

CONTENTS

FOREWORD 9

1,408 FINNISH SS-VOLUNTEERS 12

The recruitment of the Finnish SS-volunteers originated in the Winter War experiences 13

The Finnish volunteers harboured strong Anti-Soviet attitudes 20

The Waffen SS-Division Wiking – Overview and Documentation 22

Composition of the Division 22 | Political views among the Finnish volunteers 26 |

Efforts by the Finnish National Socialist organisations to enforce the recruitment of Finnish

volunteers 30 | The illusion of an SS elite unit 33 | Involvement of Waffen-SS in atrocities 36 |

SS-Division Wiking and atrocities witnessed by Finnish volunteers 41 | Atrocities by Danish,

Norwegian, and Swedish volunteers 50 | Surviving archives of the Waffen-SS 54 |

Other Archives 55 | The 76 diaries by the Finnish SS-volunteers 55 | Ten diaries by Dutch and

Norwegian SS-volunteers 57 | Recollections by and biographies on Finnish volunteers 58 |

Photo documentation 59

THE UNITS OF WAFFEN SS-DIVISION WIKING AND THEIR COMMANDERS 61

The SS-Regiment Nordland 61

The SS-Regiment Westland 62

The SS-Regiment Germania 64

SS-Artillerie-Regiment 5 64

SS-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 5 66

SS-Panzerjäger-Abteilung 5 66

The Finnish SS-Volunteer Battalion 67

The Finnish contingent of the Waffen-SS 68

The Division Commander Felix Steiner 68

The Regiment and Battalion Commanders 73

THE HARSH GERMAN OCCUPATION POLICY IN POLAND, 1939-40 76

MASS KILLINGS IN UKRAINE IN 1941 77

Civilians 77

Jews 78

Partisans 82

Soviet Prisoners of War 88

Political Commissars 90

NO PRISONERS WILL BE TAKEN 92

MASSACRES IN THE LEMBERG AREA, 1.-7.7.1941 98

Lemberg 1.7.1941: The Baptism of Shocking Scenes 98

The Ukrainian nationalists 99 | The actions of Einsatzgruppe C 101 | The Wehrmacht City Commandant and German recollections 102 | A Dutch report 104 | Observations by Norwegian volunteers 104 | Experiences of Finnish volunteers 107

Olszanica, 2.7.1941: The first shootings of Soviet POWs and civilians 111

Novosilky, 2.-3.7.1941: Bloody revenge for the Regiment Commander Wäckerle 112

Krivichi, 2.7.1941: The annihilation of a local community 118

Slowita, 2.7.1941: Fire-raising, wild shootings, and executions 120

Kurowice, 3.7.1941: 180 Soviet POWs were shot and some Jews 124

Zolochiv, 3.-4.7.1941: Lieutenant-Colonel Groscurth restrains the brutality of SS-Division Wiking 125

The atrocities in the recollections of the locals 125 | The Ukrainian nationalists 127 | Oberstleutnant Helmuth Groscurth 129 | The SS-Division Wiking 1230 | The minor role of Einsatzkommando 4b 132 | Actions by the Dutch and Norwegian SS-volunteers 133 | Experiences of the Finnish volunteers 133

Zboriv, 4.7.1941: Further Massacre of Jews 134

Ozerna, 3.-5.7.1941: 180-200 Jews killed, and two synagogues burned 135

Nowiki, 3.-4.7.1941: Minor scuffles and the killing of stragglers 136

Podhorylce, early July 1941: Two Finns shot two slaughter victims 138

Urycz, 7.7.1941: At least 300 civilians were shot 139

ACTS OF MASS VIOLENCE IN THE TARNOPOL AREA, 4.-6.7.1941 141

Tarnopol, 4.-5.7.1941: An urban massacre 141

The City Commandant Erwin Sander 141 | The Ukrainian nationalists 142

The Sonderkommando 4b 143 | Actions by the Dutch volunteers 143

Experiences of the Finnish volunteers 145 | The possible gauntlet of the Butchery Company 147

Mykulyntsi, 5.7.1941: The Berserk run of the Wikingers 148

The raids of the Ukrainian nationalists 149 | The actions of the SS units 150

Steiner is claimed to have ordered the execution of 200 Soviet POWs, 5.7.1941 151

Hrymailiv, 5.7.1941: Swift settlement in passing 152

Chorostków, 5.7.1941: Outrages against the Jews 154

Husiatyn, 6.7.1941: The mowing down of civilians and Soviet POWs 154

Recollections by Dutch volunteers 154 | Experiences of Finnish volunteers 155

Wehrmacht efforts to check the atrocities 157

VIOLENT EVENTS IN THE EASTERN AREAS, 11.7.1941 - JANUARY 1943 158

Proskurov, 11.7.1941: Mopping-up actions in the streets 158

Bila Tserkva, mid-July 1941: Shooting of Jews 159

The bridgehead of Dnipropetrovsk, August 1941: Shooting of civilians 160

Zhytomyr, mid-July 1941: The deathblow of a city 160

The Wiking round-ups 160 | Einsatzkommando 4b 161 | Cautionary hangings
in the market square, 7.8.1941 162

Krementsug, 12.8.1941: The execution of a Soviet Lieutenant 163

Dniprodzerzhynsk: Suspect Russians shot, 22.8.1941 162

Village near Donskoye, 18.1.1942: Necessity to shoot the Ivans 163

Kabardinskaya, 26.9.1942: All the deserters were shot and two Russians hanged 164

Toldzgun, December 1942: Clearing the village 164

Metsentinskaya, January-March 1943: Shooting POWs 165

ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS AND REJECTION OF ATROCITIES 166

Anti-Jewish sentiments among the Finnish volunteers 167

SS-indoctrination on the race issue 172

Feelings of sympathy for the suffering Jews 175

Attitudes of indifference 180

Rejection of atrocities and latent anti-German views among the volunteers 183

Angry and understanding attitudes towards the Jews among Danish, Dutch and Norwegian SS-volunteers 187

THE FINNISH INVOLVEMENT 190

The number of victims 191

The pattern of perpetrators 192

The interlude of the Ukrainian nationalists 194

The accompanying Einsatzgruppen 198

The divided attitude of the Wehrmacht forces 199

The Wiking atrocities as mission-focused tactics 200

The Finnish volunteers were well aware of the atrocities 202

The Finnish involvement 202

Appendix 205

Notes 212

Archives 231

Literature 236

Index 245