



WAFFEN SS

A Brief History of the Elite and
Murderous Armed Wing of the Nazi
Party

Popular Image of the SS



This is also the Waffen SS



And this



Confessions

- ▣ Military Elite troops
- ▣ Great uniforms designed by Hugo Boss
- ▣ Tough



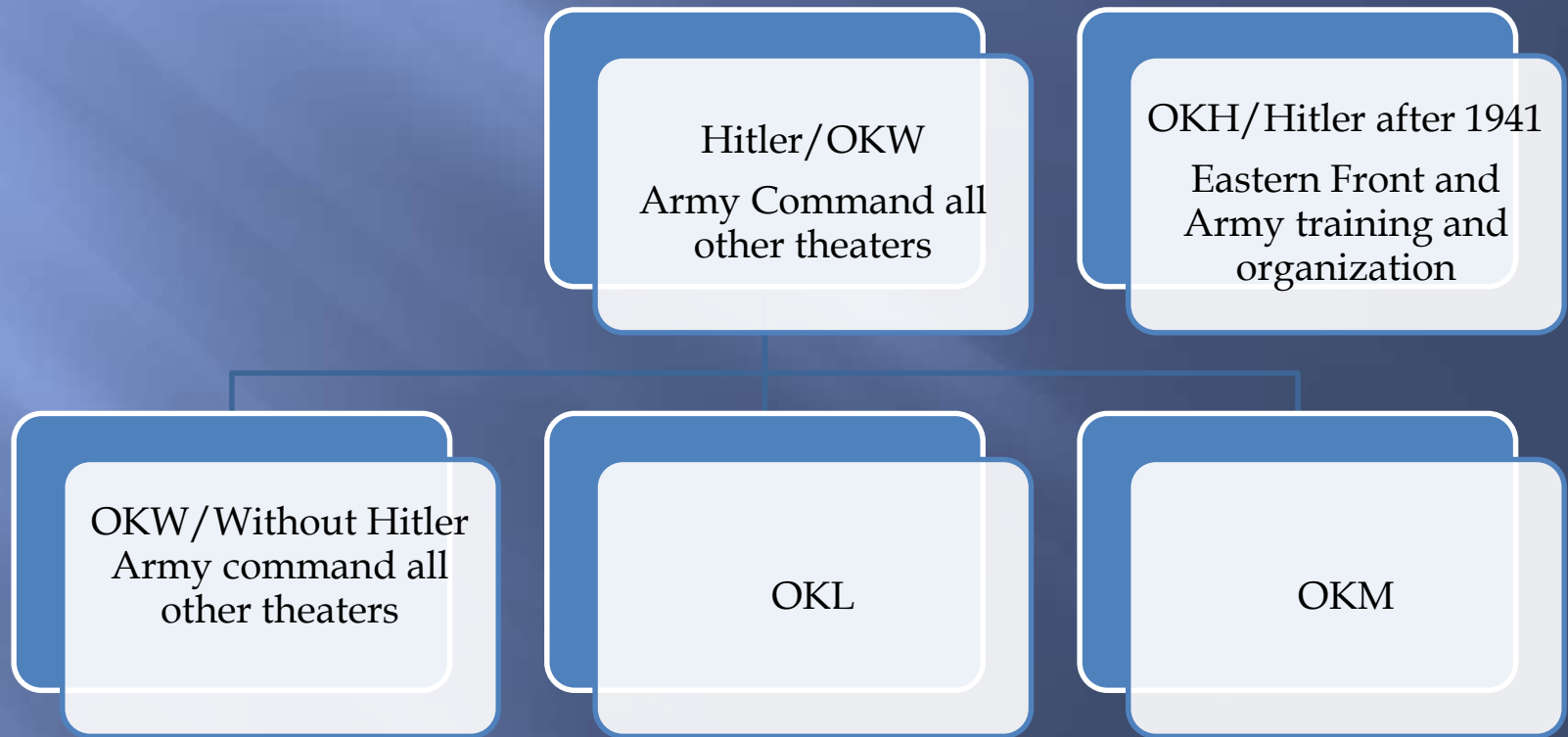
The Myth of Efficiency in Nazi Germany

- ▣ Much overlap in official functions.
- ▣ Party Functionaries vied for control over functions even if it was supposedly the job of someone else and had little relation to their job.
- ▣ Liked by Hitler.
- ▣ Hitler liked chaos and dog eat dog type of system even if efficiency suffered.

German High Command in Theory



German High Command in Practice



What was the Waffen SS

- ▣ The armed, military and police wing of the Nazi Party.
- ▣ Over time adopt military rank structure in addition to SS ranks
- ▣ Became more military
- ▣ Himmler did not have direct control over units in combat.



Paradeplatz, BM 183-40224-521-600
1927, 9. Aug. 12. Dezember 1923

SS Glossary

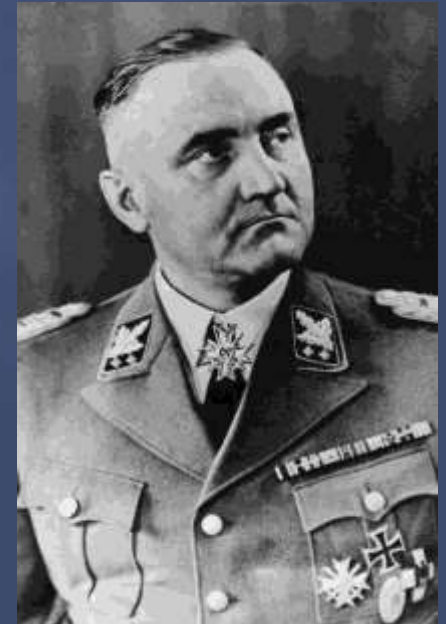


- ▣ Allgemeine SS- General SS
 - Full-time officers and members of the main SS departments, including the RSHA
 - Part-time volunteer members of SS regional units
 - SS security forces, e.g., the Sicherheitspolizei (SiPo – Gestapo & Kripo) and Sicherheitsdienst (SD)
 - Concentration Camp staffs of the Totenkopfverbände
 - Reserve, honorary or otherwise inactive SS members
- ▣ Waffen SS- Armed SS
- ▣ Volksdeutsche- Germans living outside of the Reich- Germany & Austria

Schutzstaffel-Organization



- ▣ Personal Staff Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler
- ▣ SS Main Office- SS-Hauptamt
 - SS administrative matters such as manpower allocation, supplies, personnel transfers, and promotions.
 - Obergruppenführer Gottlob Berger
 - Recruitment into Waffen SS
 - Volksdeutsche, foreign



Schutzstaffel-Organization

- ▣ SS-Führungshauptamt (SS Main Operational Office; SS-FHA) Operational HQ for Allgemeine and Waffen SS in practical terms the Army controlled the SS in the field, but the FHA controlled training, recruitment and order of battle, pay, and other admin functions.
- ▣ SS Court Main Office- Legal Department for the SS
- ▣ SS- Personnel Main Office- Record keeper of SS personnel records.

Schutzstaffel-Organization

- ▣ Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle VoMi- Affairs of Volksdeutsche
- ▣ SS Education Office- Indoctrination and education of SS personnel.
- ▣ SS Race and Settlement Main Office-(Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt der SS, RuSHA) Marriage certificates, at first for SS, later for all of Germany. Maintain racial purity- office that determined whether you were Aryan.

Schutzstaffel-Organization

- ▣ Ordnungspolizei- Order Police- uniformed police of the Reich. Will form a Waffen SS Division 4th SS PzGr Division “Polizei” Lot so overlap with RSHA and WVHA and Waffen SS.
 - Reserve Police Battalions
 - Kurt Daluege

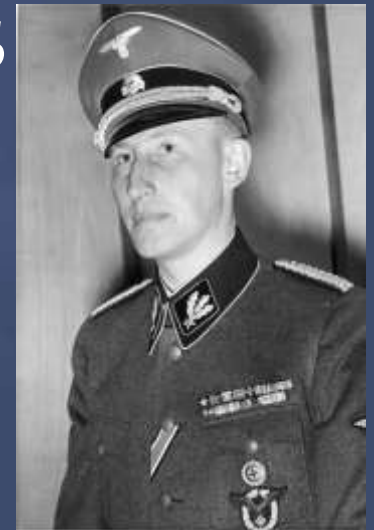


Schutzstaffel-Organization

- ▣ SS Main Economic and Administrative Office
WVHA- managed the business affairs of the SS. Managed the concentration camps, and the Admin and personnel function of the Extermination Camps. However, the Final Solution was administered by a special office within the RSHA.
- ▣ SS-Totenkopfverbände – A decent part of the Waffen SS. As will be seen later.

Schutzstaffel-Organization

- ▣ Reich Main Security Office- RSHA- Security police (SIPO), criminal police (KRIPPO), SD-Gestapo, and ran the extermination part of the Final Solution.
- ▣ Higher SS and Police Formations
- ▣ Frequent interchange with Waffen SS
- ▣ Reinhard Heydrich



Schutzstaffel-Organization

- RSHA
- Amt I, "Administration and Legal", originally headed by SS-Gruppenführer Dr. Werner Best.[11] In 1940, he was succeeded by SS-Brigadeführer Bruno Streckenbach. In April 1944, Erich Ehrlinger took over as department chief.
- Amt II, "Ideological Investigation", headed by SS-Brigadeführer Professor Franz Six.[11]
- Amt III, "Spheres of German Life" or the Inland-SD, headed by SS-Gruppenführer Otto Ohlendorf, was the SS information gathering service for inside Germany.[11] It also dealt with ethnic Germans outside of Germany's prewar borders, and matters of culture.
- Amt IV, "Suppression of Opposition", formed from Abteilung II and III of the Gestapa (better-known by the "sobriquet" Gestapo),[15] headed by SS-Gruppenführer Heinrich Müller.[16] SS-Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, one of the main architects of the Holocaust, was head of the Amt IV sub-department called Referat IV B4.[17]
- Amt V, "Suppression of Crime" Kriminalpolizei (Kripo), originally led by SS-Gruppenführer Arthur Nebe[18] and later by SS-Oberführer Friedrich Panzinger.[19] This was the Criminal Police, which dealt with non-political serious crimes, such as rape, murder, and arson. Amt V was also known as the Reichskriminalpolizeiamt (Reich Criminal Police Department or RKPA).
- Amt VI, "Foreign Intelligence Service" or Ausland-SD, originally led by SS-Brigadeführer Heinz Jost[18] and later by SS-Brigadeführer Walter Schellenberg.
- Amt VII, "Ideological Research and Evaluation" was a reconstitution of Amt II overseen by SS-Brigadeführer Professor Dr. Franz Six.[20] Later it was headed by SS-Obersturmbannführer Paul Dittel. It was responsible for "ideological" tasks. These included the creation of anti-semitic, anti-masonic propaganda, the sounding of public opinion and monitoring of Nazi indoctrination by the public.

Sicherheitsdienst



▣ Inland-SD

- The Inland-SD (Office II) Department A (Law and Legal Structures)
- Department B (Race and Ethnic Matters)
- Department C (Cultural and Religious Matters)
- Department D (Industry and Commerce)
- Department E (High Society)

▣ Ausland-SD

- The Ausland-SD (Office III) was the foreign intelligence agency of the Third Reich.
- Department A (Organization and Administration)
- Department B (Espionage in the West)
- Department C (Espionage in the Soviet Union and Japan)
- Department D (Espionage in the American sphere)
- Department E (Espionage in Eastern Europe)
- Department F (Technical Matters)

RSHA Gestapo



- Department A (Political Opponents)[edit]
 - Communists (A1)
 - Counter-sabotage (A2)
 - Reactionaries, liberals and opposition (A3)
 - Protective services (A4)
- Department B (Sects and Churches)[edit]
 - Catholicism (B1)
 - Protestantism (B2)
 - Freemasons and other churches (B3)
 - Jewish affairs (B4)
- Department C (Administration and Party Affairs)[edit]
 - Central administrative office of the Gestapo, responsible for card files of all personnel including all officials.
 - Files, card, indexes, information and administration (C1)
 - Protective custody (C2)
 - Press office (C3)
 - NSDAP matters (C4)
- Department D (Occupied Territories)[edit]
 - Administration for regions outside the Reich.
 - Protectorate affairs, Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, regions of Yugoslavia, Greece (D1)
 - 1st Belgrade Special Combat detachment
 - General Government(D2)
 - Confidential office - hostile foreigners, emigrants (D3)
 - Occupied territories - France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Denmark (D4)
 - Occupied Eastern territories (D5)
- Department E (Security and counterintelligence)[edit]
 - In the Reich (E1)
 - Policy and economic formation (E2)
 - West (E3)
 - Scandinavia (North)(E4)
 - East (E5)
 - South (E6)

Waffen SS at its inception.

- ❑ SS Fuhrer Begleit Kommando- part of LSAH
- ❑ Reichs Sicherheitsdienst RSD also part of RSHA
- ❑ The Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler (LSSAH), under then Obergruppenführer[a] Josef "Sepp" Dietrich.
- ❑ The Inspectorate of Verfügungstruppe (SS-VT), under Gruppenführer Paul Hausser, which commanded the Deutschland, Germania and Der Führer regiments. The latter was recruited in Austria after the Anschluss and was not yet combat-ready.
- ❑ The Inspectorate of Concentration Camps, under Gruppenführer Theodor Eicke, which fielded four infantry and one cavalry Death's-Head Standarten, comprising camp guards of the SS-Totenkopfverbände (SS-TV). These troops wore the SS-TV skull and crossbones rather than the SS-VT "SS" runes.
- ❑ Police units of Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Kurt Daluege's Ordnungspolizei, which reported to Himmler in his capacity as Chief of German Police. These troops used police ranks and insignia rather than those of the SS.

Treaty of Versailles

- **Legal restrictions on Germany**
- Article 231 (the "War Guilt Clause") lays sole responsibility for the war on Germany, which would be accountable for all the damage done to civilian population of the allies.
- Article 227 charges former German Emperor, Wilhelm II with supreme offence against international morality. He is to be tried as a war criminal.
- Articles 228-230 tried many other Germans as war criminals.
- **Military restrictions on Germany**
- Part V of the treaty begins with the preamble, "In order to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of the armaments of all nations, Germany undertakes strictly to observe the military, naval and air clauses which follow.
- The Rhineland will become a demilitarized zone.
- German armed forces will number no more than 100,000 troops, and conscription will be abolished.
- Enlisted men will be retained for at least 12 years; officers to be retained for at least 25 years.
- German naval forces will be limited to 15,000 men, 6 battleships (no more than 10,000 tons displacement each), 6 cruisers (no more than 6,000 tons displacement each), 12 destroyers (no more than 800 tons displacement each) and 12 torpedo boats (no more than 200 tons displacement each).
- The manufacture, import, and export of weapons and poison gas is prohibited.
- Tanks, submarines, military aircraft, and artillery are prohibited.
- Blockades on ports are prohibited.

German Territorial Losses



Civil war in Germany the Threat from the Left

- ▣ Anarchy and Violence
Nov to Dec 1918 Pres.
Ebert almost loses
power by violent
means
- ▣ Spartacist Uprising 5
Jan19 to 12 Jan19
- ▣ Bavarian Socialist
Republic (Soviet) Style
State 6 Apr 19 to 3
May19- Reds set up re-
education
concentration camps.



Freikorps

- ❑ Ex Military
- ❑ Government did not always have control
- ❑ “Quasi”-government military units used to put down Communist/socialist revolts with approval of Allies
- ❑ Many later joined SA and other rightwing.



Civil War in Germany, The Right

- ▣ Kapp Putsch 13 Mar 20 to 17 Mar 20 Gov moves from Berlin to Stuttgart, fizzles for lack of support from most rightwing factions
- ▣ Has support of part of military
- ▣ *Reichswehr* does not fire on *Reichswehr*".
- ▣ Beer Hall Putsch 9 Nov 23.
- ▣ Led by Erich Ludendorff and Adolf Hitler
- ▣ Coup fails Hitler sent to Landsberg Prison after treason trial.

The Early Nazi Party

- Jan 19 Anton Drexler forms German Workers Party
- Sep 19 Hitler, working for the Army, joins Nazi Party under orders from Army Capt. Ernst Roehm
- By end of 1919, Party at less than 200 members
- 20 Feb20 Changes name to National Socialist German Workers Party
- 31 Mar20 Hitler discharged from Army, Allies disband 2/3 of Freikorps
- **Mar 1920 Kapp Putsch, Nazi's do not participate**
- **Hitler creates Ordnungstruppen, precursor of SA**
- End of 1920 Nazis at 2000 members
- Sept21 SA and Hitler break up meeting of Socialists.
- 1922-23 rampant inflation in Germany, at its peak 10mil RM = \$1USD, French occupy Ruhr stay until 1925
- Nov 23 Beer Hall Putsch
- Feb24 to Dec 24 Hitler in Landsberg Prison writes Mein Kampf, Nazi Party outlawed
- Dec 24 Hitler released from prison
- Jan 25 Nazi reestablished
- Nov25 Strasser wing of Party rebels against Hitler Beefsteak Nazi's
- 1930 Nazi's become Germany's strongest party

SA-Sturmabteilung

- ▣ Nazi Party Paramilitary formed for street battles against other political parties.
- ▣ ALL of the major parties formed paramilitary
- ▣ SA leaders wish to replace the Army



Early SS

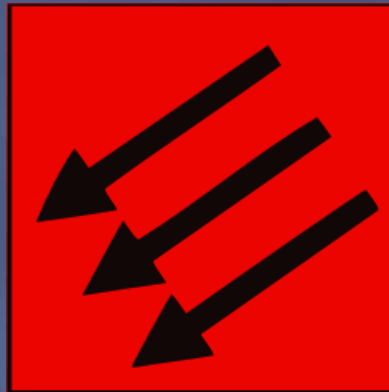
- ▣ Unit Origins of the SS created from SA cadre as Stabswache, soon to be named Stosstruppen Hitler
- ▣ SS bodyguard unit for Hitler
- ▣ Part of SA
- ▣ Select Recruitment
- ▣ Paid





Paramilitary 1925-1933

- ▣ Leftwing Groups
- ▣ Roter Frontkämpferbund- KPD- Communist Party
- ▣ Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold- SPD- Socialists
- ▣ Eiserner Front- Iron Front- Socialists







Aufmarsch des Reichsbanners "Schwarz-Rot-Gold" (1932)

Paramilitary 1925-1933

- ▣ Stahlhelm- Steel Helmet- German National Peoples Party- merged with SA 1933
- ▣ Young German Order
- ▣ Sturmabteilung



Political Party Violence in the US

- ▣ In the 1800's it was common for gangs to be associated with the political parties.
- ▣ Violent voter intimidation
- ▣ Continues to the day to some degree
- ▣ Trade Unions/ violent pro-life groups

Reichswehr

- ❑ Defeat in World War One
- ❑ Rebirth under Hans von Seeckt
- ❑ Rapallo Treaty 1922
- ❑ Germany allowed to train in the Soviet Union
- ❑ Soviets given technical aid
- ❑ Army supports glider, athletic, rifle clubs etc
- ❑ Former Air Force pilots working for Lufthansa



German Rearmament Predated Hitler

- ❑ German military ready to expand, Hitler repudiates Versailles treaty, secretly at first



Development of the SS

- ▣ 1925- SS formed officially SchutzStaffel
- ▣ Fuhrer Begleit Kommando
- ▣ 1929 Heinrich Himmler
- ▣ 1931 Reinhard Heydrich



Before Taking Power

- ▣ The SS while still a part of the SA is 10,000 strong
- ▣ It includes a Party Intelligence Service the SD or *Sicherheitsdienst*, but not, at first, the Gestapo



After to 30 Jan 1933 to 1934

- ▣ SS takes control of local police forces, and eventually the Gestapo.
- ▣ Mar 1933 formation of Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, Fuhrer Begleit Kommando made subordinate to this. Starts off as 120 men, by the end of the year it is a regiment of 2000 men.

Hitler's SS the Bodyguard- Beginnings of Waffen SS

- ▣ Fuhrer Begleit Kommando- Part of LSSAH- originally 8 men will expand to 37- The personal bodyguards of Hitler.
- ▣ Reichssicherheitsdienst- RSD- and part of the SD, originally made up of Bavarian police. Johannes Rattenhuber. Bodyguard, but also investigative service of the bodyguard. Would secure areas in which Hitler travelled.
- ▣ Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler- Motorized regiment, later expanded to a panzer division. One battalion was always kept to guard Hitler. Provided outer guard and guarded Hitler's residences.

Why the Death's Head?



Sturmabteilung, The SA

- ❑ Originally supported clandestinely by the Army
- ❑ Later became rivals
- ❑ Suppressed during Night of the Long Knives
- ❑ Under the command of Ernst Roehm for much of period



Night of the Long Knives

- ▣ 30 June 34 to 2 July 34
- ▣ SA top leadership purged
- ▣ All party opponents purged
- ▣ Sundry political opponents eliminated
- ▣ Army cooperation
- ▣ Hindenburg gives blessing
- ▣ Military makes Faustian Deal



Uniforms



Early Waffen SS

- ▣ SS-Totenkopfverbände- concentration camp guards. Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, etc.
- ▣ Each camp had a Wachsturmbanne (battalion), will eventually reach Standarte (regiment) strength.
- ▣ Eventually Himmler and Theodor Eicke see this organization as potential force with military value.
- ▣ Will form into 3rd SS Division Totenkopf

SS-Totenkopfverbände Regiments

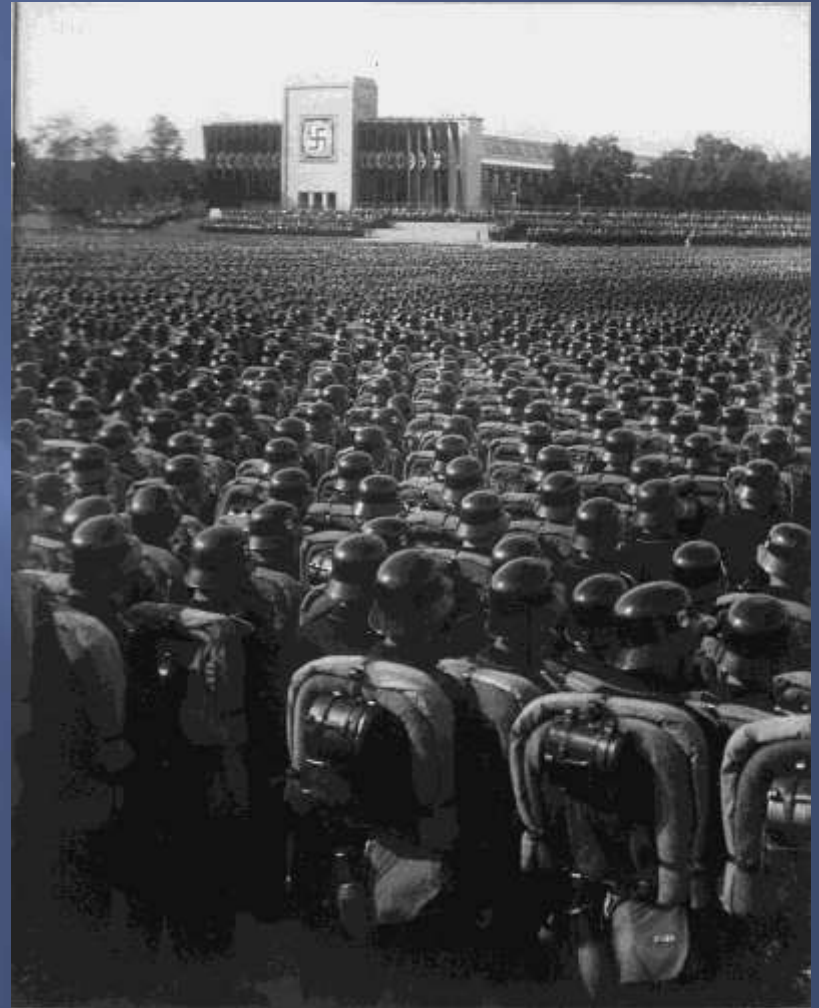
- ▣ 12 Regiments with first 3 becoming Totenkopf Division.





SS-Verfügungstruppe

- ▣ Formed 1934
- ▣ Deutschland, Germania and Der Führer
- ▣ On 17 August 1938 Adolf Hitler decreed that the SS-VT was neither a part of the police nor the German Wehrmacht, but military-trained men at the disposal of the Führer. At the time of war, the SS-VT were to be placed at the disposal of the army.
- ▣ Early missions was to protect the Nazi Party's interests.
- ▣ LSSAH included in SS-VT, but Totenkopf were not, at first.



Why?

- ▣ Hitler had suppressed the SA because it was becoming a rival to the Army, but he seemed to like having a military force outside the Army.
- ▣ Himmler, who missed WW1, wanted to play soldier. The SS will not be the only Nazi organization modeled on military lines. The entire German state will be militarized to some degree.
- ▣ Hitler promised the Army that the SS-VT, including the LSSAH, would be subordinate to the Army in wartime, but would be used for internal security.

Army suspicions

- ▣ Conscription brought back in 1935.
- ▣ All able bodied German males liable for military service.
- ▣ German Labor Service.
- ▣ Army recognizes service in SS-VT and LSSAH as counting toward military service, but not the Totenkopfverbände until 1939.

Joining the Waffen SS

- ▣ The LSSAH, SS-VT and Totenkopfverbände will officially become the Waffen SS in 1940.
- ▣ Prove their Aryan ancestry back to 1800, unmarried, and without a criminal record.
- ▣ A four-year commitment was required for the SS-VT and LSSAH. Recruits had to be between the ages of 17 and 23, (5 ft 9 in) tall (5 ft 10 in) for the LSSAH), 5 feet 8 for SS-TV.
- ▣ 20/20 eyesight
- ▣ No Atheists, Jews and originally Muslims.

Waffen SS Glossary

- ▣ Full SS consisted of the German divisions and the Nordic Freiwilligen (free will) volunteers and conscripts. It included Volksdeutsche.
- ▣ “Division” der SS- Non-Nordic volunteers. Technically they were part of the SS, but not full members because of the non-Aryan backgrounds.

Military Professionalism

- ▣ Live fire training.
- ▣ Extensive physical training
- ▣ Officers and enlisted
- ▣ Paul Hausser Felix Steiner



SS-Alibi of a Nation

Wehrmacht Blames Waffen SS



Part of Waffen SS Blames
Totenkopfverbände



Totenkopfverbände blames Camp
Guards and Rest of SS



All blame Hitler

Combat reputation of the Waffen SS

- ▣ Mostly from their actions from late 1942 onwards, but especially when the Wehrmacht was on the strategic defensive.
- ▣ Really restricted to about a third of the SS units the rest had issues
- ▣ The best weapons, Tigers, Panthers, etc go to the SS Panzer and Panzer Grenadier Divisions , which will be developed during the war, and those units are what is the popular perception of the Waffen SS

Atrocities

- ▣ All Armies in World War 2 committed atrocities at some level.
- ▣ However, systemic breaking of the rules of war was only endemic in the German, Soviet, Japanese and Chinese forces.
- ▣ It was an aberration in the British and American forces, as the cases were isolated, and usually either individually criminal or retaliatory in nature.
- ▣ Studying Nazi Germany, the Holocaust or the Waffen SS is prone to leave the individual feeling sick.

Nazi views on Race

- ▣ The lowest Jews, Negroes, and Gypsies.
- ▣ Other people of Color, Arabs, Indian's. American Indians, Chinese, all other Asians etc. Japanese honorary Aryans
- ▣ Next level Slav's-though there were some "Germanic elements" that might be salvaged.
- ▣ Other Non-Aryans -Celts, French, Italians (Romans considered Aryan depending on the Nazi writer), Spanish, Greeks (though Ancient Greeks considered Aryan) etc
- ▣ Non-German Aryan's -Dutch, British, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Finns - German Aryan's

Military training vs ideological indoctrination

- ▣ *Verfügungstruppe- more military , less indoctrination, most recruits retained Christianity.*
- ▣ *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler- a mixture of both. Taunted by SS-VT as “Asphalt Soldiers” –less ideologically indoctrinated than would be expected. Most recruits retained Christianity.*
- ▣ *SSTV and SSTD-Heavily indoctrinated by Eicke. Less militarily trained. Most recruits rejected Christianity under pressure from Eicke.*

German Army views on the Pre-War Waffen SS

- ▣ Leibstandarte- excellent [human] material. Acceptable to good NCO's and Junior officers, questionable top leadership (Sepp Deitrich). Lacking in technical service training, signals, quartermaster, etc. Received priority on supplies and equipment.
- ▣ SS-VT-Regiments equal to Heeres (Army), Excellent personnel and leadership. Question over siphoning men from Army. Received priority on supplies and equipment.
- ▣ SSTV- Poor leadership and material. Not up to front line combat standards. Poor discipline, non-existent technical training. Army refused to provide supply. In the early war received cast off Czech equipment.

1939 Invasion of Poland

- ▣ Leibstandarte, Germania and Deutschland Rgt's take part in Polish Campaign.
- ▣ Der Führer in reserve.
- ▣ The 2 main SSTV Rgt's (Oberbayern, Thuringia, Brandenburg) take part in Einsatzgruppen role.

Totenkopfverbände in Poland

- ▣ SSTV killed at least a few thousand Poles and Jews in Poland. Total number unknown.
- ▣ Numerous cases of arson and murder of Jews
- ▣ Included in this was the murder of over 1000 mentally ill patients in a Psychiatric Hospital.
- ▣ Several German Army officers protest, including 8th Army commander Johannes Blaskowitz, through official channels wanting Eicke and responsible members arrested.

Totenkopfverbände in Poland

- ▣ Bruno Streckenbach –example of officer transferring between Gestapo, Einsatzgruppen and Waffen SS



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1068-034-18A
Foto: o. Ang. | 20. Oktober 1939

Army criticism of the Waffen SS

- ▣ Leibstandarte- needed Army help at Pabianice.
- ▣ SS-VT criticized as reckless, and men were poorly trained.
- ▣ Both took too many casualties.
- ▣ Strange in light of the pre-war Army official comments. Probably due to official Army fear of the growth of the Waffen SS.
- ▣ The tank is almost synonymous with the Waffen SS so this and next weeks will focus much on the tank and supporting arms

Army criticism of the Waffen SS

- ▣ SSTV- poorly trained. Murderous thugs. Though many were happy with the rear area security and police work that they relieved the Army from doing.
- ▣ German officers were well aware of the German Army's reputation in Belgium (WW1) warranted and unwarranted

Post War Waffen SS apologetics

- ▣ Waffen SS separate from Einsatzgruppen.
- ▣ If Waffen SS committed atrocities it was done by ethnic units barely associated with SS
- ▣ Finally, the atrocity was committed by SSTD or SSTV, (particularly from members of Das Reich, LAH, or Wiking.)

Oct 1939 to May 1940

- ▣ Oct -SS military units officially became Waffen SS.
- ▣ Organized into 3 divisions plus 1 Motorized Inf Rgt (LAH)

Verfügungstruppe or SSVT

- ▣ Made up of Deutschland, Germania, and Der Fuhrer plus divisional elements.
- ▣ Motorized infantry division.
- ▣ 1st time to fight as a division though elements will on occasion separated.
- ▣ Well supplied and equipped by the Army****

Replacements and recruits

- ▣ The LAH and SSVT remained selective, controlling their recruits until 1940. SS-Hauptamt under Gottlob Berger increasingly took over.
- ▣ The SSTD continued to use the SSTK and Concentration Camp Guard system as a replacement pool into 1941.
- ▣ The vast majority of replacements in the early war years, for all Waffen SS, came from the SSTK, followed by limited recruitment, than the ORPO or police.

Totenkopfverbände becomes SSTD

- ▣ Formed from guards from SSTV Brandenburg, Oberbayen and Thuringia.
- ▣ Army refused to offer supply and specialist training until January 1940.
- ▣ Eicke maintained his own “unique” illegal judicial system where several soldiers were sent to Dachau or Buchenwald as inmates.
- ▣ Changed in 1940 to time in transfer to Engineer Sonderkommando where they were given very dangerous missions.

Totenkopfverbände becomes SSTD

- ❑ Recruits pressured to drop affiliations with Christian churches.- Eicke bragged right before the invasion of France only 4 Catholics remained in the division.
- ❑ Noted for poor discipline
- ❑ This unit was fanatical, while many of the senior officers had World War 1 service it was in junior positions.
- ❑ Staff work, technical services.
- ❑ Junior officer and nco's were not Army trained unlike SSVT and LAH.

Totenkopfverbände becomes SSTD

- ▣ Army refused to supply division until the spring of 1940.
- ▣ Eicke often had to steal equipment from SS pools.
- ▣ Czech weapons.
- ▣ Eicke and his staff do an ok job in getting unit ready, but it had several shortcomings not apparent o non-professional solders
- ▣ Army report – “presented a nice appearance, but not ready to be trusted in front line role.”

4th SS Polizei Division

- ▣ Remained administratively de jure part of the Ordnungspolizei until 1942, but de facto Waffen SS
- ▣ Made up of 15,000 military capable members of the Police.
- ▣ Condition in 1940- poorly trained and equipped, not suitable for front line service.

4th SS Polizei Division



Germany 31-39

- ▣ 1934 German Military rearms and expands in violation of Treaty of Versailles
- ▣ 2 August 34 Hindenburg dies, Hitler combines off Pres and Chan. Becomes sole leader of Germany
- ▣ Anglo-German Naval Treaty 18 Jun35
- ▣ 7 Mar 36 German Army reenters Rhineland

Great Britain

- ▣ By mid 30's still feeling effects of Great Depression
- ▣ Collapse of Ramsay MacDonald's National Government 1935.
- ▣ Strong view across political spectrum that arms races lead to war
- ▣ Baldwin Government begins modest rearmament 1935-1936 in spite of Peace Ballot.
- ▣ Labour Party opposed to rearmament

Stresa Front 1935

- ▣ British, French and Italian attempt to contain Germany
- ▣ Pierre Laval –Samuel Hoare Pact publicized 1936
- ▣ British and French public reaction to Italian invasion of Ethiopia
- ▣ Anglo-German Naval Treaty 1935
- ▣ Italy withdraws and looks to Germany
- ▣ USSR views West as weak

Peace Ballot Great Britain

- The first question of the Ballot was: **Should Great Britain remain a Member of the League of Nations?** *Yes, 11,090,387. No, 355,883.*
- The second question was: **Are you in favour of all-round reduction of armaments by international agreement?** *Yes, 10,470,489. No, 862,775.*
- The third question was: **Are you in favour of an all-round abolition of national military and naval aircraft by international agreement?** *Yes, 9,533,558. No, 1,689,786.*
- The fourth question was: **Should the manufacture and sale of armaments for private profit be prohibited by international agreement?** *Yes, 10,417,329. No, 775,415.*
- The fifth and last question was: **Do you consider that, if a nation insists on attacking another, the other nations should combine to compel it to stop –**
 - **(a) by economic and non-military measures:** *Yes, 10,027,608. No, 635,074.*
 - **(b) if necessary, military measures:** *Yes, 6,784,368. No, 2,351,981.*

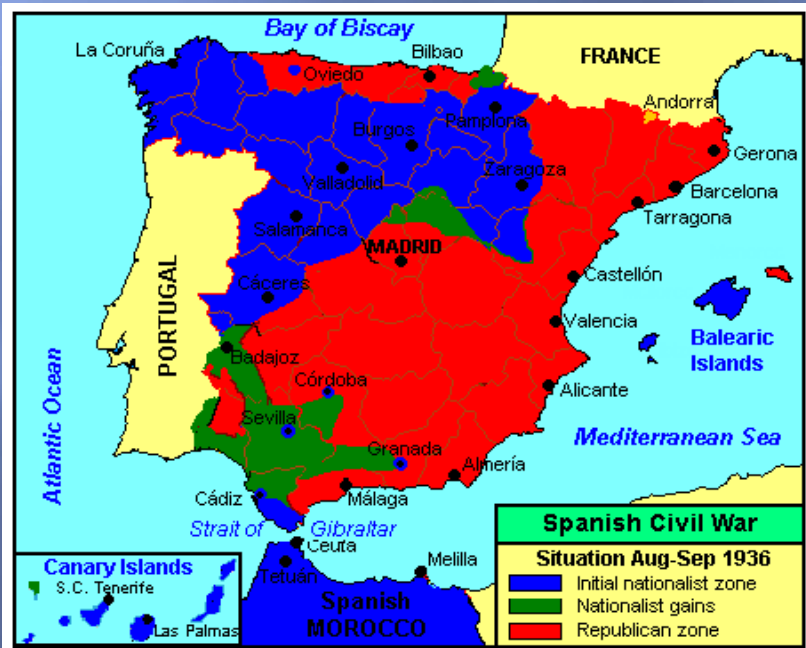
Great Britain

- ▣ Both Baldwin and Chamberlain's government viewed the Peace Ballot as to look to the League of Nations before engaging in a war.
- ▣ In other words Collective Security
- ▣ 1st test Italian invasion of Ethiopia
- ▣ League failed to provide collective security
- ▣ Chamberlain as PM 1937-1940

France

- Leon Blum PM 1936- 1938
- Popular Front victory to leads to political turmoil between left and right.
- Blum falls from fallout over Spanish Civil War
- Edourd Daladier PM 1938-1940
- France attempts to get Belgium and the Netherlands to discuss security reasons
- Pushed into Munich Great Britain and fallout from failure of
- France starts rearmament in earnest in October 1938
- "a domination of the Continent in comparison with which the ambitions of Napoleon were feeble."
- "Today, it is the turn of Czechoslovakia. Tomorrow, it will be the turn of Poland and Romania. When Germany has obtained the oil and wheat it needs, she will turn on the West. Certainly we must multiply our efforts to avoid war. But that will not be obtained unless Great Britain and France stick together, intervening in Prague for new concessions but declaring at the same time that they will safeguard the independence of Czechoslovakia. If, on the contrary, the Western Powers capitulate again, they will only precipitate the war they wish to avoid."

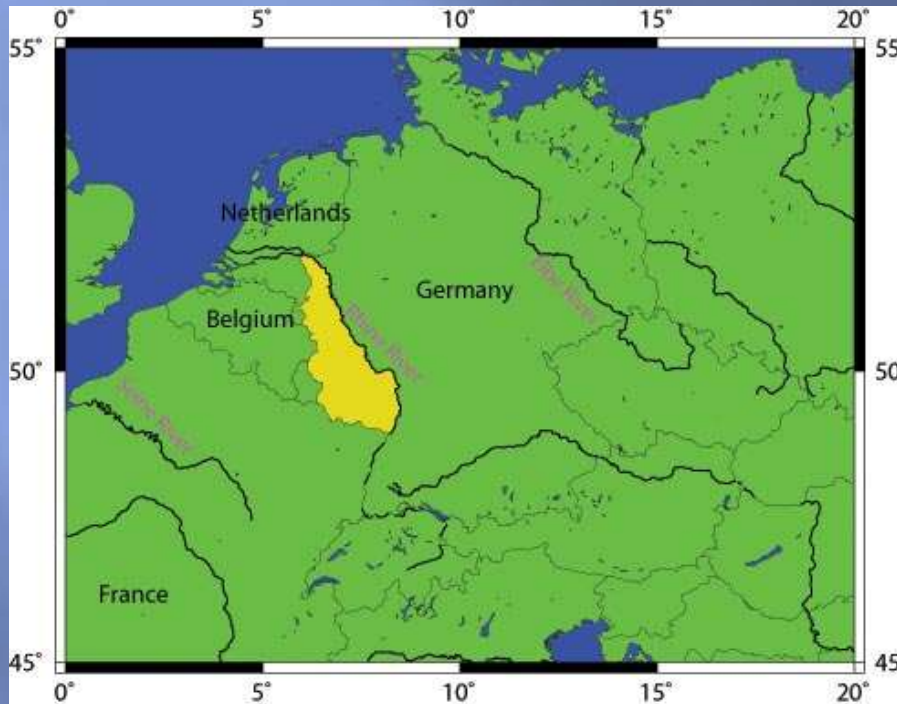
Spanish Civil War Jul 36-Apr 39



US 1930's

- ❑ Roosevelt looks to Europe, leaves government policy vacuum regarding Japan
- ❑ Strong conflicts between Army and Navy over best defense policy
- ❑ State Department refuses to talk to War and Navy Department's over national policy.
- ❑ FDR offers vague leadership though he is watching Germany
- ❑ Navy grows in size as it becomes clear that Japan is violating Washington and London Treaties
- ❑ Vinson-Trammell Act 1934- Naval Act of 1938

Germany's Moves



Munich

- ▣ UK begins modest expansion of RAF after the Anschluss, against the wishes of the public.



Appeasement

- ▣ Chamberlain was well aware that the results could end in war.
- ▣ British and French public wanted peace
- ▣ UK and French weakness in the Pacific
- ▣ UK unwilling to make aggressive moves in the Pacific without US and we were sending mixed signals.
- ▣ Chamberlain does start rearming after Munich.
- ▣ Chamberlain truly wanted to avoid war.
- ▣ Hitler was unknown quantity.

USSR

- ▣ Buy time
- ▣ Wishes to join Axis Alliance
- ▣ After Munich, Stalin no longer views the West as trustworthy or strong.
- ▣ May have been willing to go to war with Germany over Czechoslovakia, but Poland refused to allow Soviet troops on its soil,

Germany

- ▣ March 1939 Hitler occupies rest of Czechoslovakia
- ▣ Hitler was upset that the West caved so easily
- ▣ Makes demands of Poland
- ▣ There was some possibility of a land swap between Poland and Germany. Negotiations between Germany and Poland through Italy and the Vatican.-vetoed by Hitler
- ▣ It appears that Hitler wanted war.
- ▣ *Zweites Buch*
- ▣ Andreas Hillgruber- Stufenplan

Hitler and foreign policy

- ▣ Stufenplan
- ▣ Rearmament
- ▣ Continental Europe- War with France and USSR with the possibility of the UK as an ally
- ▣ War with US
- ▣ Hitler saw policy as a mixture of “race and space”

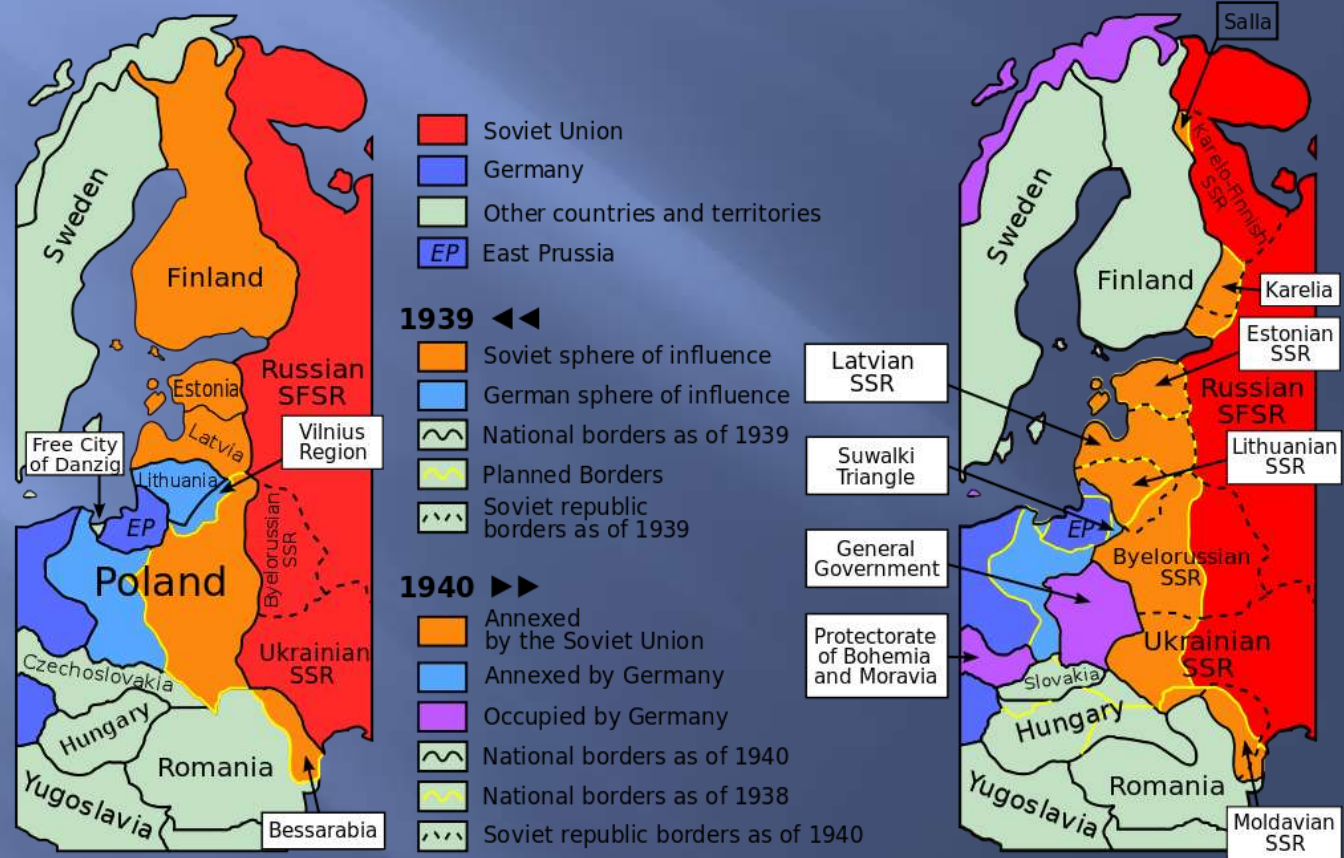
Hitler's Race and Space

- "Populations could adjust to a given space or space to a population."
- For a population to adapt its fixed space, it would have to undertake means of population control. Such forms could be "emigration, birth control, abortion and suicide," which, in Hitler's view, led to "racial decay."
- Hitler, therefore, favored adjusting space to Germany's population. Government policy would be such that would favor large families in agricultural settlements. This increase in population would "assure adequate military manpower for subsequent wars they would need to wage." Indigenous populations would be used as slave labor, with the exception of Jews, Gypsies and Negroes. Excess indigenous, in this case Slavic, would be controlled by expulsion, controlled starvation, sterilization and/or extermination.
- Treaties were for political only to be discarded once their benefit ceased.
- Hitler got the war he wanted, but it took time for his political dishonesty to manifest itself.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact - August 23, 1939

Planned division of Central Europe according to Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Actual territorial changes 1939-1940



Poland

- ▣ UK and France overestimated Poland's ability to hold out
- ▣ Poland was expecting a French attack in the West
- ▣ 1st Part of Western Betrayal of Poland
- ▣ UK and France start to re-evaluate their doctrine
- ▣ France forms tank divisions (DCR's) in contrast to already formed Mechanized Cavalry Divisions DLM's which were in existence at start of war

Invasion of Poland



Winter War 30 November 1939 – 13 March 1940



- ❑ UK and France come very close to going to war with USSR
- ❑ Plans for Intervention in Norway-Narvik (Operation Pike)
- ❑ USSR is considered full German ally by West
- ❑ Soviets learn the state of military
- ❑ Germany (Hitler) reinforces his view of Soviet unpreparedness
- ❑ Continuation War 25 June 1941 – 19 September 1944

Phoney War-Sitzkrieg

October 1939 – April 1940

- ▣ Naval Action- in particular Graf Spee
- ▣ Saar Offensive –Sep 7, 1939- Sep 16, 1939
- ▣ Altmark Incident
- ▣ Leaflet bombing
- ▣ West Inactivity
- ▣ German redeployment

Objectives

- ▣ Not always practical
- ▣ Some belong more in the realm of fantasy (particularly some of the Axis)
- ▣ Best case scenarios
- ▣ In many cases changes were made during the war

German Objectives

- War with France/UK
- War with USSR
- War with USA
- Globalists-Continentalist
- World Conquest- however plans are vague in some areas (South America) taking of British and French Empires in Africa
- German soldier-farmers in conquered areas
- Germanic Peoples united- Scandinavia-Dutch, etc
- Berlin-Germania
- Plan for possible war with Japan
- Allow Italy to have its Empire with some concessions (territory, Jews)
- **Racial reorganization of world**
- Killing of handicapped (mental retardation, those that would be a burden to state.)
- **Extermination of Jews, Gypsies, Negroes, homosexuals**
- Either starvation and/or mass sterilization of excess non-Germanic peoples. (Slav's, French, etc)
- Remaining non-Germanic populations would be in effect slaves of the state
- 1st Phase against Christianity Harsh measures against Confessing Church-Elimination of Christianity that was opposed to Nazi Regime
- 2nd Phase against Christianity-elimination

French Objectives

- ▣ Before the defeat
- ▣ Maintain Empire
- ▣ Attack Germany in 1942
- ▣ US to enter war
- ▣ DeGaulle
- ▣ Maintain Empire
- ▣ Restore France as a great power
- ▣ Acquire Libya from Italy
- ▣ Saar Region
- ▣ Germany west of the Rhine

USSR Objectives

- ❑ Keeping gains from Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
- ❑ Absorb all of Petsamo region from Finland
- ❑ Creation of buffer region with pro-soviet governments in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary.
- ❑ Western European countries restored with France as a diminished power
- ❑ Territorial concessions from Germany
- ❑ Concessions from Turkey and Iran
- ❑ Bartered away influence of Greece to Britain
- ❑ Sakhalin and Kuriles
- ❑ Veto power in coming UN of great powers
- ❑ Willing as late as 1943 to listen to German terms for peace.
- ❑ Moved toward unconditional surrender late

UK Objectives (Churchill)

- ▣ Maintain empire- Atlee was ready to pull out of much of it.
- ▣ Restore French, Dutch and Belgian Colonial empires
- ▣ Restore France to great power status
- ▣ China remain a minor regional power
- ▣ Contain USSR, but willing to make deals over spheres of influence
- ▣ Possible breakup of Germany, but intent to “keep it fat, but impotent.”
- ▣ Slow to come to terms with FDR on United Nations
- ▣ Churchill proposed World Council dominated by Europe and America
- ▣ Unconditional surrender

US Objectives (Roosevelt)

- ▣ Unconditional surrender
- ▣ Formation United Nations
- ▣ Willing to have Germany lose territory in the East
- ▣ Early in the war-breakup of Germany
- ▣ China as a major power
- ▣ Wanted European powers to, at least gradually, give up their colonies
- ▣ Constantly bickered with Churchill if the Americans thought British operations were meant to protect British Empire or spheres of influence (Greece)
- ▣ On occasion understood nature of Soviet government, but eventually gave in on most considerations in exchange for the UN
- ▣ War Crimes trials

Air Power Prophets



- ▣ Hugh Trenchard
- ▣ Giulio Douhet
- ▣ William “Billy” Mitchell
- ▣ Strategic bombing
- ▣ Overstated the effectiveness of airpower



Military Effectiveness-UK

- Societal-viewed victory in war as almost as costly as defeat. War to avoided
- In spite of possessing many military theorists and being father of armored warfare-Great Depression significantly impacted the British military
- 1st the Soviet Union and US seen as military rivals- only in 1930's did it move to Germany
- Regimental-Constabulary Army
- Naval Conferences saw Royal Navy with increasing old and obsolete fleet
- War industries were operating at lowest levels, barely maintaining survivability
- Officer recruitment and retention a problem
- 2 Hemisphere Naval problem with a 1 hemisphere Navy
- Anti-Army officer bias Col Blimp

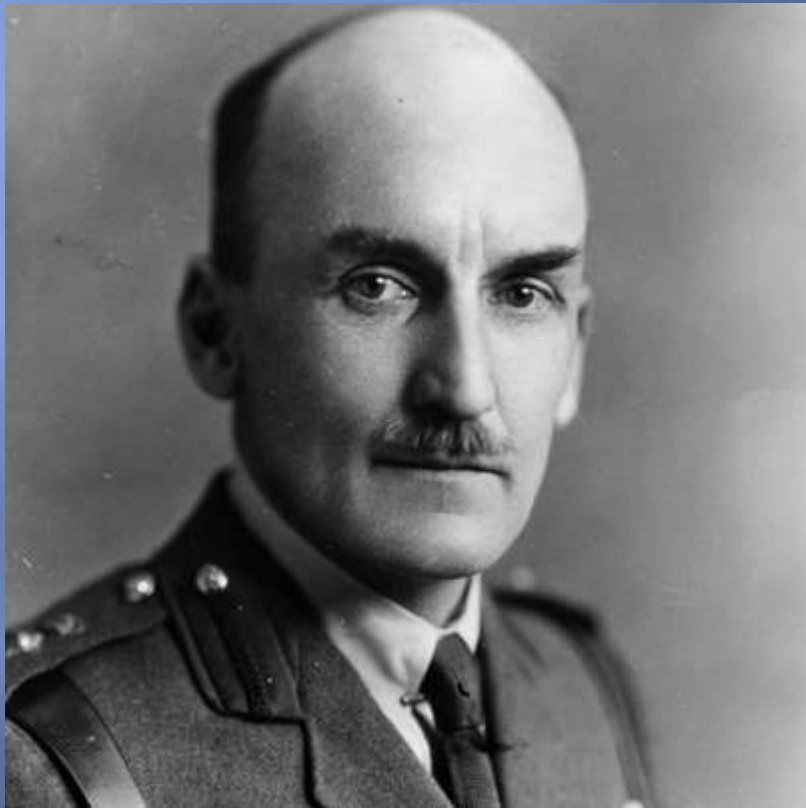
Military Effectiveness-UK

- ▣ Problems with coordinating activity with New Zealand, Australia, and especially Canada
- ▣ Little active cooperation with France until 1939
- ▣ Lack of inter-service cooperation
- ▣ Inter-service rivalry over budgets
- ▣ Sir Hugh Trenchard and Bomber Command
- ▣ Able to form Fighter Command and integrate radar-Dowding
- ▣ Unbalanced fleet- lack of planning for submarine warfare
- ▣ RAF Coastal Command neglected

Military Effectiveness-UK

- ▣ Royal Naval training was relatively high
- ▣ Bomber advocates failed to keep with technology regarding increasing speed of fighters
- ▣ After the Depression little combined arms training
- ▣ Totally Mechanized
- ▣ Regimental system and tradition hindered expansion of specialized units like the Tank force
- ▣ British Army knew about the new technology of war, but failed to put into practice
- ▣ This effected British tactical and operational effectiveness well into war

John Frederick Charles Fuller



JFC Fuller

- ❑ Flawed genius
- ❑ Everyone was entitled to his opinion
- ❑ Scathing personal attacks on anyone who disagreed
- ❑ “the equine Tammany Hall who would far rather have lost the war than have seen cavalry replaced by tanks.”
- ❑ Assumed he was infallible and mentally superior to everyone that had a different point of view
- ❑ career hindered by his petulance
- ❑ *The Reformation of War (1923)*
- ❑ Called for the total mechanization of the British Army
- ❑ Leg infantry had no future in war outside of static defense and in constabulary roles
- ❑ Occult
- ❑ Flirt with British Fascist Party (Oswald Mosley)
- ❑ Torpedoed his chance to command the EMF over argument with High Command. (Tidworth Incident)

Basil Henry Liddell Hart



- ❑ Former infantry Captain
- ❑ Theory of the indirect approach
- ❑ “Expanding torrent”
- ❑ Noted historian
- ❑ Prolific writer
- ❑ Military correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*
- ❑ Highly influential

Basil Henry Liddell Hart

- ▣ Fickle
- ▣ Promoted many ideas which did not come true (use of light tanks and tankettes)
- ▣ Shameless self promoter
- ▣ Coerced Heinz Guderian and the Rommel family to give undue credit postwar.

The Problem with Fuller and Liddell Hart

- ▣ While both were geniuses and deserving of substantial credit:
- ▣ British High Command was not as unreceptive to tanks and mechanization as they claim
- ▣ Both argued against a caricature of “Col. Blimp” which did not exist
- ▣ They were not as popular in Germany or the Soviet Union as claimed
- ▣ Subjects of modern works that come close to being hagiographies
- ▣ Fuller was his own worst enemy

In defense of Liddell Hart and Fuller

- ▣ Both men were veterans of trench warfare
- ▣ Traumatic experiences
- ▣ Did not wish to repeat the wasting of human lives
- ▣ Quite Human failings

Experimental Mechanized Force 1927

▣ Salisbury Plain



- ▣ Stimulated interest in armored warfare
- ▣ Combined arms- infantry, artillery and armor, inc a detachment from the RAF
- ▣ Lessons learned- radios, need for tracked infantry carrier

British Developments

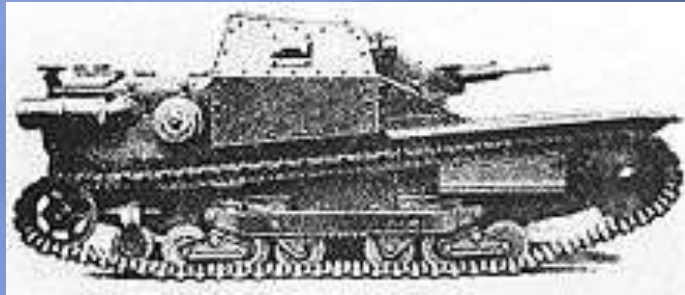
- ▣ Great Depression
- ▣ Political fighting for decreasing public resources
- ▣ British development of light tanks and tankettes (pushed by Liddell Hart)
- ▣ Infantry tanks- pushed by Col. Hugh Elles
- ▣ Infantry tanks- pushed by Col. Hugh Elles
- ▣ Cruiser tanks- Giffard L.Q. Martel
- ▣ British Armored force lacked sufficient infantry
- ▣ Tank heavy
- ▣ British Armored Division- 6 bn's of tanks only 1 bn of lorried infantry

British Theory

- ▣ Cruiser tanks for exploration
- ▣ Infantry tanks for infantry support
- ▣ Hugh Elles, GQ Martel, Percy Hobart



Tankettes



Military Effectiveness-France

- ▣ Problems between military and civilian governments, particularly leftwing governments
- ▣ German rate of birth
- ▣ Maginot Line also to protect northeast iron and coal resources
- ▣ Force the fight in Belgium rather than France
- ▣ Communist factory agitation after Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
- ▣ Very rigid centralized doctrine and tactics based upon firepower and slow but steady advances.
- ▣ Little room for initiative at lower command levels
- ▣ Did not view Ardennes as impenetrable, but viewed that an advancing force would take days or weeks to clear
- ▣ Lack of military cooperation from Benelux, after Belgium withdrawals from alliance in 1936.

Military Effectiveness-France

- ▣ On defense until combination of Franco-British forces, and hopefully Americans would launch major offensives against exhausted German forces in 1942
- ▣ Tanks dispersed among smaller units
- ▣ Better tanks, better anti-tank than Germans
- ▣ Lack of radios
- ▣ Expected Germans to fight in exactly the same way

French Armor theory

- ▣ Infantry tanks (Char) light, medium, Heavy
- ▣ Cavalry tanks (Automitrailleuses (AMC's, AMR's) medium for combat, light for reconnaissance)



French Armor theory

- ▣ DCR (*Division cuirassée*) and DLM (*Division Légère Mécanique*)
- ▣ DCR used for infantry support
- ▣ DLM used for mobile operations.
- ▣ 1 man turret- commander acted as gunner and loader
- ▣ Tanks seen as infantry support weapons only
- ▣ Charles de Gaulle
- ▣ Instability of the 3rd Republic
- ▣ *Strange Defeat*-Marc Bloch- Annales School

Military Effectiveness-US

- ▣ Totally mechanized in spite of budget woes
- ▣ Officer retention
- ▣ Woefully small and little large scale exercises until 1939-40
- ▣ Hostility of state Department on strategic issues
- ▣ Many schools of thought on strategy with little direction from White House
- ▣ Fleet imbalanced toward old BB's
- ▣ Army-infantry centered
- ▣ Navy-BB centered
- ▣ USAAC-heavy bomber centered
- ▣ Forced to learn lessons of war with German victories in Europe

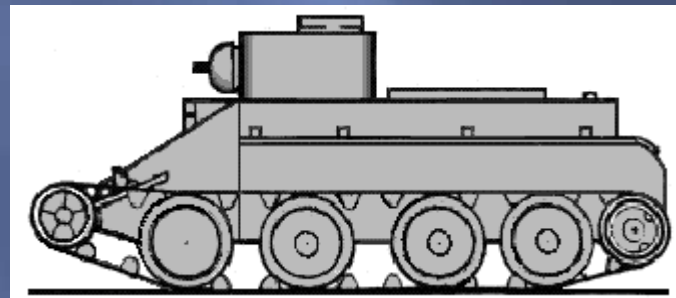
United States

- ▣ The Father of American Armor
- ▣ who is missing?
- ▣ Tanks- infantry support
- ▣ Tanks legally part of the infantry
- ▣ Combat Cars for cavalry

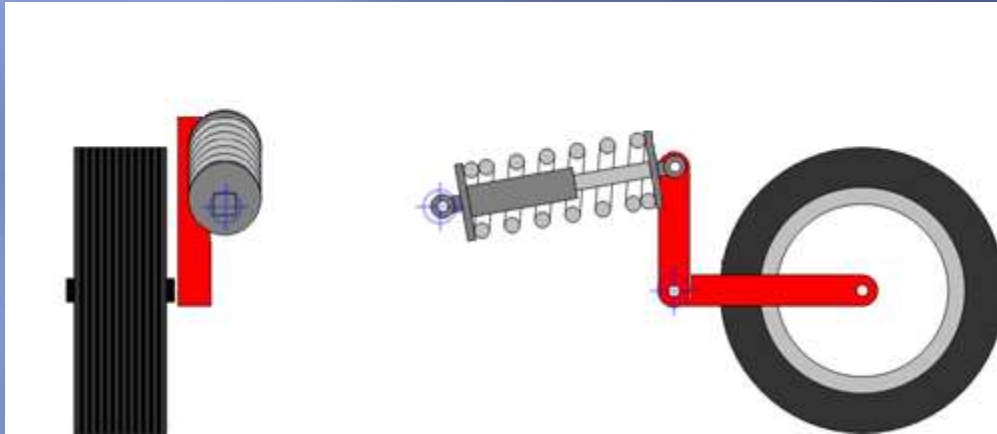


J. Walter Christie and his tanks

- ▣ Innovative suspension \ sloped armor
- ▣ Trouble to work with.
- ▣ USSR/UK



Christie Suspension

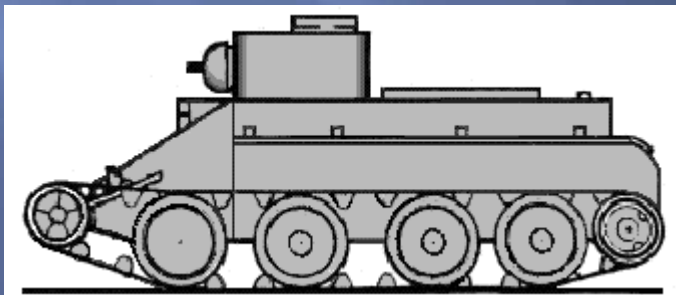


Military Effectiveness-USSR

- ▣ Forced industrialization
- ▣ Fight between diehard Marxists (Stalin and the non-professionals) vs Trotsky (professionals)
- ▣ Red Army as a professional force or Worker's Militia
- ▣ Tukhachevsky vs Stalin
- ▣ Deep Battle
- ▣ Not until 1931 where Soviets able to start relying on indigenous designs and construction
- ▣ Not until 1937 did they have the numbers and then the Purge
- ▣ Highly innovative until Purge
- ▣ Surviving officers learned wrong lessons from Spain

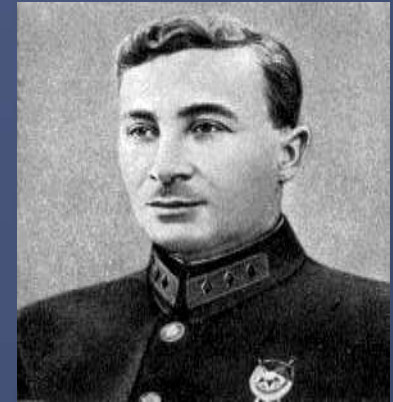
Red Army Before the Purge

- ❑ Prior to the purges, the Red Army was at the forefront of military thinking.
- ❑ Deep Battle
- ❑ Battle between Tsarist- New officer
- ❑ Struggle between professionalism and Communist Ideology
- ❑ Question of exportations of Proletarian Revolution



Soviet Military Thinkers

- ▣ Mikhail Tukhachevsky
- ▣ Vladimir Triandifilov
- ▣ Alexander Svechin
- ▣ Georgi Isserson
- ▣ Nikolai Efremovich Varfolomeev-Not Pictured

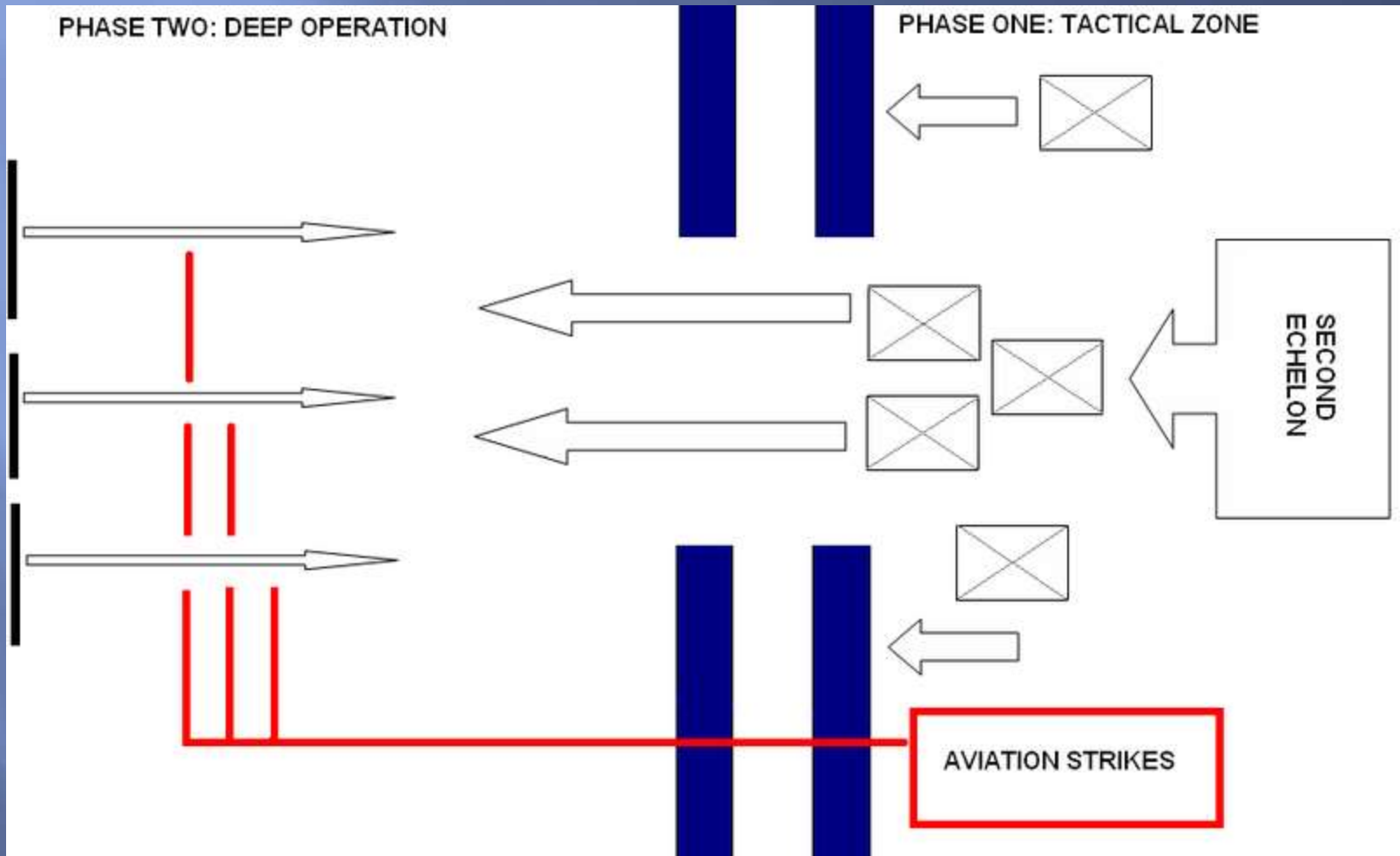


Concept of Deep Battle

- Most codified of all tank doctrine
- Combined arms
- Shock Army
- Tank (Mechanized) Army
- Different forms of Deep Battle
- The meeting engagement
- Attack against prepared defense
- Defensive battle
- Distinguished between Holding , breakthrough and exploitation
- Tactical phase
- Operational phase
- Breakthrough formation of 2 echelon's
- Assaulting force
- Reserve
- Exploitation Force- Operational Maneuver force- after the war will evolve into OMG that NATO feared
- Exploitation phase- 2 weeks to a month before logistical exhaustion
- Followed by 2 week to a month rest before the process resumed

PHASE TWO: DEEP OPERATION

PHASE ONE: TACTICAL ZONE



The Great Purge 1937-1939

- ▣ 3 out of 5 Marshals
- ▣ 13 out of 15 Army Generals
- ▣ 8 out of 9 Admirals
- ▣ 50 out of 57 Army Corps Commanders
- ▣ 154 out of 186 Division Commanders
- ▣ At least 30,000 officers arrested and executed out of 120,000 officers
- ▣ Another 26,000 arrested and imprisoned
- ▣ Poor showing in Winter War forces Army to modernize and reform.
- ▣ Soviets disband Tank\Mech Corps in favor Division

Military Effectiveness-Italy

- Illusion of great strength in early to mid 1930's
- Industrial Strength even weaker than Japan
- Resource poor
- Military and Naval Study 1938-armed forces not ready for general European War until 1948. partially ready in 1942
- Advanced doctrine proposed by some junior officers, but generally ignored by senior staff
- Lack of cooperation between Army, Navy and Air Force
- Army lacked heavy artillery, mg's.
- Officer corps poorly trained
- Ammo shortages chronic
- 1/4 of conscripts rejected for poor health
- Semi-literate peasantry
- Overly cautious Naval Command
- Infatuated with Douhet in spite of lacking ability to mass produce effective heavy bombers
- Poor engine industry-underpowered
- Unable to protect its own maritime traffic
- Could barely keep forces in Libya supplied
- Inadequate submarine training
- Lack of spare parts, trucks
- Officer corps poorly trained in logistics

Differences Between Soviet and German approach

- ▣ Soviet
 - ▣ Encirclement desired, but not always the goal
 - ▣ Destruction of enemy forces desired, but break down in command and control acceptable
 - ▣ Tanks not always needed for initial breakthrough
- ▣ German
 - ▣ Encirclement almost always desired
 - ▣ Destruction of the enemy forces
 - ▣ Tanks needed for breakthrough

Italy

- ▣ Lack of adequate industry plagued Italian Mechanized forces and the Italian military
- ▣ Not apparent until World War 2
- ▣ Excellent designers, but designs were limited by industrial capacity
- ▣ Italy did possess some forward thinkers, but they lacked practical experience
- ▣ Tanks
- ▣ 1st practical use of tanks in asymmetrical warfare role (Ethiopia)

Italy



German Armor Theory

- ▣ Term “Blitzkrieg” was never used by the Germans
- ▣ German “doctrine” stressed the concept of annihilation (Vernichtungsgedanke)
- ▣ Mobile operations or “war of movement” (Bewegungskrieg) in order to create the battle of encirclement (Kesselschlacht)
- ▣ Concentric assaults by separated forces
- ▣ They wished to avoid positional warfare (Stellungskrieg)

Myth of British Influence

- ▣ German officers were aware of Fuller, and Liddell Hart, but there were major differences in doctrine:
- ▣ German's always stressed combined arms vs the British tank heavy system
- ▣ Fuller and Liddell Hart favored paralyzing the enemy command and control while the German viewed the destruction of the enemy army as the primary goal.

German Theory

- ▣ The Panzer Division created by the Germans was a self contained force of combined arms, infantry, engineers, reconnaissance, and artillery, were to have **equal mobility**, at least in theory if not always in practice to tanks
- ▣ **The Panzer Division with motorized infantry would conduct deep penetrations to destroy or dislocate enemy artillery.**

A word of caution

- ▣ Many US Army Armor enthusiasts misuse German Military History.
- ▣ Wehrmacht envy
- ▣ Used as a font of wisdom-“A storehouse to be looted to justify modern doctrinal concepts”
- ▣ An example- the use of the term “Auftragstaktik” - mission type orders- giving order for operations
- ▣ Not used by the German Army of World War 2
- ▣ Created by the postwar Bundeswehr

German Practice

- ▣ Loose command arrangement
- ▣ Commander's intent (Absicht)
- ▣ Nature of the task (Aufträge)
- ▣ Subordinate would use initiative to create a resolution (Entschluss)
- ▣ German subordinate's were given authority to abandon the task, but could never abandon his commander's intent. Higher HQ would be informed immediately by necessity.
- ▣ If done the subordinate accepted full responsibility
- ▣ System was designed to foster initiative and creativity

German Army

- ▣ No set doctrine, system or dogma existed, outside what is already mentioned
- ▣ Officer school system accepted the dialectic approach
- ▣ Improvisation
- ▣ German Army prior to 1945 never adopted set principles of war

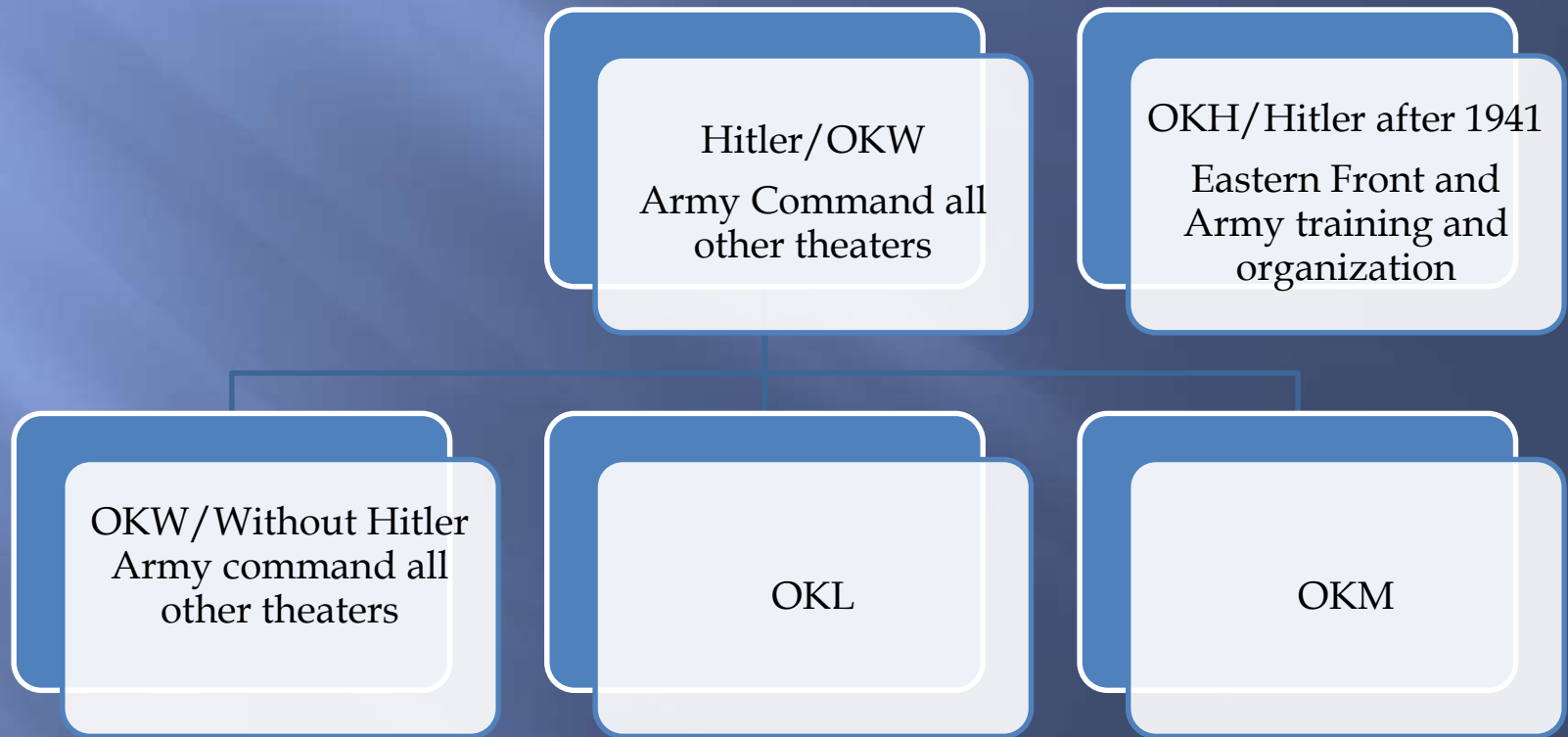
Practical Applications

- ▣ Must appreciate the German system based upon the political, societal and cultural factors that created it
- ▣ Autocratic Prussian model
- ▣ National Socialism
- ▣ Is it possible to adopt in a more democratic society?
- ▣ German Army vs the German Wehrmacht
- ▣ Wehrmacht, as opposed to the Army (Heeres) was inefficient lacking unity of command.

German High Command in Theory



German High Command in Practice



German Armor Theory

- ▣ Created by many officers
- ▣ German High Command was supportive of tanks, contrary to Guderian's statements and popular works.
- ▣ Von Seeckt stressed the need for motorization from 1920.
- ▣ Von Seeckt wished to create an elite highly mobile professional army
- ▣ *Militär-Wochenblatt*

German Military Theorists

- ▣ Ernest Volckheim- most prolific of writers.
- ▣ Viewed tanks as an infantry support weapon in battalion or regimental sized formations
- ▣ Stressed the role of tanks as killers of other tanks

German Military Theorists

- ▣ Ludwig von Eimansberger
- ▣ *Der Kampfwagenkreig (The Tank War)*
- ▣ Combined arms
- ▣ Tank was to attack as part of all arms force, including air, and never alone.
- ▣ Attack with speed and mass

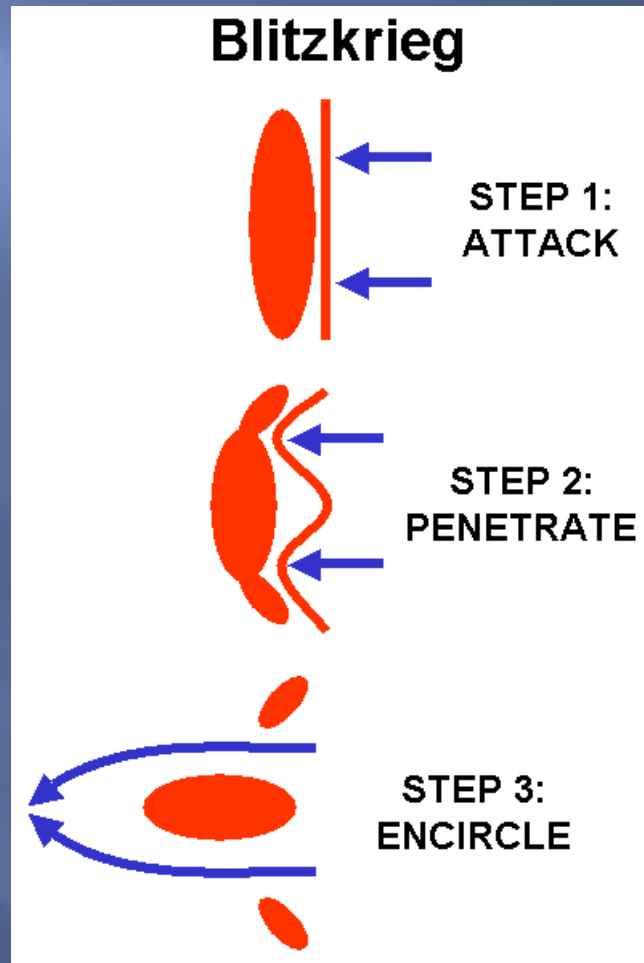
German Military Theorists

- ▣ Walter Spannenkrebs
- ▣ *Angriff mit Kampfwagen (The Attack with Fighting Vehicles)*
- ▣ Tanks at the tactical and operational levels
- ▣ Tanks were largely an operational weapon
- ▣ Air support in reconnaissance, direct ground support and aerial resupply of forward detachments

What most miss

- ▣ Many commentators focus on the panzers and Luftwaffe, but miss the considerable improvements in infantry and artillery.
- ▣ Georg Bruchmiller
- ▣ Brutal selection and training of officers
- ▣ Ability to maintain cohesion after losses and ability to create ad hoc teams
- ▣ Noticeably absent Erwin Rommel

German theory



Differences Between Soviet and German approach

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Annihilation Concept

Blitzkrieg

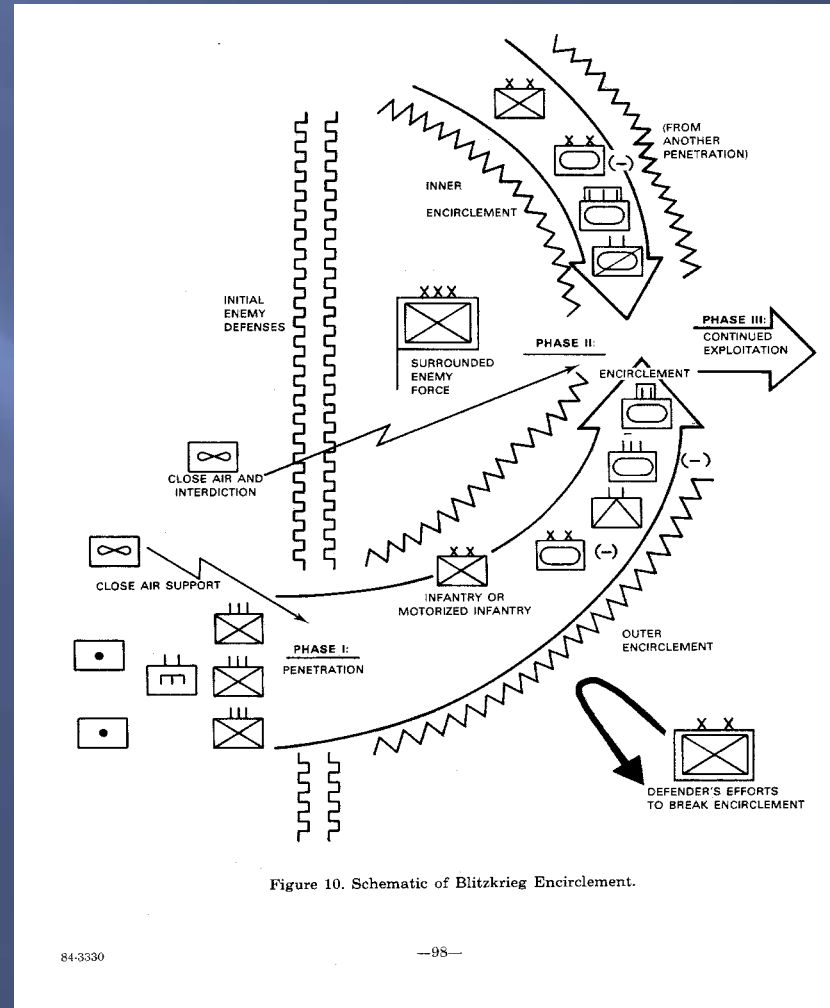
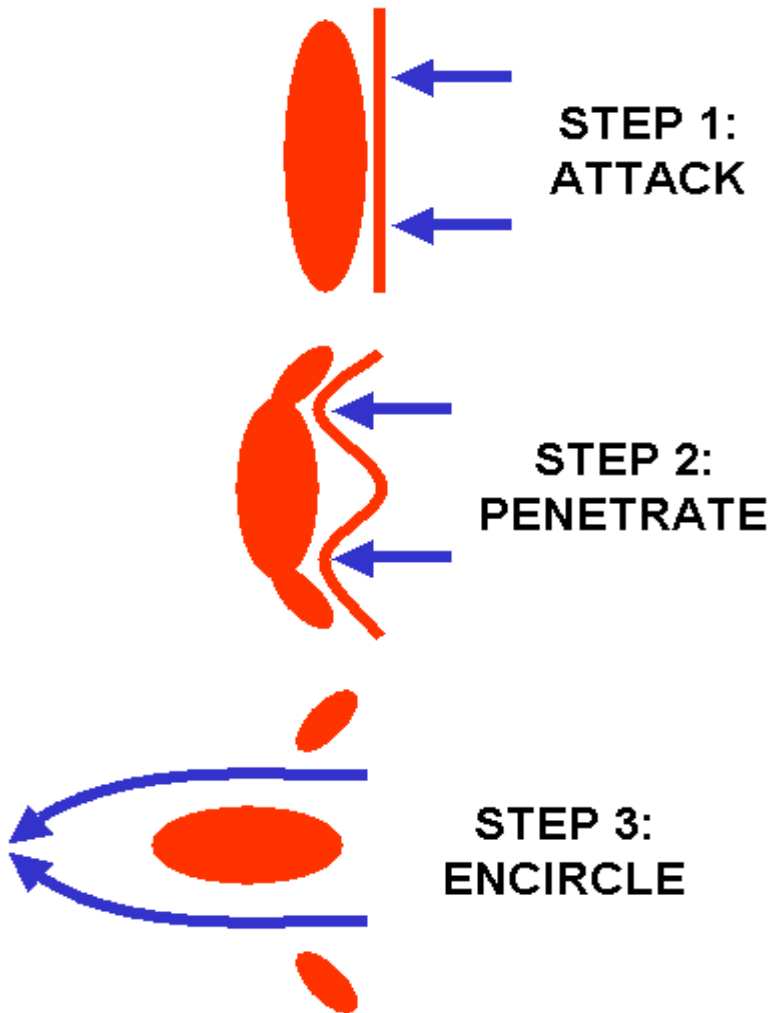


Figure 10. Schematic of Blitzkrieg Encirclement.

Luftwaffe 1939-1942

- ❑ Gained experience during the Spanish Civil War
- ❑ Most professional by 1939
- ❑ Lagged behind in 4 engine heavy bombers
- ❑ Was designed to support Army



Lessons from Poland

- ▣ 1 Giant Kesselschlacht of Cauldron Battle
- ▣ Polish forces outmatched (few successful counterattacks
- ▣ Luftwaffe able to operate in ground support (JU-87 Stuka), and interdiction (He-111, Ju-88, DO-17) from day 1
- ▣ Soviet invasion Sept 17
- ▣ Other powers take notice of German Panzer Divisions
- ▣ Tanks and aircraft are a terror weapon

Balance of Power

- ▣ Allies
 - ▣ 144 divisions,
13,974 guns,
3,384 tanks,
2,935 aircraft
Total: 2,862,000
- ▣ Germans
 - ▣ 141 divisions,
7,378 guns,
2,445 tanks,
5,638 aircraft
**Total:
3,350,000**

German Army 1939-1942



German Army 1939-1942



German Army

- ▣ Half the German tanks were PZ 1-2 little better than training tanks
- ▣ German radios and intercom's
- ▣ Motorized Infantry Corps with Panzers
- ▣ Leg infantry follow up
- ▣ Detail of the Battle
- ▣ German superiority in training, organization, command and control
- ▣ Short curt radio communications such as "attack 04:30", "88's needed 27th Mot Rgt"

British Army

- ❑ Infantry tank
- ❑ Cavalry Tank
- ❑ Universal tank would not come until end of war
- ❑ Mechanically unreliable
- ❑ Under armed



French Tanks



1 man
turret

Many
lacked
radios or
intercom
systems

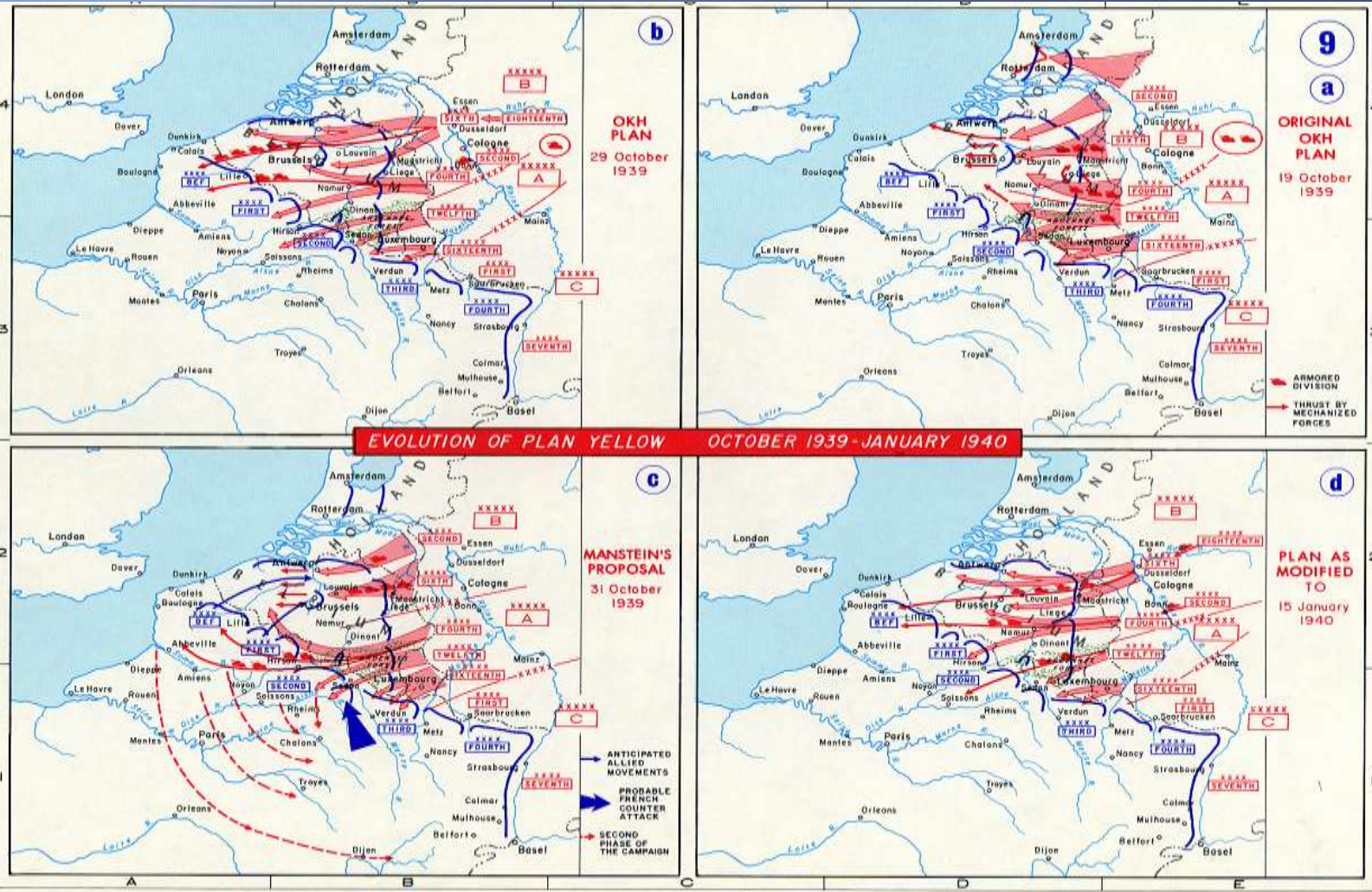
Fighters



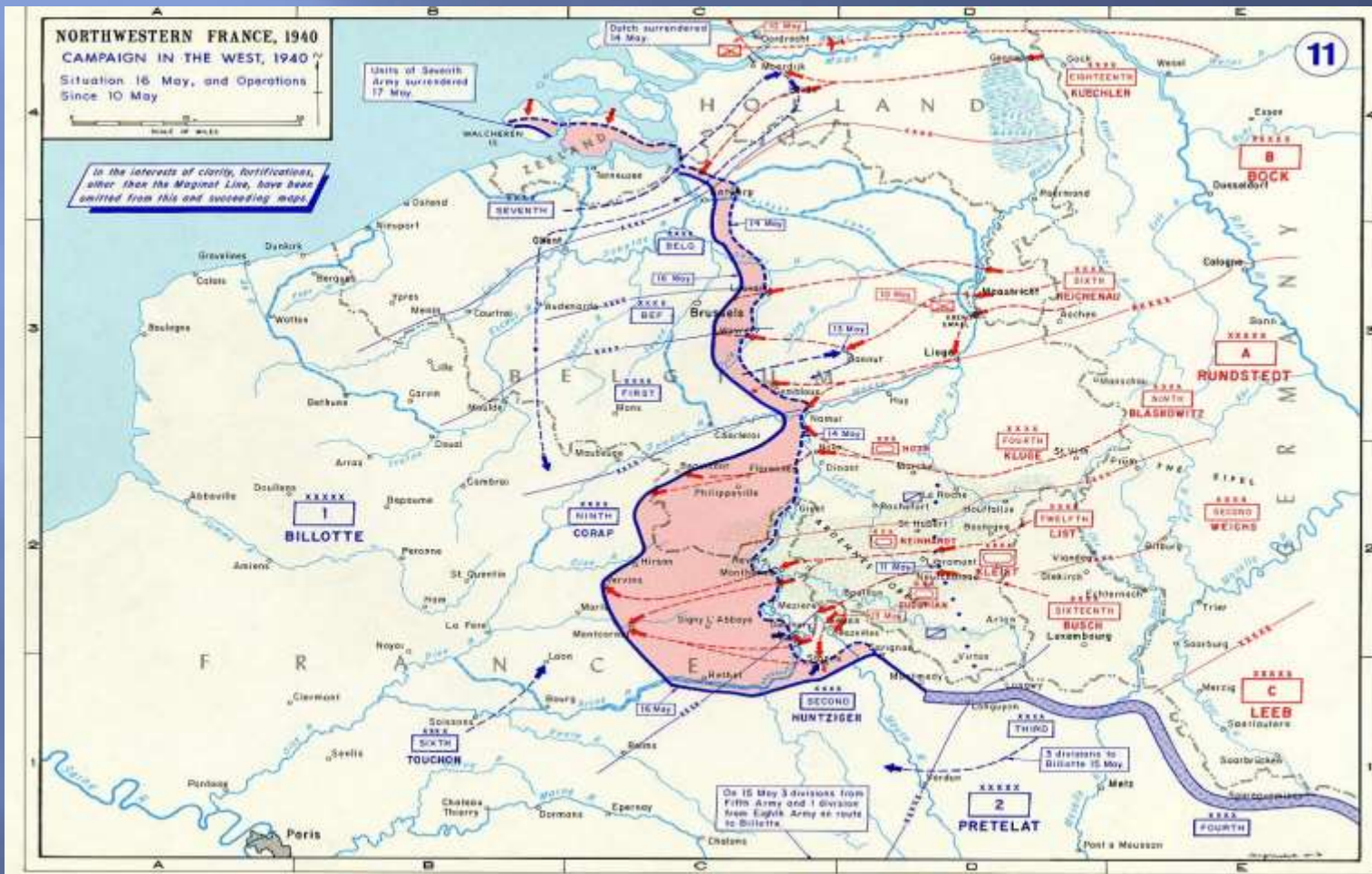
Bombers



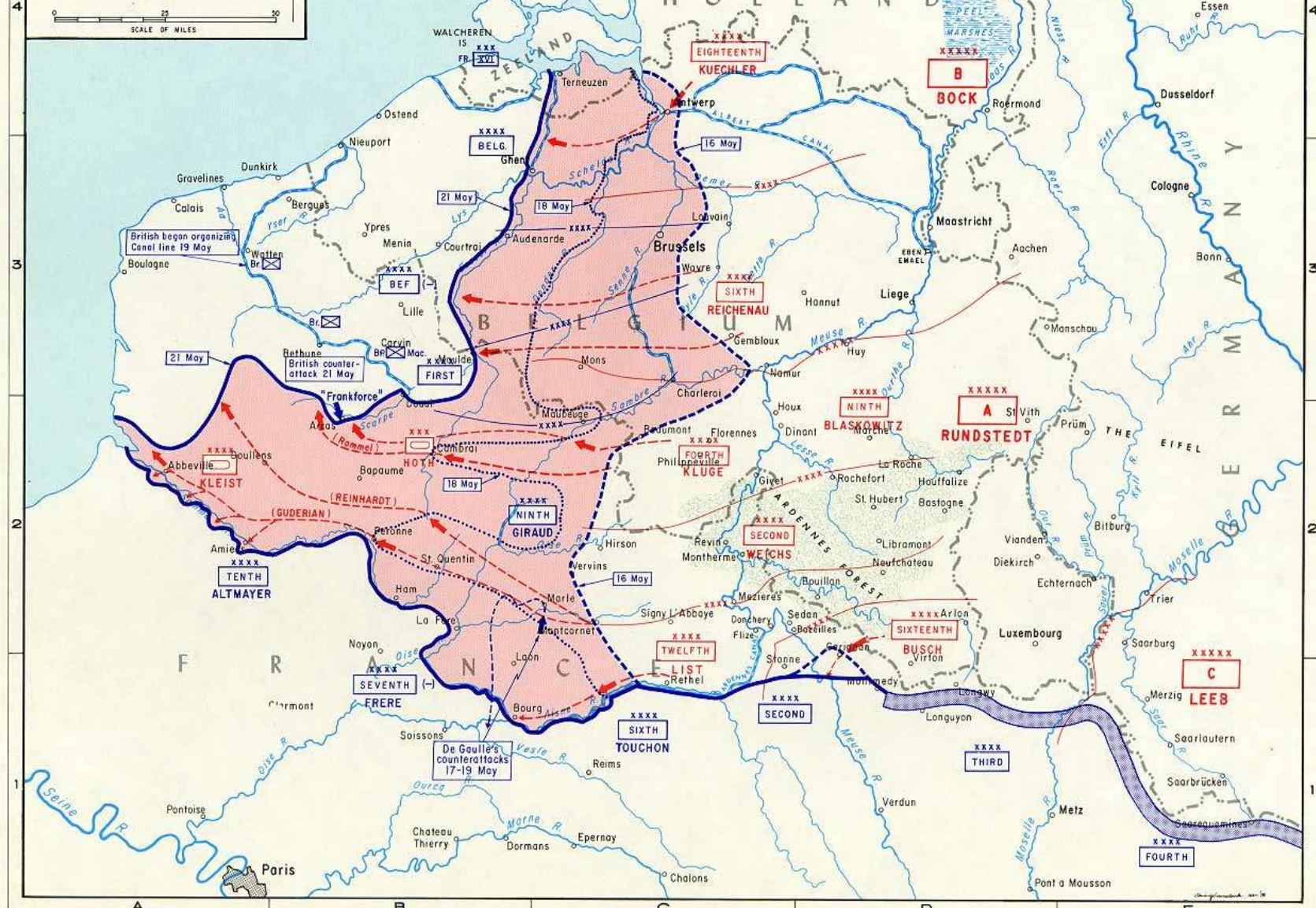
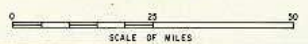
Preparing for Case Yellow



Battle for France and the Low Countries May 10, 1940 to June 25, 1940



NORTHWESTERN FRANCE, 1940 CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST, 1940 Situation 21 May and Operations Since 16 May



WALCHEREN ISLAND

FR. XVI

Terneuzen

Ostend

Nieuport

Gravelines

Dunkirk

Calais

Bergues

Ypres

Menin

Courtrai

Audenarde

Lille

Carvin

Maubeuge

Frankfort

Abbeville

Boullens

KLEIST

Amiens

Peronne

St. Quentin

Ham

La Fere

Marle

Maintenon

Loon

Bourg

Reims

Epernay

Dormans

Chateau Thierry

Pontoise

Paris

FRERE

SEVENTH

De Gaulle's counterattacks 17-19 May

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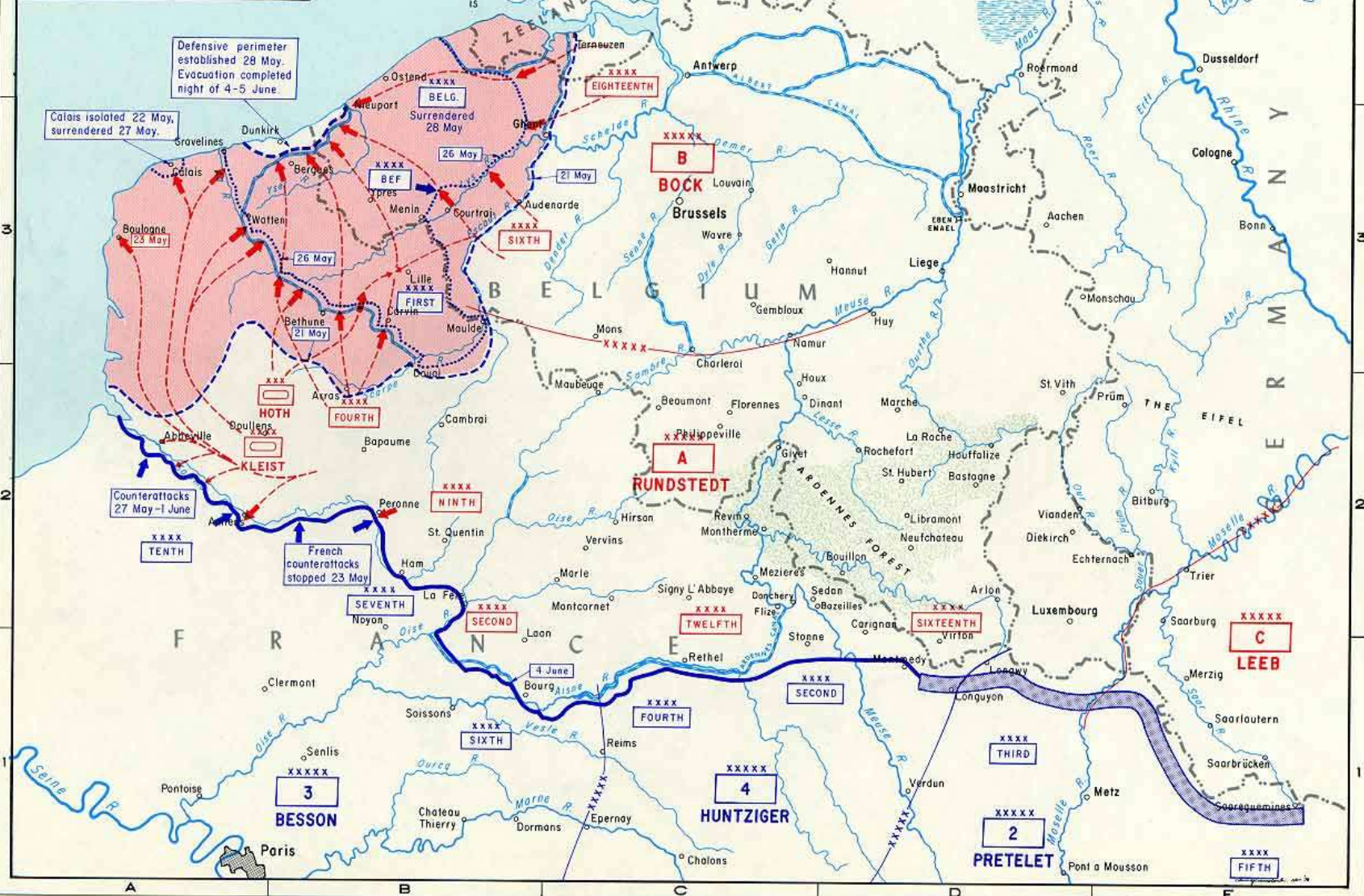
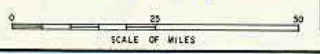
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NORTHWESTERN FRANCE, 1940

CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST, 1940

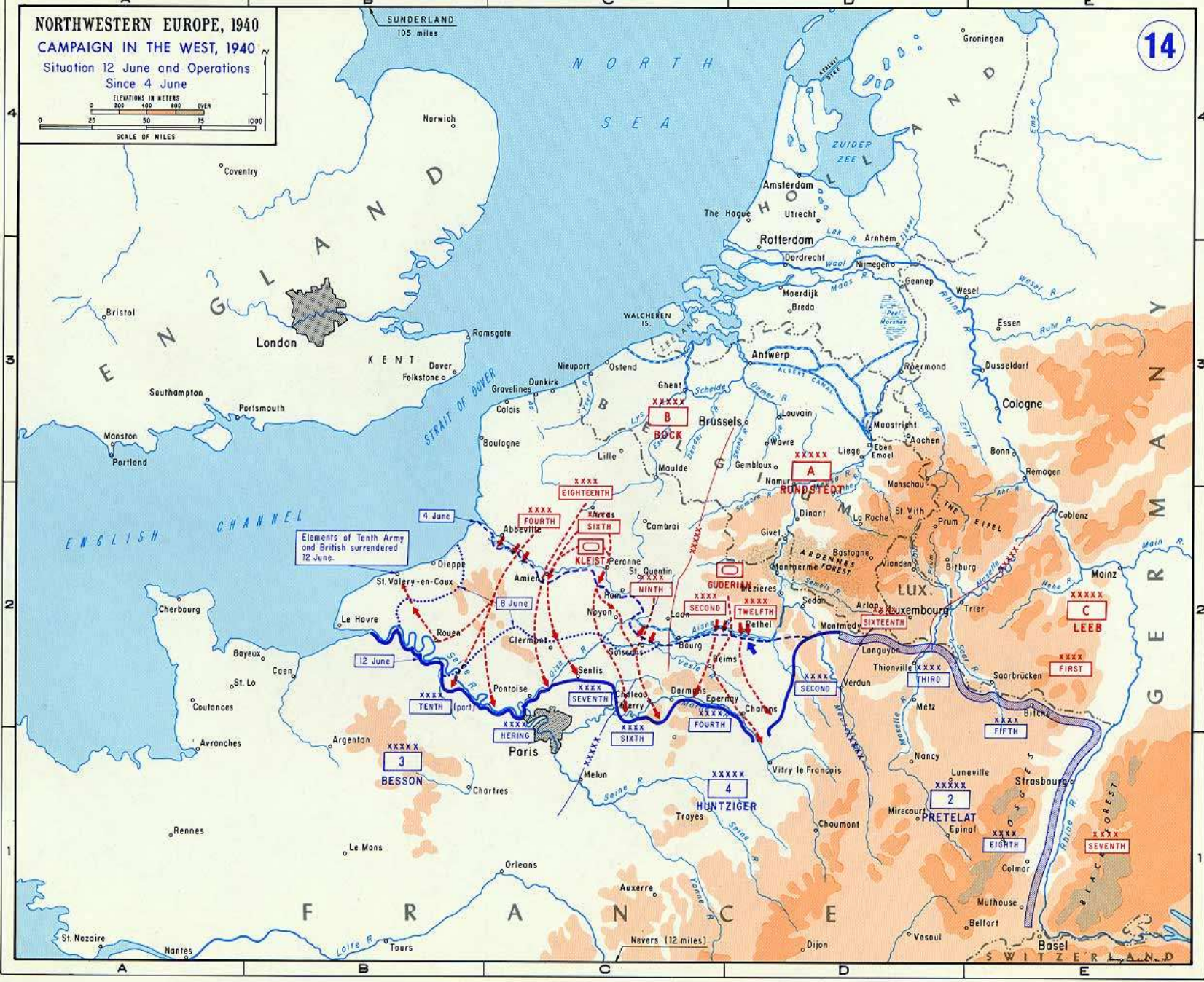
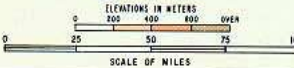
Situation, 4 June, and Operations Since 21 May



NORTHWESTERN EUROPE, 1940

CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST, 1940

Situation 12 June and Operations Since 4 June



Lessons from Case Yellow

- ▣ French-British were ill suited in training for mobile operations
- ▣ Dyle Plan plays right into German hands
- ▣ US begins creating armored force under Adna Chafee Jr. and formulates a doctrine
- ▣ World takes notice
- ▣ France finds the answer to late-defense in depth, hedgehog
- ▣ Creation of myth of German numerical superiority
- ▣ Old war of Prussian warfare with new toys
- ▣ French military not prepared for war.
- ▣ Can Britain stand alone?

Invasion of France and the Low Countries May 1940

- ▣ LAH and SSVT take part as front line troops. Perform well
- ▣ SSTD- Initially held in reserve as gaps open up in line from armored force advance committed to action 8 days into the campaign. Performs barely adequately, because of divisional leadership. Men perform adequately.
- ▣ SS- Polizei Division- performs poorly

Atrocities

- ▣ LAH at Wormhoudt May 28, 1940
- ▣ SSTD at Le Paradis May 27, 1940
- ▣ Fritz Knoechlein
- ▣ Between June 19 to June 21 the SSTV massacred over 250 French Moroccan and Black African soldiers.



Historical Anti-Semitism

- ▣ Greece
- ▣ Rome-Diaspora
- ▣ Early Christianity- desecration of the Host-blood libel, killers of Christ
- ▣ Persecution, England, Germany, Russia, France, Spain Medieval Period
- ▣ Jews expelled from England 1276-1655
- ▣ Social Darwinism
- ▣ Dreyfus Affair
- ▣ Protocols of the Elders of Zion

ita
er

ingulo iaccati, uti plerumque apperit
scripta quaedam litterarum que in thesauro tuo







- ▣ The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled ...within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order
- ▣ that no Jews are to be permitted to travel on the road southward
- ▣ "all cotton speculators, Jews, and all vagabonds with no honest means of support", to leave the district.

Nazi Party

- Early period is to be separated from German Society
- The Jew is parasite

1933-1945

- ▣ Apr 33 Jews banned from Civil service
- ▣ 1933 Jew forbidden to vote, hold office, serve on juries
- ▣ 1935 Nuremberg Laws
- ▣ Boycotts of Jewish owned businesses
- ▣ Jews restricted in legal, medical fields
- ▣ Jews defined as an ethnic group

- **Article 1**
 1. Marriages between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood are forbidden. Marriages nevertheless concluded are invalid, even if concluded abroad to circumvent this law.
 2. Annulment proceedings can be initiated only by the state prosecutor.
- **Article 2**

Extramarital relations between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood are forbidden.
- **Article 3**

Jews may not employ in their households female subjects of the state of German or related blood who are under 45 years old.
- **Article 4**
 1. Jews are forbidden to fly the Reich or national flag or display Reich colors.
 2. They are, on the other hand, permitted to display the Jewish colors. The exercise of this right is protected by the state.
- **Article 5**
 1. Any person who violates the prohibition under Article 1 will be punished with a prison sentence.
 2. A male who violates the prohibition under Article 2 will be punished with a jail term or a prison sentence.
 3. Any person violating the provisions under Articles 3 or 4 will be punished with a jail term of up to one year and a fine, or with one or the other of these penalties.
- **Article 6**

The Reich Minister of the Interior, in coordination with the Deputy of the Führer and the Reich Minister of Justice, will issue the legal and administrative regulations required to implement and complete this law.
- **Article 7**

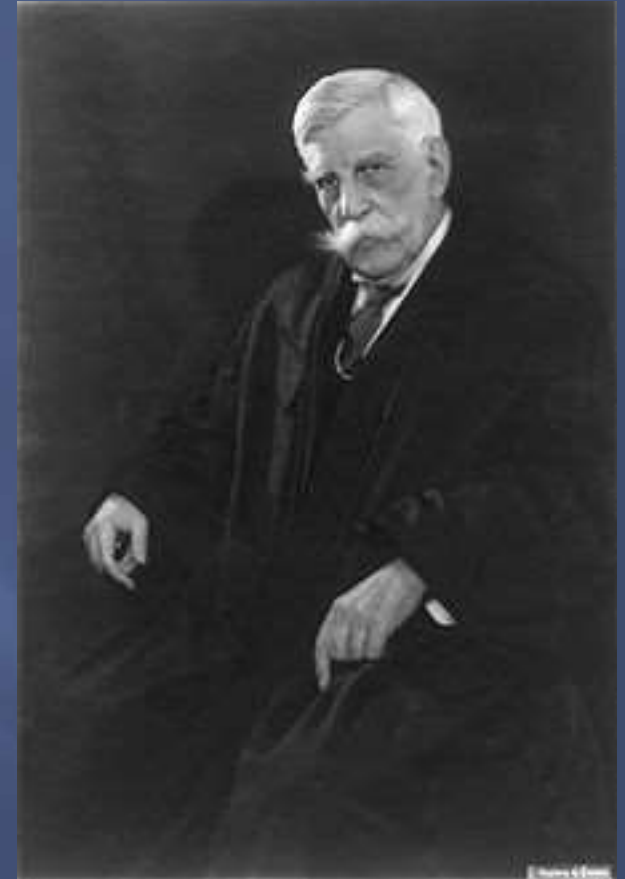
The law takes effect on the day following promulgation, except for Article 3, which goes into force on January 1, 1936.
- Nuremberg, September 15, 1935
At the Reich Party Congress of Freedom
- The Führer and Reich Chancellor
[signed] Adolf Hitler
The Reich Minister of the Interior
[signed] Frick
The Reich Minister of Justice
[signed] Dr. Gürtner
The Deputy of the Führer
[signed] R. Hess

Persecutions of Others

- ▣ Gypsy's
- ▣ Homosexuals
- ▣ Criminals
- ▣ Shiftless
- ▣ Mentally Retarded

Sterilization of Mentally Retarded

- England, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Canada, United States, etc
- We have seen more than once that the public welfare may call upon the best citizens for their lives. It would be strange if it could not call upon those who already sap the strength of the State for these lesser sacrifices, often not felt to be such by those concerned, in order to prevent our being swamped with incompetence. It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes. *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11. Three generations of imbeciles are enough.



Nazi Germany

- ▣ First Sterilization
- ▣ After war starts, elimination
- ▣ 104k



Nazi Racial policies

- ❑ [Germans](#) from [Germany](#) (*Reichsdeutsche*) - [Nordic Germans](#) are said most favorable, but all German citizens are in the top category.
- ❑ Germans from outside, active ethnic Germans (*Volksdeutsche*), [honorary "Aryans"](#) from [Axis powers](#), European countries in [Volksliste](#) category 1 and 2 (see [Volksdeutsche](#) and [Deutschstämmige](#)).
- ❑ Germans from outside, passive Germans and members of families (*Deutschstämmige*), handicapped, political dissidents, common criminals in Volksliste category 3 and 4.
- ❑ Other Germanic peoples closely related to Germans ([Norwegians](#), [Danes](#), [Swedes](#), [Finland-Swedes](#)^[13], [Estonian Swedes](#), [Faroese](#), [Flemings](#), [Icelanders](#), [English](#) and the [Dutch](#)) but treated as categories 1 and 2 in most privileges, especially pro-Nazi sympathizers. Until 1942, the [Greeks](#) were included in this category by virtue of their being descendants of the [Ancient Greeks](#).
- ❑ [Italians](#) (particularly from regions north of [Rome](#), e.g. [Tuscany](#), [Lombardy](#), etc.), [Spaniards](#) (particularly [Basques](#)) and [Portuguese](#) were treated as category 1 and 2, especially pro-Nazi sympathizers (e.g. [Fascist Italy](#), [Francoist Spain](#), and [Salazarist Portugal](#) diplomats). Some [Southern Italians](#) were treated as least (Suspicion of [miscegenation](#) with [African](#) and [Semitic peoples](#)), but within the same category. The Greeks are included in this category after 1943, due to their strong anti-Nazi resistance movement.
- ❑ [Celtic/Gaelic peoples](#): [Irish](#), [Scottish](#) and [Welsh](#).
- ❑ [French people](#) in [France](#) (except German speaking [Alsations](#), and pro-Nazi French supporters in categories 1 and 2).
- ❑ Highlander Polish ([Goralenvolk](#)): an attempt to split the [Polish nation](#) by using local collaborators.
- ❑ [Hungarians](#), [Estonians](#), and [Finns](#) (despite their non [Indo-European](#) languages), [Baltic peoples](#) ([Lithuanians](#) and [Latvians](#)) and [Romanians](#), [Bulgarians](#) and [Croats](#).
- ❑ [Ukrainians](#): Many were part of [Waffen SS](#) divisions ([SS-Galizien](#)), while others were exterminated as partisans suspected in supporting the [Red Army](#).
- ❑ [Russians](#), [Belarusians](#) (from [East Slavic](#) group), [Serbs](#) (from [South Slavic](#) group) were considered to be [Untermensch](#) ("under men") in the standard Nazi ideological texts.^[14]
- ❑ [Poles](#) were considered to be [Untermensch](#) ("under men") in Nazi ideology.^[15]
- ❑ Enemy nationals who happened to fall under the white "Aryan" racial category (i.e. [United States of America](#) and [Canada](#)), but were living in Germany at the time, were treated with suspicion by legal restrictions.
- ❑ The categories of "races" deemed unworthy and subject to discrimination.
- ❑ Jews-divided into various degrees of religious denomination, *Mischlinge* or of half/part-Jewish ancestries (esp. of one Jewish parent, highly illegal under the race laws) and *Rassenschande* or "Aryan" Germans found as converts into Judaism.
- ❑ "[Lebensunwertes Leben](#)" ("Life unworthy of life"). As well as Jews, it included the Gypsies/Roma, also subject to extermination during *Porrajmos*. Includes minuscule numbers of darker-skinned German nationals: non-whites from colonial Africa, as well as Arabs and Berbers in North Africa. Homosexuals and disabled people (based on physical and mental illnesses) were also considered to be part of this category, and subject to eugenics policies, including compulsory sterilization, internment and deportation.

Kristallnacht



- October 1938
expulsion of Polish
Jew from Germany
- 7 Nov 38
assassination of Ernst
vom Rath by Herschel
Grynzpsan
- 9-10 Nov 38
Kristallnacht



Fights over control of Jewish “Problem”



German evolution on the Jewish Question

- ▣ While a few always favored extermination that type of policy was impractical before 1938.
- ▣ German opinion forced the Nazi's to pull back on the T-4 program
- ▣ Emigration to Middle East, Madagascar
- ▣ Emigration to Poland
- ▣ Meanwhile ad hoc exterminations took place.
- ▣ By the summer of 1941 Hitler, Goering, and Himmler decide on extermination

Concentration Camps

- ▣ Labor Camps
- ▣ Transit and Collection Camps
- ▣ Re-education Camps
- ▣ Hostage Camps
- ▣ Extermination Camps



Einsatzgruppen

Einsatzgruppe A Stahlecker (Jost)

Sonderkommando 1a Sandberger
Sonderkommando 1b Ehrlinger
(Strauch)
Einsatzkommando 2 R. Batz
(Strauch, Lange)
Einsatzkommando 3 Jäger

Einsatzgruppe B Nebe (Naumann)

Sonderkommando 7a Blume
(Steimle, Rapp)
Sonderkommando 7b Rausch (Ott
Rabe)
Sonderkommando 7c Bock
Einsatzkommando 8 Bradfisch
(Richter, Isselhorst, Schindhelm)
Einsatzkommando 9 Filbert
(Schäfer, Wiebens)
Vorkommando Moskau Six
(Klingelhöfer)

- Einsatzgruppe C Rasch (Thomas)
Einsatzkommando 4a Blobel
(Weinmann, Steimle, Schmidt)
Einsatzkommando 4b Hermann
(Fendler, F. Braune, Haensch)
Einsatzkommando 5 E. Schultz
(Meier)
Einsatzkommando 6 Kröger (Mohr,
Biberstein)

Einsatzgruppe D Ohlendorf (Bierkamp)

Einsatzkommando 10a Seetzen
(Christmann)
Einsatzkommando 10b Persterer
Einsatzkommando 11a Zapp
Einsatzkommando 11b B. Müller
(W. Braune, P. Schultz)
Einsatzkommando 12 Nosske
(Ministerialrat E. Müller)

Waffen SS, Wehrmacht and Final Solution

- ▣ Einsatzgruppen- made up of SD/Gestapo, Ordnungspolizei, Waffen SS, and even Wehrmacht personnel
- ▣ Other Waffen SS, Ordnungspolizei and Wehrmacht were responsible for mass killings, including Jews separate from the Einsatzgruppen
- ▣ Many Army officers looked upon the actions of the Einsatzgruppen as favorable for anti-partisan actions
- ▣ Later the Army is responsible for Lokot Republic and Kaminski Bde, which was later given to SS.

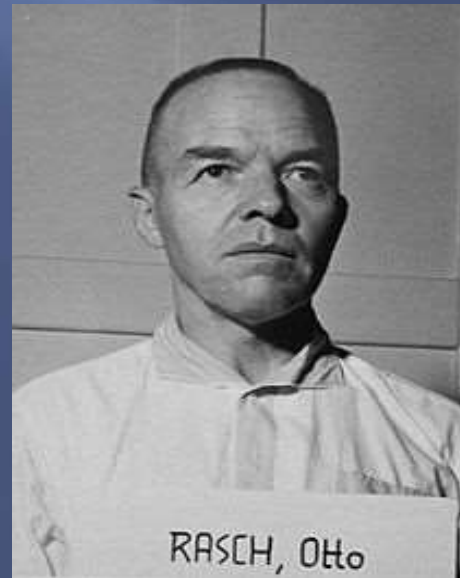
Einsatzgruppen



Early methods of killing

- In conquered urban areas of eastern Europe, many Jews would be killed in nearby locations such as woods or inside buildings. The remaining Jews would be confined to [ghettos](#). Death rates from disease and malnourishment were high; groups from the ghetto were periodically taken away and shot or deported to extermination camps. An example of this is the Lithuanian city of [Kaunas](#); the [Jews of Kaunas](#) were concentrated in a ghetto and sent, thousands at a time, to be slaughtered in the 7th and 9th forts (watch towers) of Kaunas.
- In small rural areas, or in battle zones, the Jews were quickly led to their deaths in nearby woods and mass graves, which were often dug by the victims. An example of such a case is the town of Dovno in Ukraine.
- In big cities, mainly in the battle zones, the Nazis would create a small local committee of 8 to 12 important Jews, known as the [Judenrat](#), who would be required to summon the local Jews for "relocation". The Jews (including the *Judenrat* delegates) would then be marched to previously prepared trenches or natural pits and shot. Examples are the massacre at [Babi Yar](#) and the [Ponary massacre](#).
- Alternatives to execution by firearms existed. The [gas vans](#) used by *Einsatzgruppe D* and *Einsatzkommando Kulmhof* in the death camp [Chelmno](#) are an example. Another, occasionally used in smaller towns, was to lock the Jews in abandoned buildings, which were then set alight or blown up, though this was rather rare.

Commanders 1.3 million



Expansion Late 1940-1941

- ▣ LAH expanded to brigade status including a battery of Sturmgeschutz afv's
- ▣ SSVT renamed SS Division Reich later Das Reich
- ▣ SSTD
- ▣ SS Polizei
- ▣ SS Wiking Division
- ▣ Kampfgruppe Nord
- ▣ The units below SSTV- Service with RSHA and rear area security
- ▣ 1st SS Inf Bde-formed from 2nd SS Inf Bde-formed from SSTV
- ▣ SS Cavalry Bde

SS Wiking Division



- ▣ The 1st SS division to accept non-German, but Germanics
- ▣ Wiking would always be predominantly German, but would have Dane's, Finn's, Norwegians, Flemings and Dutch.
- ▣ Germania Rgt
- ▣ Wiking Division Non Germans at formation
821 Dutch, 291 Norwegians, 251 Danes, 45 Flemings and 8 Swedes

SS Recruitment

- ▣ At start only Germans
- ▣ By 1940-41 Non-German “Aryans” and Volksdeutsche (Germans living outside Germany, particularly, former Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary).
- ▣ By 1942-43 non-Aryan’s
- ▣ German’s defined Aryan’s as Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Flemish part of Belgium, Switzerland, Great Britain, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg.
- ▣ Volksdeutsche start hitting elite units by 1942

Why all the different titles?

- ▣ Waffen SS –the Regular SS loyalty oath to Hitler, German citizens, Volksdeutsche, some Germanics.
- ▣ Freiwillige-SS Non-German Germanics- loyalty oath only to obey Hitler as CinC.
- ▣ Division der SS-non-Germanics.
- ▣ All divisions retained German cadre.

The Classic SS meaning the Elite divisions

- · 1. SS-Panzer-Division
Leibstandarte SS
Adolf Hitler
- · 2. SS-Panzer-Division Das Reich
- · 3. SS-Panzer-Division Totenkopf
- 5. SS-Panzer-Division
Wiking
- 9. SS-Panzer-Division
Hohenstaufen
- · 10. SS-Panzer-Division Fruntsberg
- 12. SS-Panzer-Division Hitlerjugend

I would include these among the elite

- ▣ 11. SS Freiwilligen-Panzergranadier-Division Nordland
- ▣ 16. SS-Panzergranadier-Division Reichsführer-SS
- ▣ 17. SS-Panzergranadier-Division Götz von Berlichingen
- ▣ 18. SS Freiwilligen-Panzergranadier-Division Horst Wessel
- ▣ 23. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzergranadier-Division Nederland (niederlandische Nr. 1)
- ▣ 28. SS-Freiwilligen-Grenadier-Division Wallonien
Leon Degrelle's unit

These Units were not Waffen SS

- ▣ **Grossdeutschland** Division
- ▣ Panzer Lehr Division- Lehr means training, however there were SS Panzer Lehr units
- ▣ Schwere Panzer Regiment Bäke
- ▣ Explanation of Luftwaffe Field Divisions.

Waffen SS

- ▣ Still remained relatively small until 1942
- ▣ Makes its reputation in Russia
- ▣ Becomes the “Fire Brigades” by 1943.
- ▣ Other elite Waffen SS units
- ▣ *s.SS-Pz. Abt. 101, later 501*
- ▣ *s.SS-Pz. Abt 102, later 502*
- ▣ *s.SS-Pz. Abt 103, later 503*
- ▣ SS-Panzer Grenadier-Brigade 49
- ▣ SS-Panzer Grenadier-Brigade 51
- ▣ **SS Sonderlehrgang zbV Friedenthal- Skorzeny's Parachute unit.**

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Russia

- ▣ It is in Russia that the Waffen SS made its reputation.
- ▣ LAH expanded to division-AGS
- ▣ Das Reich-AGC
- ▣ Wiking-AGS
- ▣ Totenkopf-AGN
- ▣ Polizei-AGN
- ▣ All five of these divisions are motorized infantry with a small afv component with the LAH being the largest at a battalion

Stürmgeschutz



Totenkopf at Demyansk



The Importance of Demyansk

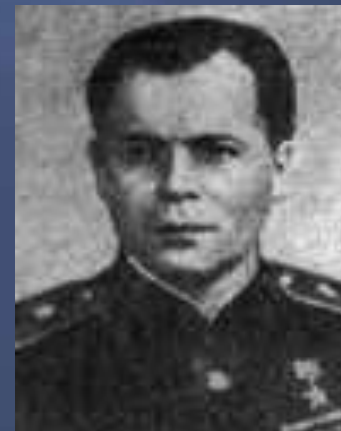
- ▣ Seeds of distrust for the Army
- ▣ Waffen SS gives the appearance of supermen
- ▣ Luftwaffe was able to maintain at least a minimal level of supply and replacements.
- ▣ Totenkopf loses about 75% of its strength
- ▣ Premier SS units LAH, DR, Tot, Wiking to receive Panzer Regiments
- ▣ Waffen SS to be expanded

Hallmarks of SS born at Demyansk

- ▣ From Charles Sydnor Jr , *Soldiers of Destruction*.
Page 163
- ▣ “the SS man’s ability to remain calm in the face of disaster, his willingness to fight against impossible odds, his lust for killing Russians, and most important his readiness to perish rather than retreat and appear weaker than a racial enemy were all qualities that proved crucial throughout the war in retrieving hopeless situations...

Soviet Tank Design Bureau's

- ▣ Kharkov-Nizhny Tagil
- ▣ Mikail Koshkin
- ▣ T-34
- ▣ Leningrad-Chelyabinsk-Omsk
- ▣ Zhosef Kotin
- ▣ KV-1



T-34 Development

- ▣ Rivalry between Koshkin and Kotin
- ▣ Koshkin was tasked with making a better BT tank- he created a new design.
- ▣ Original T-34 model rejected by RKKA (Red Army)
- ▣ Koshkin drives T-34 with no incidents
- ▣ Receives Stalin's approval
- ▣ Voroshilov and Kotin try to kill design until 1942.
- ▣ T34M

T-34/76



KV-1 and KV-2



Why so Revolutionary?

- ▣ Both armed with 76.2mm gun
- ▣ T-34 and to lesser degree the KV-1 shocked the Germans.
- ▣ T-34 sloped armor, wide tracks, able to built in large numbers
- ▣ Both impervious to frontal armor penetrations by German 37mm the tank gun on over half of the German tanks
- ▣ Starts an arms race in tank development

German Developments and Response to Russian Designs

- ▣ Prior to Barbarossa-OKW doubles the number of Panzer Divisions by reducing the number of regiments from 2 to 1.
- ▣ Panzer Divisions for Invasion of France varied in strength and tank type based upon mission
- ▣ Set TO&E 1 Panzer Regiment of 2 Battalions, 2 Motorized Infantry Rgt's (Panzer Grenadier)
- ▣ Decision to develop and deploy AFV's to infantry formations

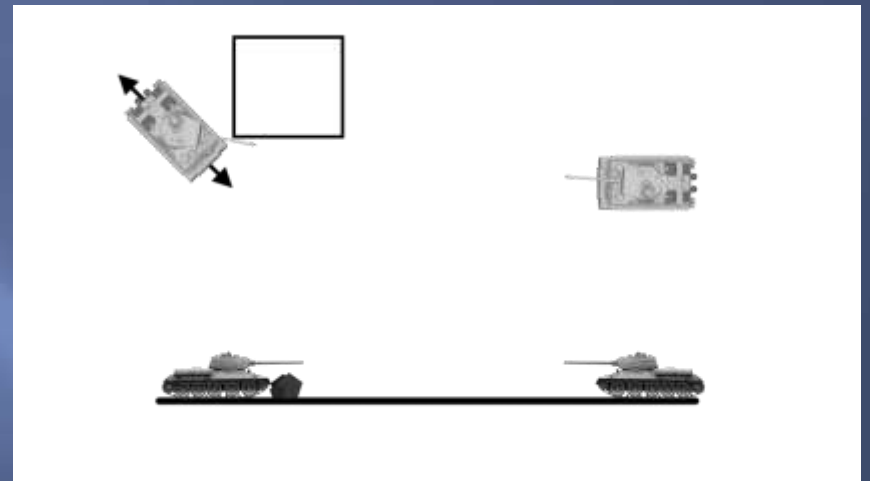
What is a tank?

- ▣ Besides armored cars, halftracks, etc.
- ▣ Tank
- ▣ Assault gun
- ▣ Self propelled gun
- ▣ Tank destroyer
- ▣ Arms race, of speed, protection and firepower, particularly on the Eastern Front

The Butcher's bill

- ▣ Total German Casualties in WW2
- ▣ 13,488,00
- ▣ 3 to 3.9 million killed
- ▣ 4.6 million via
- ▣ Red Army inflicts over
- ▣ 10.7 million
- ▣ About 75 to 80%
- ▣ Soviet losses
- ▣ 27 million Killed
- ▣ 10.7 million military deaths
- ▣ About 15 to 20 million wounded
- ▣ 4-6 million captured
- ▣ US 416,000 killed
- ▣ UK

Tank Tactic Basic's

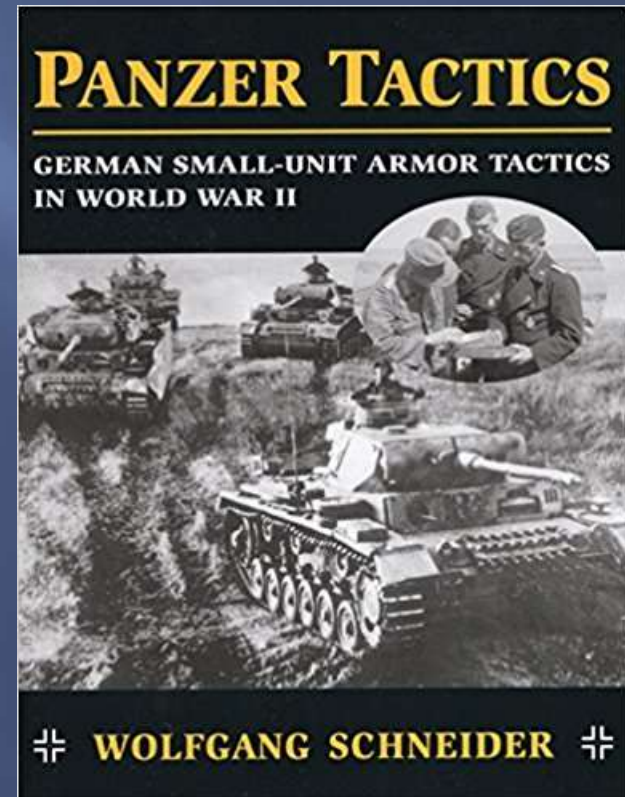


Panzer Keil



Tank Tactic Basic's

- ▣ Keep your front (thickest armor) to the enemy
- ▣ Use combined arms when possible
- ▣ Fire on separate target's
- ▣ Fire on 1 target



"Panzerkeil"



Arms Race Germany



Arm's Race-Germany



Arm's Race-Germany TD's & AG'S



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Arms Race-Germany-TD's



Arms Race Germany- Heavies



Arms Race-The Soviet Response Medium's and Heavies



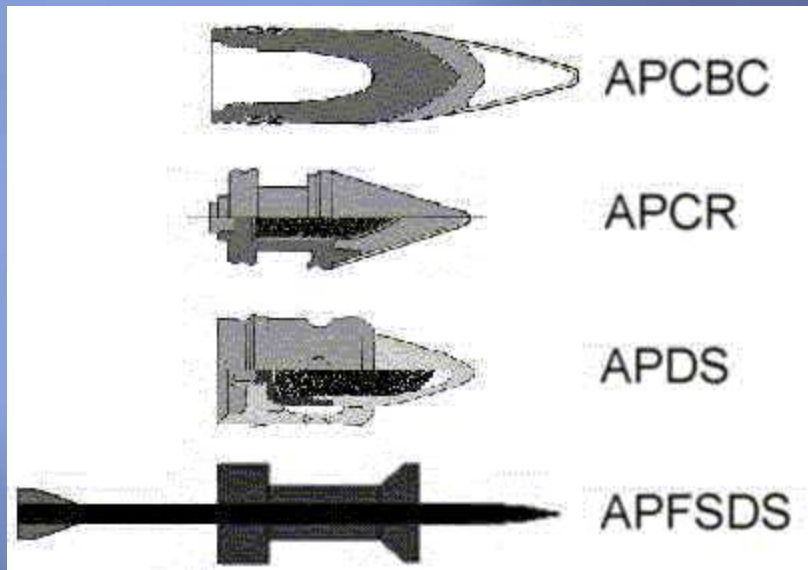
Arm's Race-The Soviet's TD's



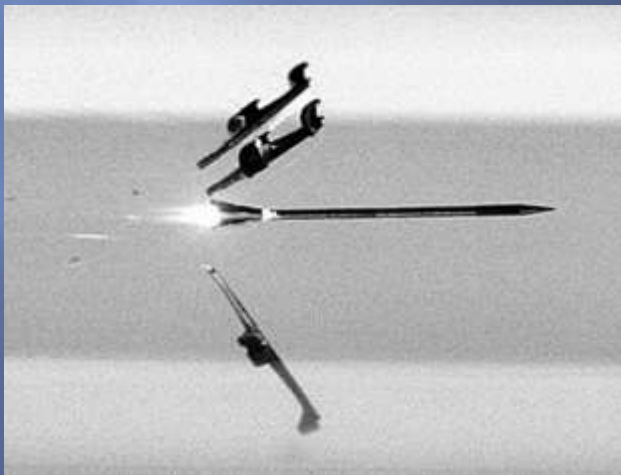
Arm's Race- Soviet's TD's



Kinetic Energy Anti-Armor

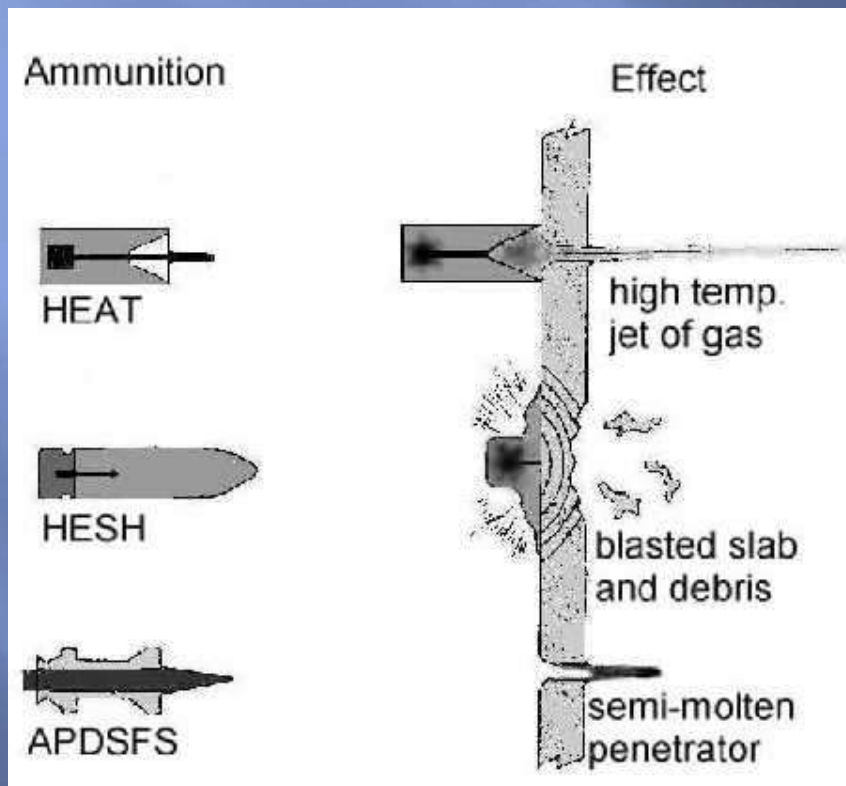


- ▣ APCR-US-HVAP
- ▣ Other types
- ▣ APC
- ▣ APCNC
- ▣ APHE
- ▣ Tungsten-Carbide
- ▣ German's primarily used APC and APCBC because of Tungsten shortages



Chemical Energy Anti-Armor

▣ Spalling



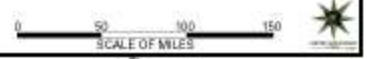
Increases in Armor Protection

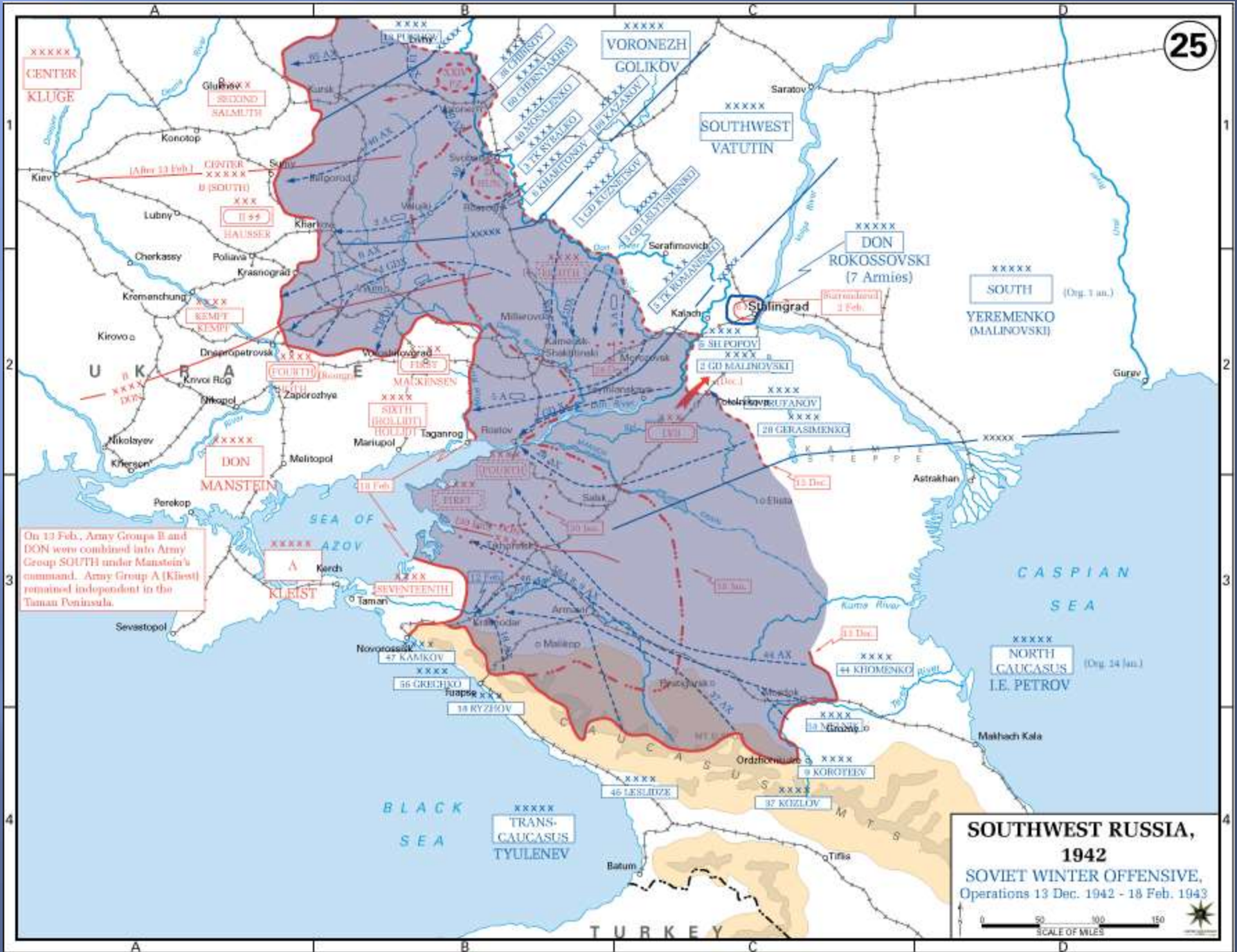
- ▣ Sloping
- ▣ Face Hardened Armor
- ▣ RHA
- ▣ Spaced Armor
- ▣ Early use of Composite Armor in T-95-Fused Silica glass
- ▣ Molybdenum
- ▣ Tungsten
- ▣ German's =brittle armor-possible sabotage by slave labor?



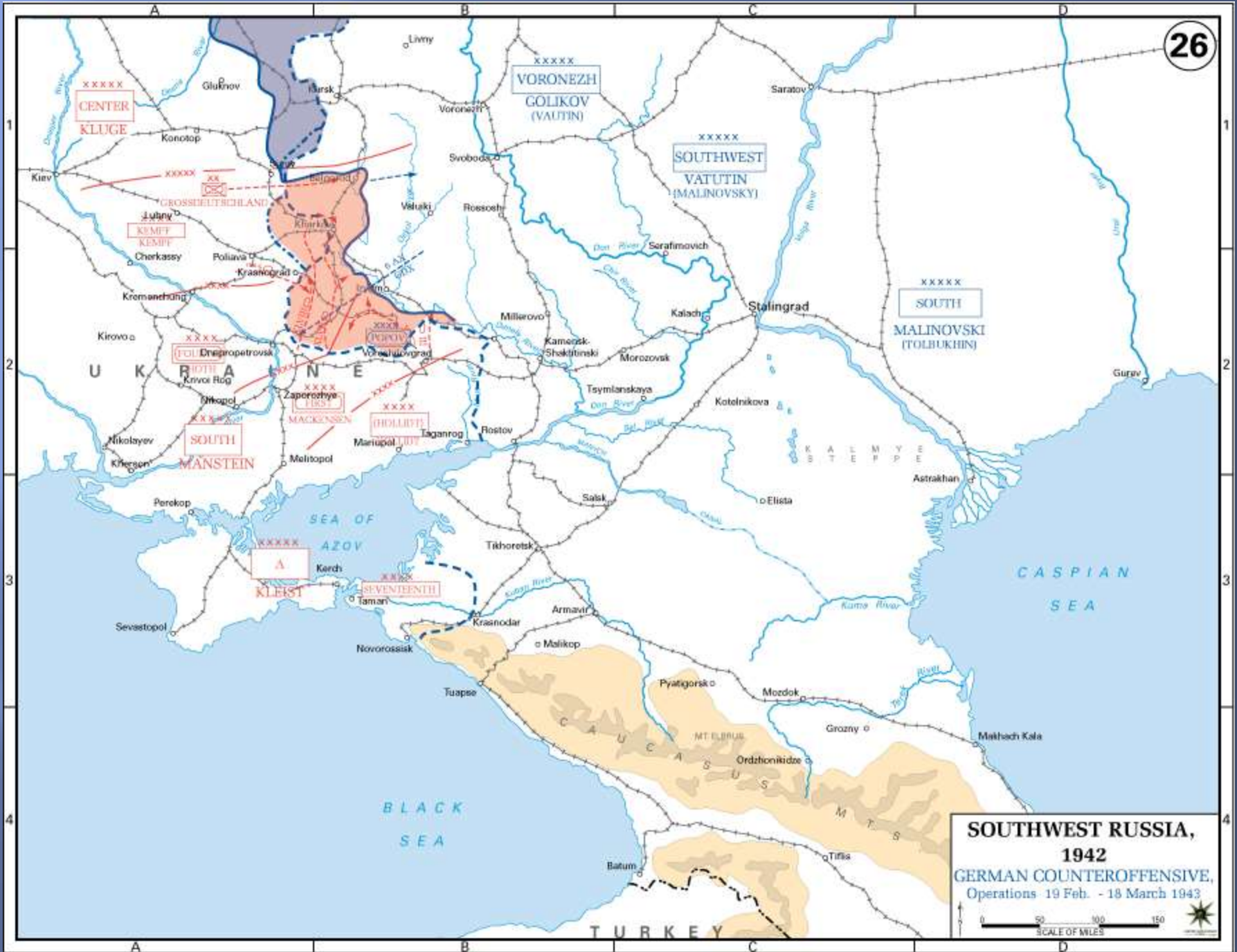


SOUTHWEST RUSSIA, 1942
 SOVIET WINTER OFFENSIVE,
 Operations 19 Nov. - 12 Dec. 1942





SOUTHWEST RUSSIA, 1942
SOVIET WINTER OFFENSIVE,
 Operations 13 Dec. 1942 - 18 Feb. 1943



SOUTHWEST RUSSIA, 1942
GERMAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE,
 Operations 19 Feb. - 18 March 1943

0 50 100 150
 SCALE OF MILES

German Military

- ▣ Almost 1 million men under strength. About 470,000 on the Eastern Front alone.
- ▣ Most keenly felt in the infantry divisions
- ▣ Even the Panzerwaffe was only about 67% of TOE
- ▣ Luftwaffe suffering from chronic shortages of both B4 and C3 (High octane) fuels
- ▣ German Army could only launch limited offensives.
- ▣ However, the Army had recovered from Stalingrad losses

Red Army

- ▣ Decreased role of Commissars
- ▣ Increased professionalism, particularly among the officer corps
- ▣ Closing the quality gap with the Germans
- ▣ Penal squads
- ▣ NKVD

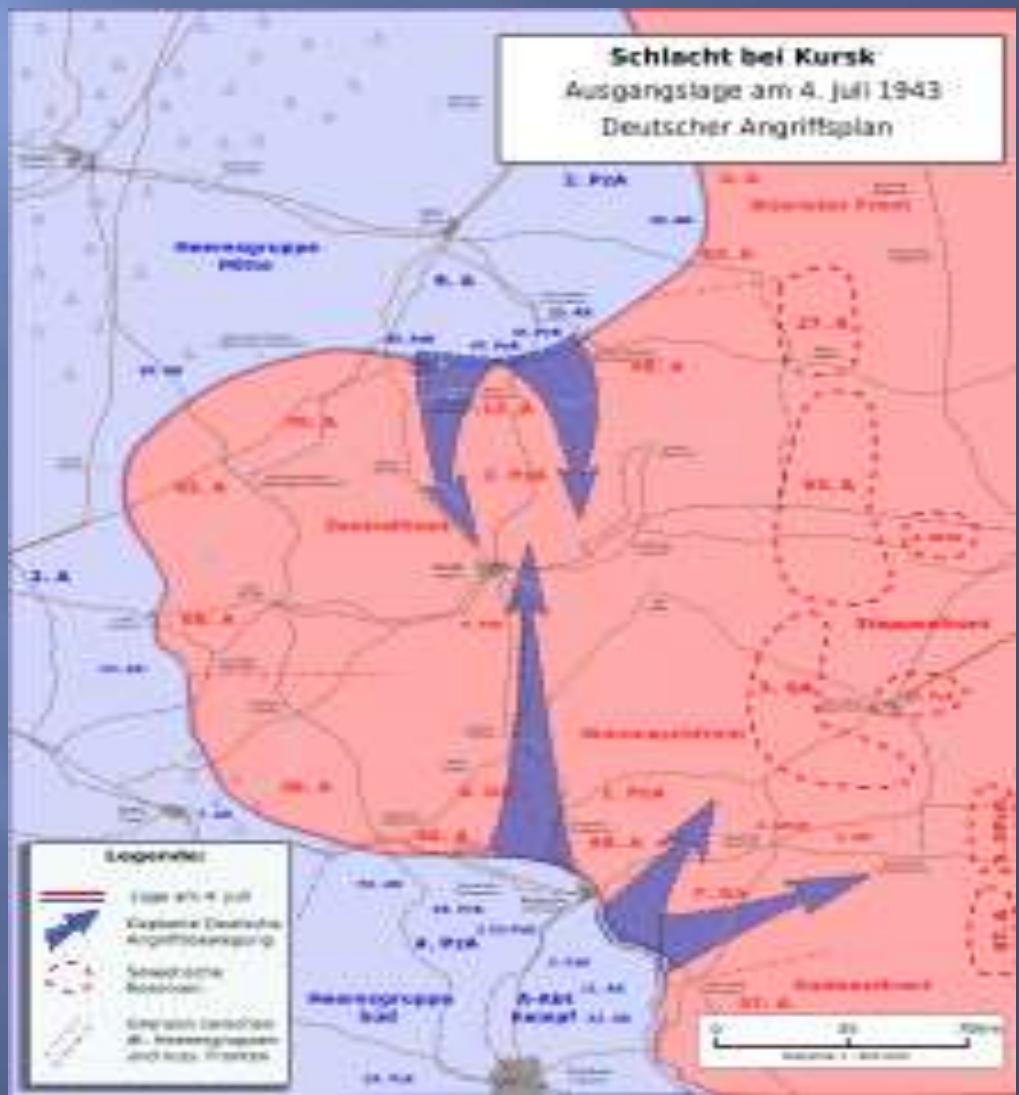
Preperations for Citadel

- ▣ Backhand or forehand blow?
- ▣ Why Kursk?
- ▣ Hausser at Kharkov

Manstein's Backhand plan



Adopted Plan Forehand Blow



Why Kursk?

- ▣ Obvious reasons to shorten front thus creating a reserve for the OstFront. Kursk salient 120 miles wide 90 miles deep
- ▣ Encourage wavering allies Romania, Hungary, Italy, Finland
- ▣ Preempt Soviet military operations for rest of the year
- ▣ Capture several hundred thousand Soviets to allow German factory workers of military age to be drafted into armed forces.

Delays, Delays, Delays

- ▣ Set for May 4th
- ▣ Delayed until June 12th
- ▣ Delayed until June 20th
- ▣ Delayed until July 3rd
- ▣ Delayed until July 5th
- ▣ Allowed Soviets much more time for preparation.

Lucy and Enigma

- ▣ Enigma-British passing selected information to Soviets
- ▣ Ultra- deciphering of Enigma intercepts
- ▣ John Cairncross (Cambridge Five)- passed info to Soviets
- ▣ Lucy Spy Ring- Rudolf Roessler-Alexander Rado included Hans Oster, Erich Fellgeibel, Carl Goerderler, Han Gisevius
- ▣ Soviets became irritated with Lucy over false alarms
- ▣ Many of the German intentions became from gold old fashioned reconnaissance work

Soviet Preparations

- 503,993 at mines 439,348 ap mines , 604 anti-tank kill zones. some source suggest up to 2million mines
- 3000 miles of trenches, anti-tank ditches, mutually supporting at/mg positions
- Defenses up to 175 miles deep

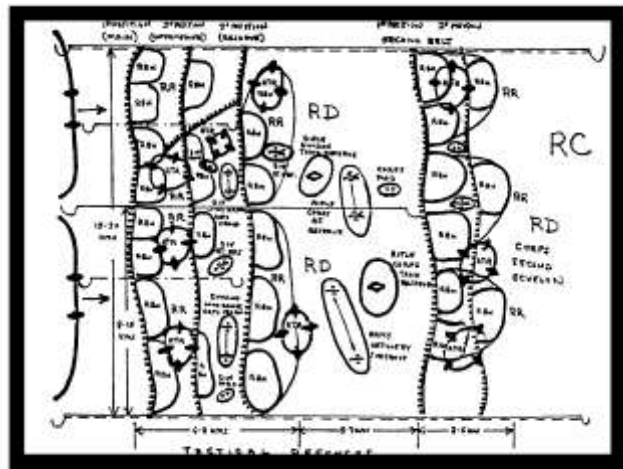
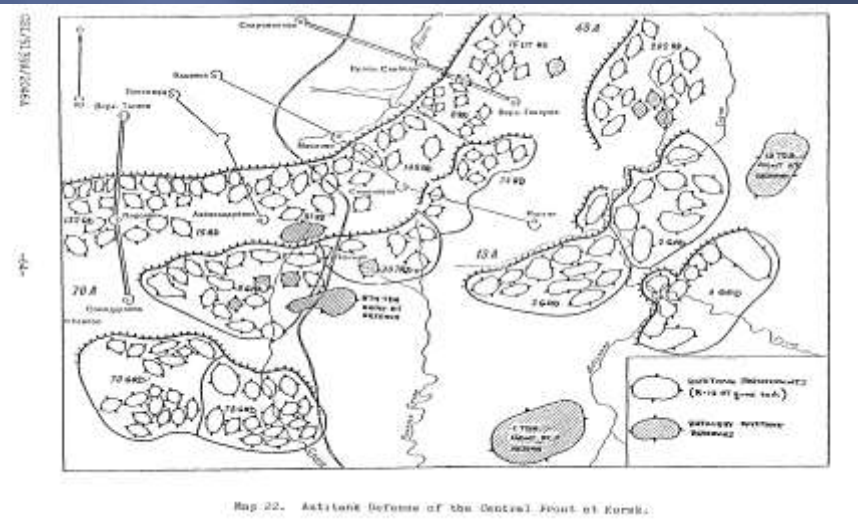


Figure 8. Rifle Corps/Division Combat Formation-Defense Summer-Fall 1943



Map 22. Antitank Defense of the Central Front of Korea

Soviet Plans

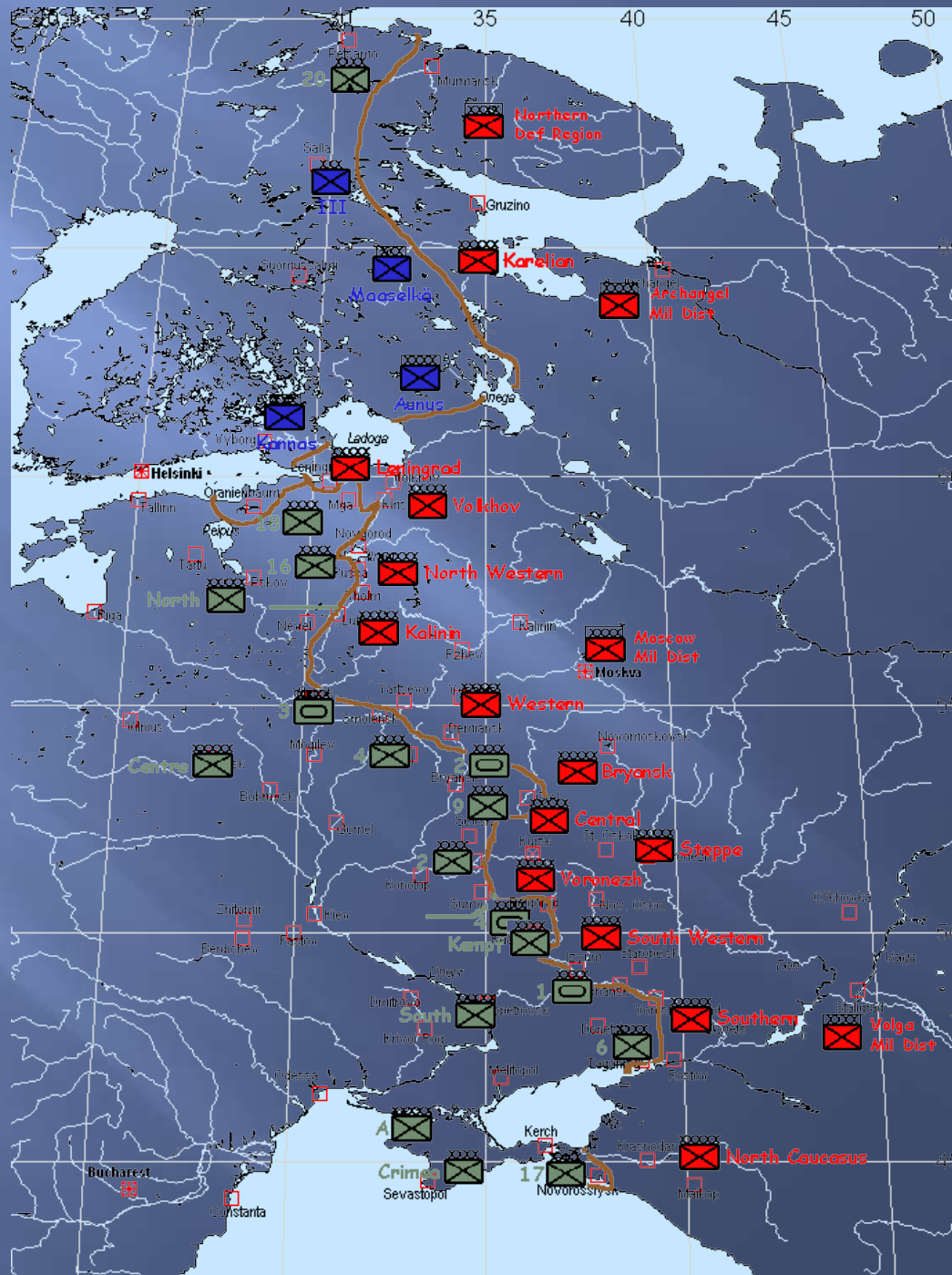
- ▣ Defensive-Offensive
- ▣ Switch to Offensive in Orel and Kharkov sectors
- ▣ Difficulty in maintaining discipline among local commanders
- ▣ Limited pre-emptive action using air assets and artillery

Total Forces

- ▣ German
- ▣ 1,910,361 men
- ▣ 789,900 men
- ▣ 5128 tanks
- ▣ 2928 tanks
- ▣ 25,013 guns and mortars
- ▣ 9966 guns and mortars
- ▣ 2792 aircraft
- ▣ 2110 aircraft
- ▣ 26% total manpower
- ▣ 4th Panzer Army's 1100 tanks was the largest concentration for any single operation
- ▣ 26% of Soviet Artillery
- ▣ 70% of total German air strength
- ▣ 35% of aircraft and 46% of tanks

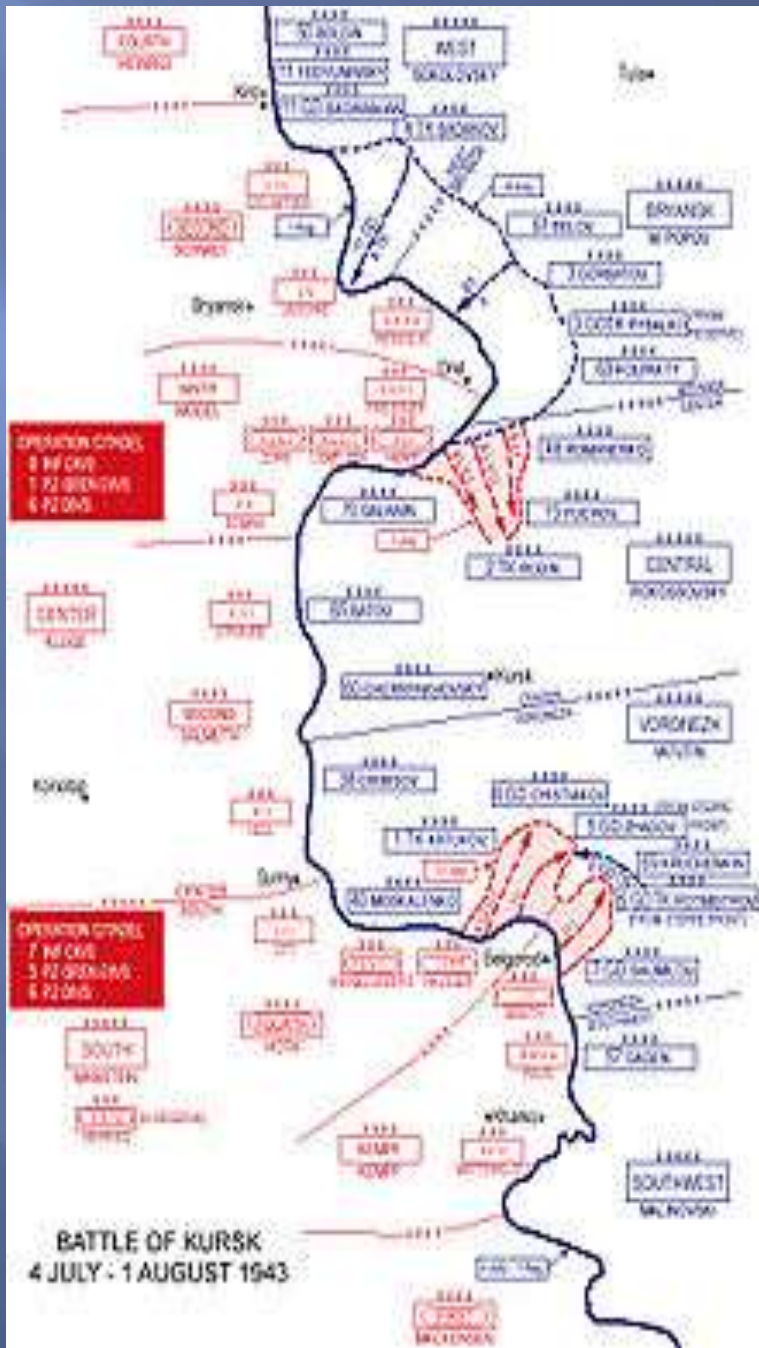
What battle?

- ▣ Kursk Strategic Defensive Operation (5–23 July 1943)
- ▣ Operation Kutuzov- 12 July to 18 Aug 1943, operation against Orel
- ▣ Belgorod, Kharkov- counter-offensive
Operation Rumyantsev 3 Aug-23 Aug 1943



Differing strategy

- ▣ Model in the north uses infantry to break the Russian lines
- ▣ Hoth uses tanks as an armored fist.
- ▣ Hoth makes last minute change to plans instead of moving toward Oboyan the main thrust moves to intercept an expected Soviet counterattack at Prohkorovka















Aftermath



Loses Citadel Only up to July 17th

▣ German

- ▣ 54,182 men
- ▣ 190 tanks
- ▣ Appr 500 guns
- ▣ 159 aircraft
- ▣ 79 Pz 4's- 44 Panthers-
6 Tigers-40 Pz'3- 18
Stug's- 3
FlammPanzers
- ▣ Only 17 tanks lost
Prohkorovka

▣ Russian

- ▣ 177,847 men
- ▣ 1956 tanks
- ▣ 541 aircraft
- ▣ 3929 guns
- ▣ 411 tanks lost at
Prohkorovka

Loses up to August 23

- ▣ German
- ▣ 203,000 men
- ▣ 720 tanks-
- ▣ 681 aircraft
- ▣ Russian
- ▣ 863,303 men
- ▣ 6064 tanks
- ▣ 1626 aircraft
- ▣ 5244 guns

Waffen SS

- ▣ Late 1942 starts recruiting “non-Aryans” first from Ukrainians, Croatians, Hungarians, Bosnians, and Red Army prisoners of war.
- ▣ Will expand to 16 Divisions by the end of 1943
- ▣ Army will transfer all foreign units to Waffen SS by end of 43
- ▣ Divisions titles “der SS” or “of the SS” are technically not full members but attached to SS.
- ▣ These units are not given supply priority and most conduct anti-partisan operations.

Case Study 21st Waffen Mountain Division of the SS Skanderbeg



Normandy Campaign Oradour-sur-Glane

- ▣ 2nd SS Pz Div Das Reich
- ▣ 10 June 44
- ▣ 642 civilians
- ▣ Reprisals and hostage taking are the norm on the Eastern Front.
- ▣ No quarter
- ▣ “blowtorch” Battalion.
- ▣ 12SS Pz Div HitlerJugend kills Canadian pow’s at Normandy











Case Study- Michael Wittmann



- ▣ 135 tanks At Villers Bocage, he destroyed up to fourteen tanks and fifteen personnel carriers, along with two anti-tank guns, within the space of fifteen minutes.



Wittmann

- ▣ "the hero of all Nazi fanboys"
- ▣ "armored joust" "more valiant or better-armed [one] the eventual victor"
- ▣ Romantic nonsense
- ▣ 120 of the kills came on the Eastern Front in a Tiger tank largely immune to enemy fire.
- ▣ In reality, most tank to tank combat involved one tank ambushing the other, and the most successful tank commanders were generally "bushwhackers" with "a decided advantage in firepower or armor, and often both".

1944-45

- ▣ Expands to 38 Divisions plus several independent battalions and a few brigades
- ▣ 1 field Army, 18 corps, though will include Wehrmacht units
- ▣ Incomplete list
- ▣ Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
- ▣ Warsaw Uprising.
- ▣ Arnhem- Market Garden



Case Study-36th Waffen Grenadier Division of the



- ▣ Aka Dirlewanger Bde
- ▣ Reputation as the most criminal unit in Waffen SS
- ▣ Made up of poachers and other petty criminals originally.
- ▣ Did receive men convicted of major crimes such as premeditated murder, rape, arson and burglary



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-97900 Foto: Schrammer | August 1944 ca.



Malmedy

- ▣ 12/17/1944
- ▣ Kampfgruppe Peiper
- ▣ Btty, B, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion
- ▣ 120 men herded into the field, at least 81 killed
- ▣ Order from US 328th Infantry Regiment
- ▣ No SS troops or paratroopers will be taken prisoner but will be shot on sight
- ▣ 60 German POW's alleged shot on 1/1/45 at Chenogne









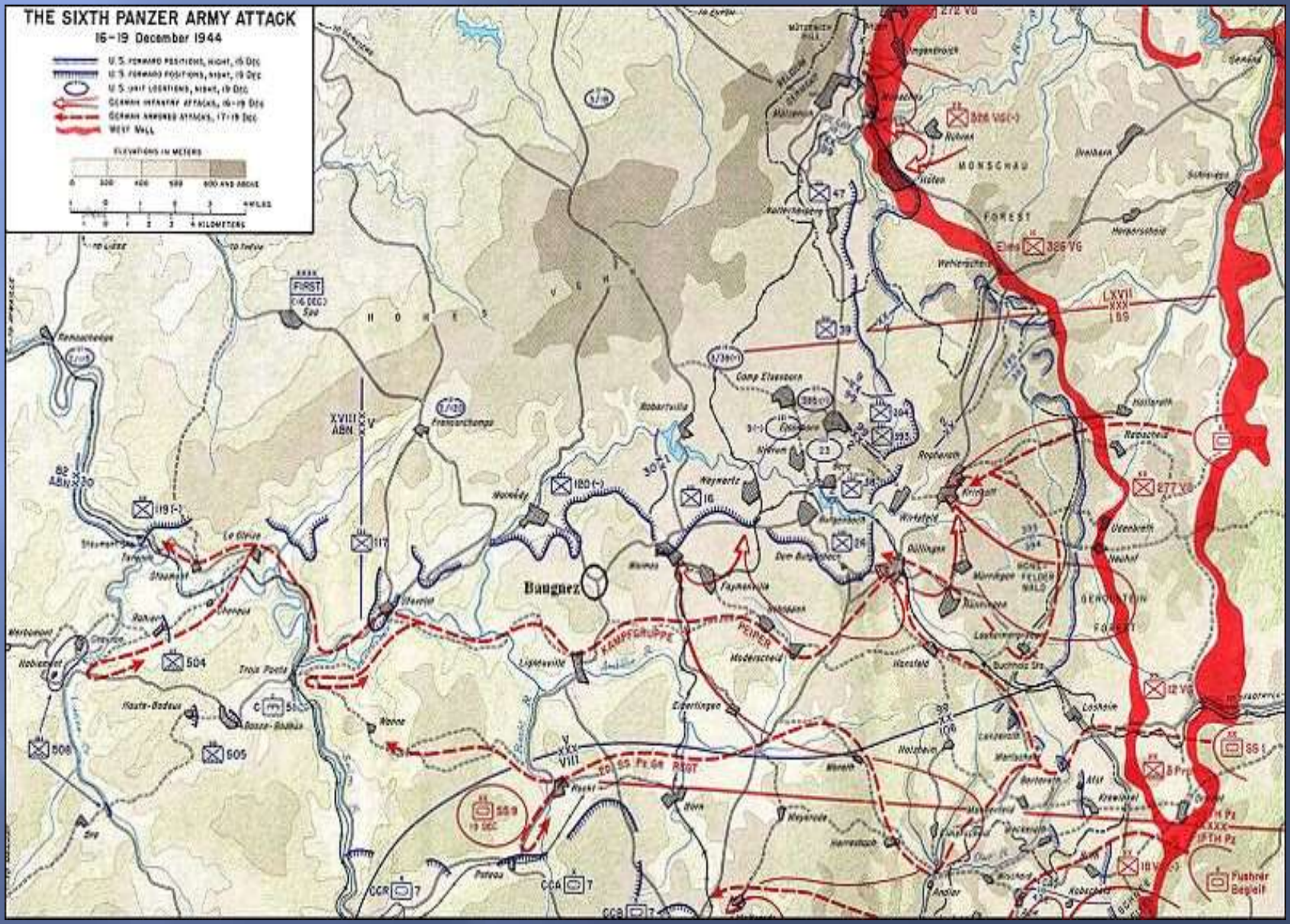
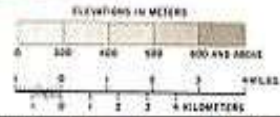
Malmedy

- ❑ 20 of the bodies had close range gunshot wounds to the head with powder residue
- ❑ 22 gun shots to the head w/o residue
- ❑ At least 10 had severe, fatal blunt trauma to the head



THE SIXTH PANZER ARMY ATTACK 16-19 December 1944

-  U.S. FORWARD POSITIONS, NIGHT, 16 DEC
-  U.S. FORWARD POSITIONS, NIGHT, 18 DEC
-  U.S. JUMP LOCATIONS, NIGHT, 18 DEC
-  GERMAN INFANTRY ATTACKS, 16-19 DEC
-  GERMAN ARMORED ATTACKS, 17-19 DEC
-  WEST WALL



Malmedy trial

- Other prisoners captured personally by Peiper were treated properly.
- Trials at Dachau May to July 1946
- 43 sentenced to death by hanging including Peiper
- 22 sentenced to life imprisonment including Army commander Dietrich
- 2 sentenced to 20 years including corps commander Priess
- 6 sentenced to 15 years or less
- **According to a US Senate report**
- **365 soldiers were murdered along with 111 civilians**
- **Defendants were offered no appeal**
- **Testimony given under coercion**
- **US Army creates commission which finds evidence of prisoner abuse**
- **Death sentences commuted and prison sentences reduced**
- **SS guilty of murder, however, Peiper was 17 miles away**