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Chapter III

**HITLER'S COLLABORATORS  
AMONGST THE  
OCCUPIED COUNTRIES**



# ALBANIA

*Support for Hitler:*

*7,000 volunteers in SS*

*1,000 as part of the Albanian militia Vullnetara*

Albania

A map of Europe with the country of Albania highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in a light teal color. A red-bordered box in the upper left contains text about Albanian support for Hitler. The word 'Albania' is written in black text with a horizontal line underneath it, positioned to the left of the red-highlighted country.



### ITALIAN OCCUPATION

On April 7 1939, in breach of international obligations, the Italians occupied Albania and overthrew the Albanian King Zogu I, who had fled to Greece. On April 16 1939, the King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III, proclaimed himself King of Albania. After 1941, part of Kosovo and Chameria were incorporated into the Albanian protectorate.

### GERMAN-AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION

From September 10 1943, after the capitulation of Italy, Albania was occupied by German and Austrian troops. There was a strong resistance movement, especially the communist one.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COLLABORATION

During the years 1939-43, Albania formed an integral part of Italy. After the occupation of Albania by the Germans and Austrians, the Albanian administration began to cooperate with the occupiers.

### POLITICAL COLLABORATION

After the occupation of Albania in 1943, the Germans and Austrians established a puppet Albanian government with the police and the army. The fascist National Union (*Balli Kombetar*) was active in Albania.

### MILITARY COLLABORATION

After the occupation of Kosovo in 1943, the Germans and the Austrians organized a paramilitary militia called *Vulnetara* consisting of 1,000 Albanians. Its task was ethnic cleansing aimed at Jews, Serbs, Gypsies and people of other nationalities. 7,000 Albanian volunteers served in the 21st Mountain Division of *Waffen-SS Skanderbeg* (1st Albanian); the core of the formation was a reinforced battalion of about 300 Albanians who had previously served in the 13th SS Division. The Albanian division gained notoriety. Most of the Albanians serving in the SS did not want to fight for the Germans and Austrians. From the beginning, they were primarily occupied with the massacres of the Serb population in Kosovo and Metochia. The purpose of these massacres was to expel or murder the non-Albanian population living in Western Macedonia, ensuring there are no Jews, Serbs or Gypsies, and create an ethnically and religiously pure and homogeneous [Muslim] Greater Albania.



Albanians in *Waffen-SS Skanderbeg*

### THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

About 500 Jews lived in Albania before the war. After Kosovo and parts of Macedonia were incorporated into Albania in April 1941, the number of Jews increased significantly (refugees from Macedonia, Serbia, Germany, Austria and Poland). The occupation of Albania by the Third Reich in November 1943 changed the position of the Jews, whose number is estimated at 800-2,000. It is estimated that several hundred Albanian Jews survived the war in hiding.

### PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

There were no regulations penalizing helping Jews.

### END OF THE WAR

In November 1944 the Germans and Austrians and shortly thereafter also the Greek partisans stationed in the country left Albania<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> Andrew S., Williamson G., *German Mountain Ski Troops 1939-45*, Oxford 2001; Andrew S., Williamson G., *The Waffen SS* (3) 11. to 23. Divisions, Oxford 2004; Bishop Ch., *Zagraniczne formacje SS, Zagraniczni ochotnicy w Waffen SS w latach 1940-45*, Warszawa 2006; Blond P. W., *Siepacze Hitlera, Oddziały SS do zwalczania partyzantki*, Warszawa 2008; Czekański T., *Albania*, Warszawa 2003; Koreski A., *Albania. Krótki zarys dziejów*, Warszawa 1988; Piekalkiewicz J., *Wojna na Bałkanach 1940-45*, Warszawa 2008.

# BELGIUM

*Support for Hitler:  
40,000 Belgians served in the SS  
Country occupied from: 10 May 1940*

A map of Europe with the country of Belgium highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in white with black outlines for landmasses and coastlines. The word "Belgium" is written in black text to the right of the red area, with a thin black line pointing to the red area.

Belgium

### DEFENSIVE FIGHT:

Belgium's armed forces numbered 90,000 soldiers in 1932 and fought the German aggressor for over two weeks.

### CAPITULATION

Belgium signed the capitulation on 28 May 1940. The King remained in Belgium, whilst the royal family and the highest authorities evacuated to Great Britain.

### COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

Belgium was managed by the pre-war authorities who cooperated with the Third Reich at the level of secretaries of ministries.

### POLITICAL COLLABORATION

Parties that collaborated with Germany and the Austrians: the German-Flemish Labor Union (De Vlag - established in 1936), The Flemish National Union headed by Staf de Clerq, Rexists, who from 1935 preached the idea of creating Greater Belgium, the Algemeene SS - Vlaanderen organization established in 1940.

### MILITARY COLLABORATION

40,000 Belgian volunteers served in the voluntary formations of the SS.

The French-speaking Wallons and Dutch-speaking Flemish, whose ancestors were Germanic tribes living in Belgium. In all likelihood, this was the reason Hitler considered the Flemish a pure Germanic race. Initially, only Flemish were admitted to the Waffen SS. After the occupation of the Netherlands by the troops of the Third Reich, the recruitment of the first Flemish volunteers to the SS "Westland" regiment began in May 1940. Encouraged by this quick recruitment, the Nazis began forming a second regiment that was called "Nordwest". Ultimately, Belgian volunteers, Flemish and Wallonians, formed within the Waffen SS: the 27th SS Volunteer Grenadier Division Langemarck (Flemish No. 1); 28th SS Volunteer Grenadier Division Wallonien (*Legion Belge Wallonie*). After the creation of the 5th Motorized SS Division "Viking", the Flemish became part of its regiment "Westland". It was the most valiant of the non-German divisions of the Waffen SS, and its soldiers were considered the elite of the German army<sup>15</sup>. On February 19 2019, the Belgian daily "De Morgen" revealed that seven Belgians who fought in the German Waffen SS formations, are to this day receiving from the German government an additional pension granted to them by the order of Hitler for "loyalty and obedience". As reported by the Belgian newspaper, up to 38,000 Belgians have received this additional benefit from



Volunteers from Waffen-SS „Wallonien” during training in Bavaria, July 1943 r.  
(Photo: ullstein bild/ullstein bild/Getty Images)

Germany since the end of the war. The benefit received by Belgian SS men ranges from EUR 425 to EUR 1,275 a month. The time they spent in Belgian prisons for collaboration with Germans during the war is counted as their "years of work", while Belgians, who had to work as forced laborers in Germany during the war, received compensation of EUR 50 a month after the war.

### THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

The Belgians aided the Germans and Austrians in the extermination of the Jews. In September 2012, the Belgian Prime Minister, Elio Di Rupo, stressed that the Belgian authorities "conducted unworthy cooperation with the German occupier" in the extermination of Jews. Between 1942 and 1944, over 25,000 Jews and Roma people were deported from Belgium, mainly from Brussels and Antwerp. "By aiding the extermination carried out by the Nazis, the authorities, and through them the Belgian state, did not fulfill their duty. They were involved in the most heinous crime" - said the Belgian Prime Minister. The city of Brussels has officially admitted its complicity in the deportation of Jews during World War II, especially in the role it played in registering them, confiscating their property, and removing them from various professions.

### PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

In Belgium, imprisonment or a fine was provided for hiding Jews. There is no information that a Belgian had ever been punished<sup>16</sup>.

### LIBERATION

The Poles liberated Belgium. On September 6 1944, the Polish 1st Armored Division established in 1942 and commanded by General Stanisław Maczek, crossed the French-Belgian border. Poles fought bloody and victorious battles with Germans and liberated successive town.

<sup>15</sup> Chris Bishop, *Zagraniczne formacje SS*, Warszawa 2005.

<sup>16</sup> Jan Bodakowski, w: *fronda*, pl/a/kary-za-pomoc-zydom-w-polsce-a-w-europie, 12856.html



# BELARUS

*Support for Hitler:*

*Tens of thousands of Belarusians in the Wlasow's Army, Belarusian Self-defense and Belarusian SS*

Soviet Union

A map of Europe and the Mediterranean region. The Soviet Union is highlighted in light blue, and Belarus is highlighted in red. A red-bordered box in the upper left contains the text 'BELARUS' and 'Support for Hitler: Tens of thousands of Belarusians in the Wlasow's Army, Belarusian Self-defense and Belarusian SS'. The label 'Soviet Union' is placed in the light blue area.

On 17 September 1939, the Red Army occupied Western Belorussia (pre-war this was part of the Polish Republic) and incorporated it into the Soviet Union as the Belarusian Socialist People's Republic. The Soviet occupation of this territory lasted until the German invasion of the USSR on 22 June 1941.

### **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

Belarusians did not conduct an independent defensive fight.

### **CAPITULATION**

Belarus was not a sovereign state and it therefore did not sign a formal surrender.

### **COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL**

Within the territory of Belarus, the Soviets firstly administered the territory and then Germany with Austria introduced their own administration after the 1941 invasion. At the convention of the Belarusian People's Self-Assistance in March 1943, activists passed a memorandum declaring the autonomy of Belarus under the patronage of the Germans and the formation of the Belarusian government in conjunction with the establishment of the Belarusian army<sup>17</sup>.

### **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

Belarusians did not take up the fight against the Red Army during the Soviet occupation from September 1939 to June 1941 and they fully cooperated with the Soviets<sup>18</sup>. When Hitler declared war on the Soviets in June 1941, the Belarusians immediately began to cooperate with the Germans and Austrians occupying their territory: "They wanted to use the occupation to introduce Belarusians to the local administration, develop their national consciousness and create their own army. It is also true, however, that many started to cooperate [with the occupiers] not for ideological reasons, but for material reasons" – wrote a Belarusian historian<sup>19</sup>. Belarusian volunteers organized themselves into the Fascist Party of Belarusian Nationalists that worked closely with the Germans and Austrians.

### **MILITARY COLLABORATION**

At the beginning of 1942, the Germans and Austrians organized Belarusian police units who reported to the occupiers (i.e. Germans and Austrians). They were

largely recruited from among prisoners of war. Unofficially, they were known as the Russian People's Army or the *Narodniks* [*narod* meaning *people*]. In March 1943, these formations were joined to the Russian Liberation Army of General A. Vlasov [this was a collaborationist formation]. In June 1942, on the initiative of Wilhelm Kube, *Generalkommissar* for Weissruthenien (i.e. Belarus), the Belarusian Self-Defense was established – Belarusian military units controlled by German and Austrian officers. The large influx of Belarusian volunteers resulted in the formation of approximately twenty battalions. Belarusian leaders saw in the Belarusian Self-Defense "the embryo of a future Belarusian army"<sup>20</sup>. The vast spectrum of Belarusian collaboration with Germany was complemented by the Belarusian Youth Union with twelve and a half thousand members. The Youth Union promoted fascist ideology and anti-Semitism. Belarusian military formations took part with the Germans and Austrians in extermination actions against the Jewish population and in numerous pacifications. Several hundred Belarusians served in the 13th Byelorussian Police Battalion SD (German Weissruthenische-Polizei-Bataillon № 13) known as the Belarusian SS.

### **THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS**

Belarusians serving in the German-Austrian military and police formations took an active part in the extermination of the Jewish population.

### **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS**

There were no regulations penalizing the helping of Jews. In Western Belarus that was formerly within the borders of Poland before the war, the Germans and Austrians used the same punishment they used against the Poles [i.e. Polish citizens before the war] for hiding and helping Jews, i.e. the death penalty. In the Polish convent of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Słonim (now in the territory of Belarus), the Germans murdered two Polish nuns for hiding a Jewish family.

### **END OF THE WAR**

9 May 1945

<sup>17</sup> Zachar Szybieka, *Historia Białorusi 1795-2000*, Lublin 2002, s. 344.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibidem*, s. 331.


<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, s. 346.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibidem*, s. 345.

# DENMARK

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 10,000 Danes served in SS*

Denmark

A map of Europe with Denmark highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in light teal. A red-bordered box in the top left contains the title 'DENMARK' and a paragraph of text. A label 'Denmark' with a line points to the red area on the map.



In 1939, Denmark declared its neutrality and concluded a non-aggression pact with Hitler. However, the Germans and Austrians attacked Denmark on April 9, 1940.

### **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

Only a few Danish soldiers resisted. Several dozen were killed and several dozen were injured.

### **CAPITULATION**

9 April 1940.

### **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

During the war, Denmark was under Danish administration, which collaborated extensively with the Germans and Austrians in every aspect of life. After April 9, the Danish government and parliament implemented a "collaboration policy" (Danish *samarbejdspolitikken*). The goal of Danish politicians was to preserve the greatest amount of sovereignty and lead the country through the war as painlessly as possible.

In 1943, after a wave of protests against the policy of collaboration with the Third Reich, the Germans and the Austrians dismissed the incumbent Danish government. The Danish government was formally "put to sleep" and survived in this state until liberation. On August 29 1943, the Danish armed forces (kept in a reduced capacity by the Third Reich), were disbanded. Twenty three Danish soldiers were killed in this unex-



Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Erik Scavenius and plenipotentiary of the Third Reich in occupied Denmark and SS-Obergruppenführer Dr. Werner Best

pected attack by the occupiers. Some units and individual officers managed to escape to Sweden. The Danes mined, blew up and sunk 29 ships (their own ships, so they would not end up in German hands), whilst 14 ships fell into the hands of the Germans and Austrians. Danish resistance to the occupiers resulted in the establishment of the underground Danish Freedom Council on 16 September 1943, which evolved into a political nucleus of government over the country. After the war, 40,000 people were arrested on charges of collaboration, high treason, murder and torture, including Danes serving as volunteers in the SS formations. Light sentences were passed against 13,500 of the people; whilst 78 people were sentenced to death (46 sentences were carried out). The question of what to do with the collaborators-traitors in administration and industry remained. The Danish government had continually encouraged them to cooperate with the Germans and Austrians from the beginning of the war. Some were acquitted, the rest were sentenced to 4 years in prison.

### **MILITARY COLLABORATION**

Danes supported Hitler by serving in three SS formations. On June 28 1941, the Danish government announced the creation of the Danish legion in service to the Third Reich. The Danish Volunteer Legion was given the official German name of SS-Freiwilligen Verband Dänemark (Volunteer Group Denmark) by the Germans and Austrians. It was more commonly known as the Freikorps Danmark. This name also appeared on the standard German Waffen-SS uniforms attached to the left sleeve worn by the Danes serving their German protectors. 6,000 Danes served in this formation of the SS.

### **THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS**

When it was revealed in the first half of October 1943, that the Germans were planning to exterminate the Danish Jews, the Danes transported about 7,000 Jews to neutral Sweden. The Germans subsequently only managed to arrest 477 people (6-7% of the Danish Jewish population), who were sent to the Theresienstadt camp, built by Germans and Austrians in the Czech Republic.

### **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS**

In Denmark, there was no stated punishment for helping Jews<sup>21</sup>. Some Danish fishermen were sentenced to up to three months under the people smuggling law.

### **LIBERATION**

5 May 1945

<sup>21</sup> Jan Bodakowski, w: *fronda*, pl/a/kary-za-pomoc-zydom-w-polsce-a-w-europie, 12856.html

# ESTONIA

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 25,000 volunteers*

Estonia

A map of Europe with the country of Estonia highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in a light teal color. A red-bordered box in the upper left contains the title 'ESTONIA' and the text 'Support for Hitler: Ca. 25,000 volunteers'. A label 'Estonia' with a line pointing to the red area is located to the right of the map.



## OCCUPIED FROM

The secret Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact concluded on August 23 1939, between Hitler and Stalin, placed Estonia in the zone of Soviet influence. In October 1939, 35,000 Red Army soldiers crossed the border and formally occupied Estonia. Six months later on June 16 1940, 160,000 Soviet soldiers occupied the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Estonia was incorporated into the USSR on August 6 1940, as the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Soviets arrested and deported the Estonian President Konstantin Päts, exiling him deep into Russia, where he died in a Soviet labor camp in 1956. The remains of murdered president were only returned to Estonia by the Soviets on 21 October 1990.

## DEFENSIVE FIGHT

After the Soviet annexation of Estonia in 1940, the Estonians resisted the Soviet invaders. Well-organized and armed underground resistance structures called Forest Brothers were established. The Soviets responded by exterminating the Estonian resistance or by deporting them to Soviet labor camps. These camps were filled with Estonians and most never returned to their homeland. Estonia lost 25% of its population as a result of the Soviet occupation. The Estonian Forest Brothers continued to fight the Soviets until 1973.

## CAPITULATION

7 July 1941

## COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

The occupiers created their own administration.

## POLITICAL COLLABORATION

Estonians did not support fascism, but with no other options, they fought alongside the Germans and Austrians in the fight against their main aggressor, the Soviet Union.

## MILITARY COLLABORATION

The Estonians did not collaborate with the Third Reich, but – like the Finns – took up the fight for Estonia's freedom [i.e. to get liberated from the Soviet occupa-

tion] alongside the Germans and Austrians. In the summer of 1941, 12,000 Estonian soldiers from the underground – Forest Brothers, joined the Germans and Austrians to fight for the independence of their homeland. During the German occupation, active service was undertaken by 50 Estonian battalions and companies of approximately 10,000 soldiers. Additionally another 25,000 Estonians were given arms. These soldiers primarily fought in the Soviet Union. In 1943, the Germans and the Austrians enlisted a further 12,000 conscripts from Estonia. Most of these soldiers died in the Battle of Narva. Estonians fought in the following German SS formations: 5th SS Panzer Division Wiking as the Estonian SS legion (est. Eesti SS-leegion); 11th SS Panzer Grenadier Division Nordland; 20th SS Grenadier Division<sup>22</sup>.

## THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS

### THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

Before the war ca. 19 million people lived in the Baltic states, including 310,000 Jews (1.6%). Following the invasion of the Soviet Union by the Third Reich in June 1941, various anti-Jewish operations under the command of the SS – the German-Austrian military formations called Einsatzgruppe – commenced in the Baltic countries and in occupied eastern Poland. In Estonia, soldiers from the Einsatzgruppe inspired pogroms of the Jewish population. In 1943, approximately 1,600-2,000 Jews were brought to Estonia from the now liquidated (23 September 1943) ghetto in Vilnius. Vilnius Jews were imprisoned in the Vaivara concentration camp built by the Germans and Austrians. The occupiers proceeded to murder almost 125,000 people, including 6,500+ Estonian citizens, including 929 Jews and 243 Gypsies<sup>23</sup>.

### PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

There was no stated punishment for helping Jews

## END OF THE WAR

In August 1944, Soviet troops re-occupied Estonia and re-incorporated it into the USSR as a socialist republic. Estonia regained finally its independence in 1991.

<sup>22</sup> Lewandowski Jan, *Historia Estonii*, Ossolineum, Wrocław 2002; Chris Bishop, *Zagraniczne formacje SS 1940-1945*, Warszawa 2005, s. 92-95.

<sup>23</sup> Darski Józef, *Historia Estonii do lat 50. XX wieku* [w:] [<http://www.eesti.pl/historia-estonii-do-lat-50-xx-wieku-1824.html>](<http://www.eesti.pl/historia-estonii-do-lat-50-xx-wieku-11824.html>)

# FRANCE

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 105,000 volunteers*

France

A map of Europe with France highlighted in red. The word "France" is written in black text on the red area. A red-bordered box in the top left corner contains the word "FRANCE" in large red letters and the text "Support for Hitler: Ca. 105,000 volunteers" in smaller black italicized font. The rest of the map shows the outlines of other European countries in white against a light teal background.

## COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM

France declared war on the Third Reich on September 3 1939, three days after Germany invaded Poland [This was a formal fulfillment of the pre-war agreement that France and Britain would aid Poland in the event of German aggression]. On the Western Front in September 10 1939, the French undertook local offensive actions in the Saar region however, they ceased after a few days. There was now silence on the Western Front (la drôle de guerre). The Germans and Austrians crossed the French frontier on May 10 1940.

## DEFENSIVE FIGHT

On May 21 1940, German-Austrian troops reached the English Channel. From May 26 to June 4, approximately 330,000 British, French and Polish troops were evacuated to Great Britain from the Dunkirk area. On June 14 1940, German-Austrian divisions entered Paris. The newly appointed Prime Minister of France, Marshal Pétain asked for a truce.

## CAPITULATION

France signed the capitulation on June 22, 1940

## COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

The French administration, offices and the police cooperated with Germany.

## POLITICAL COLLABORATION

The French state was divided into two zones: the northern one, occupied by the Germans and Austrians, covered the majority of the country's territory including

Paris. The southern zone, the so-called "French State" was semi-autonomous and was home to Marshall Pétain's government located in Vichy. Pétain had an army of 100,000 French soldiers. In both zones, the French administration, offices and the police collaborated with the Germans and Austrians. General Charles de Gaulle appealed to the French people to leave their occupied country on June 18 and join the French [independent] army being formed in England. This army was to continue to fight the occupiers. On August 7 1940, de Gaulle signed an agreement with representatives of the English government, establishing the Committee of the Free French and commenced to build an army based on forces from the colonies. On October 27 1940, the Defense Council of the French Empire was established, and in September 1941, the National Committee of the Free French was established. Charles de Gaulle was sentenced to death in absentia by the Vichy government for treason.

## MILITARY COLLABORATION

The Third Reich forcibly enlisted 140,000 inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine into its armed forces. A further 150,000 were recruited into the Todt Organization, and 25,000 French workers staffed the German Kriegsmarine in the ports of Brittany and the Bay of Biscay. Some 45,000 French men donned German uniforms of their own free will.

As volunteers, they served in various armed formations and paramilitary groups of the Third Reich. More than 6,000 French volunteers served in the French Legion (Legion des Volontaires Français - LVF), while the French company La Phalange Africaine consisting of over 200 soldiers - part of the 754th Panzer Grenadier Regiment - fought in North Africa against the British. Nearly 20,000 French volunteers served in the Waffen SS and at least two were in the ranks of the SS-Leibstandarte, Hitler's bodyguard. French SS men defended Hitler's bunker to the very end. As soldiers in the 11th SS Nordland Panzer Grenadier Division and the 33rd SS Charlemagne Grenadier Division, the French wore the green Waffen-SS uniforms. They were distinguished only by the shield with the inscription "France" against the background of the tricolor national colors. At the end of the war, the French fought against the Poles in Poland. In hopeless situations, the French SS men tried to surrender to the Poles of the 1st Polish Army arriving from the east. Waffen-Untersturmführer, Christian de la Mazière, a Frenchman from the Waffen-SS, described the first meeting with Poles as follows: "They approached us. Their commander, a young blond man, spoke a little French. What are you doing here? So I say that we are SS Charlemagne. Finally he said - Get off those SS badges right now. If the Soviets see them, you're done. Find yourself some civilian clothes and vanish. If anybody asks say



Meeting between Phillippe Pétain and Adolf Hitler, 24 October, 1940 r. (Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-H25217 / CC-BY-SA 3.0 / Source: Wikimedia Commons)



you are French deported to work in the Reich." Christian de la Mazière was not the only French SS man who owed his life to Poles<sup>24</sup>.

The French 4th Regiment of the NSKK however, turned out to be the most useful for the Third Reich. This regiment was part of the NSKK Motorgruppe Luftwaffe, formed from the pre-war Nazi automotive organization and consisted of 2,500 French drivers and engineers. They played an important role in the German army as a supply and transport unit. Approximately 10,000 Frenchmen also served in the German police, who employed an additional 30,000 French civilian helpers and informers. Many collaborated directly with the intelligence services of the Third Reich, the Abwehr and the Gestapo. Moreover, the right-wing Vichy militia called Milice cooperated with Germany and the Austrians. In German occupied Europe, the scale of French collaboration was the largest.

### THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

The French press was continuously published throughout the German-Austrian occupation. Some publishers were eager to please the occupiers at all cost. Others were



French esesman on a street in Paris  
(Source: Wikimedia Commons)

outspoken fascists and penned anti-Semitic "crusades" for the Germans and Austrians. The leader among these fascist groups was the weekly "Je suis partout" ("I am everywhere"), founded in Paris in 1930. It was led by the writer Robert Brasillach, who, apart from the anti-Semitic propaganda campaign, revealed through the magazine the names of Jews hiding in the Vichy state.

On September 21 1940, the Third Reich ordered by decree that the entire Jewish population of the occupied zone report to the nearest police prefecture. In the city of Paris and its environs, about 15,000 Jews fulfilled this obligation. All names and addresses obtained in this way were stored in the so-called Tulard file, named after André Tulard, who was responsible for the "Jewish question" in France. The French police provided the Gestapo with all the documentation, containing addresses, and the full details of the targets origins and occupations. The first manhunts targeting the Jewish population were predicated on the basis of the material supplied by the police. On May 10 1941 alone, 4,000 Jews were arrested and more arrests followed in June 1942. The captured Jews were sent to the camps in Pithiviers and Beaune-La-Rolande.

The largest anti-Jewish action in France was the Vel d'Hiv manhunt. On July 16 and 17 1942, some 9,000 French policemen were ordered by the French police chief to arrest all the French Jews. The arrests were to be carried out as quickly as possible under the directive to not engage the Jews in any conversations. French policemen were supported by approximately 3,400 volunteers from Jacques Doriot's French fascist organizations. Finally, on 16 July, 13,152 people were arrested, including 5,082 women and 4,051 children. It has not been established how many people managed to escape. The detained Jews were only permitted to take two shirts, a pair of shoes, a blanket and one set of warm clothing. Families were separated many times. The detainees were held on the Vel d'Hiv indoor cycling track near the Eiffel Tower, where the crowds of Jews only had 5 toilets and 1 water tap at their disposal. After five days, they were sent to transit camps from where they were taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp built by the Germans and Austrians on occupied Polish soil. In 1995, French President Jacques Chirac officially recognized the guilt of the French state for the deportation of approximately 76,000 French Jews:

*“These dark hours will forever remain a stain on our country's history, offending it and our tradition. Yes, the criminal insanity of the occupant was supported by the French, the French state.”*

—stated the President of France.

<sup>24</sup> Francuscy SS-mani. Do samego końca bronili bunkra Hitlera, w: „Do Rzeczy Historia”, Warszawa 7/2013.



**Arests of Jews in Paris by the French police**  
(Photo: wikipedia/bundesarchiv/lic. CC)

During World War II, the German-Austrian authorities in France received 3 million letters, the majority written to denounce the Jews or reveal their whereabouts. The French blackmailed and tortured rich Jews and extorted them and ransomed their families. They also sent the poor to their deaths. The first train to leave France with 1,112 French Jews was sent to Auschwitz on March 27 1942 and it was escorted to the French border by French gendarmes<sup>25</sup>.

### **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS**

In France, there was no stated punishment for helping Jews. The French were punished for breaking other laws while providing aid. The highest penalty was imprisonment for three months. Several Frenchmen were sent to German-Austrian concentration camps for helping Jews<sup>26</sup>.

### **LIBERATION**

On August 26 1944, the French resistance movement, de Gaulle's the Free French forces and the American 3rd Army of General Patton liberated Paris. In the first weeks of September 1944, the remainder of France was liberated from German-Austrian occupation with the exception of some parts of Alsace and Lorraine and a few German defensive points of resistance on the shores of the Atlantic and in Dunkirk. According to historians, about 50,000 Poles partook in this historic success of the underground armed struggle against the Third Reich, in indigenous Polish units, but also in armed Franco-Polish units and groups.

The commanders of these groups and individual sub-units were officers and non-commissioned officers from the resistance movement. On the French side, the groups were commanded by Major H. Thevenon and on the Polish side by Major B. Jeleń. Approximately 10,000 soldiers of this 50,000 Polish army scattered all over France were killed. It was a sacrifice of Polish blood in the fight "For Our Freedom and Yours":

*“this is one of the unofficial mottos of Poland which goes back to the times when Polish soldiers, exiled from the partitioned Poland, fought in various independence movements all over the world.”*

The Commander of the 1st French Army on the Rhine and Danube (1ère Armée Française Rhin et Danube), General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, who signed the act of surrender of Germany on behalf of France - army order No. 1109 July 26 1945, recognized their significant contribution and expressed appreciation to the commanders and soldiers of the 19th and 29th Polish Infantry Groupings for their participation in the ranks of the French resistance movement. The actions he cited included the liberation of Lyon and numerous cities in northern and south-western France, the victorious actions of the 1st French Army, action in the Rhine and the Danube from February to May 1945 and in the Vosges in Alsace and finally in Germany.

<sup>25</sup> Doyle, Paul, *The forgotten story of ... the France football captain who murdered for Hitler*, The Guardian, 16 listopada 2009 r.; Jacques Delarue, (tłum. Savill, Mervyn), *The Gestapo: a History of Horror*, Londyn, Frontline Books, 2008, str. 224; Henri Longuechaud, *Conformément à l'ordre de nos chefs: Le drame des forces de l'ordre sous occupation*, Paryż, Plon, 1985, str. 58.

<sup>26</sup> Jan Bodakowski, w: fronda, pl/a/kary-za-pomoc-zydom-w-polsce-a-w-europie, 12856.html

# HOLLAND/ THE NETHERLANDS

*Support for Hitler:  
55,000 volunteers in SS*

The Netherlands

A map of Europe with the Netherlands highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in light teal with white outlines for landmasses. A red-bordered box in the top left contains the title and a text block. A label 'The Netherlands' with a line pointing to the red area is on the right.



## COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM

10 May 1940.

## DEFENSIVE FIGHT

On May 13, 1940 the royal family left the country.

## CAPITULATION

14 May 1940.

## COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

The Netherlands was managed by the Dutch administration in cooperation with Germany and the Austrians. Under the occupation, the country functioned as it did before the war. The Dutch railways partnered with the Germans and Austrians; Dutch railway men transported Dutch slave laborers and Jews, as well as looted Dutch property on Dutch trains. Two companies, Philips and Unilever made a deliberate decision to collaborate with the Third Reich.

## POLITICAL COLLABORATION

The influence of fascism became obvious in the Netherlands at an early stage. Various organizations and parties of a fascist nature, began to be established in the Netherlands as early as 1923; the most significant of which were the National Socialist Movement and the National Socialist Dutch Workers' Party (Nationaal-Socialistische Beweging der Nederlanden - NSB), which was modeled on the German NSDAP. After the Dutch capitulation, 800,000 Dutch people of the 10 million inhabitants, declared their fascist beliefs by joining the fascist party, known as the Dutch Union and openly collaborated with Germany. The Dutch Union was the largest organization in the history of the Netherlands. Apart from the rare exceptions of the resistance movement, the entire country collaborated with the occupiers. At the CABR Institute [*translator's comment - Central Archives for Special Criminal Jurisdiction, forerunner of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD)*], there are approximately half a million files detailing Dutch citizens who collaborated with the Germans and Austrians, including members of the fascist NSB. Access to these files is extremely difficult, even secret to this day.

## MILITARY COLLABORATION:

In the voluntary Dutch legions, 50,000 Dutch volunteers served Hitler in the Vrijwilligerslegioen Nederland and also served in three SS divisions in: the 11th SS Panzer Grenadier Division Nordland alongside representatives of other European nations; the 23rd Volunteer Grenadier Division of the SS Nederland; and the 34th SS Volunteer Grenadier Division Landstorm Nederland. Among the estimated 3,000 soldiers of the Landstorm



Celebration of the 10th anniversary of NSB in Utrecht 10/12/1941

Nederland, there were fanatical Nazis and concentration camp wardens. The archives in the Netherlands and Berlin contain the names of Dutch citizens who served in the SS and Wehrmacht.

## THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

In comparison to both France and Belgium, the percentage of Jewish survivors in the Netherlands was the lowest. In proportion to the number of inhabitants, the Dutch handed over the largest number of Jews in Europe to the Germans and the Austrians. The Dutch railroads transported Dutch Jews to extermination camps built by Germans and Austrians in occupied Poland. The Netherlands operated the so-called Henneicke Column that pursued Jews for profit. This group of 40 Dutch fascists received 7.5 guilders (then 40 guilders) from their German superiors for each



Hitler was loved not only in Germany



Among the nations collaborating with Germany, Dutch volunteers were the most numerous in the Waffen SS

captured Jew. It is estimated that this group was responsible for the deaths of almost 9,000 Jews<sup>27</sup>. In total, 107,000 Jews were deported from the Netherlands to German-Austrian extermination camps. The Dutch police too, eagerly pursued and handed over the Jews to

the Gestapo<sup>28</sup>. It is estimated that 16,100 Jews survived the occupation in the Netherlands thanks to organized and individual aid.

### PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

In the Netherlands, people caught helping the Jews ended up in prisons or Dutch camps. On May 9 1943, 1,604 Dutch were held in custody in Amsterdam for hiding Jews. Several months later, their number increased to 1,997.

### LIBERATION

The southern Netherlands: Flanders, Zeeland, Brabant and Limburg were liberated from the German-Austrian occupation in autumn of 1944. In September 1944 Maastricht was liberated and in October Breda, both by the Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division under the command of brilliant General Maczek, see chapter about Poland. Amsterdam, Haga, Rotterdam and Utrecht remained in the hands of the Germans and Austrians. Cut from the world from autumn 1944 until May 1945, without reliable food supply and without firewood, these cities lived through the winter of Hunger (Honger-winter); 20,000 people perished from hunger and cold. Holland was finally liberated on 5 May 1945.

<sup>27</sup> *The Persecution of the Jews in the Netherlands, 1940-1945. New perspectives*, red. P. Romijn, B. van der Boom, P. Griffioen, R. Zeller, M. Meeuwenoord, J. Houwink ten Cate, Amsterdam 2012; M. Croes, *Zagłada Żydów w Holandii a odsetek ocalałych*, „Zagłada Żydów. Studia i materiały”, 2008, nr 4; B. J. Flim, T. J. Michman, *The Netherlands* [w] *The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations. Rescuers of Jews during Holocaust*, red. I. Gutman, Yad Vashem 2004; E. Fogelman, *Conscience and Courage. Rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust*, New York 1995; R. Hilberg, *Zagłada Żydów Europejskich*, t. II, tł. J. Giebułtowski, Warszawa 2014; D. Michman, *Spółczesność holenderskie i los Żydów: skomplikowana historia*, „Zagłada Żydów. Studia i materiały”, 2016, nr 12.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.wiatrak.nl/74511/czarni-zolnierze-holendrzy-w-szeregach-waffen-ss>.



# NEDERLANDERS



VOOR UW EER EN GEWETEN  
OP! - TEGEN HET BOLSJEWISME  
DE WAFFEN **⚡** ROEPT U!

# LITHUANIA

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 40,000 volunteers*

Lithuania

A map of Europe with Lithuania highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in light teal. A red-bordered box in the top left contains the title 'LITHUANIA' and the text 'Support for Hitler: Ca. 40,000 volunteers'. A label 'Lithuania' with a line points to the red-shaded country.

## **COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM**

In accordance with the provisions of the secret protocol concluded on August 23 1939, between Hitler and Stalin, known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Lithuania found itself in the zone of Soviet influence. On September 18 1939, the Red Army occupied Vilnius that was formerly belonging to Poland before the 1939 invasion. The Soviets handed the city over to the Lithuanians. On September 18 1939, the USSR moved its troops to Lithuanian territory. On July 21 1940, the Soviets announced that Lithuania had become the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic within the borders of the USSR. Between 1940 and 1941, the Soviets deported 10,000 Lithuanians and Poles and 7,000 Jews who were living in Vilnius to Siberia. On June 22 1941, in conjunction with Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, Hitler's troops entered Lithuania.

## **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

Lithuania did not undertake an open fight.

## **COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL**

On June 24 1941, after two years of cruel Soviet occupation, Lithuanians welcomed the Wehrmacht soldiers entering Lithuania as saviors. Many Lithuanians occupied high ranking positions in the new occupiers' administration.

## **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

Lithuanian Jews collaborated with the Soviets to a large extent and the Lithuanians collaborated with the Germans and Austrians following Germany's occupation.

## **MILITARY COLLABORATION**

The Germans and Austrians did not trust Lithuanian Catholics, just as they did not trust Poles. Himmler considered the Lithuanians to be the least trustworthy among the Baltic peoples and therefore, Lithuanians did not enter the structures of the SS. Additionally, the Lithuanian authorities made it a condition that Lithu-

anian soldiers serving in the army of the Third Reich could only serve under Lithuanian command and fight only in the territory of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian formations within Hitler's army, known as Schutzkorps Litauen [Lithuanian National Defense Corps], numbered 19,000 volunteers. 1,500 Lithuanians volunteered to serve in the Waffen SS about 20,000 Lithuanians served in Polizei-Bataillonen, commonly known as ponar shooters or shaulis.

## **THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS**

When the Soviets were withdrawing at the end of June 1941, Lithuanians from the underground organization Front of Lithuanian Activists (LAF) began murdering Jews who had collaborated with the Soviet authorities in 1939-41. During the second half of the year, in collaboration with the Germans and Austrians of the Einsatzkommando No. 3, the Lithuanians murdered the majority of the Jewish population living in Lithuania; only 40,000 remained of the initial 250,000 Lithuanian Jews. Of these, 20,000 fled abroad. In April 1943, Lithuanians serving in auxiliary units, partnered with Ukrainians and Latvians, were used in the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

## **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS:**

In Vilnius and in the southern part of Lithuania, which was within Poland's borders before 1939, the Germans imposed the death penalty for helping or hiding Jews. There were no regulations penalizing assisting the Jews in the rest of Lithuania.

## **END OF THE WAR**

On July 13 1944, units of the underground Polish Home Army, together with the Soviet Red Army, liberated Vilnius from its occupation by Hitler's army.

The Soviets however, quickly arrested the Poles and took them to labor camps and another Soviet occupation began for Lithuania. Lithuania did not regain its freedom from Soviet occupation until 1991<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> Kierończyk Przemysław, *Aneksja Litwy przez ZSRR w roku 1940 jako element współczesnej dyskusji politycznej i prawnej*, „Studia Iuridica Toruniensia”, vol. 14, 2014; Ochmański Jerzy, *Historia Litwy*, Ossolineum, Wrocław 1990; Chris Bishop, *Zagraniczne formacje SS 1940-1945*, Warszawa 2005, s. 109-113.



# LUXEMBOURG

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 12,035 volunteers*

Luxembourg

A map of Europe with a light teal background. The landmasses are white with black outlines. A small red arrow points to the location of Luxembourg in Western Europe. A black line extends from the arrow to the word "Luxembourg" which is underlined. In the top left, a red-bordered box contains the word "LUXEMBOURG" in large red letters, and below it, the text "Support for Hitler: Ca. 12,035 volunteers" in a smaller, italicized black font.

## COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM

Hitler's troops invaded the Duchy of Luxembourg on the night of May 9-10 1940, and within a few hours took it almost entirely.



Heinrich Himmler in Luxembourg, 1940

## DEFENSIVE FIGHT

The Duchy of Luxembourg did not fight the invaders.

## CAPITULATION

Representatives of the Duchy of Luxembourg signed the armistice on May 10 1940; the princely family and the government took refuge in Spain and subsequently in Portugal and Canada. From Canada they started cooperating with Great Britain.

## COLLABORATION

The only remaining governing body in the Principality of Luxembourg was the parliament, which set up a government commission during the occupation, preserving pre-war administrative structures.

Some politicians, encouraged by what was initially mild treatment by the occupants, wanted to compromise, this is because while the German-Austrian governments were still strict and imposed requisitions there were however no mass arrests and shootings. A collaborative party, the People's German Movement was even formed. Gradually however, sympathy for this solution decreased as the Germans and Austrians began intensive Germanization of the Duchy, dissolving political parties and associations, introducing Nazi law (including the anti-Jew-

ish Nuremberg laws) and also censored the press. Severe punishments were imposed by the Special Tribunal and terror intensified in the country. It even became a crime to use the French language. All of this sparked the rise of a resistance movement. On August 14 1940, the Duchy of Luxembourg was incorporated into the Third Reich.

## MILITARY COLLABORATION

In the initial phase of the war, of the total population of 290,000 inhabitants in the Duchy of Luxembourg, 2,000 people volunteered to serve in the ranks of the Third Reich army. In 1942, the Germans and the Austrians announced compulsory conscription. The Luxembourgers responded with a wave of strikes. Occupying forces shot several dozen of the strikers and many were sent to the concentration camps. Threatened with conscription to the German-Austrian army, some citizens chose to flee and if they managed to reach Great Britain, joined the Luxembourg armed detachment. During the war, approximately five thousand seven hundred Luxembourg citizens died fighting, almost 3,000 of whom served in Hitler's army. Volunteers and conscripts from Luxembourg, totaling 12,035 soldiers, served in various units of Hitler's forces: the Luftwaffe, Kriegsmarine and Waffen-SS. However, the Germans do not mention this in their documents, as they considered the Luxembourgers to be Germans.

## THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

During the German occupation, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was actively involved in the persecution of Jews. The Luxembourg authorities, as well as officials, teachers and the local administration, were often involved in the persecution of Jews; 1,300 Jews were sent from Luxembourg to German-Austrian extermination camps<sup>30</sup>.

## PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

There were no regulations penalizing the helping of Jews.

## LIBERATION

Luxemburg was liberated by the Americans on September 20, 1944. Together with the Americans, the princely family and the government returned to Luxembourg.

The armed forces of Luxembourg were rapidly organized and fought with the Germans at the end of 1944 leading into 1945, in the Battle of the Bulge.

<sup>30</sup> Vincento Artuso, *La collaboration au Luxembourg Durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale 1940-1945*, Luxembourg 2013.

# LATVIA

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 80,000 volunteers*

Latvia

A map of Europe with the country of Latvia highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in a light teal color. The word "Latvia" is written in black text over the red area. A red-bordered box in the upper left contains the word "LATVIA" in large red letters and the text "Support for Hitler: Ca. 80,000 volunteers" in smaller black italicized font.

## **SOVIET OCCUPATION**

In accordance with the provisions of the secret protocol concluded on August 23 1939, between Hitler and Stalin known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Latvia found itself in the zone of Soviet influence. On June 16 1940, the Soviets used an army of 160,000 soldiers against the three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On August 5 1940, the Soviets incorporated Latvia within the borders of the Soviet Union as the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. The political and intellectual elite of Latvia and the Latvian peasants who resisted the Soviets were arrested by the Soviets, murdered or deported deep into Russia to Soviet labor camps from which, few returned alive.

## **GERMAN-AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION**

From 10 July 1941.

## **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

The Latvians did not put up any armed resistance to Hitler. When the troops of the Third Reich entered Latvia in June 1941, Latvians, forcibly conscripted into the Red Army organized a revolt and surrendered to the new occupiers.

## **CAPITULATION**

10 July, 1940

## **COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL**

Administration in Latvia during the Soviet occupation was carried out by the Soviets; during the occupation of the Third Reich, by the Germans and the Austrians.

## **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

Before the war, Latvia had a few nationalist parties, with a total of about 5,000 members that included the *Peasants' Army of Unity* (Aizsargi) and *Thunderous Cross* (Peronkrust). Both parties actively promoted the idea of persecution of non-Latvians, especially Jews. In July 1941 these organizations subordinated themselves to the German-Austrian occupying forces.

## **MILITARY COLLABORATION**

After the Third Reich's invasion of the USSR in June 1941, the German-Austrian formations known as Einsatzgruppen under the command of the SS, com-

menced military operations in the Baltic countries and eastern Poland. Following the invasion of Latvia, they began the mass executions of the Jewish population. In the summer of 1941, assistance was offered by Latvians from the nationalist formations (Aizsargi and Peronkrust) together with Latvian soldiers and police, with the full consent of the occupiers and formed volunteer "self-defense squadrons". The Latvians from these formations served the Germans and Austrians by carrying out searches, arrests, manhunts and mass shootings of Jews and communists. In 1941 alone, tens of thousands of people died at their hands. In the fall of 1941, the Germans and the Austrians reorganized the Latvian "self-defense squadrons" into regular police battalions and by the end of the war, 40 such battalions were established, ranging from 200 to 600 men. In 1942, the volunteer Latvian SS legions were formed. A year later, compulsory conscription of Latvians to the army and as workers into important branches of the military industry was introduced. Latvians who refused were sent to the Salapils concentration camp. During World War II, 150,000 Latvians fought on the side of the Third Reich – voluntarily or under duress. The Latvians also joined the SS legions and fought in the following formations: 8th SS Cavalry Division Florian Geyer; 15th SS Grenadier Division (Latvian No. 1); 19th SS Grenadier Division (Latvian No. 2); 32nd SS Volunteer Grenadier Division<sup>31</sup>.

## **THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS**

Latvians actively participated in the extermination of Latvian Jews and in 1943 they took an active part in the suppression of the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto.

## **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS**

There was no stated punishment for helping Jews

## **END OF THE WAR**

The Red Army defeated the Germans in Latvia on October 13, 1944. The Soviet occupation then began again for the Latvians. Latvia regained its freedom from Soviet occupation in 1991.

<sup>31</sup> Chris Bishop, *Zagraniczne formacje SS 1940-1945*, Warszawa 2005, s. 85-89.



A map of Europe with Norway highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in light teal. A white box with a red border is overlaid on the top left of the map, containing text. The word "Norway" is written diagonally across the red area.

# NORWAY

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 8,000 volunteers*

Norway



## COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM

9 April 1940.

## DEFENSIVE FIGHT

The Norwegian army numbered 50,000 soldiers. By April 10 1940, the Germans and Austrians had captured 7 cities, including the capital. King Haakon refused to surrender his arms, resulting in the Battle of Midtskogen. The Royal Guard prevented the Wehrmacht from capturing the royal family or the members of Parliament and secured the evacuation of the royal family and the state treasury. While fighting in the south of the country was slowly ending, the north was boiling over. At the end of May 1940, British and French troops accompanied by the Polish Independent Podhale Rifle Brigade came to the aid of Norway. The Battles of Narvik were Norway's first tactical victory over the Third Reich. The fighting ceased at the beginning of June and on June 7 1940, the King and Parliament left the country to represent Norway in exile from Great Britain.

## CAPITULATION

Norway capitulated on June 10 1940, on the day of the surrender of the port of Narvik. However, many Norwegian troops continued fighting until 1945.

## COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

The Germans and Austrians introduced their own administration in Norway.

## POLITICAL COLLABORATION:

After the capitulation, Vikund Quisling, who was a leader of the pro-fascist group Nasjonal Samling (NS – National Unity Party) from 1933, proclaimed himself Prime Minister of Norway. Quisling however, was not supported by the Norwegians and the occupiers introduced their own management.

## MILITARY COLLABORATION

Even before the complete capture of Norway, the Third Reich announced the recruitment of volunteers to the German-Austrian army. Throughout the war, 6,000 Norwegians served in the ranks of the Waffen-SS dispersed into the following units: SS-Standarte Nordland, later incorporated into the SS Viking Division; The Norwegian Viken Legion (SS uniforms, a lion in place of the SS runes, a stripe with the Norwegian flag on the sleeve); German SS Norge; the SS guard battalion "Norway", that is, the SS-Wachbataillon Norwegen that served as guards in concentration camps. Norwe-



Norwegian SS-man

gians from the SS fought in 1944 against Poles in the Warsaw Uprising<sup>32</sup>.

Additionally, 1,500 Norwegians served in the land forces of the Third Reich. In the Wehrmacht, along with Norwegian airmen and sailors, the Norwegian Wachdienst Norwegen, a kind of territorial defense, and 350 Norwegian nurses also fought for Hitler.

## THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

According to official data, about 2,100 Jews were living in Norway at the time of the deportation decision. The arrests were carried out by the Germans, Austrians and Norwegians. They managed to catch about 750 Jews. Those not captured managed to flee to Sweden. Conscious voluntary participation in the extermination of the Jews and Quisling's collaborationist government are the greatest flaws in Norwegian history during the German occupation – Norway behaved like France Vichy. Norway produced its own anti-Jewish legislation and used its own human and material resources to discriminate against Jews and seize their property. Such actions were carried out even before the Germans and Austrians demanded it, as noted by Paul Levine, a history professor at Uppsala University in Sweden. – Norwegians carried out arrests, drove deportation trucks etc. and all this happened on Norwegian soil – added Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg<sup>33</sup>.

## PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

There was no penalty in Norway. A dozen or so Norwegians, members of the resistance, were killed for helping Jews.

## THE END OF THE WAR

8 May 1945.

<sup>32</sup> Michał Korbiniak, *Norwegowie też pacyfikowali Warszawę*, w: „Bibuła”, Oslo, 18 sierpnia 2009.

<sup>33</sup> <https://tvn24.pl/swiat/norwegia-po-raz-pierwszy-przeprasza-za-holokaust-ra198689-3489053>.

A map of Europe and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is highlighted in red. A semi-transparent red box is overlaid on the map, containing text. The text reads: "RUSSIANS AND NATIONS OF THE USSR" in large, bold, red capital letters. Below this, in smaller black text, it says "Support for Hitler: Ca. 800,000 volunteers". The label "Soviet Union" is placed on the red area of the map.

# RUSSIANS AND NATIONS OF THE USSR

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 800,000 volunteers*

Soviet Union

In August 1939, Stalin signed trade agreements with Hitler that allowed the exchange of military technology and equipment to the Soviets to provide the Germans and Austrians with a Soviet raw materials and food. In the period September 1939 – June 1941, Stalin provided Hitler with: 1.6 million tons of grain; 900,000 tons of kerosene; 200,000 tons of cotton; 140,000 tons of manganese; 200,000 tons of phosphates; 20,000 tons of chrome ore; 18,000 tons of rubber; 100,000 tons of soybeans; 500,000 tons of iron ore; 300,000 tons of scrap and iron crude; 2,000 tons of platinum. Trade between Stalin and Hitler was so great that in October 1940, it reached 80% of the total imports into Germany and Austria. By June 1941, it had not fallen below 50%. However, the transport of Soviet food and raw materials ceased with Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union; the last trains carrying Soviet goods crossed the border a few days before the attack by the Third Reich. The rapid conquest of Europe by Hitler's troops in 1939-1941, would not have been possible without the food and raw material support of the Soviet Union<sup>34</sup>.

#### **COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM**

22 June 1941.

#### **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

The Soviet Union fought from June 1941 to May 8, 1945.

#### **CAPITULATION**

The Soviet Union did not sign the surrender.

Collaboration at the administrative level

The Third Reich introduced its own administration in the occupied territories of the Soviet republics.

#### **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

Due to the terrible living conditions in the Soviet States under Stalin, the Soviet peoples surrendered en masse to the Germans and Austrians; 3 million people therefore, found themselves in German-Austrian captivity.

#### **MILITARY COLLABORATION**

The Third Reich made the decision to utilize the Soviet prisoners of war in their army. The Russians and representatives from all the nations of the USSR, estimated at 800,000 to one million soldiers, fought alongside Hitler in the following formations:

Hiwis units (volunteer helpers) serving as orderlies, workers and drivers from the fall of 1941.

Szumas self-defense units, from the turn of 1941/42; they were eventually reorganized into regular police forces. They fought at the front and collaborated in mass executions.

The Osttruppen Volunteer Units were formed by nations that lived in Russian and Soviet captivity. Volun-

teers fought against the Soviets, hoping to regain the freedom of their nations. They wore the uniforms of the Third Reich, guarded communication lines, fought partisans, but sometimes also defended German position on the front lines. Osttruppen were organized according to ethnicity. Among the Osttruppen units, two categories were distinguished: Ost-Bataillonen, in which Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians served, and Turk-Bataillonen, in which representatives from the Asiatic republics served, including Kalmyk's and Turkmen.

RONA – The Russian National Liberation Army (Russkaya Osvoboditelnaya Narodnaya Army). Founded by Bronislaw Kamiński near Bryansk, it was transformed into the 29th Waffen-SS Grenadier Division (1st Russian). In August 1944, Kamiński's RONA participated in the suppression of the Warsaw Uprising, committing particularly brutal crimes against Polish insurgents and the civilian population of Warsaw. Kamiński's fate is not fully understood. Some sources say that he died in an ambush organized by Polish partisans; others state that his crimes in Warsaw disturbed even the Germans and Austrians and he was shot by them.

SS Rodionowa (BSRN – Bojowej Soyuz Ruskogo Naroda), the formation was established in April 1941, in Suwałki, Poland and was headed by the chief of staff of the Soviet 227 division pseud. "Rodionov"; it was a unit of about 500 soldiers that become part of the SS. In December 1942, a second Russian unit was formed under the command of NKVD Major E. Błażewicz. Both formations were combined into the Russian SS regiment under the command of "Rodionov". On August 16 1943, the regiment's soldiers destroyed the German officers' quarters and joined the Soviet partisans.

The Russian Nationalist National Army (RNNA Russkaja Nacjonalnaja Narodnaja Army) was formed in 1941, from Soviet prisoners of war and deserters. In 1942, it comprised 7,000 soldiers dressed in Soviet uniforms with tsarist insignia, believing themselves to be the nucleus of the Russian liberation army. The Germans and Austrians dismembered the formation and dressed it in their own uniforms. Many Russians then deserted and the unit was dissolved.

The Germans and Austrians formed numerous eastern legions (Ost-Legionen) from the Soviet prisoners of war. In May 1943, there were 10 regiments, 170 battalions, 221 companies and 11 independent platoons. These formations were created according to national identity: the Armenian Legion (Armenische Legion), the Azerbaijani Legion (Aserbeidschanische Legion), the Georgian Legion (Georgische Legion), the North Caucasian Legion (Nordkaukaschische Legion), the Turkmen-Kalkaschische Legion), Turkmen Legion

<sup>34</sup> Marcin Dobrowolski, *Jak ZSRR wykarmil III Rzeszę*, w: „Puls Biznesu”, Warszawa 19 sierpnia 2016.



(Turkestanische Legion), Legion of Volga Tatars (Volgatarische Legion). In August 1944, the Turkmen Legion transformed into the Mussulmanischen SS-Division Neu-Turkistan, and was responsible for murdering Poles, both soldiers and civilians in Warsaw (Wola district) during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. It was common practice to slit throats with daggers and burn people alive.



Muslim soldiers in the Dirlewanger formation. Soldiers of the 13th Mountain Division of the SS "Handschar" (Foto. Propagandakompanien der Wehrmacht – Waffen-SS (Bild 101 III)/ Creative Commons)

The Azerbaijani Field Battalion Dönmeç served under the orders of General Oskar Dirlewanger. The Azeri's also took part in the cruel pacification of Warsaw's Wola district in the first days of August 1944, committing genocide against the civilian population. Working with German criminals as well as Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians, they murdered – often burning alive or slitting their throats with daggers – tens of thousands of defenseless people. Among the Dirlewanger fighters there were also two battalions of the Eastern Muslim Regiment of the SS, in total 800 soldiers – Turkmen, Azerbaijani, Kyrgyz, Tajiks, Tatars and Uzbeks. They were commanded by German and Austrian officers headed by SS Major Franz Liebermann. In the Eastern Legions (Ostlegionen), formed by the Germans and Austrians from former Soviet citizens, at least 2/3 of the 170,000 soldier, were Muslim. Among these were Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Turkmen, Volga Tatars and Chechens. There were 78 infantry battalions, including 54 purely Islamic, as well as the auxiliary troops.

The Cossacks (Don, Kuban, Orenburg, Ural and Astrakhan), persecuted since the Russian Revolution by the Soviet authorities, took up the fight against the communist regime alongside the Third Reich. At the front, 250,000 Cossack soldiers fought against the Soviet partisans, protecting the (German) base. Some Cossack

formations were even – despite their opposition – sent to France and Yugoslavia.

In July 1942, Soviet general Andrei Vlasov was captured by the German-Austrian army. He argued that Germany should create a Russian interim government and a Russian army under his command. In September 1942, he wrote an appeal to Soviet soldiers and the Russian intelligentsia and called for the overthrow of Stalin, whom he blamed for all the catastrophes of Russia and the Russians and the Russian Liberation Army was established. The Russian National Committee was established in December in Smolensk. The vision of a free Russia was however, opposed by Hitler, who had no intention of supporting the idea of a Bolshevik-free Russia – the East was to be a space for the Germans. The Russian National Committee and General Vlasov therefore, never had the opportunity to implement the idea of a free Russia. The Russian Liberation Army existed only on paper and its units were scattered all over Europe under German and Austrian command. At the end of the war, Vlasov created the Committee for the Liberation of the Russian People (Komitet Oswobodzenia Narodow Rasiji) with troops under his command. During the fighting with the Soviets on May 2 1945, Vlasov found himself in Prague. At the request of the Czechs, he went to their side and saved the city from murder and destruction. In the last days of the war, many of Vlasov soldiers died at the hands of the Soviets, others were captured by the Soviets. Those who surrendered to the British and Americans were handed over by the Americans to the Soviets. About 17,000 soldiers were deported to Russia. Most of them were executed. The rest of the prisoners were sentenced for life in Soviet labor camps. On August 2 1946, General Andrei Vlasov and his officers were murdered by the Soviets; who hung them on butcher's hooks stuck in the back of their heads.

29th SS Grenadier Division (Russian No. 1); arose from Russian volunteers serving in the SS RONA Assault Brigade, whose commander was Bronisław Kamiński. The RONA brigade was one of the first Russian volunteer formations to fight in the German-Austrian ranks. It was infamous for being one of the cruelest units of the SS.

The 30th SS Grenadier Division (Russian No. 2), was created in August 1944, in occupied Poland from Russian volunteer units withdrawn from the front. The commanding staff were Germans, most of the soldiers were Russians. They also fought with the French resistance.

## THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

After the Soviet invasion of Poland on September 17 1939, about 1.2 million Polish Jews found themselves under Soviet occupation. In addition, at the turn of 1939/40, about 300,000 Polish Jews escaped from the

German occupied Polish area to the Polish lands occupied by the Soviets. In 1940/41, the Soviets sent about two-thirds of them back to the German occupied Poland or to Soviet labor camps. From February 1940 to June 1941, the Soviets deported from the occupied Polish eastern territories, about 1,000,000 Polish citizens to Siberia and Kazakhstan; 30% of them were Polish Jews (mainly merchants, industrialists and the intelligentsia). *[Translator's comment: This was a part of the Soviets' plan to annihilate Polish citizens particularly those from the intelligentsia.]* Some of the Poles and Polish Jews who were deported from Poland were murdered by the Soviets, the rest were imprisoned, sent to labor camps or sent to slave labor in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Siberia and Kazakhstan. A typical example of the fate of a Polish Jew under the Soviet occupation in 1939-41, was the experience of Israel Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel from 1977-83. Menachem Begin was born in Poland, in Brest-Litovsk. He graduated from the University of Warsaw and became the leader of the Jewish national radical movement *Beitar*. After the Soviet invasion of Poland, he was arrested by the Soviets, imprisoned and sentenced to eight years in a labor camp. Released under the Sikorski-Majski pact signed in July 1941, between Poland and the Soviets, he joined about 4,000 other Jewish prisoners and labor camps survivors in the newly forming Polish Army under the command of General Anders and travelled with them to Palestine. In Palestine, acting against the orders of the English but with the tacit consent of the Polish general Anders, Begin and several hundred other Jewish soldiers deserted and formed the foundations of the state of Israel. *[Translator's comment: General Władysław Anders, also imprisoned by the Soviets after the invasion of Poland, and also released under the Sikorski-Majski pact signed between USSR and Polish Government in Exile when the Soviets, following Hitler's invasion of Russia, changed sides and became a part of the allied forces, was charged with the task of forming a Polish Army that was to consist of the soldiers and civilians now being released from Soviet labour camps. They were to become an army to fight against the Germans with the Red Army. Continual friction with the Soviets, who never intended to fully cooperate with the independent Polish Government in Exile, led to the Anders decision to evacuate the forming army from the Soviet Russia – into Iran, Iraq and finally into Palestine, where they joined the allied forces. In Palestine, Anders gave orders not to pursue the Polish soldiers of Jewish background who were deserting his army to join the Jews fighting for the independent Jewish state. Anders went on to become one of the most important leaders of allied forces, whose Polish soldiers fought and liberated Italy, and became famous for their heroic and successful Battle of Monte Casino].*

In 1945, about 200,000 Polish Jews returned to Poland from the Soviet Union. Among them were labor camp



Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin,  
Photo from Soviet prison, 1940.

and political prisoners (Polish Jews were sent to labor camps and prisons for various reasons including for refusing to give up their Polish citizenship for Soviet citizenship). There were also people who knowing the Soviet reality, believed that they had a better chance of survival there than under the German-Austrian occupation. The majority however, were Jewish communists, Polish citizens, who fled to the USSR in 1939 as it was the realization of their dreams. They returned to Poland in 1945, together with the Red Army and entered the structures of the Bolshevik governance installed in Poland.

In June 1941, the Germans and Austrians seized the lands of eastern Poland, which had been under Soviet occupation for the previous two years and immediately started implementing the *Endlösung plan* – the final solution, a German plan for the genocide of Jews during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Wehrmacht and Einsatzgruppen troops began mass executions of Jews. In the eastern part of Poland, the Germans and Austrians (with the active participation of Ukrainians) murdered around 500,000 Jews; the survivors were imprisoned in ghettos and later murdered in extermination camps. The difference between the extermination of the Jews by the Germans and the murders committed in the Soviet Union was that in the Soviet Union, people – Jews, Poles, Estonians and others – died not because of racism, but because of a sick communist ideology that hated people, all people. That is why all starved, toiled and died equally. The racist ideology of fascist Germany and Austria was directed mainly against Jews.

#### **PENALTY FOR HELPING JEWS**

There was no penalty for helping Jews.

#### **END OF THE WAR**

9 May 1945.

# SERBIA

*Support for Hitler:  
Ca. 9,000 volunteers*





On December 1, 1918, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS) was established, on the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the European possessions of the Turks. In 1929 the Kingdom's name was changed to Yugoslavia<sup>35</sup>. When Hitler invaded Yugoslavia in 1941, Germany's allied states divided the territories of Yugoslavia among themselves: Italy occupied Slovenia; Hungary and Bulgaria took Macedonia; the area of central Serbia, northern Kosovo and the Banat region came under the military administration of the Third Reich, that is, the Germans and the Austrians.

#### **COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM**

6 April 1941.

#### **CAPITULATION**

18 April 1941

#### **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

During World War II, the peoples of Yugoslavia fiercely fought against the German-Austrian-Italian occupiers (the communist partisans of the Croat Josip Broz Tito) and at the same time, zealously collaborated with the occupier (Croatian Ustashe, Serb monarchists called Chetniks, Muslims). At the same time, they carried out bloody ethnic cleansing among themselves. During World War II, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats played the main role in the fighting, as well as Turkish Muslims, who settled there after centuries of Turkish occupation of Balkans and who were living in almost all regions of the country.

#### **Collaboration**

On September 1 1941, the Germans and the Austrians established the puppet National Salvation Government of Milan Nedic in Serbia that collaborated with the occupiers.

Outside of the circles of the pre-war fascist organization Zbor and the government of Milan Nedic, the Serbs did not collaborate with the Germans and Austrians at the political level.

In September 1941, based on the fascist organization Zbor that was under the command of Dimitrij Ljotiae, the Serbian Volunteer Command was established to fight the communist underground. In the following

years, it grew to 9,000 troops and was renamed the Serbis Frewilligen Korps (Serbisches Frewilligen Korps) Volunteer Corps; the soldiers wore the uniforms of the pre-war Yugoslav royal army.

#### **THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS**

About 16,000 Jews lived in the Serbian region of Yugoslavia that was occupied by the Germans and Austrians. From July 1941, as retaliation for partisan actions, the Germans and Austrians massacred Serbians. By November 1941, they had murdered about 5,000 Jews as well as tens of thousands of Serbs. In December 1941, the Germans and Austrians deported Jewish women and children to the Sajmište concentration camp near Belgrade, where the victims were gassed in a special car. Until May 1942, the Germans and the Austrians murdered 7-10,000 people in the Sajmište camp. In August 1942, the Germans and Austrians announced that the so-called Jewish problem in Serbia "ceased to exist". Apart from German occupied Poland, Serbia was the only country where the Third Reich did not deport Jews to extermination centers but murdered them on the spot. The number of Jewish victims in Serbia is estimated at around 14,800. The actions of the Germans and Austrians against Jews were actively supported by the Serb civil administration, the police of the Nedić government, the subordinate Serbian National Guard and the Serbian Volunteer Corps of the fascist ZBOR party headed by Dimitrije Ljotić.

#### **PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS**

Serbia was the only country outside of Poland where the death penalty was imposed for helping Jews.

#### **THE END OF THE WAR**

After the war ended on May 9 1945, Serbia was once again incorporated into Yugoslavia, which was headed by the Croatian Josip Broz Tito. Serbia lost its independence and found itself in the communist bloc. The peoples of Yugoslavia regained freedom almost half a century later and created the independent states: Slovenia, Serbia and Macedonia in 1991; Montenegro in 2006; and Kosovo in 2008.

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<sup>35</sup> From April 10, 1941, Croatia declared independence and became an independent state under the protectorate of Germany and in the following days joined the Pact of Three as an ally of Hitler and declared war on the British (see the chapter on allies).

A map of Europe and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is colored red, and the rest of Europe is colored light blue. A white callout box with a red border is positioned over the Ukraine region. The text inside the box reads: "UKRAINE" in large red letters, followed by "Support for Hitler:" and "220,000 volunteers" in smaller black text.

# UKRAINE

*Support for Hitler:  
220,000 volunteers*

Soviet Union



During World War II, Ukraine did not exist as an independent state. Eastern Ukraine formed the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and was part of the USSR. Western Ukraine resided within the borders of Poland. After the Soviet invasion of Poland on September 17 1939, the Soviets incorporated the eastern territories of Poland, i.e. Western Ukraine, into the borders of the USSR.

#### **COUNTRY OCCUPIED FROM**

22 June 1941.

#### **DEFENSIVE FIGHT**

The Ukrainians did not conduct an independent defensive fight.

#### **CAPITULATION**

Ukraine did not sign capitulation the surrender.

#### **COLLABORATION AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL**

During the occupation, Ukraine was administered by the Soviets, Germans and the Austrians.

#### **POLITICAL COLLABORATION**

In the autumn of 1939, the Ukrainian left, represented by the Communist Party of Western Ukraine (KPZU), the Ukrainian Union of the Socialist Peasant Union (Sel-Soyuz), the People's Freedom Party and the Ukrainian Socialist Workers' Union (Sel-Rob), joined activities to legalize the annexation of the south-eastern parts of Poland that was undertaken by the Soviet Union.

The Ukrainian Military Organization and its political representation, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), was established in 1929, in order to build an independent Ukrainian state. The organization was modeled on Italian fascism and was used to carry out terrorist actions in Poland.

From the 1930's onwards, the OUN's hopes of gaining independence for Ukraine were linked to Nazi Germany. The OUN was led by Konovalec, Melnyk and Bandera, and by the mid-1930's, they had approximately thirty thousand well-trained fighters. During the period 1939-41, when all Ukrainian lands were an integral part of the USSR, the Ukrainians united under the OUN, which had been previously divided from 1940, into the OUN-R ("revolutionary faction") led by Stepan Bandera and the OUN-M, under the leadership of Andrei Melnyk and were unable to achieve their objectives. This unification was only possible after June 1941, when Hitler's war with the Soviets broke out. Following Hitler's troops, a group of Ukrainian

political activists from Bandera's OUN-R arrived in Ukraine and after agreeing with Archbishop Szeptycki [Orthodox Church], proclaimed the independence of Ukraine on June 30 1941. Jarosław Stećko was tasked by this group with a mission to form the Ukrainian government. The Germans, who had no intention of supporting Ukrainian efforts to build an independent state, reacted quickly and in the first half of July 1941, the newly formed government and a number of OUN activists were arrested and transferred to Berlin. Erich Koch, who took up the position of the Reich Commissioner for Ukraine, announced that he would rule over Ukrainians with 'the help of machorka (rolling tobacco), vodka and a whip'.

#### **MILITARY COLLABORATION:**

The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) began to cooperate militarily with Germany in the 1930's. In the spring of 1939, the OUN Ukrainian Legion consisting of approximately 600 soldiers was formed under the command of Col. Roman Suszka. They were trained by the Germans and wore German uniforms. These soldiers fought alongside the Germans and Austrians in the invasion of Poland in September 1939. The moment Hitler's troops entered Ukraine in 1941, Ukrainians participated in the German-Austrian extermination actions against Poles and Jews (including the shooting of professors at the University in Lviv) and provided to the German-Austrian special groups (Einsatzgruppen) proscription letters [translators' comment - lists of people to be exterminated] and often relieved the Nazis in murdering the most valuable people, especially representatives of the Polish intelligentsia. Many Ukrainian Polish citizens were also members of the Ukrainian auxiliary police established by the Germans. On the front there were two Ukrainian battalions "Rolland" and "Nachtigall", supporting Hitler's army. A total of 220,000 Ukrainian volunteers served in the army of the Third Reich, including 13,000<sup>36</sup> in the following SS formations:

The SS Volunteer Division Galizien (Ukrainian No. 1), commanded by General I. Freytag having a strength of four regiments and auxiliary units<sup>37</sup>.

The SS Galizien Rifle Division, famous for its cruelty, participated in among other acts, in the suppression of the Slovak National Uprising.

The 8th SS Cavalry Division Florian Geyer; a multinational unit (Volksdeutsche comprising Hungarians, Ukrainians, Latvians and Lithuanians). In 1943, this division took part in the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

<sup>36</sup> Marek Chodakiewicz, *Ukraińcy w brygadach międzynarodowych Hitlera*, w: <http://prawica.net/node/13188>.

<sup>37</sup> W. Serczyk, *Historia Ukrainy*, Wrocław 1990, s. 436-439.

The 24th SS Mountain Division (Karstjäger) also known as the SS Karstjäger Battalion who fought with Italian partisans from 1942. The unit consisted mainly of Italian volunteers, but also included some volunteers from Ukraine.



Ukrainian volunteers from SS-Galizien Division

#### THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

At the leaders conference of the Third German Reich, held on September 12 1939, in Ilnau (now Jelowa) near Opole, it was agreed that Jews and Poles should be

destroyed by the Ukrainian Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). From 1941, in line with this plan, Ukrainians were actively involved and participated in the extermination of the Jewish population; they supported the extermination actions of the Germans and carried out independent actions against Jews and all other nations living within their lands. In 1942, Ukrainian nationalists using the slogan, *Smert Żydam, smert Lacham, tu de bude dobre us* [Death to the Jews, death to Poles - then we'll be fine for the Ukrainians], began ethnic cleansing in Ukraine that had been until 1939, within the borders of the Western Republic of Poland. The wave of slaughter took tens of thousands of human lives, mainly Poles and Jews<sup>38</sup>. The only exception was the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Lviv, Andrzej Szeptycki (1865-1944), who, despite his initial acceptance of the Third Reich's policy, when he realized that the Germans and Austrians were committing acts of terror even greater than the Bolshevik authorities, called for an agreement with the Poles and helped the Jews. It is estimated that he saved several hundred Jewish lives.

#### PUNISHMENT FOR HELPING JEWS

In Western Ukraine, which was part of Poland before 1939, aiding and abetting Jews was punishable by death. In Eastern Ukraine, there is no information on the applicable penalties.

#### THE END OF THE WAR

9 May 1945.

<sup>38</sup> Ibidem, s. 431-459. Patrz także: *Okrutna Przestroga*, opr. J. Dębski i L. Popek, Lublin 1997; A. Paczkowski, *Pół wieku dziejów Polski*, Warszawa 1995, s. 93-96; W. Poliszczuk, *Dowody zbrodni OUN-UPA*, Toronto 2000; W. Poliszczuk, *Gorzka prawda. Zbrodnicość OUN-UPA*, Toronto-Warszawa-Kijów 1995; E. Prus, *Holocaust po banderowsku*, Wrocław 1995; *Zbrodnie nacjonalistów ukraińskich dokonane na ludności polskiej na Wołyniu 1939-1945*, red. J. Turowski, W. Siemaszko, Warszawa 1990.