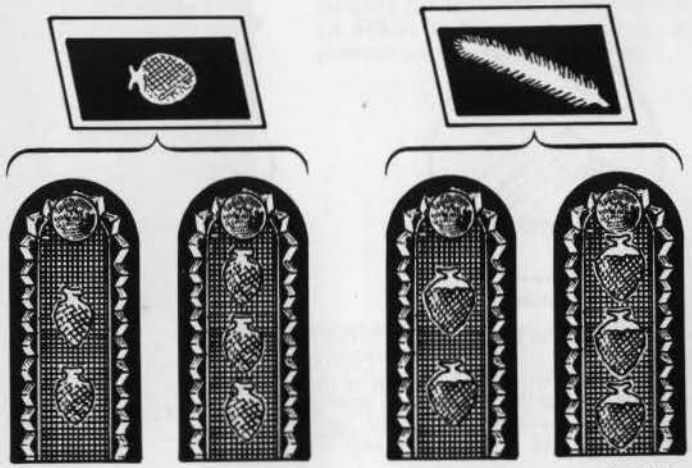
The rank "stars" for officers of the Danish Labor Service were wrongly described as being acorns. They are, in fact, pine cones.



Arbejdsmand Tropsfører Overtropsfører Vagtmester Overvagtmester

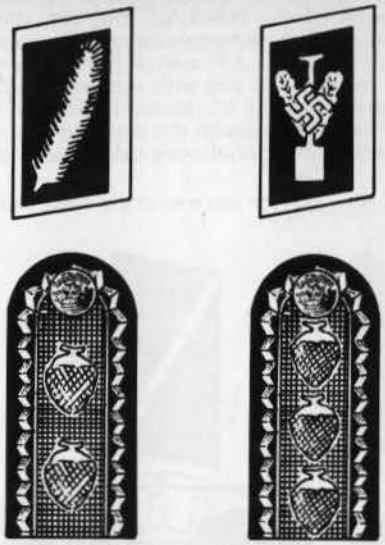
Colors of the above are unknown, but are probably green shoulder straps with black piping. Collar patches are probably black. The "bars" worn on the shoulder straps and collar patches to denote non-commissioned ranks are probably white.

Officers:



Feltmester Overfeltmester Arbejdsfører Overarbejdsfører

Pages 90-92 (continued)



(possibly gold pine cones and gold/black surround to shoulder strap, possibly gold emblem on black collar patch with gold surround).

Generalarbejdsfører **Landsarbejdsfører**

Possibly green shoulder straps with black/white surround. The pinecone "stars" of commissioned rank may be silver for ranks 6 to 8, and gilt above this. Similarly, the collar patch for ranks 8 and 9 may be silver, and that for 10, gold.

Specialist Insignia of Danish Labor Service (worn on left cuff)

Doctor "Life Rune"

Administrative Staff, Paymaster, Commissariat official

Bandmaster

Technical Specialist

The officer ranks of the Danish Labor Service appear to have been inspired by those of the pre-war Danish army. The pine cones, varying in size with the status of the wearer, follow roughly the same pattern as the stars worn by army officers. The same type of surround to the shoulder strap was also worn by army officers. The N.C.O. ranks, on the other hand, follow the type used by the Political Leadership Corps of the D.N.S.A.P.

The "life rune" as the medical emblem is pure German!

Page 93: Date of establishment of Nordland Regiment was 20 April 1940, not 1941.

Page 94: Mention may be made of the fact that Danes who had transferred from the "Nordwest" Regiment to the Freikorps wore, for a short time, the three-legged mobile swastika, or sunwheel, of that Regiment as their collar device.

Page 98: It was perhaps not entirely fair to attribute Kryssing's dismissal as commander of the Freikorps to German hostility. The opposition appears to have been more on the part of the Danes themselves who felt that, as an artillery officer of the old school, he was unsuited to command a modern infantry formation. That Kryssing enjoyed the confidence of his German superiors is amply testified by his subsequent career in the Waffen S.S. After leaving the Freikorps he went on to serve as an artillery officer in the "Totenkopf" and the "Wiking" Divisions, eventually becoming Corps Artillery Commander of the III S.S. Panzer Corps and ending the war with the rank of S.S. Brigadeführer.

Page 114: Nothing is harder to ascertain (in relation to both World Wars) than accurate figures of battle casaulties. It has been suggested that at least 3,500 Danes (out of a total of 11,300) died on the Russian Front. The much lower figure quoted on this page is that of the *official* estimate which, the cynical may consider, to have been played down for political reasons.

Page 116: Parti National-Socialiste Française, should be
Parti National-Solialiste Français

Page 117: Mouvement Populaire Française should be
Mouvement Populaire Français

Pages 117-119:

P. Lambert Dudelland

A member of the Corps Franc de la Jeunesse (of the P.P.F.) with the cuff title JACQUES DORIOT (referred to on page 119 of Vol. 1). Behind him is a member of the J.E.N. (see Page 130 of Vol. 1).

Jacques Doriot (left), leader of the P.P.F. as an officer in the L.V.F. Note the L.V.F. recruiting posters on the wall behind him.

Page 122:

Badge worn on right upper arm by Groupe Franc of the R.N.P.

P. Lambert Dudéland

Arm badge of the cadets of Marcel Deat's R.N.P. This badge looks as though it may have been inspired by the District triangles of the Hitler Youth!

Page 122: The cadets of the R.N.P. had a blue gamma on white within a red square (that is to say the colors are opposite of those shown on this page).

Page 124: Lingue Française should be Ligue Française, and anti-brittanique should be anti-britannique.

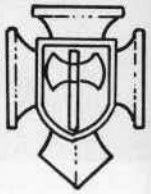
Page 125: The *Milice*, or "storm troopers," of the *Ligue Française* were known as the *Milice Revolutionnaire Française (M.R.F.)* and wore on the left upper arm of their black uniform a blue/white/red shield with a yellow outline and yellow letters M.R.F. (as shown).

Page 126: Parti Français National Collectivist should be Parti Français National Collectiviste

Page 126: Colors wrong way round for Front Franc emblem - it should be a red cog wheel and a blue axe head and blue double F emblem.

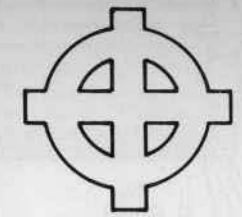
Page 129: Sometimes the stars were below, not above, the chevrons.

Pages 132-133: The badge illustrated on page 133 (upper) is in fact that of Les Amis de La Jeunesse. The badge of the Mouvement Jeunesse is as illustrated here. The similarity of this badge to that of Groupe d'Action of the P.P.F. can probably be explained by the fact that Doriot and other prominent members of the P.P.F. were sponsors of this "maréchaliste" movement.



Page 134: One Vichy organization not included in Vol. 1 of this series was the *Équipes Nationales* (literally, "The National Squads") which was formed in late 1941 to perform social tasks, in the widest possible sense of the words, in both zones of France. This was, at least theoretically, a non-political formation although unfiromed - a dark blue uniform with a beret as headgear. Their badge was the "celtic cross" (an emblem which is associated with fascism since it is a version of the "sun cross," also known as the swastika). The E.N. lads were, a little later in the war, employed on clearing air raid damage. When engaged in this work they wore a French army steel helmet with the celtic cross on the front.

There was also a *Service d'Honneur* (a sort of honor guard) of the E.N. which was distinguished by its white lanyard and white gaiters.

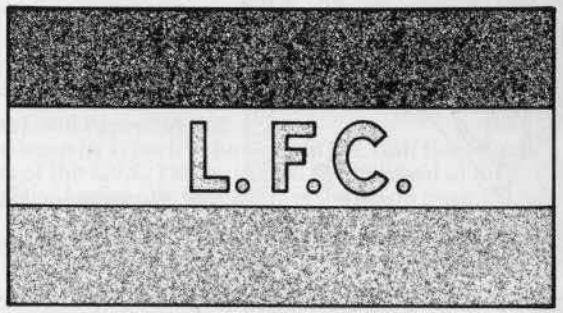


Celtic Cross (Croix celtique)

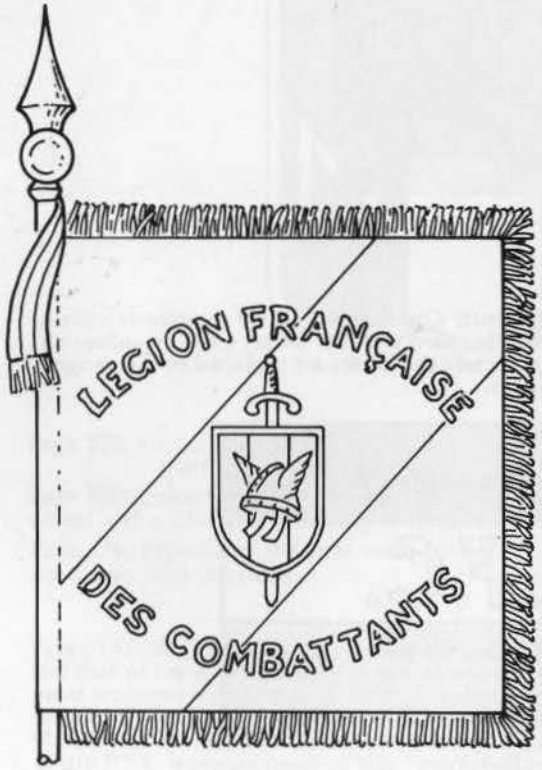
The celtic cross emblem, it has to be pointed out, was also worn by the Youth Section of the Legion of French Combatants (L.F.C.) in North Africa. They wore it on the left breast pocket. Their uniform was grey shirt, black tie, navy blue beret (with L.F.C. badge) and navy blue trousers. They wore their rank insignia (in the form of stripes) on the right breast pocket.

An officer and boys of the Équipes Nationales on a field exercise.

Page 134: Members of the Legion of French Combatants (L.F.C.) sometimes wore a blue/white/red (colors being horizontal) brassard with the letters L.F.C. in yellow on the white part (as illustrated), but in some cases the letters are replaced by the winged helmet and sword emblem of the Legion.



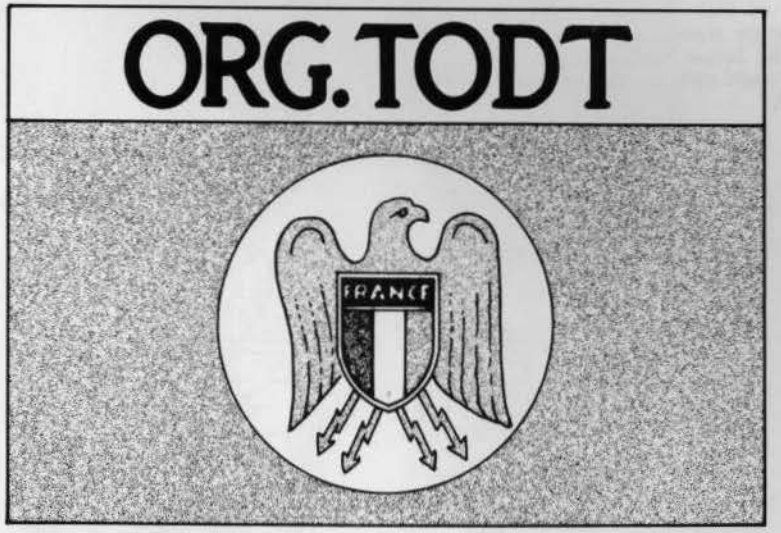
(a) National flag (drapeau national). Blue/white/red with gold lettering and gold L.F.C. in gold wreath in each corner. Both sides of the flag are the same.



(b) Departmental flag (drapeau départemental). Sloping blue/white/red both sides. Obverse as illustrated. Reverse has name of the departement.

(c) Flag of local section (Fanion de Section Communale) obverse. The reverse has in center the emblem of the section and its name. This flag is based on that of the Paris National Guard, first formed in July 1789.

Page 141: Commissariats Régioneaux should be Commissariats Régionaux.



Pages 154 and Pages 168-169
Brassard worn by French volunteers in the Todt Organization who were veterans of the L.V.F. This is, in fact, the brassard of the L.V.F. Veterans Association (Anciens de la Légion) as shown on page 154, with the addition of "ORG TODT" in black on a white background at the top. Those French volunteers who were *not* ex-L.V.F. wore simply the upper part of the brassard.

It is not clear if this type of brassard was commonly worn, but it is certainly shown as being worn on the occasion of a parade of French and German forces in Paris on 9 November 1943.

Page 173: It would seem that what casualties there were among the French on their dash to Berlin were the consequence not of Russian air attack but the result of an over excitable Volkssturm man who blew up a bridge just as the French were about to cross it!

Page 176: Avante-Garde Milicienne should be
Avant-Garde Milicienne.

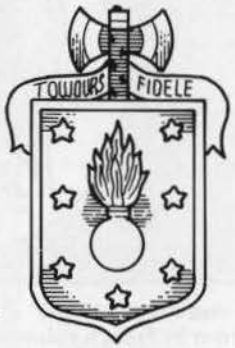
Page 181: Chef du ler éschelon should be
Chef du ler échelon.

Page 182: École National should be
École Nationale.

Page 186: Sûreté National should be
Sûreté Nationale.

Blue/white/red sports vest badge worn by the "Armistice Army" of Vichy. The emblem in the center varied with the branch of service. Here a red grenade indicates infantry; other symbols were: a five-pointed blue star for cavalry, crossed cannons and grenade in yellow for artillery, green hunting horn for light infantry, yellow hunting horn for Alpine troops, red crescent for Zouaves, yellow crescent for Tunisian riflemen, etc. The Régiments de la Garde wore the badge as shown on page 193 of Vol. 1. This is not, as wrongly stated, a later version of the breast badge (page 194) but used only on the sports vest.

(a)



(b)

Pages 196-197: Breast badge worn by non-commissioned ranks of the Garde du Marechal; (a) is the first design, introduced in August 1942, and is a "francisque" in full color on a white shield with a light blue surround; (b) is the second type, which replaced it the following year, and which is a light blue shield with a gold exploding grenade and gold stars surmounted by a colored "francisque" and the motto *Toujours fidele* (ever faithful).

Page 198-9: Sonderverbande 288 should be Sonderverband 288, but the information on these two pages contains a number of errors. Sonderverband 288 was, in fact, not a "foreign volunteer" formation, but an all-German unit. It was activated in July 1941 in Berlin-Potsdam. In October 1942 it became part of Pz-Gren. Rgt. Afrika. The unit refered to should have been Sonderverband 287. This was raised in August 1942 from miscellaneous Moslem armed bodies "at the disposal of" (z.b.V.) Sonderstab "F" (Commander: Helmuth Felmy). The largest of these sub-units was Panzer-Grenadier Battalion 287. In October 1942 Sonderverband 287 had achieved a strength of three battalions. In May 1943 its 3rd Battalion was dispatched to Tunisia to assist in the defense of that Vichy colony against the Anglo-American "invaders." It perished in the subsequent debacle there. The two remaining battalions were redesignated Gren. Rgt. 92 (mot.) and were employed on antipartisan operations first in the Caucasus, later against Tito's followers in Yugoslavia. The Deutsch-Arabisches Inf. Btl. 845 was raised at Dollersheim in June 1943. By September 1944 it had a strength of two infantry battalions (I and II Deutsch-Arabisches Inf. Btl.). The 2nd Battalion consisted of some 700 North African Arabs recruited in metropolitan France. In January 1945 the two battalions were amalgamated into a single unit (I Deutsch-Arabisches Inf. Btl.).

The German army appears to have contemplated (in the spring of 1943) raising an "Infanterie-Regiment Tunisien" to consist of three battalions, only one of which was actually to be Tunisian (the other two being Algerian and Moroccan), but this formation was never activated although "Feldpost"numbers were certainly allocated to it.

Page 204:

Page 204: Croix de Guerre Légionnaire. It has been suggested to the author by an expert on French medals that the photos of this Vichy decoration shown on Page 204 are of a post-war reproduction. He sent a photo of the obverse and reverse of an example whose authenticity is beyond question (having been lent by a recipient of this decoration). This is shown above, and readers may like to compare it with the previous one (the eagle, for example, is significantly different).

While on the subject of the Croix de Guerre Légionnaire, the author has seen a photograph of an L.V.F. man wearing this award in the manner of the Iron Cross Ist Class, that is to say, without a ribbon and pinned to the left breast pocket. There can be little doubt that this was a highly "unofficial" practice and must have been the result of a piece of personal initiative on the part of the man concerned! The author has also been informed that a version of the Croix de Guerre Legionnaire *with swords* (in the manner of the normal French Croix de Guerre) also made an appearance during the war! Again, this must have been a strictly unauthorized variant.