

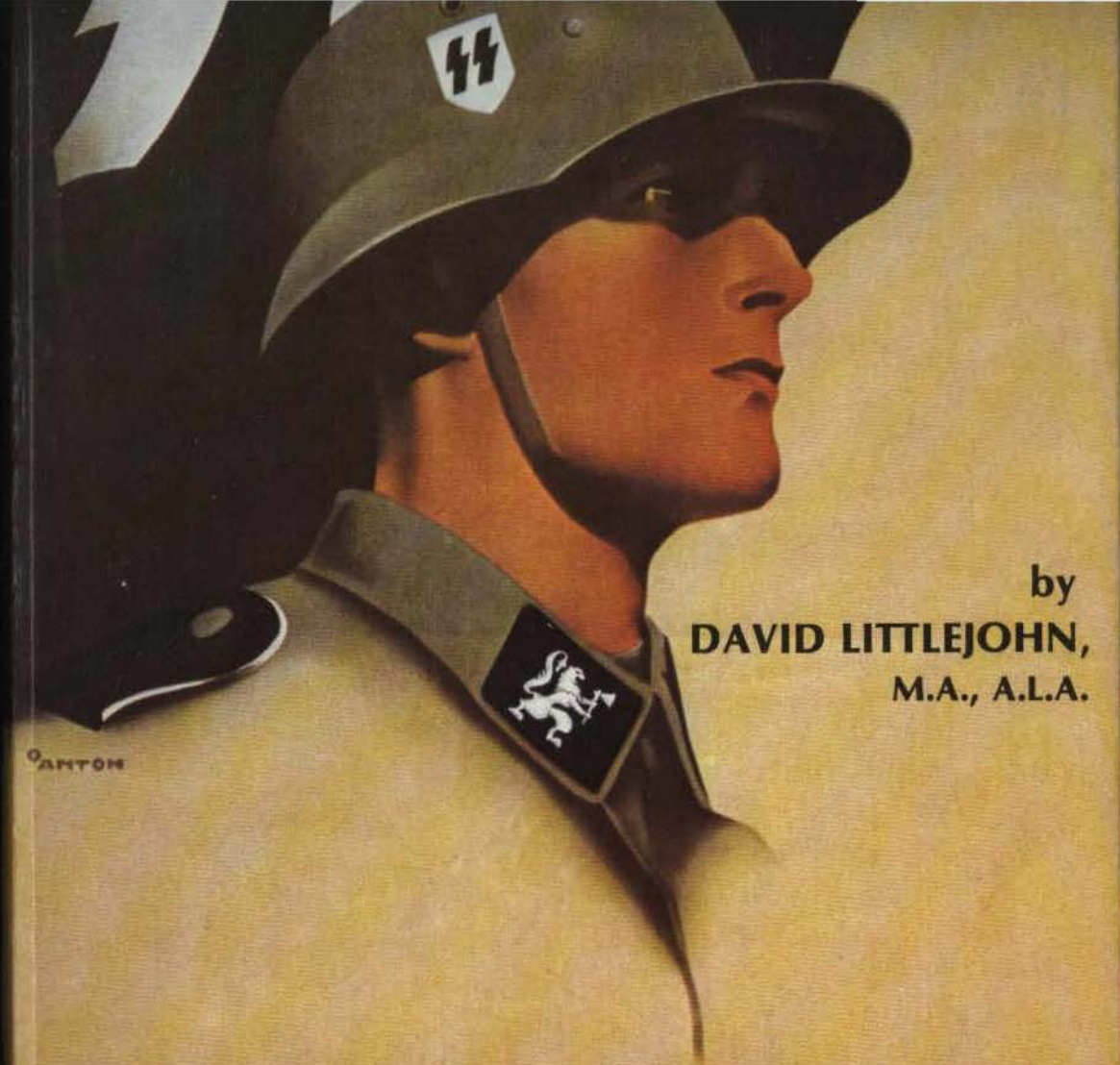


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Foreign Legions of the Third Reich

DAVID  
LITTLEJOHN

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by  
DAVID LITTLEJOHN,  
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# Foreign Legions of the Third Reich

Vol. 1: Norway, Denmark, France

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## Introduction

This is the first volume of a series devoted to an almost-virgin field of military research - the uniforms, ranks, flags, medals and other insignia of the foreign volunteers in Germany's military and para-military forces during the Second World War, also those of the collaborating political parties of occupied Europe (from which, of course, many of these volunteers came). Since this is, clearly, far too much to attempt to convey in a single title, the general convenience heading chosen for the series has been simply "The Foreign Legions".

This initial volume deals with Norway, Denmark and France, and will be followed very shortly by one dealing with the other parts of western Europe - Holland, Belgium, Italy and Spain. Central and southern Europe will have a volume of their own, as will the "Ostvolk", that is to say the volunteers from eastern Europe, the Baltic states and Finland.

The author hopes that the information therein will be useful to collectors of militaria, war-gamers, military modellers, and students of the history of World War II generally. Few things can be more frustrating for the collector, or would-be collector, than to have in his possession an interesting-looking item for which he can find no identification. He seeks in vain for some published source to answer his questions, "What is it, what country is it from, what was it for?" This series may, hopefully, supply many of the answers. It would, however, be a foolhardy writer who would claim to know *all* the answers. The present author would therefore welcome any additional information or corrections relating to the contents of each volume after it appears. The publisher will, if sufficient material is forthcoming, add a supplement to the final volume in the series thereby bringing the whole up to the fullest state of currently available knowledge.

## Documentation

In the preparation of this series the author has been seriously restricted by the shortage of published documentation (in any language). Even where such documentation is available, for example the N. S. Årbok of Norway or the Jaarboek of the Dutch



N.S.B., the coverage is never 100% complete. Reliance has often had to be placed on the evidence of contemporary photographs - in fact a very useful source of information since they show what was actually worn as distinct from what was *supposed* to be worn (often two quite different things!) An invaluable help has been the kind co-operation of collectors in this field who have generously allowed the author to examine, photograph or draw examples of insignia in their possession. Among these, special mention must be made of the late Colonel C. M. Dodkins and Adrian Forman of Forman Militaria of Brimingham, England. Other contributors to the research on this series, both private individuals and public bodies, are gratefully listed at the end of this Introduction.

Many variants of insignia come into being in any army actively engaged in a war. Strict observance of dress regulations is not, as veterans will testify, the prime concern of the fighting soldier! The result is that many "unofficial" items of insignia are worn on the individual's uniform, often locally produced to substitute for unavailable "issue". Although these deviations may vex the heart of the regimental Adjutant, they are of great interest to the collector and where these are known to exist, they too have been illustrated along with the "official" (sometimes theoretical) correct insignia. In addition to unofficial variants, official changes in design of the same insignia (for example arm shields or collar patches) were by no means infrequent, and as far as possible, all such "variations on an original theme" have been recorded.

### Previous Coverage

Already published by R. James Bender is the present author's two volume study of the Orders, Decorations, Medals and War Badges of the Third Reich. The second volume of this set also includes the awards of the collaborating political parties of occupied Europe (excluding "Vichy" France). Some of this material is repeated in the present series and in some instances the original information is expanded and slightly modified. It is not, however, the author's intention to incorporate all the information already given in that volume into the current series, and those who would like the full picture are advised to consult this previous volume bearing in mind the additions and small corrections made in the present series.

Those readers who find themselves interested in the political background of collaboration may care to read the author's study "The Patriotic Traitors: a history of collaboration in Germany occupied Europe, 1940-1945" published (in England) by William Heinemann and (in the United States of America) by Doubleday & Company, Inc.

### Conclusion

It has not been the author's intention to make propaganda for, or against, the "European volunteers"; indeed it would be wholly inappropriate in such a study as

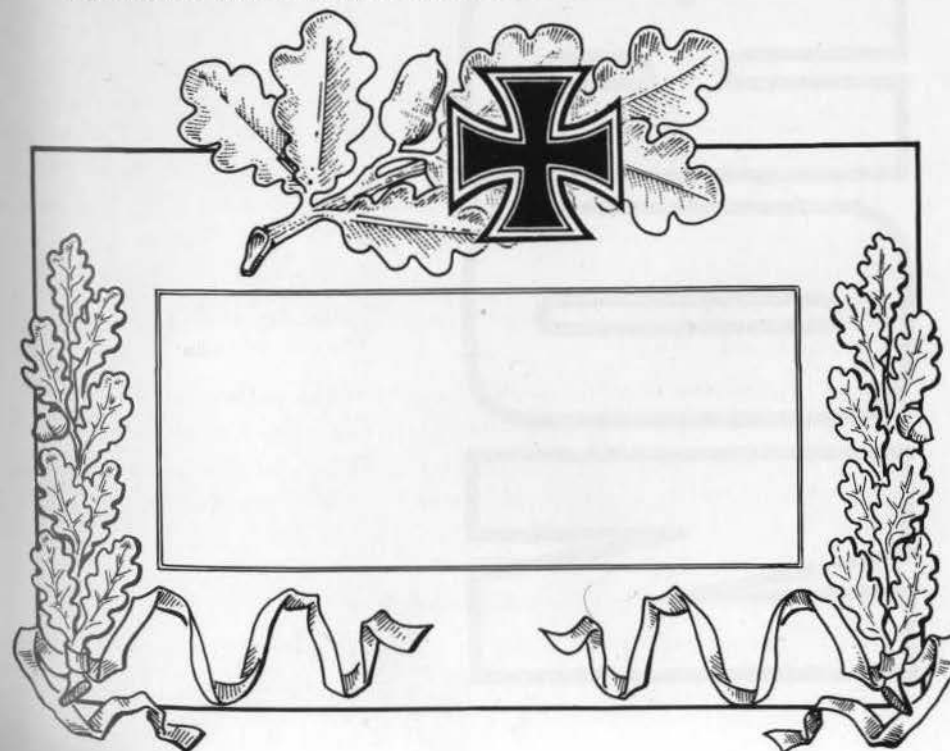
this to do so. It need only be said that many regarded themselves not so much as fighting *for* Hitler as *against* Stalin and the menace of communism, this is especially true of those from eastern Europe who had had actual experience of the horrors of that regime.

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# NORWAY





Along with the simultaneous invasion of Denmark on 9 April 1940, Norway was the first western European country to be overrun by the Nazis. It also had the distinction of producing the most notorious, although certainly not the most successful, of all collaborators - Vidkun Quisling, whose name added a new word to the English language.

Unlike other occupied countries, Norway had only one collaborating political party of any importance. This was the National Unity (*Nasjonal Samling* or *N.S.*) movement which Quisling founded in May 1933. Had it not been for an enemy occupation of Norway, this small party which never, before the war, won a seat on a local council much less in Parliament, would have been devoid of significance. Quisling, himself, it is true had enjoyed some slight personal distinction. A soldier by profession, he had worked successfully with the celebrated Norwegian explorer, Nansen, on famine relief in Russia in the early 1920's, acting at the same time as Norway's diplomatic representative in that country. In recognition of his achievements he was rewarded on his return to his native land with the post of Minister of Defense. Quisling, however, made a poor showing in office (1931-32) and was thereafter dropped by the Agrarian Party which had acted as his political sponsor.

In January 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and it is hardly a coincidence that in May of that year Quisling launched his *Nasjonal Samling* movement. Although N.S. never applied the term "National-Socialist" to itself, and there was indeed a short-lived Norwegian Nazi Party (the *Norges Nasjonal-Socialistiske Arbeiderparti* - it existed only from January to October 1934), there is not the slightest doubt that it was modeled almost exactly on Hitler's N.S.D.A.P. The N.S. emblem was the so-called "sun cross" of Saint Olaf (Patron Saint of Norway). This is a yellow cross on a red background. Although the swastika was never used as an N.S. symbol, it has to be recalled that the "sun cross" is another name for the swastika. The N.S. sun cross was held in the talons of an open-winged eagle thereby making the over-all appearance of the badge unmistakably similar to the well-known eagle and swastika emblem of Hitler's party. Other parallels between N.S. and Nazi insignia will be demonstrated in the course of this chapter.

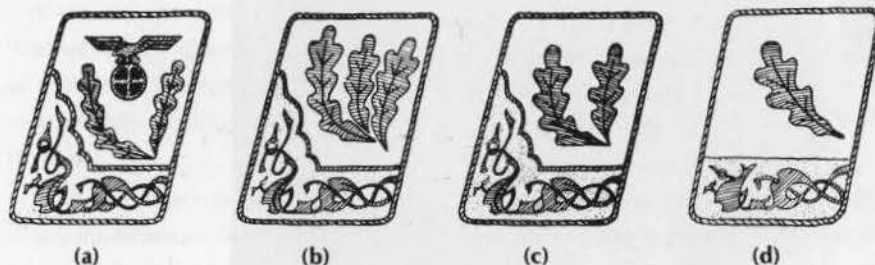


Quisling in Berlin shortly after being named Minister-president by Hitler.

Quisling attempted to assume power immediately after the German invasion (contrary to popular belief at the time, N.S. did not in any way assist the invaders), but was ordered to step down one week later by Hitler. It was not until 1 February 1942 that Hitler appointed Quisling "Minister President" of Norway - the only "quisling" ever to achieve such high office in a German-occupied country. He was not, needless to say, entrusted with exclusive power; the real ruler of Norway was *Reichskommissar* Terboven who disliked Quisling intensely (the sentiment was mutual!), but he was, at least in theory, chief civil executive of the nation - which gives the awards created by him during this period a certain "official" status unlike those of any other occupied country, except Vichy France.

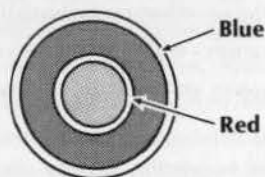
The wearing of political uniforms had been banned in Norway since 1935, but after the invasion N.S. broke out into a riot of uniforms especially after Quisling's elevation to power in February 1942. The N.S. Corps of Political Leaders adopted a grey-green uniform not unlike, in color, the so-called "field-grey" of the German army. The uniform consisted of tunic, trousers (sometimes breeches), brown shirt, black tie and peaked cap. On both collars of the tunic, black collar patches were worn on which in gold thread was traditional Norse ornamentation (at the base) combined with

oakleaves, etc., to denote rank. An interesting feature of the Political Leader's uniform is the badge worn on the left cuff. This also indicated the rank of the wearer. In its highest grade it takes the form of the N.S. eagle and sun cross in an open wreath of oakleaves. The striking thing about this insignia is that it is almost exactly like that worn by Terboven in his capacity as a *Reichsminister* within the German *Beamte* (roughly, uniformed civil servants). In choosing this design, Quisling was trying to imply that his Political Leaders ranked on a level with Terboven! The badges on the peaked cap seem also to have been German-inspired. At the peak was worn the N.S. eagle and sun cross, and on the cap band the red/white/blue Norwegian cockade within a wreath of oakleaves bearing a strong resemblance to the Luftwaffe's *Frontflugschuppe* pattern of oakleaves. The badge and visor cord are both gilt.



Above: Collar patches for (a) Riksleder and all those holding ministerial rank  
(b) Fylkesfører (senior grade)  
(c) Fylkesfører (junior grade)  
(d) Kretsfører  
All the above are gold designs on black patches and were worn on both collars.

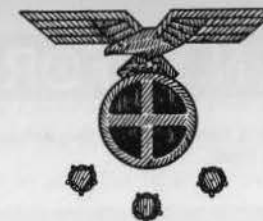
Rolf Fuglesang, General Secretary of N.S.  
(in Political Leaders uniform)



The uniform is a grey-green (similar to German field-grey) with brown shirt and black tie. Long trousers with shoes or breeches with boots could be worn. Cap badge, visor cord and buttons are all gold. Centre of cap badge is national cockade (as above) flanked by gold oak leaves.



Emblem worn on left cuff by Riksleder and those of ministerial rank



Emblem worn on left cuff by Fylkesfører

Aspiring Political Leaders taking a course at the N.S. Leadership School wore a blue tunic with red piping round the collar, blue trousers with a double red stripe down the outer seams, a blue ski cap piped in red, brown shirt and blue tie. On the left cuff they wore a cuff title *N.S. Føreraspirant* (N.S. Leadership Candidate) in white on blue. The school emblem, worn on the left upper arm, took the form of a yellow N.S. eagle and sun cross above the words *Nasjonal Samling Førerskole* on a light colored background. (This badge is not shown in the official N.S. Årbok, but does appear in photographs of candidates at the school.)



Above: arm badge of the N.S. Leadership School. The colors are not known but it is a dark design on a light background.

Right: Candidate for the N.S. Corps of Political Leaders (*Føreraspirant*). The uniform is a blue single-breasted tunic, blue trousers and blue ski cap. There is red piping around the collar and the cap. Down the outside seam of the trousers there is a double red stripe. The shirt is brown, the tie black. Buttons are gold.



# N.S. FØRERASPIRANT

Cuff title for a candidate at the School for the N.S. Corps of political Leaders (white lettering on blue).



Two versions of the N.S. cap eagle - both are gilt metal with red enamel sun cross (Both are slightly smaller than illustrated above.)

The principal sub-sections of N.S. were:

- (i) Rikshird
- (ii) Fører garden
- (iii) Unghird
- (iv) Hirdmarinen
- (v) Unghirdmarinen
- (vi) Hirdens Flykorpset
- (vii) Kvinnehird
- (viii) Gjentehird
- (ix) Småhird
- (x) N.S. Kvinne-Organisasjonen

The organization and uniforms of the above were as follows:

(i) The **Hird** (an ancient Norse word indicating the king's followers or liegemen) was the general term used to cover what was, in effect, the N.S. equivalent of the German S.A. (Storm Troopers) and Hitler Youth. The *Rikshird* (National, or State *Hird*) was formed as early as 1933 and was for party activists between the ages of 18 and 45, but prior to the occupation, it never numbered more than about five hundred individuals. It was, of course, greatly expanded once Norway had become Quisling's province. In March 1941, although as yet unarmed, it was granted police powers. One year later, on 14 March 1942, the first armed unit, the Hird Armed Battalion, was announced in the Norwegian press. This unit was later to become the Hird Factory Guard (*Hirdens-Bedrifts-Vern*, or *H.B.V.*). On 14 August 1943 the whole of the *Rikshird*, along with the *Fører garden* and the Germanic S.S. as well as all branches of the Norwegian Police were, under a new law, made part of the official armed forces of Norway. This may have enhanced their status, but it also meant that

members were subject to military discipline with court-martial and death as the ultimate punishment for disobedience. One police leader (Gunnar Eilifsen of the State Police) did, in fact, elect to defy an order from Quisling and was shot on 16 August 1943 for so doing. The majority of the *Rikshird*, like the S.A. in Germany, was part-time, doing only a few nights of duty a week in addition to attending any special ceremonial parades. There were two "regular" formations: the above mentioned Hird Factory Guard and the *Fører garden* (Leader's Personal Bodyguard). These will be dealt with in due course.

The *Rikshird* uniform was not especially like that of its German counterpart, the S.A. It consisted of a dark blue tunic (originally double-breasted, but later, possibly due to wartime shortages, single-breasted), dark blue ski trousers (or breeches and top boots), a brown shirt, black tie and dark blue ski cap. In warm weather, the tunic could be left off, but with or without the tunic, a "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap was worn. On the left upper arm a black brassard with the yellow sun cross and two upward pointing yellow swords (on a red background) was worn. It would appear that officers had silver (or gold) edges on their brassards - this is shown in photographs but not mentioned in the official *Årbok*. Rank insignia was worn on the shoulder straps, in gold for officers, in red for others. Two features which do resemble the S.A. are (a) the Chevron of Honor (a gold chevron outlined in red worn on the right arm; the rank chevron for *Nestspeider* was worn on the left), which was awarded to all



An interesting selection of N.S. Uniforms. Left to right: officer of the Kvinnehird, officer of the Rikshird, Political Leader of Ministerial rank (Rolf Fuglesang), and officer of the Norwegian Order Police (Jonas Lie), note his Iron Cross ribbon and S.S. runes (below left breast pocket), unidentified Rikshird officer in raincoat.

Note that the Rikshird officer wears a double-breasted tunic (both types - single and double-breasted, appear to have been worn.)



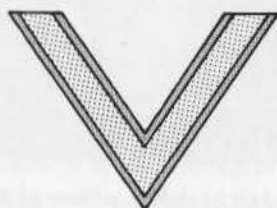
those who had been members of the *Hird* before 9 April 1940. This was clearly inspired by the "Old Fighter's" chevron of the S.A. and S.S. (b) the use of cuff titles to denote individual regiments. The *Rikshird* had seven regiments. These were:

- No. 1 Viken (metropolitan Oslo)
- No. 2 Eidsivating (the Oppland and Hedemark district)
- No. 3 Håfrsfjord (South Norway)
- No. 4 Gulatings (the Bergen District)
- No. 5 Frostating (The Trøndelag region)
- No. 6 Haalogaland (the most northern region of Norway)
- No. 7 Viking (The Greater Oslo district)

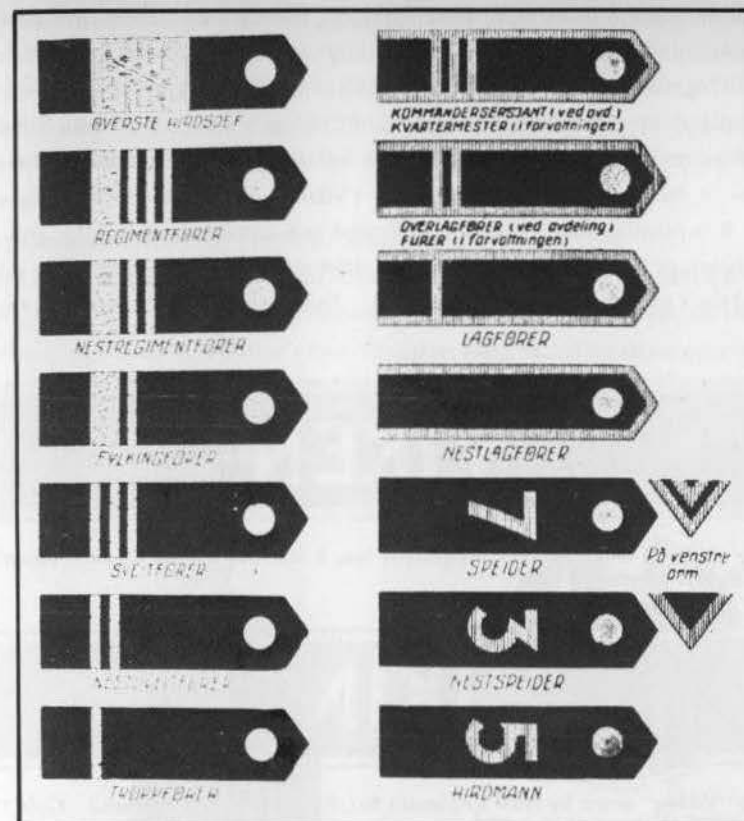
Uniform of the *Rikshird*. Dark blue with, on left arm, a black brassard with gold "sun cross" and swords. Officers have gold braid around ski cap.



Black brassard with yellow sun cross and swords on red.



Chevron of Honor of the *Rikshird* awarded to members enrolled before 9 April 1941. (Red and yellow)



Above: ranks of the *Rikshird*. On the left officer ranks: gold braid on dark blue; on right, non-commissioned ranks: red on dark blue.



Tom Pooler

A Sveitfører of the *Rikshird* during para-military training

In addition to these seven numbered regiments, there were also small independent units consisting of Norwegian students attending German universities. It is not clear if all seven regiments had cuff titles, but two certainly did (examples of which exist in a private collection). These were "Viken" and "Viking". The word Viken is the old name for the region around Oslo Fjord. The cuff title "Viken" is black with the word in yellow, it has red edges; the cuff title "Viking" is similar but the edges are yellow. It is possible that either red indicated non-commissioned ranks, and gold edges officers, or that, in the manner of the *Allgemeine S.S.*, the color of the edging indicated the Company within the Regiment. These cuff titles were worn on the left cuff.

**VIKEN**

Cuff title "Viken" worn by Hird Regiment No. 1 (central Oslo.) Gold "Viken" on black with red edges.

**VIKING**

Cuff title "Viking" worn by Hird Regiment No. 7 (Greater Oslo region.) Gold "Viking" on black with gold wire edges.



There was a *Ridshird* Officers School at Odnes which, from February 1943, turned out 300 trained pupils a year. Non-commissioned officers did a shorter course (three weeks). All the instructors were former front-line veterans of the Norwegian Legion.

The flag of the *Rikshird* was, like the brassard, black with a gold and red sun cross and twin upward pointing gold swords. In the right upper quarter of the flag the emblem of the district of origin of the unit appeared.

(ii) **Førergruppen** (Leader's Personal Bodyguard)

This was, as has been mentioned, one of the two "regular" units of the *Rikshird*. It consisted of 150 hand-picked Hirdmen who undertook to perform six months full-time duty as guards at Quisling's two official residences. Two types of uniform were worn: (a) Working or service dress which comprised a grey-green tunic, ski trousers and forage cap with, on the left upper arm, a V.Q. (Vidkun Quisling) monogram with the N.S. eagle and sun cross (white cotton on black - possibly silver wire for officers),



Arm badge for Gala uniform

Leader's Bodyguard  
(Førergruppen)  
Gala uniform

"Gala" (or Walking Out) dress was dark blue tunic and trousers (which had double white stripes down seams). The VQ monogram was worn on both collars. Brown shirt and black tie. Silver and red sun cross on left upper arm. Tassel worn from forage cap.

◀ Rally of the *Rikshird* in Oslo. The banner in the background reads "With Quisling for Norway". The men here are in summer dress (khaki shirts, black ties and dark blue trousers or breeches). Shoulder straps are dark blue. The Hird flags have the gold and red sun cross emblem on black.

and (b) full dress, or "gala" uniform - a dark blue tunic and trousers (with a double white stripe down outer seams), forage cap with tassel. The V.Q. monogram was now worn on both collars. On the left upper arm a silver sun cross and swords was worn on a black circle. It may be noted that white stripes down the outer seams of the trousers were the distinguishing feature of the pre-war Royal Guard of the King of Norway! Rank insignia was, presumably, the same as for the rest of the Rikshird.



Arm badge for service dress. Black and silver with V.Q. (Vidkun Quisling) monogram.

Service uniform: field-grey with brown shirt and black tie, Ski trousers, Forage cap.

### (iii) The *Unghird* (Young Lads' Hird)

This was the "Hitler Youth" of the N.S. Like its German counterpart, it was divided into two age groups:

(a) Guttehird: boys between 10 and 14 years

(b) Unghird: lads from 14 to 18 years

The summer uniform was a khaki shirt and dark blue shorts. The older boys wore a black tie, the younger ones a green one. The brassard, worn on the left arm was green with, for the *Unghird* a silver sun cross and silver swords on red; for the *Guttehird* the sun cross and swords were brown. Officers wore shoulder rank insignia which was identical to that of the *Rikshird*. Non-commissioned ranks, also worn on the shoulder straps, were green. In winter a dark blue "battle dress" type of tunic was worn with dark blue ski trousers. For both summer and winter headgear a



(a)



Foregarden (Leader's Personal Bodyguard) collar patch. Silver on black (a) silver metal, (b) white cotton.

(b)

Right: (a) *Unghird* winter uniform. Dark blue with brown shirt and black tie. (b) Summer dress - brown shirt and dark blue shorts.

The younger boys' section (*Guttehird*) wore the same uniform except that their tie was green and the sun cross on green brassard was brown, not silver. Rank insignia was the same as for *Unghird*.

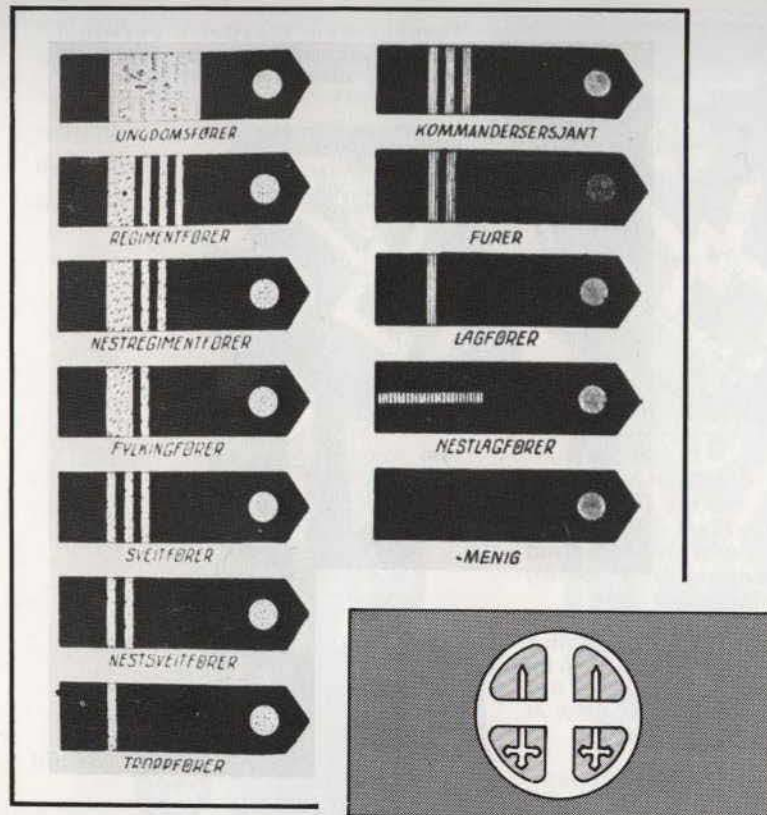


(a)



(b)





Green brassard with silver and red sun cross. Left: ranks of the Unghird. Officers (far left) are silver; non-commissioned ranks are green (both on dark blue for winter dress or Khaki for summer).

dark blue forage cap was worn with the N.S. eagle and sun cross in metal on the (wearer's) left.

**(iv) (v) Hirdmarinen and Unghirdmarinen** (Naval Hird and Young Lads' Naval Hird)

The Naval Hird wore a version of naval uniform in both its adult and youth sections. This sea-going branch of the Hird was started in May 1942 and appears to have been intended mainly to train recruits for the German Navy. The first contingent of volunteers left for Germany in January 1943 for the main training center at Trondheim. Although it is not altogether clear from the N.S. Årbok, it would seem that the *Hirdmarinen* wore ranks like the pre-war Norwegian Navy ("rings" round the cuffs), whereas the *Unghirdmarinen* wore the same ranks as the *Unghird* (on the shoulder straps). The badge of the naval Hird was the N.S. eagle and sun cross superimposed upon an anchor. This device was used also on its flags.

**Naval Section of Hird (Hirdmarinen)**

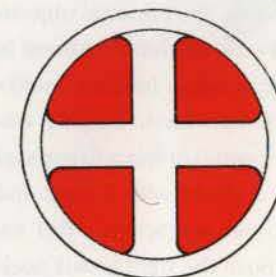


Above: Hirdmarinen emblem worn as a cap badge and on the left upper arm. Uniform was navy blue with brown shirt and black tie. Rank insignia were probably similar to those of the Norwegian navy. Officers appear to have worn white, not brown shirts.

**Young Lads Hird. Naval Section (Unghirdmarinen)**



Arm badge for officers: silver and red sun cross with swords.



Arm badge for non-commissioned ranks. Silver and red sun cross without swords.



(a)

(b)

Above: (a) Summer white uniform for ratings (winter dress is navy blue). Collar is light blue with white stripes. (b) Winter uniform for officers (summer uniform is the same but in white). Double-breasted navy blue tunic and trousers. Ranks are the same as those of the Unghird and were worn on the shoulder.

#### (vi) *Hirdens Flykorpset* (Hird Air Section)

Like the above, this was created in early 1942 (March) and, in the manner of the N.S.F.K. in Germany, trained young lads in the arts of gliding and powered flight. Again, the principal objective appears to have been to find volunteers for the Luftwaffe - the first batch of these left in February 1943. The uniform was an air force blue tunic, trousers (officers could wear breeches) and forage cap with a brown shirt and black tie. Rank insignia was probably the same as for the *Rikshird*. The *Flykorpset* emblem was a flying eagle, not unlike that of the Luftwaffe, which holds in its talons a shield with a cross and two upward pointing swords; beneath this intertwined oak leaf sprigs. This badge was worn, in the same way as the Luftwaffe device, above the right breast pocket and on the front of the forage cap. A yellow sun cross and swords were worn on a (presumably black) brassard on the left upper arm.

#### Air Section of Hird (Hirdens Flykorpset)



Left: Flykorpset emblem. Worn as the cap badge and also above the right breast pocket of the tunic.



Above: arm badge - gold sun cross and swords on red. May have been worn directly on arm or on a black brassard.

Air Force Blue uniform with brown shirt and black tie. Officers could wear breeches and top boots.



Glider Pilot badge of Honor. Three white birds on a sky blue background within a gilt wreath of oak leaves. At base the Flykorpset emblem in gilt with red and gilt enamel shield. The above is approximate actual size. (Would appear to have been "inspired" by the Grosses Segelfliegerabzeichen of the German N.S.F.K.)



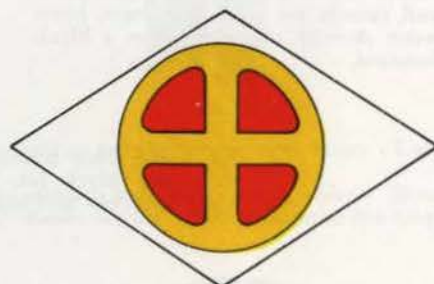
(vii) to (ix) *Kvinnehird, Gjente hird and Småhird*

The female branch of the Hird was, like its male counterpart, divided into age groups:

- (a) *Kvinnehird* (Women's Hird); ages 18 to 35 (later raised to 40 years)
- (b) *Gjente hird* (Teenage girls Hird); 14 to 18 years old
- (c) *Småhird* (Youngsters); 10 to 14 years.

The uniform was: for the *Kvinnehird* a green tunic and green skirt with a yellow shirt and black tie. A forage cap was the regulation headgear, but a ski cap was also worn. A gold and red sun cross (without swords) was worn on a white lozange on the left upper arm. This device, in colored enamels and with the addition of "K" and "H" was worn on the left breast pocket. The N.S. Årbok does not illustrate the rank insignia of the *Kvinnehird*, but from photos it would appear to take the form of short horizontal bars (approx. 2 inches long) worn on the left cuff - possibly one, two and three bars, conceivably in silver for lower and gold for higher ranks.

**Adult Female Section of the Hird (Kvinnehird)**



Arm badge. Gold and red sun cross on white lozange.



Above: metal badge, red, gold and white enamel worn by all ranks on left breast pocket.

Uniform of the *Kvinnehird* was green with a yellow shirt and black tie. Scheme of ranks unknown, but possibly short "bars" worn on cuff.

Right: Vidkun Quisling greets male and female youth leaders. Note that a cuff title (possibly "Telemark") is worn by girl nearest camera. These cuff titles probably indicated district of origin. The girls in this photo are from the *Gjente hird*, not the *Kvinnehird*.



Badge of Honor of the *Kvinnehird*. Similar to metal breast badge except that it does not have "K H" and has the addition of a wreath of gilt oak leaves. Not actual size. The author apologizes that the drawing of this on page 141 of his "Orders, Decorations, Medals and Badges of the Third Reich" Vol. 2 is inaccurate.

The *Gjente hird* and *Småhird* wore a dark blue tunic and skirt. The older girls wore a black tie with a yellow shirt; and the younger ones a black neckerchief, also with a yellow shirt. Both age groups had a silver and red sun cross (without swords) attached to the left upper arm of the tunic - not as part of a brassard.

On the left cuff the *Gjente hird* girls wore a cuff title with the name of their Party district. On the left breast pocket the *Gjente hird* had a green enamelled lozange shaped metal badge with a gold and red sun cross in the middle and "J" and "H" in gold (the word *Gjente* can also be spelled *Jente*). The *Småhird* had a similar badge, but with silver in place of gold and "S" in place of "J".

The various youth organizations, i.e. the *Unghird*, *Unghirdmarinen*, *Gutte hird*, *Gjente hird* and *Småhird*, were known collectively as the N.S.U.F. (N.S. *Ungdomsfylking* - roughly The N.S. Youth Front). The N.S.U.F emblem was a gold sun cross without swords on a red background within a green circle. N.S. youth service was at



first voluntary, but from 1 March 1941 it was made obligatory for all physically fit Norwegian children between the ages of 10 and 18 years. All other youth organizations were, at the same time, outlawed and their property seized by the state.

#### Teenage Girls (Gjente hird) and Young Girls (Små hird) Sections of Hird



Gjente hird

Små hird

Gjente hird wore dark blue tunic and skirt, yellow shirt and blue tie. Små hird wore a similar uniform but with a belt and, in place of a tie, a neckerchief.

Scheme of ranks not known, but, like the Kvinne hird, may have been short "bars" of different color (silver or gold) and different number (one, two, three, etc. - photos show two and three such "bars" being worn on cuff)

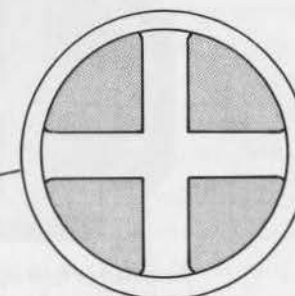
Doddline Collection



Badge worn on left breast by Gjente hird (gold and red on green enamel background). (actual size)



Badge worn on left breast pocket by Små hird (silver and red on green enamel background). (actual size)



Above: arm badge. Silver and red sun cross, not worn on a brassard but directly on left upper arm.

#### (x) N.S. Kvinne-Organisasjonen (N.S. Women's Organization)

This organization was for adult women. Their uniform was a grey-green tunic and skirt with a yellow shirt and brown tie. On the left upper arm a yellow and red sun cross on a light blue octagon was attached directly to the tunic. The scheme of ranks is not known but would appear from photographs to have been indicated by stars etc., on the triangular collar patches (worn on both sides).

The N.S. was organized in 13 Party Districts like the Nazi Gaue, known as *Fylking* (a rather old-fashioned military term meaning a battle array or a division of soldiers. The word "phalanx" perhaps best conveys the semi-archaic overtones of this word.) These 13 Party Districts were:

- Aust Viken
- Stor Oslo
- Vest Viken
- Hedmark-Opland
- Telemark
- Agder og Rogaland
- Vestlandet
- Romsdal og Nordmøre
- Sør-Trøndelag
- Nord-Trøndelag
- Nordland
- Troms
- Finnmark

It is possible that cuff titles with all the above *Fylking* names were worn by the appropriate formations of the Gjenteherd.

#### NS Womens Organization (Kvinne-Organisasjonen)



Arm badge (left upper arm) red and yellow sun cross on blue octagon.

The uniform of the Womens Organization was grey-green with a yellow shirt and brown tie. A brown leather belt was also worn. Rank was shown on the collar on triangular patches (scheme of ranks not known).

#### Labor Service

In September 1940 an imitation of the German State Labor Service (the R.A.D.) was established in Norway. This was called simply the *Arbeids-tjensten* (Labor Service), abbreviated to A.T. But it was not until the summer of the following year that the training of cadre personnel for this new service was properly underway. By the autumn of 1941 some 600 future leaders had been trained. It was envisaged that all 20 year old males would perform three months compulsory A.T. service as a substitute for their previous military service obligation, but due to a shortage of accommodation and equipment, of the 25,000 youths theoretically eligible, only about 6,000 were actually called up in the first draft. One of the difficulties was that, shortly after the training of cadre personnel had begun, war with Russia had broken out and many of the destined A.T. officers had volunteered to serve in the Norwegian

Legion. Starting on 1 May 1941 there were to be three drafts per year (in May, August and November). In May 1942 the A.T. chief, General Frølich-Hansen, claimed that his organization had 2,400 full-time officers.

Norway was divided into six A.T. regions corresponding to the former six military districts of the country. The A.T. was unarmed although it carried out drill with spades as a substitute for rifles. Its work consisted of general agricultural and forestry tasks as well as road building. Recruits were instructed in swimming, life-saving, gymnastics and "politics" (naturally this last had a strong pro-Nazi bias). From the spring of 1943, service in the A.T. was made obligatory for single women also (originally at the age of 21, but later reduced to 18). The period of service was extended twice, first to six months, then (in January 1944) to nine months.

How far can the A.T. be regarded as a collaborationist body? Certainly not so for its unwilling conscripts, but less certainly so for its voluntarily-joined cadre personnel, many of whom were trained by the R.A.D. in Germany. Quisling obviously intended that the A.T. would be a useful vehicle for political indoctrination as well as a substitute for military service.

The uniform of the A.T. owes its style more to the Norwegian army than the R.A.D. It consisted of a brown tunic and trousers with the so-called "Finnmarks cap" (the typical Norwegian ski-type cap - copied by the Germans for their Mountain troops and later widely worn by all German army and air force personnel); with this a brown shirt and black tie was worn. Rank insignia was indicated on the shoulder straps (silver with green backing) and also on the collar patch (again silver on green). Specialists, i.e., administrative staff, planning officials, medical officers and bandmasters, wore on the right collar a symbol of their speciality. The cap badge followed the pattern of the Norwegian army being the national red/white/blue cockade above the A.T. button. Officers had the two parts joined by gold or silver

#### Labor Service (Arbeidstjensten) A.T.



Left: Shoulder strap with slip-on tab. The Roman numeral indicates the camp, the Arabic number the company within that camp. The color of the tab itself indicates the Work District (*Arbeids-Distrikt*, or A.D.) as follows:

- A.D. 1 black
- A.D. 2 white
- A.D. 3 red (as illustrated here)
- A.D. 4 green
- A.D. 5 orange
- A.D. 6 blue

These six "Work Districts" corresponded exactly to the pre-war Army Districts of Norway.

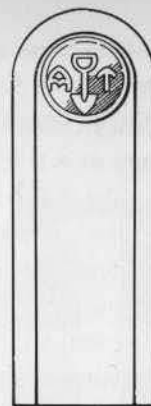




Mannskap



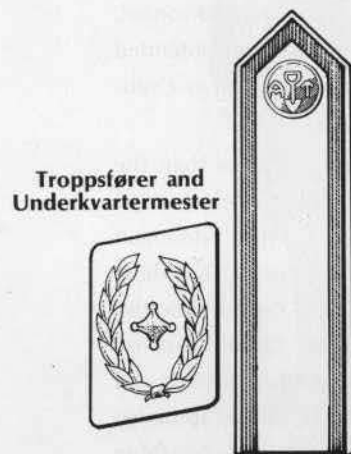
Nestlagfører



Lagfører  
(second design)



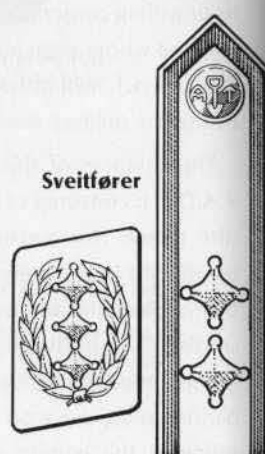
Lagfører  
(first design)



Troppsfører and  
Underkvartermester



Nestsveitfører and  
Kvartermester



Sveitfører

The above are silver shoulder straps on a green backing. Collar patches are green with a silver design.



Fylkingfører



Nestbrigadefører



Brigadefører



The above are silver on a green backing.



Arbeidstjenestens  
Stabssjef



Arbeidstjenestens  
Sjef (or General)

The above are gold on a green backing.

braid bars (the color depending on the rank of the wearer) on a grey background. The button part of the cap badge was black for non-commissioned personnel; silver or gold (again depending on rank) for officers.

The belt buckle was normally plain, but a German-style, oblong aluminum buckle was also used. The "Control" (or Police) of the A.T. wore a special gilt badge with *Kontroll Befal*, while camp guards on duty wore a grey metal badge with the word *Vakt* (Guard) above the A.T. symbol. Duty officers wore a silver gorget with the gold and red A.T. symbol in the center.

On completing their A.T. service, members were encouraged to join the R.A.D. Norwegian volunteers in the German R.A.D. wore a small Norwegian national flag on the right upper arm.

#### Specialist Collar Patches



Administrative Staff  
(F - Forvaltningsstilling)



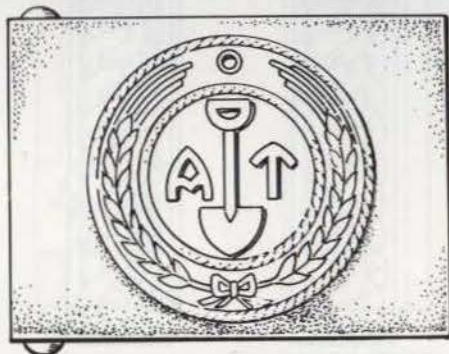
Planning Staff  
(P - Planbefal)



Medical Staff

The above collar patches are silver on green. Musicians had a lyre.





A.T. belt buckle (German style)



A.T. button

Cloth badge of the Girls section of the A.T.  
(gold design on red)



Quisling (extreme right)  
with leaders of the  
Norwegian Labor Service.



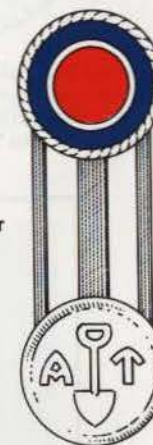
Cap badge for highest officer ranks. National  
cockade, gold button, gold vertical braid on  
grey backing.  
oak leaf)



Cockade for officers other than before (silver  
replaces gold)



Cap badge for non-commissioned  
ranks. National cockade (blue is slightly  
lighter than for officers). Black button.





Control (or Police) Service of the A.T. Metal badge (above is actual size). Gilt with red center. "A. T." and spade also gilt.



Camp Guard badge. Grey metal with red circle with "A.T." and spade also in grey.



A.T. officer with Duty Officer gorget.



Female member of the Labor Service wearing a semi-uniform style overall. Above the left breast pocket is the Norwegian flag over a "bar" with the word Arbeidstjensten (Labor Service).

### Nordland Regiment

As early as 1938 Himmler had ruled that non-Germans of suitable "nordic" origin could enlist in the SS' that is to say in the *Allgemeine SS* (at that stage the distinction between "civilian" *Allgemeine SS* and "military" *Waffen SS* did not exist). Before the outbreak of war in 1939 only a handful of such fanatic nordics had offered themselves. But with the conquest in 1940 of Norway, Denmark, Holland and Flanders, it was possible to recruit directly among the "nordic" peoples and to set up special units to absorb volunteers from these racially-approved regions. Within weeks of the occupation of Denmark and Norway, an *S.S. Standarte* (Regiment) Nordland was established in which young men from these two countries could train "for police duties" in their respective homelands. The S.S. took over a former French army barracks at Sennheim in Alsace (Alsace-Lorraine was re-incorporated into Germany after the defeat of France) and there the Norwegians, in common with other western



European volunteers, were put through their initial selection and basic training. Those who passed were then posted on for more advanced instruction elsewhere - to Austria in the case of the Norwegians.

Recruitment for the Nordland Regiment was intensified in January 1941. On the 13th of that month Quisling appealed over the radio for three thousand volunteers between the ages of 17 and 25 to come forward "to help our Germanic brethren fight English despotism." The response was not encouraging. Volunteers could be numbered only in hundreds. The age limit was then raised to 40 years. Among those who did volunteer was Jonas Lie, the chief of the Norwegian Police who, although strongly pro-German, was not a member of N.S. Another volunteer was Axel Stang, Minister of Sport and Chief of Staff of the *Rikshird*.

In February 1941 the Nordland moved from Vienna and Klagenfurt in Austria to Heuberg in northern Germany where a new division of the Waffen S.S. (the term "Waffen S.S." having come into use some six or seven months previously) was in the process of being formed. This fresh division was based on the Germania Regiment of the "Das Reich" Division to which was now added the Danish-Norwegian Nordland and the Dutch-Flemish Westland Regiments. A complement of artillery was added to bring the unit to full combat strength. It was now numbered the 5th Division of the Waffen S.S. and given the name "Wiking" (Viking). It did not see active service as a division until the start of the campaign against Russia in June 1941 but, in order to provide some of its "green" personnel with combat experience, a number of individuals were seconded to the "Das Reich" Division which took an active part in the invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941. Jonas Lie and Axel Stang were among those who took part in their brief and successful campaign. Both returned with the Iron Cross 2nd Class.



## The Norwegian S.S. (*Norges S.S.*)

After his homecoming as a war-decorated hero, Jonas Lie at once set about intriguing with Terboven against their mutual foe, Quisling. With German complicity Lie founded within the *Rikshird* what amounted to a Norwegian equivalent of the *Allgemeine S.S.* At a secret meeting of the 7th Hird Regiment in Oslo on 16 May 1941 Lie proposed the immediate establishment of a Norwegian S.S. (*Norges S.S.*); some 130 members of the regiment at once enrolled. This innovation was announced in the press on 21 May. Quisling, who had not been consulted or forewarned, was furious but impotent. Himmler had already given the Norwegian S.S. his blessing and arrived in Oslo the very same day to preside over the oath taking by the new recruits. This done, he appointed Lie to the command of the unit giving him the rank of *Standartenführer* (or, in Norwegian, *Standartfører*, the equivalent of Colonel).



Quisling, Himmler and Reichskommissar Terboven during the oath taking ceremonies in Oslo on 22 May 1941.

Tom pooler

SS-Brigadeführer Wilhelm Rediess actively recruiting for volunteers in Regiment Nordland (21 February 1941).





H.P. Taylor

Quisling presents the Oslo company of the Germanic S.S. Norway with a flag (a black flag with the S.S. runes in white and "Oslo" in sham runic script, also in white).

The new S.S. men wore field grey open-necked tunics with a khaki shirt and black tie, field grey trousers and black shoes (Lie, himself, wore breeches and top boots). Rank insignia was still that of the *Rikshird*, worn on black shoulder straps, and the *Rikshird* black brassard with sun cross and swords was, at this stage, still worn on the left arm. After Himmler's departure, the new Norwegian S.S. men were taken to Elverum (about 75 miles from Oslo) to begin their six week basic training. Before its completion a dramatic event occurred which altered the whole nature of the war as well as their part in it: on 22 June 1941 Hitler invaded Russia.



Tom Pooler

Above and below: Foundation rally of the Germanic S.S. Norway in May 1941. The uniform is field-grey with "Hird" rankings on black shoulder straps. Jonas Lie (closed collar to tunic and wearing top boots) was organizer of the rally.



Tom Pooler

◀ The Germanic S.S. in Norway march.

## The Norwegian Legion

Quisling's exhortations to his fellow countrymen to join in the fight against "English despotism" had not met with much success. For one thing the German army was nowhere actually fighting the British (except briefly in Greece), for another, the Norwegians had no sort of quarrel with England. Hitler's self-styled "crusade against bolshevism", on the other hand, was a much more effective propaganda weapon. The Norwegians had already been angered by Stalin's unprovoked attack on Finland and volunteers had been found to answer her call for assistance in the struggle. A legion of Scandinavian volunteers had been formed although it arrived in Finland too late to make any significant contribution to the war. There existed, therefore, fertile soil in Norway for a call for men ready to counter the "red menace".

On 29 June 1941 the formation of a Norwegian Legion was announced. From the very beginning this body was under the control of the S.S. although trouble was taken to conceal this fact from the Norwegian public. Propaganda sought to represent the Legion as a *Norwegian* expeditionary force fighting against bolshevism rather than an S.S. auxiliary serving Hitler. Various promises were made which were not honored. Volunteers were assured that they would be allowed to retain their existing rank (if serving soldiers), but subject to Norwegian, not German, military law and not be required to use the "German greeting" (i.e. the raised right arm "Nazi" salute employed by the S.S.). There would, they were told, be a "special grey uniform". Since Norway was not actually at war with Russia, those who signed on were not, unlike war-time conscripts, engaging themselves "for the duration", but could undertake to serve for a specified period (eg. two years) at the end of which they would be entitled to revert to their former civilian status even though the war was still in progress. A gratifying number of volunteers offered themselves, the majority being, predictably, from the N.S. para-military formations such as the Rikshird and the Norges S.S.

A depot was established at Holmestrand outside Oslo. On 4 July Quisling announced that the Legion would have two battalions which would bear the names of the two Oslo district regiments of the Rikshird (i.e. "Viken" and "Viking") to be commanded respectively by Major Jørgen Bakke and Major Kjellstrup (both career officers of the Norwegian army). About 85% of the recently formed Norges S.S. volunteered. On 29 July a first contingent of about 300 arrived in Germany to begin training at Hamburg. In August a further 700 from the "Viken" battalion, under Major Bakke, joined them. Sixty-two volunteers from the Norwegian community in Berlin also joined the Legion at Hamburg. On 1 August the Legion was officially christened "Volunteer Legion Norway" (*Freiwillige Legion Norwegen*). By the end of the year (1941) its strength was given as 1,218 men. A Reserve Battalion was at this time formed to provide replacements. In February 1942 the Legion, under the command of *Sturmabführer* A. Quist, was sent to the Russian front as part of the 2nd S.S.

Motorized Infantry Brigade. It went to what was, in fact, the quietest sector, the Leningrad region which was under a state of semi-static siege. Recruiting in Norway continued unabated. Two new Companies were raised, one drawn mainly from the Police and referred to as the Police Company (*Politi-kompaniet*), the other from cadre personnel of the Labor Service (A.T.).

The Police Company was commanded by Jonas Lie (with the rank of *Sturmabführer*). It joined the rest of the Legion outside Leningrad in September 1942. About this time female members of the Legion (nurses and welfare personnel) were also sent to Russia.

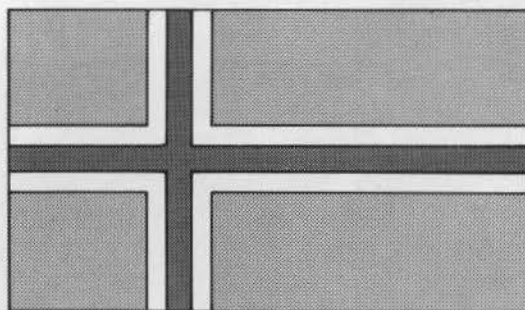


This group of initial volunteers wore the Waffen S.S. uniform and belt, but with Hird insignia.

Tom Pooley



Wedding ceremony of a volunteer of the Norwegian Legion. He wears a Norwegian army uniform with the S.S. eagle above a Norwegian flag on left upper arm (this can be seen on the arm of the seated man whose face is obscured by the priest). This volunteer wears a Norwegian belt and cross strap, but German belts were also worn.



Norwegian flag as worn below S.S. eagle (approx. actual size)

The uniforms worn by the original volunteers in the Legion were a mixture of Rikshird and Norwegian or German Army (the latter from local QM stores of the Wehrmacht in Norway). On the left upper arm a small Norwegian flag was worn below the S.S. eagle. Sometimes the eagle is of the army, rather than the S.S. type, but this is without significance. On their arrival in Germany the recruits had to give up their Norwegian garb and exchange it for German. The national flag was still retained on the left arm. A black cuff title with, in silver, "Legion Norwegen" began to be issued. A special collar patch was authorized and certainly worn (if only briefly) by at least some members of the Legion. This had a silver lion holding an axe (the national badge of Norway) on black. A lion and axe collar patch was also worn by the

Police Company, but it should be noted that the two are not identical. In the Police Company version the lion is more "compact" (i.e. it stands upright and does not appear to "stride forward" as in the Legion version), also it is crowned, which it would appear not to be in the Legion type. (The author has not been able to obtain actual examples of these very rare patches; the information is based on a study of photographs and of German recruiting posters.)



Sturmbannführer Quist, Commander of the Legion.



Collar patch: silver Norwegian lion and axe on black)



Silver and black emblem worn above cuff title by members of the Police Battalion (if they were also former N.S. members).



# Legion Norwegen

Cuff title (wording in German). Silver and black, worn on left cuff.



Collar patch of Police Company (note this is not the same as the first design Legion collar patch).



Normal S.S. runes adopted by the Legion after the lion and axe collar patch was dropped (but the Police Company continued to wear the slightly modified lion and axe emblem as shown above).



Flag of the Police Company of the Norwegian Legion. The emblem is the badge of the new Norwegian (Quisling) police force. The flag was presented to the Company by Quisling on 10 October 1942.

An amended cuff title with "Frw. Legion Norwegen" replaced the previous "Legion Norwegen" one. Just above the cuff title former N.S. members could wear the Rikshird sun cross and swords emblem (but in silver on black, not red). It is thought that this was restricted to members of the Police Company.

# Frw Legion Norwegen

Cuff title: Volunteer Norwegian Legion (wording is German). Silver and black.

Nurses serving with the Legion wore standard S.S. field grey without collar patches. On the left arm they also had the Norwegian flag below the S.S. eagle.

In December 1942 the effective strength of the Legion (i.e. those actually on active duty) amounted to 20 officers and 678 other ranks. This figure does not take into account casualties or personnel at depots or in reserve units.

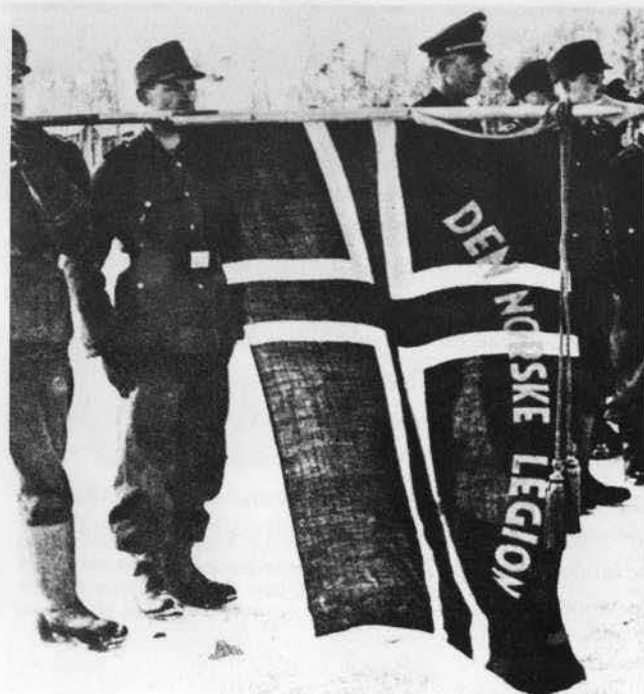
In May 1943 the Legion was brought home to Norway. It was officially disbanded in September of that same year. Those who had signed on for a two-year engagement were free to quit the service, although, as we shall see, many preferred simply to exchange one uniform for another.

Front-line  
soldier's  
badge



Above: Instituted by Vidkun Quisling in October 1943, it was awarded to all Norwegian military personnel who saw active service on the eastern front. Women as well as men were eligible (the nurse in the photo on left wears one). It was in one class only - "silver" (white metal).

A Norwegian nursing sister, Anne Gunhild Moxanes, serving with the "Wiking" Division in Russia was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class. She also wears the Front Line Soldier's badge.



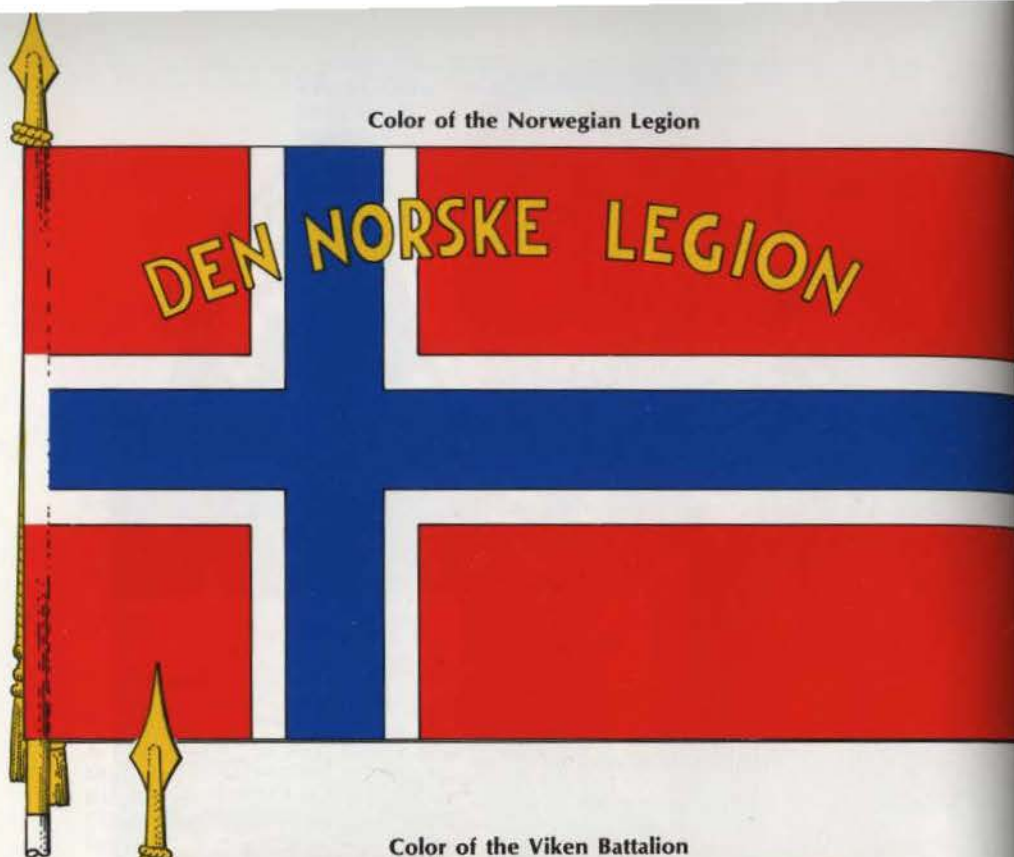
The color of the  
Norwegian Legion



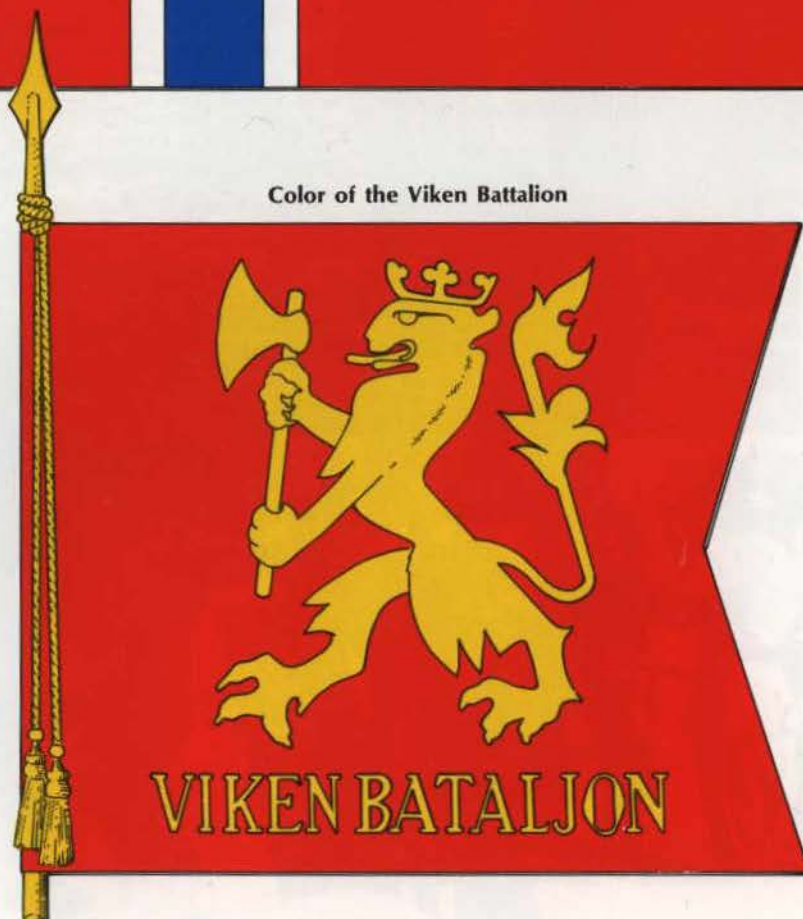
Swearing-in ceremony on the  
flag of the Viken Battalion.



Color of the Norwegian Legion



Color of the Viken Battalion



Quisling at award ceremonies.



S.S. Obergruppenführer Wilhelm Rediess, Senior S.S. Police Leader "Nord" (Norway, Finland), decorating S.S. Sturmbannführer Quist with the Iron Cross 1st Class.





Commander of the Viken Battalion, Major Bakke (left) with his Adjutant. Note that Bakke wears the army-style eagle above the Norwegian flag although his Adjutant appears to have acquired the correct S.S. type! Neither has a collar patch and the steel helmets are similarly without insignia. Too much need not be made of these discrepancies since the Legion was not fully nor properly outfitted until it reached Germany. (This photo was taken in Norway.)

### Norwegian Ski Battalion and Police Companies Attached to the 6th S.S. Mountain Division

A battalion of qualified Norwegian ski-troops was raised in October 1942. It amounted to about 200 men (well below normal battalion strength). After training at Sennheim it was attached to (although not made part of) the 6th S.S. Mountain Division "Nord". This was a new division created as recently as May of the same year and made up largely of S.S. garrison units stationed in Norway (mainly the 9th S.S. Infantry Regiment and the Totenkopf Regiment "K" - neither with any previous combat experience). It saw some active service in Finland where the Norwegian Light Infantry Ski Battalion (S.S. Ski-Jäger-Bataillon "Norwegen", or "Norge") joined it as did two additional companies drawn from the Norwegian Police (S.S. og Politikompani 2 and

3). In the 6th S.S. Division standard Waffen S.S. and Police insignia were worn (concurrently!) on field grey uniforms. The Norwegians followed the same mixed pattern and appear to have had no special identifying insignia of their own apart from a cuff title with the word "Norge" (silver lettering on black), or "Frw. Legion Norwegen" (worn by the two Police companies). The Ski Battalion was commanded by a former Rikshird officer, Gust Jonassen with the modest rank of S.S. *Obersturmführer* (1st Lieutenant).

As Mountain troops members of the Divisions were entitled to wear an Edelweiss on the right upper arm and on the side of the cap. This latter was sometimes the metal army type and sometimes the cloth S.S. version.

The Ski Battalion was brought back to Norway, like the Legion, in May 1943 and similarly disbanded in September.



Artistic sign for Ski Company "Norwegian".

### The Wiking Division

We must take up the history of the Nordland Regiment where we left off (early 1941 on the eve of Hitler's invasion of Russia). It now formed, as we have seen, part of the "Wiking" Division. Its Norwegian volunteers, unlike those of the Legion, were regarded as full members of the Waffen S.S. Himmler liked to maintain the fiction that the Legion was not part of his S.S. Statistical documents of the S.S. list the Legion under a different heading from the Waffen S.S. as though some difference existed (apart from slightly lower physical entry requirements for the Legion, the two were, for all intents and purposes, the same!) The Norwegians in the Wiking Division (there were about 300 at this time) had no contact with their compatriots in the Legion

- the two formations fought at opposite ends of the long Russian front (the Legion in the north at Leningrad, the "Wiking" in the south in the Ukraine and the Caucasus).

On 22 March 1943, after twenty-one months of continuous active service at the front, the Nordland Regiment was withdrawn from the Wiking Division to act as the basis for a new Waffen S.S. Division. Most members of the Wiking Division wore the normal S.S. runes, but the Norwegians were authorized to wear a mobile swastika (or "sun wheel") in their stead. This rule was not universally observed for two reasons: (a) supplies did not always allow, and (b) as was so often the case, the S.S. runes were preferred since they were regarded as having greater prestige than any "fancy" device which seemed to place its wearer on a lower level than other S.S. men.



Normal S.S. runes for Norwegian volunteers in Nordland Regt (later Division).



Special "sun wheel" collar patch for Norwegian Nordland volunteers.



Cuff title of Nordland Regiment in Wiking Division.



Slip on tab for shoulder strap of Nordland Regt. (and Division). Phased out by middle of 1943. Officers wore a metal "N" on their shoulder straps.

A cuff title Nordland was worn by the Regiment and the letter "N" (in metal for officers, in white cotton on a black slip on tab for others) was worn, for a short time only, on the shoulder straps. It has to be stressed that Norwegians in the Wiking Division did not wear a collar patch with the prow of a Viking ship. This collar patch was designed too late. It was authorized by Himmler only on 3 March 1943 - less than three weeks before the Nordland was pulled out of the Wiking Division. It was manufactured (genuine examples do exist) but does not appear to have been worn by



Viking ship collar patch (manufactured but never worn).

anybody. It is not clear if Himmler intended this Viking ship device to be for the whole Division (an appropriate enough emblem) or only for the Norwegian component (since the others were, for the most part from the low countries), but no photographic evidence of its having been worn has come to light and it must, therefore, be relegated to the category of "projected insignia" only.

## The Nordland Division

In March 1943 when the Nordland was removed from the Wiking Division its place was filled by a battalion of Estonians. Himmler planned to raise a new all "nordic" division consisting of three regiments - one Danish, one Dutch and one Norwegian. At Grafenwöhr, in Bavaria, contingents from these three nations began to assemble and were there joined by further volunteers from their respective homelands. But a spanner was placed in the works by the Dutch. They represented



the largest component in the new formation and now insisted on being given an all-Dutch formation of their own. A direct appeal to Hitler was made by the Dutch Nazi leader, Mussert, and Himmler found himself overruled. He was ordered to remove the Dutch from the projected division. In place of three regiments, there were now only two:

S.S. Grenadier-Regiment Nr. 1 "Danmark"

S.S. Grenadier-Regiment Nr. 2 "Norge"

(The word "Grenadier" was the newly fashionable term for Infantry.) With the addition of an armored regiment the Division was now recategorized as "Panzer-Grenadier" (Infantry supported by their own complement of armor) and the two nordic regiments were renumbered to bring them into sequence with other existing S.S. Panzer-Grenadier Regiments to become:

S.S. Panzer-Grenadier-Rgt. 23 "Norge"

S.S. Panzer-Grenadier-Rgt. 24 "Danmark"

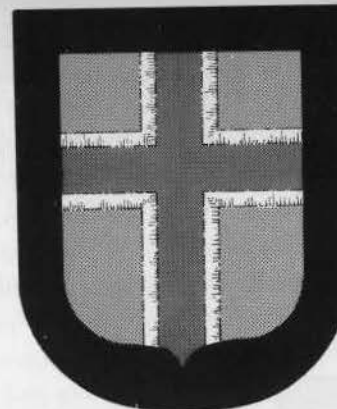
Quisling claimed that there were 3,000 Norwegians in the Norge Regiment and that of these more than 60% were from his N.S. party. This seems to have been a wild exaggeration since the S.S. Statistical Department lists only 796 officers and men in the Norge Regiment (as in December 1943). Both regiments had to be "topped up" by drafts of somewhat unwilling "volunteers" from *Volksdeutsche* (racial German) communities (mainly, in this case, from Hungary).

With the disbandment of the Norwegian Legion some 600 of its members elected to transfer to the Nordland Division. It may also have picked up some new recruits from the disbanded Ski Battalion.

For a very brief period the new Division was known as the 11th S.S. Volunteer Panzer-Grenadier Division *Varäger* (Varagian). This name had been selected by Himmler because the Varagians were Norse warriors who in the 9th and 10th centuries had invaded and colonized much of Russia. Himmler was, however, persuaded by Hitler that such subtlety would be lost on all but the most erudite and agreed that it would be much simpler to continue the name Nordland!

After a minor "baptism of fire" in Yugoslavia (Sept-Nov. 1943) against Tito's Partisans, the Nordland reached the front at Leningrad. This sector, which had been quiescent for so long, now suddenly flared into action with a massive and successful attempt by the Red Army to dislodge the besiegers. The remainder of the Nordland's service was, like the rest of the German armed forces in Russia, a story of continuous retreat and rear-guard action. It withdrew through the Baltic States participating in the so-called "battle of the European S.S." at Narva in Estonia. It was evacuated by sea from Kurland and ended the war in action against the Red Army in East Prussia. In the course of its time at the front it suffered heavy losses.

In all, counting casualties, some 2,000 Norwegians may have served with the Nordland Division. The uniform was standard Waffen S.S. with either the S.S. runes



Norwegian flag arm badge worn below S.S. eagle or on left cuff by Nordland volunteers.

collar patch or, as before, a white mobile swastika. A small Norwegian flag on a black shield was worn either below the S.S. eagle on the left arm or on the left cuff. A photograph of the commander of the "Norge" Regiment, S.S. *Obersturmbannführer* Fritz Knöchlein, shows him wearing this shield with a white outline. Members of the "Norge" Regiment wore a cuff title "Norge" in white on black.

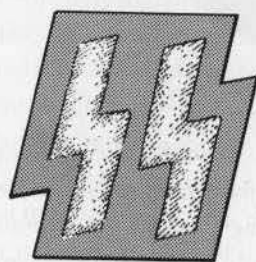


"Norge" cuff title worn by Norwegian volunteers in the Nordland Division - also possibly by members of the S.S. *Skijägerbataillon* "Norwegen".



Fritz Knöchlein, Regimental Commander of S.S.-Frei. Pz.-Gren.-Div. "Nordland" (December, 1944).

Theoretically only full members of the S.S. were entitled to wear the S.S. runes collar patch, but where a nationality collar patch (such as the mobile swastika) was worn by someone who was in fact a full S.S. man, he was entitled to indicate this fact by wearing the S.S. runes on a field grey square below the left breast pocket; ex-Waffen S.S. men in the police of their respective countries were likewise entitled to this "honor". In practice the S.S. runes collar patch was the most commonly worn of all, and the sporting of the S.S. runes below the left breast pocket seems to have been confined mainly to touchy Germans serving as cadre personnel with foreign volunteer divisions who wished to stress that they were still 100% genuine SS men!



SS runes which could be worn either by former Waffen S.S. men on Police uniform or by full members of the SS. on the pocket of a uniform which had a special "nationalities" collar patch in place of the normal runes.



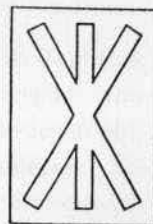
Wiking



Nordland



Nord (1st)



Nord (2nd type)

Above: vehicle signs of the Wiking, Nordland and Nord Divisions.

## Germanic S.S. Norway (*Germanische S.S. Norge*)

The foundation of the Norwegian S.S. has already been briefly touched on, but on 21 July 1942 the Norges S.S. was transformed into the Germanic S.S. Norway, and became part of a wider "Germanic S.S." devised by Himmler, which encompassed all non-German Allgemeine S.S. formations in occupied western Europe. The former Rikshird rank insignia was abandoned and a common (German) scheme of ranks was adopted - the names of the ranks being merely literal, and sometimes rather clumsy, translations into the language of the country concerned.

The Germanic S.S. Norway severed all connection with its Rikshird "parent". It was no longer possible to belong to both organizations. A new oath of allegiance was taken, this time to Hitler, not Quisling. Thus the Germanic S.S. in Norway (as elsewhere) now owed its prime allegiance to Germany and not to its local collaborationist leader.

The uniform of the Germanic S.S. Norway was all black except for a khaki shirt. It consisted of ski cap, open necked tunic with four pockets, ski trousers or breeches and top boots. On the left upper arm the N.S. eagle and sun cross (silver on black) was worn. On the left cuff a silver and black cuff title bore the Norwegian spelling of the organization - "Germanske S.S. Norge". On the left collar the rank of the wearer; on the right a white or silver mobile swastika similar to, although very slightly smaller than, that worn by the Nordland Division. The Chief of Staff of the Germanic S.S. Norway wore this mobile swastika on *both* collars. Collar patches were piped in silver wire for officers and in black and white cotton for other ranks. On the right upper arm silver S.S. runes on a black diamond were worn, piped in silver (apparently this was for all ranks, not merely for officers). A black "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap was worn by all ranks. On the right shoulder only an epaulette was worn, varying in design with the rank of its wearer. The black ski cap had two silver buttons in front surmounted by a silver death's head of the normal S.S. variety. Daggers do not appear to have been carried, although the Chief of Staff did wear a 1936 pattern S.S. dagger on ceremonial occasions (possibly a "presentation" dagger awarded as a special honor by Himmler). On parade, or active duty, a German steel helmet was worn.

No Germanic S.S. formation in Norway attained sufficient size to be regarded as a *Standart* (Regiment). The largest that could be mustered was a Stormbann (roughly a Battalion) of which there were twelve in various parts of Norway. It is possible that at least five of these existed only on paper and that all the others were considerably under strength. This was not the result of a lack of volunteers so much as the fact that the Germanic S.S. in Norway (and elsewhere) was often merely a stepping stone into the Waffen S.S. or other branches of German military service.

The Germanic S.S. was only a part-time formation putting in a couple of evenings service through the week and also occasional week-end duty. So many Germanic





Black Germanic S.S. uniform worn with khaki shirt. Ski trousers or breeches could be worn. Silver buttons. Ski cap with death's head badge above two buttons. Shoulder strap (varying according to rank) worn on right shoulder only. Black "Sam Browne" belt and cross-strap.



Eagle badge worn on left upper arm by all ranks (silver and black).



Collar patch worn on right side by all ranks except the Stabsleder (Commander-in-Chief) who wore it on both sides.



Sponsoring Member's lapel badge (S.M. - Støttende Medlemmer). Silver and black.



Arm diamond worn on right upper arm by all ranks.



Above: civil lapel badge for members of the Germanic S.S. Norway (silver and black).



Cuff title of the Germanic S.S. Norway. Worn on left cuff.

S.S. men did, in fact, volunteer for full-time Waffen S.S. service that they were able to contribute an entire Company to the Nordland Regiment in the spring of 1943 - they were paraded before Quisling (who had managed to overcome his hostility to the organization) on 6 May 1943.

But some Germanic S.S. men managed to go over to full-time service without the necessity of volunteering for the Waffen S.S. At the beginning of 1943 the S.S. Command in Norway established an S.S. *Wach-Bataillon Oslo* (later known as S.S. *Wach-Bataillon 6*) which recruited some 500 Norwegians to act as guards at its installations in that city and elsewhere. Many of the volunteers for this battalion were from the older age groups of the Germanic S.S. (age limits were 17 to 40 years).

Franklin Knudsen in his book, "I Was Quisling's Secretary", states that women were eligible to join the Germanic S.S., but no evidence to corroborate this has come to light. Possibly women may have been employed in a civilian capacity in some of the Germanic S.S. offices.

The concept of "Sponsoring Members" of the S.S. (i.e. civilians who undertook to make an annual financial contribution to S.S. funds) was introduced in Norway as in other nordic countries. The Sponsoring Members (*Støttende Medlemmer*) was entitled to wear a small oval badge in black enamel with the white S.S. runes between and "S" and an "M".

Official figures published in September 1944 give the strength of the Germanic S.S. Norway as 1,247 of whom 330 were said to be on active service with the Waffen S.S., 756 in "police and other emergency units" (including, presumably, S.S. *Wach-Bataillon 6*), which left only 161 men in the non-regular units. This must mean that many formations existed in skeleton form only. Despite the paucity of numbers, there was still a so-called "Cavalry Section" (with about 20 horses!). There were, at this time 3,422 "Sponsoring Members".

The motto of the Germanic S.S. Norway was the same as that of the German S.S. - "My honor is loyalty" (in Norwegian "Min ære er troskap"). This appeared on its flag which was the white S.S. runes on a black field. The place name (Oslo, Bergen, etc.) appeared in sham runic script in the upper left quarter of the flag.

### Hird Factory Guard (H.B.V.)

In March 1942 a special armed battalion of the Rikshird was formed; eleven months later this became the Hird Factory Guard (*Hirdens Bedriftsvern*, or H.B.V.). Its efficiency was greatly heightened by the fact that former members of the Norwegian Legion, released after their two-year engagement, formed its cadre personnel. They retained much of their former appearance since the uniform of the H.B.V. was German field grey with Norwegian (Quisling) Police ranks - virtually identical to those of the German armed forces - on black shoulder straps (or with a black underlay in the



Left: four H.B.V. non-commissioned personnel and an officer. The uniform of the H.B.V. was field-grey. Ranks were the same as for the Norwegian (Quisling) Police, the collar patch had a similar lion and axe emblem on black (both sides - facing inwards) as the Police. Shoulder straps were black. On-duty Germanstyle steel helmets were worn.

The men in the photo are, judging from the war badges that they wear, all ex-eastern front fighters - possibly former members of the Police Company of the Norwegian Legion. The photo does not show a cuff title being worn, but one exists and is illustrated below.

## HIRDENS BEDRIFTSVERN

case of officers). On the black collar patches a silver lion and axe emblem was worn on both sides (each faced inwards, i.e. the axe was towards the wearer's tie). On the ski cap a Norwegian style two-part cap badge (very similar to that of the Labor Service) was worn. A cuff title with white "Hirdens Bedriftsvern" on black was sometimes worn. On duty a German steel helmet was the headgear. The H.B.V. helped to guard German installations or Norwegian plants working for the Germans. The main training center of the H.B.V. was the Holmestrand Aluminum Works.

### Norwegian (Quisling) Police

In any occupied country a police force loyal to the wishes of the occupying power is an invaluable asset, and Quisling did his best to bring such a force into being in Norway. A purge of the State Police (*Statspoliti*) began in December 1941. Colonel Sundlo, an officer who had gained some notoriety through his surrender of Narvik, was appointed Chief of the State Police. Jonas Lie became Minister of Police.



In July 1941 the former State Police were split into two main branches:

- (a) Order Police (*Ordenspoliti*)
- (b) Security Police (*Sikkerhetspoliti*)

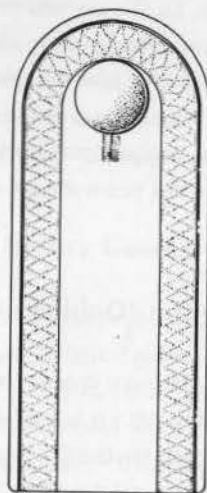
The first of these was concerned with the normal maintenance of order and prevention, or detection of (non-political) crime; the latter was akin to the S.D. in Germany in that its task was the combatting of "subversion", i.e. resistance to the Germans or the Quisling regime. In addition to these there were what was called "Emergency Detachments" (*Beredskapsavdelinger*) who, although not on a regular basis, could be called out to assist the police or security forces in any emergency. Many of the Germanic S.S. men came into this category.

The Security Police, or "Sipo", worked with the German S.D. But all police formations in Norway came under the direct control of the S.S. through S.S. General Wilhelm Rediess, the highest S.S. and Police official in Norway.

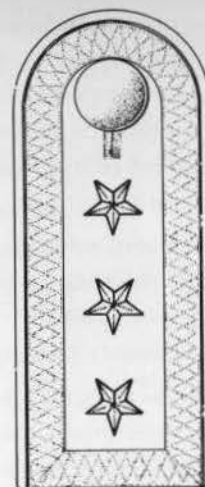
Both branches of the police adopted a system of ranks based on that of the German armed forces/police. The Police uniform was field grey with, for the Order Police, green collar patches on both of which, for officers, was a single oak leaf in gold thread, and for other ranks the lion and axe emblem (as for the H. B.V.) facing inwards. The Security Police wore black collar patches and had a black underlay to their shoulder straps. Their collar patches bore the letters "S.P." in silver wire.

Incorporated into the Order Police was the Norwegian Branch of the German Technical Emergency Service (*Technische Nothilfe* in German or *Tekniske Nødhjelpe* in Norwegian).

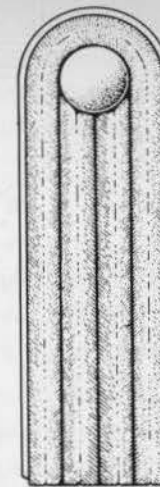
As stated before, members of the Police who were also full members of the S.S. were entitled to wear the S.S. runes below the left breast pocket.



(1) Constable (silver braid)



- (2) Senior Constable (no stars)
- (3) Corporal (one star)
- (4) Sergeant (two stars)
- (5) Senior Sgt. (three stars as shown above)



- (6) Lieutenant (silver strap)
- (7) Senior Lieut. (with one star)
- (8) Captain (with two stars)



- (9) Major (silver)
- (10) Lt. Col. (with one star)
- (11) Colonel (with two stars)



- (12) Major General (gold)
- (13) Lt. General (with one star)
- (14) General (with two stars)



Collar patch for officers (gold oak leaf)



Collar patch non-commissioned ranks (Silver lion and axe)



Police metal cap badge

**Police Decoration (Politiets Hederstegn).** Dark bluish colored steel with red and silver sun cross in center. One class only.



Collar patch of the Norwegian Security Police (Sikkerhets-Politi). Silver wire S.P. on black patch (tentative sketch).

### Other Volunteers

Norwegians served in all branches of the German armed forces as individual volunteers, but nowhere, apart from the Legion or Waffen S.S., in sufficient numbers to constitute an all-Norwegian unit of their own. German regulations state that foreign volunteers in the Kriegsmarine may wear a shield with "their national colors", but this rule seems to have been seldom observed, and certainly so far as Norway is concerned, there is no evidence of a Norwegian shield having been worn on the German Naval uniform.

Again, non-German personnel in the Speer Legion (a transport auxiliary of the Army and Air Force) were allowed to wear an arm shield in their national colors. There were Norwegians in the Speer Legion (the Legion even had one of its principal driving schools located in Norway), but there is no evidence of such a shield having been worn by Norwegian nationals.

The photograph of a Norwegian volunteer in the R.A.D. wearing a Norwegian national flag device (reproduced on this page) is unusual in that it would seem that the wearing of some sort of national identification applied only to those units large enough to constitute an ethnic formation in their own right and not, the above notwithstanding, to individual non-German volunteers in mainly German formations.

About 500 young Norwegian lads of the 16 to 18 age group were enticed into joining the so-called *Germanische Landdienst* (Germanic Land Service) in the "General Government" of Poland during 1942/43, there to train as future "colonizers". They were presumably, from the *Unghird* and may have retained its uniform. The emblem of the Germanic Land Service was an Odelsrune (runic "O") pierced by an upward pointing sword.

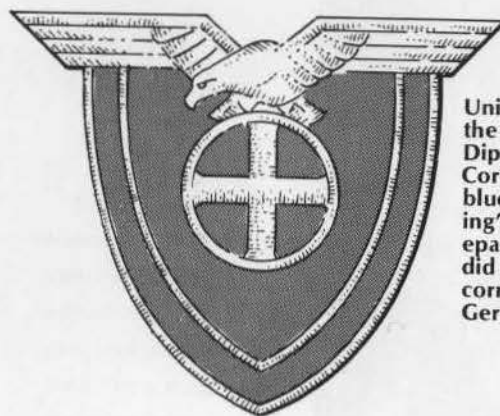
It has been estimated that some 50,000 Norwegians served in German military, or para-military, formations in World War II.



An interesting, and rare, photo of a Norwegian volunteer in the German Labor Service (the R.A.D.), not the Norwegian A.T. Note the Norwegian flag emblem on his right upper arm.



Himmler, Quisling and A.V. Hagelin (Quisling's Deputy) at the Hotel "Adlon" in Berlin. Note Hagelin's arm badge.



Unidentified badge, worn by Hagelin in the above photo probably for the N.S. Diplomatic Corps. The uniform of this Corps would appear to have been dark blue (formal dress) or grey-green ("working" dress) and in both cases worn with epaulettes (which N.S. Political Leaders did not wear). This choice of uniform corresponds almost exactly to that of the German Diplomatic Corps.

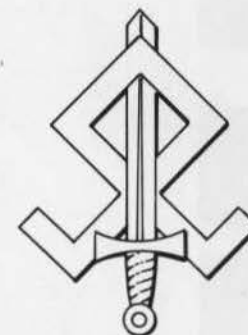


(a)



(b)

N.S. Welfare Organization (N.S. Hjelpeorganisasjon) (a) first design (1942); (b) second design (1944). Both are red and white.



Emblem of the Germanische Landdienst.



"Front Sister" badge. Given to Norwegian nurses serving with combat units. Roughly the same size as the Front Line Soldier's badge. A silver badge with the words "Front Søster" in sham runic script.

DEMARK



At the same time he launched his attack on Norway (9 April 1940), Hitler also invaded Denmark. The country was overrun and occupied with virtually no resistance on the part of the Danes.

There were several pro-Nazi political parties in Denmark, not because fascism was rife in that country but rather because no one individual of sufficient stature emerged who could bring them all together. There was no Danish equivalent of Vidkun Quisling, and the Germans, for their part, never seem to have considered entrusting political power to the Danish Nazis.

#### D.N.S.A.P.

The largest of the Danish Nazi parties was the D.N.S.A.P. (*Danmarks National-Socialistiske Arbejder Parti* - Denmark's National-Socialist Workers' Party) founded in November 1930, originally under the leadership of a three-man committee, but in 1933 taken over by Frits (or Fritz) Clausen, a medical doctor from North Schleswig. In the 1935 elections, the D.N.S.A.P. polled 16,257 votes; by 1939 it had almost doubled this with 31,032 votes and three seats in the Danish parliament.

The D.N.S.A.P. was a highly organized party (perhaps too much so considering its relatively small size). It consisted of 15 "Main Districts" (*Sysseler*) within Denmark and two others abroad (one in Germany, the other in Norway). Each *Sysseler* was subdivided into *Herred* (literally "hundreds") and then into *Afdelingen* (departments). To administer this structure the D.N.S.A.P. had its own Corps of Political Leaders whose uniform was military style comprising a greenish-brown tunic, breeches and brown top boots, light green shirt, dark green tie and peaked cap. The color of the cap band varied with rank. The cap badge, silver or gold according to rank, was in the form of an elaborate Norse pattern with, in the center, the D.N.S.A.P. emblem - a white swastika on red within a white circle. The upper part of the cap badge set (worn on the peak of the cap) was the white cross of Denmark on a red oval. On the left upper arm a white swastika on a red shield was worn. For the outer frame of this shield there are no less than twelve variants (again, depending on the rank of the wearer). Rank insignia appeared on the shoulder straps. Buttons



Two examples of senior ranking Political Leaders. Uniform was a greenish brown with breeches and top boots, Sam Browne belt (belt and boots were brown); green shirt with darker green tie.



Cap badge: silver for some ranks, gilt for others. (see below)

#### Cap Colors were:

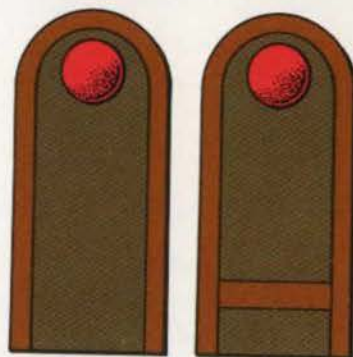
- (a) For *Afdelings-Skriver/Fuldmaegtig*: all brown including piping. Silver badge.
- (b) For *Herreds-Skriver*: as above. For *Herreds Fuldmaegtig/Gruppenleder*: brown with grass green cap band and piping. *Herreds-Afdelingsleder/Leder*: brown with grey-green cap band and piping. Silver badge.
- (c) *Syssel-Skriver/Fuldmaegtig*: brown with grass green cap band and silver piping. *Syssel-Gruppenleder*: brown with grey-green cap band, silver piping and silver badge. *Syssel-Afdelingsleder*: as before but with a gilt cap badge. *Syssel-leder* had the same plus oak leaves on peak of cap.
- (d) *Stabs/Lands-Skriver*: brown with grass green band and silver piping. *Stabs/Lands-Afdelingsleder*: brown with grey-green cap band, silver badge and silver piping. *Stabs/Lands-Fuldmaegtig and Gruppenleder*: as before but with a gold cap badge. *Stabs/Lands-Leder and Partifører*: as before but with gold piping and oak leaves on peak of cap.

could be brown, green, silver or gold in ascending order of rank! One is left wondering if these 25 ranks, each with their different arm badge, shoulder straps, buttons and membership badges, were really necessary or whether much of this administrative structure existed on paper only and was intended to give the impression of a larger party organization than, in fact, was the case. These uniforms came into



being only *after* the occupation since the wearing of political uniforms had been banned in Denmark since 1933. (Denmark was the first country in Europe to introduce such a ban.)

#### (A) AFDELING



Afdelings  
Skriver

Afdelings  
Fuldmaegtig



Afdelings  
Gruppenleder



Afdelings  
Leder



Arm badge (white  
swastika on red,  
brown "frame")



Arm badge (white  
swastika on red,  
green "frame")



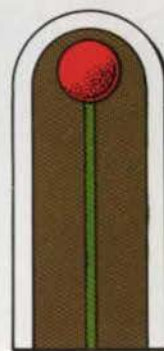
Arm badge (white  
swastika on red,  
"frame" of green  
oak leaves)

Afdeling: Department  
Skriver: Clerk  
Fuldmaegtig: Head Clerk  
Gruppe: Group  
Leder: Leader

#### (B) HERRED



Herreds  
Skriver



Herreds  
Fuldmaegtig



Herreds  
Gruppenleder



Herreds  
Afdelingsleder



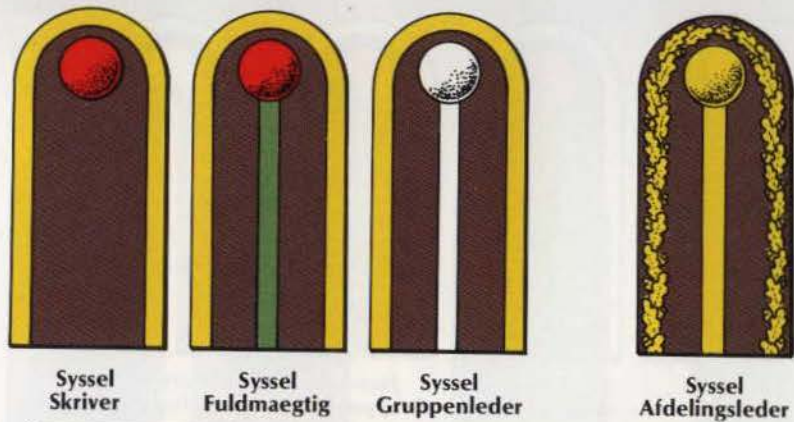
Arm badge (white  
swastika on red,  
silver "frame")



Herreds Leder shoulder strap  
and arm badge.



(C) SYSLET (Part 1)



Arm badge

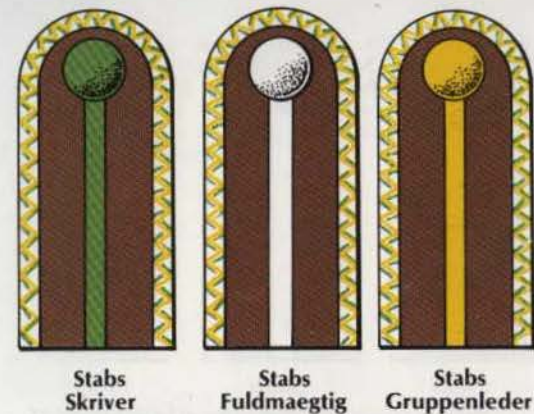


Arm badge



Shoulder strap and arm badge  
for rank of Sysset Leder

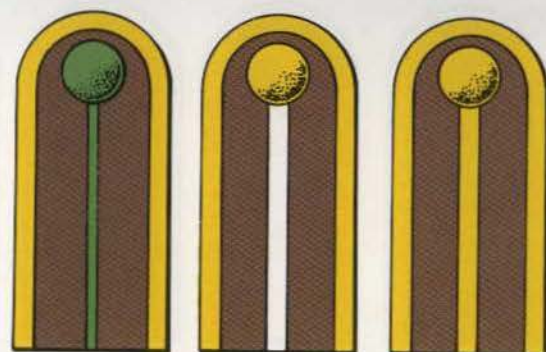
(D) SYSLET (Part 2 - Staff)



Arm badge

Stabs Afdelingsleder and Stabsleder have the same shoulder straps and arm badges as for Sysset Afdelingsleder and Sysset Leder respectively.





Lands  
Skriver

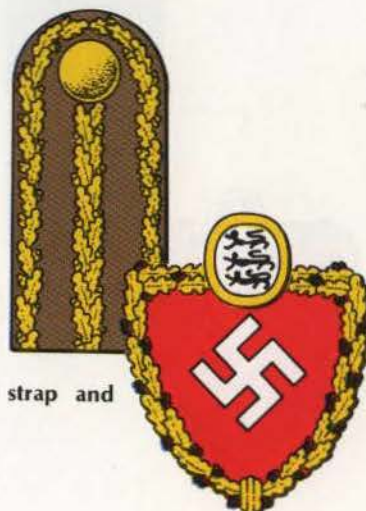
Lands  
Fuldmaegtig

Lands  
Gruppenleder



Arm badge

Lands Afdelingsleder (not illustrated has same shoulder strap and arm badge as for Syssel Afdelingsleder.



Landsleder shoulder strap and arm badge



Left: shoulder strap and arm badge of the Party Leader (i.e. Frits Clausen). Golden surround and golden oak leaves (on shoulder strap). Gold and green wreath, red shield, white swastika, three black lions on white (for arm badge)

### D.N.S.A.P. Badges

This Waffen S.S. Rottenführer is shown wearing the D.N.S.A.P. member badge.



Ordinary Party Member  
(White swastika outlined in gilt on red)





Party Member resident outside Denmark (gilt lettering on white surround, center red with white swastika)



Party Badge of Honor (Gold). There was also one in silver.



Party Members badge for former front-line fighters (gilt swords)



Badge of Honor for former front-line fighters (gilt wreath and gilt swords)



(a)

Political Leaders Badge, Type (a) worn on left lapel. There are four variants: (i) with gold oak leaves, (ii) with silver oak leaves, (iii) with green and gold oak leaves, and (iv) with red, or dark brown oak leaves.



(b)

Political Leaders Badge, type (b) worn on left lapel. Four variants are: (i) with gold oak leaves, (ii) with silver oak leaves, (iii) with green and gold oak leaves, and (iv) with red, or dark brown, oak leaves. The type worn depended on the rank of the Political Leader.



Member of S.A. (Silver and red)



N.S.D.A.P.N. member's lapel badge



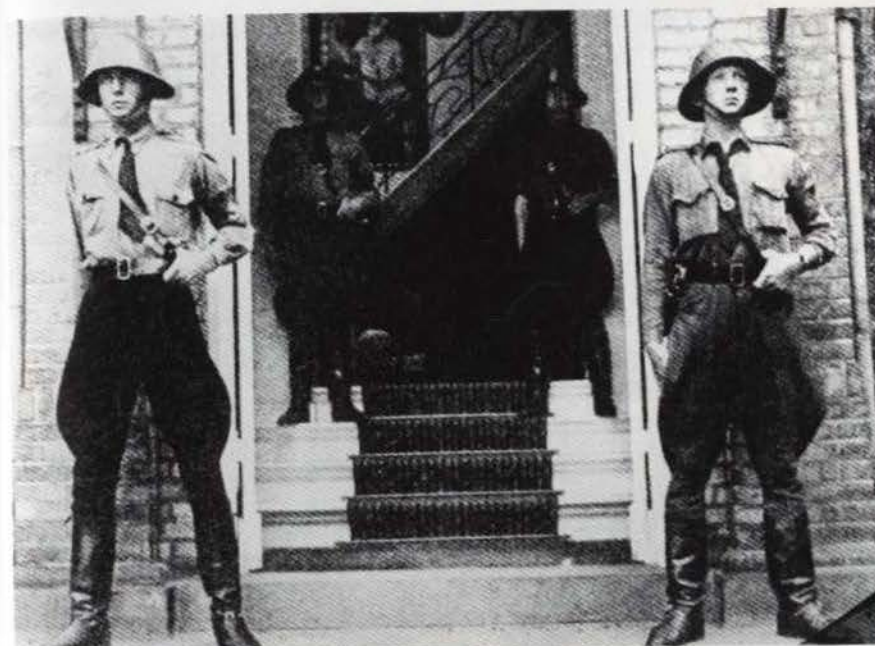
N.S.U. (Youth Section) civil lapel badge (gilt outlined white cross on red within a red circle)



Deutsche Berufsgruppen Nordschleswig. The German Trade Groups of North Schleswig. This was the N.S.D.A.P.N.'s equivalent of the D.A.F.



"Sympathizer's tie pin" (white metal swastika)



S.A. guards (in Danish steel helmets) on duty outside headquarters of D.N.S.A.P.

The D.N.S.A.P. had its own Storm Troopers - the S.A. (*Storm Afdelinger*) whose normal service dress was a brown shirt with black breeches and black top boots, a black tie and a black brassard with a white swastika. Headgear could be either a black peaked cap or black forage cap. On the peaked cap there was a two-part badge consisting of (upper part) the national red and white cockade of Denmark, and (lower part) a runic "S" and "A" within a circle. "Full dress" uniform (possessed by the few who could afford it) consisted of a brown tunic, breeches, "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap worn with a khaki shirt and tie and forage cap. On duty, guards wore a Danish army steel helmet with the runic S.A. badge on the front.

There were seven S.A. ranks:

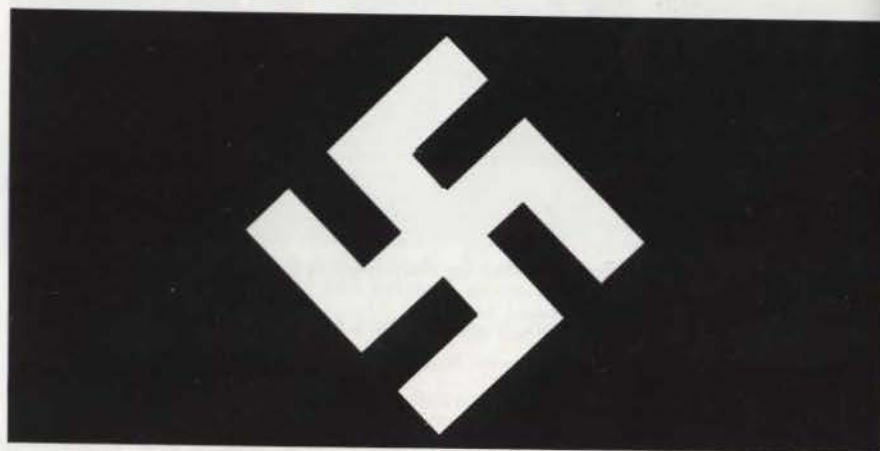
- (1) S.A. Maend
- (2) S.A. Sektionsfører (Leader of a Section of 3 - 9 men)



S.A. man in  
summer uniform.



S.A. cap badge (white and red  
national cockade above runic S.A.  
in a circle.



S.A. brassard (white swastika on black)

- (3) S.A. Gruppenfører (Leader of a Group of 10 - 20 men)
- (4) S.A. Stormfører (Leader of a Storm of four Gruppen)
- (5) S.A. Kolonnensfører (Leader of 3 or 4 Storme)
- (6) S.A. Divisionsfører (Leader of several Kolonnen)
- (7) Øverste S.A. Fører (Highest S.A. Leader, i.e., Frits Clausen himself)

The scheme of rank insignia is not known, but it would appear to have been indicated on the collar patches, the color of which may have varied according to the branch of the S.A. involved. There were Infantry, Cavalry, Motor and Pioneer branches, as well as an S.A. Naval Corps (*S.A. Marinekorps*) and an S.A. Flying Corps (*S.A. Flyverkorps*).

In December 1939 the S.A. (not, at that time a uniformed body) could muster only 912 men, but by August 1942 this had risen to 2,514 (the figures are those given by the D.N.S.A.P.'s own headquarters). S.A. men were sometimes sent on training courses to the S.S. camp at Sennheim in Alsace.



Bendt Nielsen, Copenhagen

Members of the Musicians Section of the S.A. of the D.N.S.A.P.  
with traditional Danish trumpets (Lurs). In full dress uniform.



Enlargement of small badge worn on the side of the forage cap  
(in photo above). Actual size of this badge is only 31mm

The Youth Section of the D.N.S.A.P. was known as the N.S.U. (*National-Socialistiske Ungdom - National-Socialist Youth*). It was first created in September 1934 and was subdivided into two age groups:

(a) *Skjoldunge* (roughly "Youth Defense Corps") for boys between the ages of 10 and 14 years.

(b) *Vaebnere* (Squires) for lads in the 15 to 18 age group.

Later the name *Vaebnere* was changed to *Hird* (like Quisling's militia). Both sections were garbed in an all-black uniform: shirt, trousers (or breeches), neckerchief, and forage cap. Officers could wear black tunics and, for ceremonial occasions, white shirts and black ties. The emblem of the N.S.U. was a white closed sun-wheel. This was worn, in metal, on both shoulder straps, also on a black brassard - later this brassard was dropped and the closed sun-wheel was worn on a white outlined black shield on the left upper arm. Ranks were worn on the collar patches on both sides. The D.N.S.A.P.'s handbook states that the collar patches are black, but this may have been changed since photographs indicate that they were a different color from the shirt (possibly red). On the front of the forage cap a red and white national cockade was worn. From the peak of the cap a white tassel hung (a Danish army tradition).

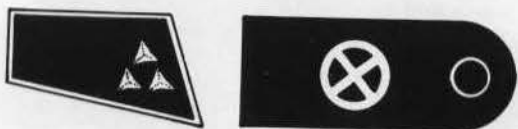
#### D.N.S.A.P. "HIRD" and "SKJOLDUNGE" "Officer" Ranks



**Stammefører**  
(3mm wide silver piping around patch)



**Bannefører**  
(3mm wide silver piping around patch)



**Storbannefører**  
(3mm wide silver piping around patch)

#### Non-Commissioned Ranks



**Hirdmand and Skjoldunge**  
("Hird" or "Stamme" number)



**Følgefører**



**Hirdfører**



**Storchirfører**

All uniforms are black and all insignia white metal. Right: forage cap is black with white tassel. On front of cap is a red and white national cockade.







Winter uniform. Black tunic (or "battle dress" blouse). Belt buckle is closed sun wheel.



Officers (i.e. Stammefører and above) wore a lanyard with white and "Banne" color intertwined.



Summer dress. Black shirt, black neckerchief.

All ranks except the National Youth Leader wore a black brassard with a white closed sun cross. Later the black brassard was replaced by a white outlined shield (also with white closed sun wheel).



Signals



Seaman



Medical



Bandsman



Flier



Motorist

The above, all black and white, were worn by the specialists in these subjects (probably on the arm).



Left: "Field Sports Badge" (the motto means "Ready for Denmark" - the slogan of the Youth Movement).

Right: collar patch worn by National Youth Leader (Hans Jensen). Apparently a silver "W" on black (the significance of this is unknown!) A previous National Youth Leader wore four horizontally arranged stars on a white elongated patch (the stars were four cornered, like German army-style, not three cornered).



Lads from the D.N.S.A.P. Hird set out for a camp in Germany.



Arm badge. (This replaced the former black brassard with white closed sun wheel).



Arm badge for National Youth Leader (Landsungdomsfører). Note the similarity of this badge to the arm badge of the higher ranks of "Political Leaders".

The Girls' Section was known as the *Danske Piger* (Danish Maidens). Their badge was, as above, a white closed sun-wheel, also worn on the left upper arm. The girls wore the same style of forage cap as the boys. Some photos show the uniform as being black, but others show a lighter color (possibly grey-green). The rank insignia (worn on the collar) seems to have been the same as for the boys.

The first National Youth Leader was Count Christian von Schalburg. He was succeeded by Hans Jensen. Photos show Jensen wearing what would appear to be a "W" on both collar patches.

There were sub-branches of the D.N.S.A.P. for Teachers, Writers, Actors, Musicians, Sportsmen and even Clergymen. University students were organized in the N.S.A. (*National Studenter Aktion*) under Erik Spleth.



Right: Two officers of the Danish Maidens on a visit to Germany. The girl on the left wears above her left breast pocket sports winners badges of the annual German Hitler Youth competitions.

In civilian clothes Party members wore a lapel badge which was a white swastika on a red background within a white circle. There were two "honor badges" - one with the addition of a wreath of silver oak leaves, the other with a gold wreath. This latter is almost identical, apart from its bow, to the highest grade Political Leaders lapel badge (of which, in all, there were twelve variants!) Those who had served as volunteers in the German armed forces (see below) were allowed the addition of crossed swords to either their Party membership badge or, should they possess one, their Party Honor Badge.

The N.S.U. civil badge was a closed sun-wheel in white but on a red, not black, background. Members of the S.A. wore as their civil lapel badge the white runic S.A. monogram within a white circle on a red background. Those who sympathized with the aims of the D.N.S.A.P. but were not Party members, wore a white swastika lapel stick-pin.

### N.S.D.A.P.-N.

Denmark's most southern province, Schleswig-Holstein, had been lost to Germany after the war of 1864, but following the First World War the League of Nations organized a plebiscite to determine whether its citizens wished to be Germans or Danes. The result was a compromise: North Schleswig voted three to one to become part of Denmark, while South Schleswig voted four to one to remain German. This meant that there was a small German minority in North Schleswig (or, as the Danes called it, South Jutland). With the rise of Hitler, the *Volksdeutsche* of North Schleswig embraced the Nazi faith eagerly, so eagerly in fact that by the mid-1930's there were no fewer than four rival Nazi parties in that region. Between 1933 and 1935 a bitter struggle was fought out as to which party had the best claim to the title. It was finally won by Jens Møller, a veterinary surgeon from Stenderup who, in August 1935, succeeded in drawing them together to form the N.S.D.A.P.-N. (*National-Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei - Nordschleswigs* - the National-Socialist German Workers' Party of North Schleswig). The unity did not, however, last; a rival "Nazi Party", the N.S.A.N. (*National-Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei Nordschleswigs*) under Jep Nissen, was set up and this split in the *Volksdeutsche* ranks continued until the time of the occupation.

The ban on political uniforms meant that the N.S.D.A.P.-N. had, until freed from this restriction by the defeat of Denmark, to camouflage its "storm troops" as sports, or social clubs. The equivalent of the S.S. or S.A. in Germany, was the S.K. (*Schleswigische Kameradschaft* - the Schleswig Comrades) which had motorized, "cavalry" and motor-boat sub-sections. This latter used to carry out combined naval exercises with units of the Marine S.A. from neighboring German Flensburg (much to the annoyance of the Danish authorities!) After the occupation the S.K. wore a uniform consisting of a white shirt, black breeches and top boots, "Sam Browne" belt and cross strap and Nazi type brassard similar to that of the German S.A. except that (it



Parade of the S.K. through a town (possibly Duppel) in North Schleswig.

appears from photos) officers had white (or silver) edges. A blue ski cap with a version of the Nazi eagle and swastika completed the summer uniform. In winter a black tunic with "SK" on the left lapel could be worn.

According to the official "Volkskalender" for 1943 the S.K. had a total of 1,761 members. The N.S.D.A.P.-N. had a Women's Section (N.S.F.N.) and an active youth branch known as the *Deutsche Jugendschaft Nordschleswig* (D.J.N.) which was the counterpart of the Hitler Youth of Germany. The *Deutsche Mädchenschaft Nordschleswig* (D.M.N.) was the girls section and equivalent to the B.D.M in the



Dr. K. G. Kiehlmann

Left: Bronze badge "Für Leistung in der D.J.N." (For Achievement in the D.J.N.). The *Deutsche Jugendschaft Nordschleswig* equivalent of the Hitler Youth "Leistungsabzeichen".

Reich. Youth uniforms appear to have been virtually identical to their counterparts in Germany.

The membership badge of both the N.S.D.A.P.-N. and the N.S.A.N. was the same as that of the German Nazi Party, i.e. a circular badge with a black swastika on a white background encircled in red; only the initials of the Party on the outer circle were different. There was absolutely no co-operation between these two *Volksdeutsche* Nazi parties or between either of them and the Danish D.N.S.A.P.

Other minor Danish Nazi-fascist political parties which may be mentioned are:

(a) Danish Unity and Corporatist Party (*Dansk Samlings og Korporationsparti*) founded in 1926 and modelled more on Italian Fascism than German National-Socialism. In July 1941 it amalgamated with the Dansk Front (see below).

(b) Danish National-Socialist Party (*Dansk National-Socialistisk Parti*) founded in November 1930, that is to say about the same time as the D.N.S.A.P., it changed its name in 1934 to Danish Socialist Party. Its leader was Wilfred Petersen.

(c) National-Socialist Workers' Party (*National-Socialistisk Arbejder Parti*) founded in October 1935, its platform seemed to consist of little more than rabid anti-semitism. After the occupation it established a Danish Anti-Jewish League.

(d) Danish Front (*Dansk Front*) founded in the summer of 1940 as another breakaway from the D.N.S.A.P. Eighteen months later it joined up with Den Nationale Aktion (see below).

(e) Danish-Nordic Front (*Dansk-Nordisk Front*) founded in the summer of 1940 as another breakaway from the D.N.S.A.P.

(f) The National Block (*Den Nationale Blok*) founded in April 1940.

(g) National Action (*Den Nationale Aktion*) - an expansion of the above with the addition of the Danish Front.

(h) National Regeneration Party (*Det Nationale Genrejsningsparti*) founded in July 1940 originally under the title Danish Folk Awakening (*Dansk Folkerejsning*).

(i) Danish People's Party (*Dansk Folkeparti*) formed in March 1941 by the fusion of Petersen's Danish Socialist Party with the National Regeneration Party and the National Cooperation Movement (*Nationalt Samvirke*). It had its own "storm troopers" known as the Nordic Legion (*Nordiske Legion*).

Apart from these nine small parties and the two larger Nazi parties there was also a miscellany of small groupings too unimportant to grace with the name of political parties. Lest this give the impression that fascism was popular among the Danes it is worth pointing out that in the free election (held incredibly during the German occupation - the only one of its kind in Europe) the pro-Nazi vote amounted to little more than 7% of the national poll.



### The Labor Service (*Land-Arbejds-Tjenesten, L.A.T.*)

In September 1940 Clausen sent some forty young D.N.S.A.P. members to Germany to study the organization of the German Labor Service (R.A.D.) with the object of establishing a parallel formation in Denmark. Thus the Land-Arbejds-Tjenesten (literally Land Work Service) was born. The first camp was opened at Gudumholm in Northern Jutland on 20 April 1941 (significantly Hitler's birthday!) A Leadership School (*Førerskole*) was started that October at Hareskov in North Zealand and a month later the first girls camp was opened (a second followed in April 1942.) The L.A.T. established some seven or eight camps in various parts of Denmark. Young men and women between the ages of 17 and 25 could sign on for a minimum engagement of three months.

The men's uniform consisted of a green tunic with four pockets, green trousers and a green ski cap. On the left upper arm the male L.A.T. emblem was worn - this is a white spade upon a green V of ears of barley. On the shaft of the spade is a white swastika. This motif is on a red shield with a white border. The same emblem was used as the cap badge. Ranks were indicated on the shoulder straps by silver bars for N.C.O.'s and silver "stars" (actually acorns) for officers. There were ten male ranks:

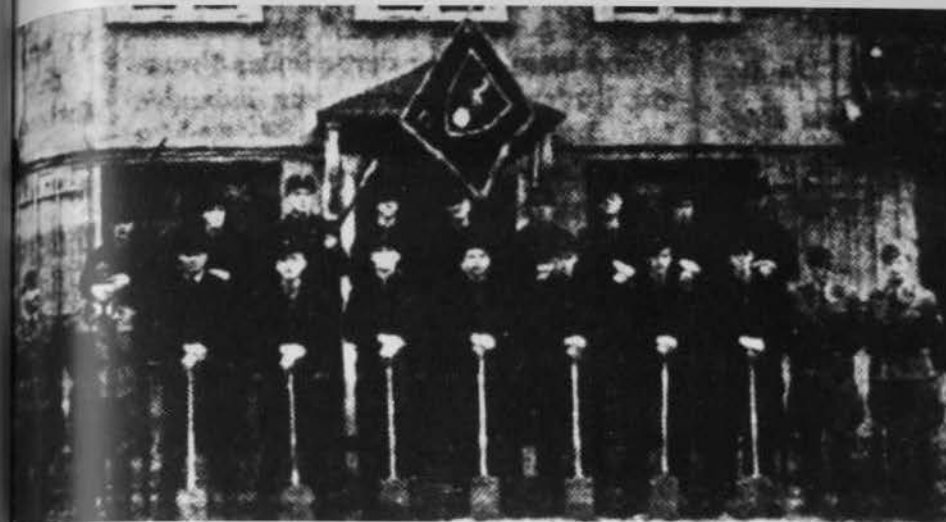
- (i) Tropsfører
- (ii) Overtropsfører
- (iii) Vagtmester
- (iv) Overvagtmester
- (v) Feltmester
- (vi) Overfeltmester
- (vii) Arbejdsfører
- (viii) Overarbejdsfører
- (ix) Generalarbejdsfører
- (x) Landarbejdsfører

but only five female ranks:

- (i) Kameratskapsfører
- (ii) Ungpigefører
- (iii) Pigeunderfører
- (iv) Pigefører
- (v) Stabspigefører

The L.A.T. was unarmed. Guards at their camps carried spades in the manner of rifles and wore Danish army steel helmets.

A colored photograph of an L.A.T. girls camp shows the girls wearing plain white dresses with a red and white checked apron - not really a uniform except in the sense that all are dressed exactly alike. The female L.A.T. badge has the green V of barley ears at whose base is a white swastika; across the V is a golden horn (discovered in 1634 by a South Jutland girl). Like the men's emblem, this is on a red shield with a



Students at the Ravnehus (Raven's House) Leadership School of the L.A.T. at Hareskov.



L.A.T. work party (note variety of belt buckles).

white border. The L.A.T. badge was worn by both sexes on the left upper arm. Rank for girls may have been indicated by the color of the brooch which is an elaborate "wheel" device possibly symbolizing both a spinning wheel and the four-armed "sun wheel" which is the badge of the D.N.S.A.P.'s youth movement.

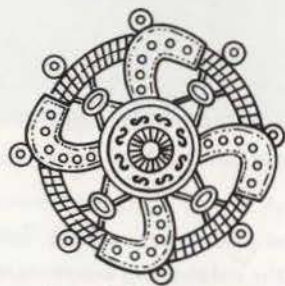
The L. A.T. aimed at an annual intake of 30,000 but whether it achieved this number it is impossible to know since it did not publish membership figures.



Badge for men. White spade and swastika, green ears of corn, on red shield with white outline. Worn on left upper arm and also used as the cap badge.



Badge for Women. (Colors as for men's badge but with gold horn)



Brooch for women (for wearing with uniform)



Civil lapel badge for women (bronze)

## Nordland Regiment

On 20 April 1941 the establishment was announced of a Nordland Regiment in which suitable volunteers between the ages of 17 and 23 from Denmark and Norway could sign on for a minimum engagement of two years at the end of which they would receive joint German citizenship. *Nebenstelle Nordsee* in Copenhagen acted as the recruiting agency for the Danes. The history of the Nordland Regiment and its later incorporation into the Wiking Division is dealt with more fully in the Chapter on Norway and need not be repeated here. Sufficient to say that some 200 Danes were already in S.S. uniform even before Hitler's invasion of Russia.



S.A. members stand guard at a recruiting station for the Nordland Regiment, in Copenhagen.

## Freikorps Danmark

Within a week of that invasion, the Danish government declared its intention of raising a corps of volunteers to fight on the German side against the Soviets. This body was to be known as the Freikorps Danmark (the name is something of a linguistic hybrid since, if Danish, it would be Frikorps Danmark; if German, Freikorps Dänemark). The word Freikorps (or Frikorps) was chosen since this had been the designation of a Danish volunteer expeditionary force which had fought as part of the White Army against the Bolsheviks in the post-1917 Russian Civil War.

The Freikorps was announced on 28 June 1941 as being open to men between the ages of 17 and 35 who were either currently in the Danish armed forces or who had



completed their period of conscript service within the previous ten years (i.e. between 1931 and 1941). Those who were career soldiers were promised that they would receive an equivalent rank.

Although, naturally, the D.N.S.A.P. and the other pro-Nazi parties actively campaigned on behalf of the Freikorps, it was very definitely *not* the protege of any political party, but was an *official* body sponsored by the Danish government. In this it differed from all other such anti-communist volunteer corps in other German-occupied countries.

From the very start the Freikorps was a part of the Waffen S.S., although, like the Norwegian Legion, this fact was concealed from the public in its homeland. The first commander of the Freikorps was a Danish artillery officer, Lt. Col. P.C.Kryssing. An initial draft of 480 men, mostly regular soldiers and still in Danish army uniform, left for Hamburg on 19 July where they formed the 1st Battalion of the new corps and were kitted out with S.S. uniforms. On 10 August a 2nd Battalion was formed from further volunteers from Denmark plus about one hundred Danes who had transferred from the Nordland Regiment. By the end of 1941 the strength of the Freikorps was 1,164 men. The standard Waffen S.S. uniform was worn with the normal S.S. runes collar patch although, for a brief period the red and white flag of Denmark on a black patch was worn as the collar device in place of the runes. On the left cuff a cuff title with "Freikorps Danmark" was worn. This existed in two versions, one the standard S.S. Bevo variety with silver Latin script on a black band with silver edges, or in silver Gothic script on a black band without silver edges. Just above the cuff title a National shield (a white cross on red) was worn. This too existed in slightly different patterns. Some were "home made" with the white arms of the cross being sewn separately onto the red shield; others were stamped.

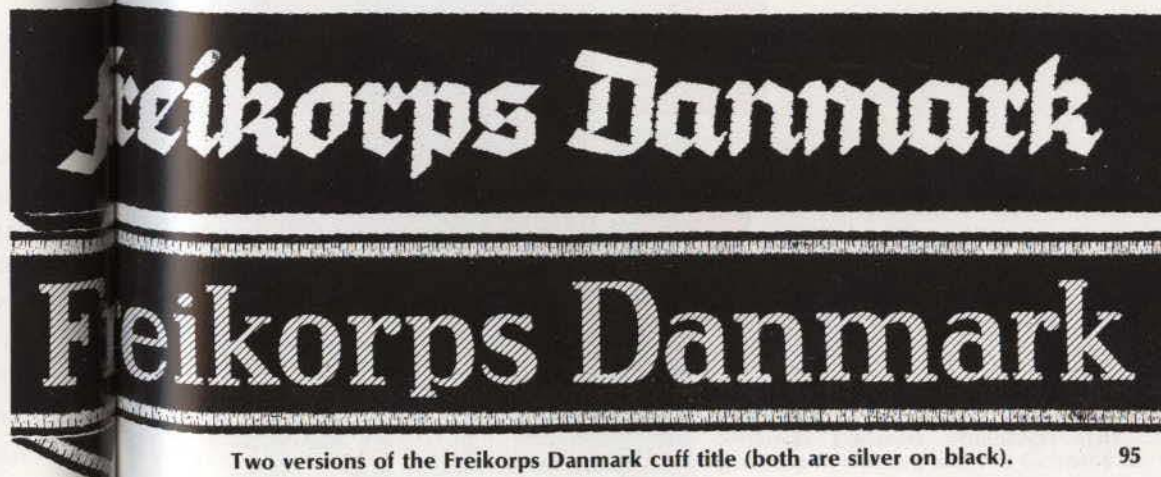


S.S. Corporal with the rare "Danish Flag" collar patch



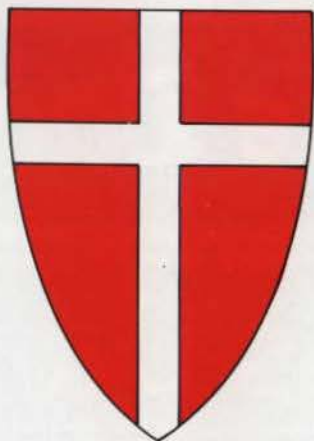
Danish flag type collar patch

The first Danish volunteers in Freikorps Danmark being outfitted in Waffen-S.S. uniforms.



Two versions of the Freikorps Danmark cuff title (both are silver on black).





Arm badge of the "home made" variety.

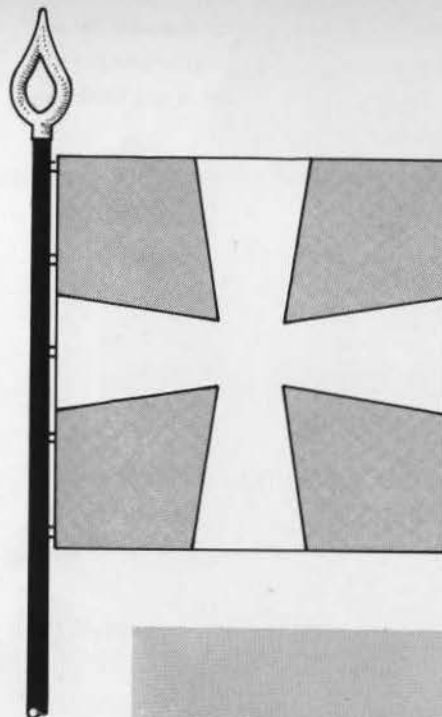
The first design of the Freikorps flag was simply the Danish national flag with the addition of the words "Frikorps Danmark" (Danish, not German, spelling) in white in the upper left quarter. The second design was a white *croix patée* on a red field (i.e. more akin to the German army type of standard).

1st design of flag.

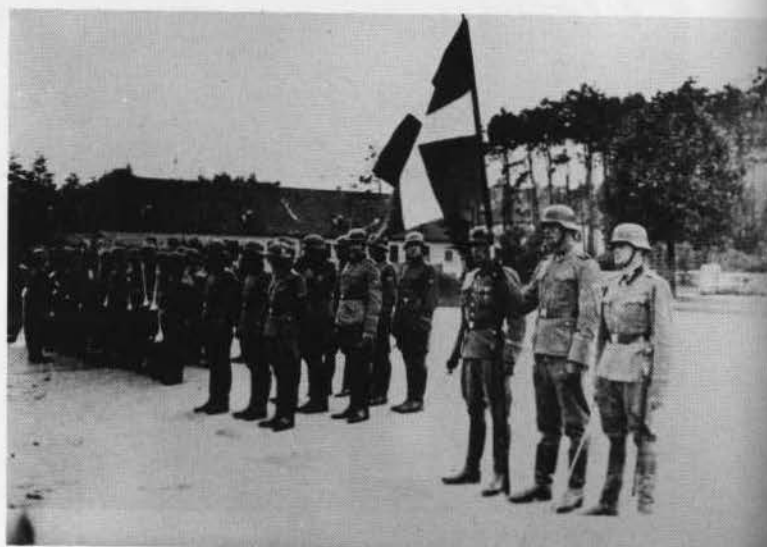


Freikorps Danmark volunteers start their trip to training bases in Germany.





2nd design of flag of the Freikorps Danmark. (Red and white.)



Parade of the Freikorps Danmark with second design flag.

The Germans distrusted Kryssing. Himmler relieved him of his command on 8 February 1942 and replaced him with a more acceptable candidate, Count Christian Frederick von Schalburg, a Danish aristocrat of Baltic-German origin and one-time leader of the D.N.S.A.P. youth, who was currently serving as a *Sturmabführer* in the Wiking Division. The Freikorps, under its new commander, went into action in May 1942 attached to the S.S. Totenkopf Division. It took part in a celebrated action at

Demjansk where, on 2 June, von Schalburg was killed. He was given a state funeral by the authorities in Denmark.

The next commander of the Freikorps, Hans-Albert von Lettow-Vorbeck, was even shorter lived - he fell on 11 June 1942. His successor was Knud Børge Martinsen. The Freikorps was brought back to Denmark in September for four weeks leave having suffered 121 casualties (killed). It returned to the front in October 1942 but was finally withdrawn in April 1943. The following month it was officially disbanded.



S.S. Obersturmbannführer K.B. Martinsen, last commander of "Freikorps Danmark".

### Nordland Division

The history of the Nordland Division is given in the chapter on Norway and will not be reiterated except insofar as it concerns the Danes. The Freikorps veterans, apart from those who opted for some other form of German service, were linked with their compatriots from the Nordland Regiment of the Wiking Division to form an all-Danish regiment within the recently formed 11th S.S. Nordland Division. The regiment (as has already been mentioned) was originally known as S.S. Grenadier-Regt. No. 1 "Danmark", later as S.S. Panzer-Grenadier Regt. "Danmark". After January 1944 it

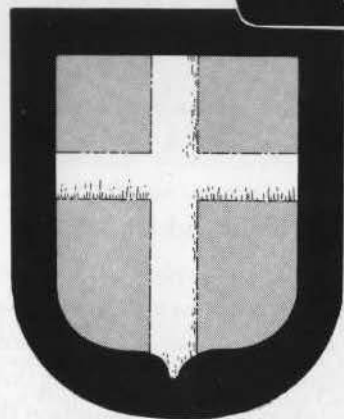
was called S.S. Panzer-Grenadier Regt. 24 "Dänemark" (*danisches Nr. 1*). As with other nominally "single nationality" units, it was far from homogeneous. The Danes in fact made up only about 40% of its total strength; the rest consisted of Germans (about 25%) and *Volksdeutsche* from, mainly, Rumania. In December 1943 it had 41 officers, 193 non-commissioned officers, and 1,123 men.

The most usual collar patch worn by the Nordland Division was the standard Waffen S.S. runes. An open sun wheel, or mobile swastika, was certainly worn by some members and a closed sun wheel (of the type worn by the D.N.S.A.P. youth) on a black patch was made, although no evidence of this ever having been worn can be found. It may well be that this closed sun wheel device was intended for the Danish Regiment, but no photograph of this being worn by any S.S. man has come to light. The Danes were allowed to wear a cuff title (standard silver and black Bevo type) with "Danmark" and, above this, a white cross on a red shield. This is of the smaller S.S. type than the previous Freikorps version and is on a black backing.

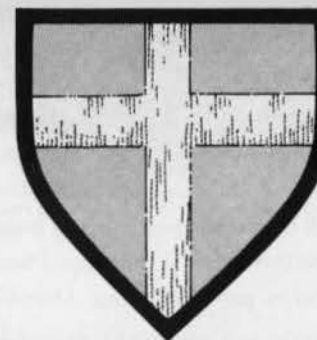


Collar patch with closed "sun wheel". Manufactured but no photographic evidence exists of its having been worn.

Normal S.S. runes worn concurrently with other special collar devices by non-German members of the Nordland Division.



Arm shield of Denmark worn by 24th Regiment (which comprised the Danish volunteers).



An unusual version of arm shield (possibly privately made). In Forman Collection.



Cuff title "Danmark" (the spelling here is Danish not German) worn by 24th Regiment.

In September 1943 the Nordland Division saw its first action (against the Partisans of Yugoslavia). The following month it was sent into the front line in Russia where it remained for the rest of the war. In the very last days, the 1st Battalion of "Danmark" and "Norge" Regiments were detached from the Nordland Division and sent to join the racially mixed Wiking Division.

### Schalburg Corps

As we have noted, most of the Freikorps veterans were, on the disbandment of their formation, transferred without much regard to their personal wishes, to the Nordland Division. But some were allowed to transfer to other branches of the German armed forces. For example, some at least went into the Kriegsmarine (there exists an interesting photo of a Dane in the uniform of the German Navy who wears on his left cuff the "Freikorps Danmark" cuff title!) Others, including its erstwhile commander, K.B. Martinsen, returned to their homeland there to set up, with German connivance, what amounted in all but name, to a Danish branch of the Germanic S.S.

The German authorities had adopted a much greater "live and let live" attitude towards Denmark than towards any other country which their forces occupied. This had even extended to allowing, in March 1943, an unfettered general election. But its results had not been particularly pleasing to them. Clausen's D.N.S.A.P. did not



increase its parliamentary representation (it remained at three seats) even though it had done slightly better at the polls than in the previous, pre-war, election (43,267 as against 31,032 in 1939). Clausen's ineptitude as a leader and his failure to draw together the various competing pro-Nazi Danes coupled with an increasing resistance on the part of the Danish people and their King, prompted the German authorities to adopt a much less tolerant line. They now felt justified in establishing a native Germanic S.S. although they still hesitated to call it by its true name. Significantly they did not choose to employ the D.N.S.A.P. as their instrument in this enterprise but did so through the Freikorps and its pro-Nazi leader, Martinsen.

While on leave in Copenhagen in April 1943 Martinsen set up what he called a Germanic Corps (*Germansk Korps*) which he shortly thereafter renamed "Schalburg Corps" in memory of the Freikorps most popular commander. Several ex-Freikorps soldiers formed themselves into the cadre of the new corps which now opened its ranks to "all young men of nordic blood" without, theoretically, regard to their political affiliation. The corps was divided into two groups: Group I, the uniformed "regular" troops; and Group II, its civilian and non-regular supporters who were expected to give it their moral and financial backing. This second Group came to be known as the *Dansk Folke-Vaern* (Danish People's Defense) and, although civilians, were expected to practice the use of small arms. If they already belonged to a uniformed political formation (the S.A. or N.S.U. etc.) they were allowed to wear its uniform on duty. The *Dansk Folke-Vaern* attracted away many of Clausen's former adherents. For example, the Anti-Jewish League quit the D.N.S.A.P. to join this new grouping. Another splinter group from the D.N.S.A.P. was Max Arildskov's *Nye Danmark* (New Denmark) movement which had been formed after Clausen's poor showing in the March election. Arildskov started his own "S.A." (known as the *Landstormen*) consisting of about two hundred uniformed men with a civilian back-up of around a further five hundred. In December 1943 Arildskov placed his *Landstormen* at the disposal of the Schalburg Corps - in fact only about fifty were deemed worthy of acceptance into the Corps, the rest continued their existence as a sort of auxiliary formation (still retaining the title *Landstormen*).

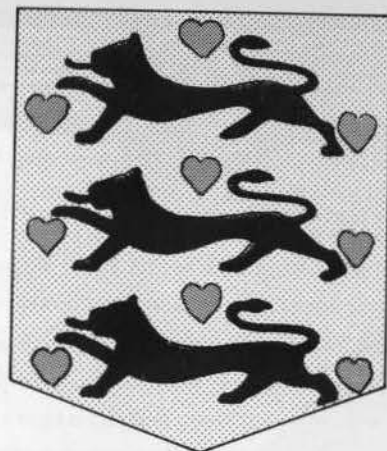
The Schalburg Corps adopted a black uniform that was virtually identical to that of the German Allgemeine S.S. Rank insignia was also the same. Indeed the only points of difference between Danish and German S.S. uniform was that in place of an eagle and swastika as the upper part of the cap badge, the Danes wore a white mobile swastika (or sun wheel) on a black circle in the center of a pair of "wings" which bear a strong resemblance to the wings of the S.S. eagle. The collar device was also a white mobile swastika but this is not identical to that worn by some members of the Nordland Division; it is slightly larger and not tilted on its side. Neither a swastika brassard, nor an S.S. eagle, was worn on the left upper arm. In place of either of these was a heraldic shield of Denmark (three blue lions on a yellow field with red hearts). The belt buckle has the same mobile swastika as the collar patch. Around



Upper part of cap badge. The lower part is the customary S.S. type death's head.



Right collar patch. Although this is similar to the mobile swastika worn by the Nordland Division, it is larger and not tilted to the left.



Shield badge worn on left upper arm (it is the national arms of Denmark. Three blue lions and red hearts on a yellow field)

Unidentified officer in Schalburg Corps.



Cuff title (silver and black) worn on left cuff.

Schalburg

Herluf Trolle

Absalon

Skjalm Hvide

Olaf Rye

Laessøe

Examples of cuff titles authorized for the Schalburg Corps.

the left cuff a silver edged black cuff title was worn with, in semi-Gothic script, the word "Schalburg" in silver. Five other cuff titles of a similar sort exist. They are:

Herluf Trolle (a 16th century Danish naval hero)

Absalon (12th century Archbishop, founder of Copenhagen)

Skjalm Hvide (founder of the Hvide dynasty)

Olaf Rye (an army hero of the Napoleonic era)

Laessøe (a 19th century military hero).

These were intended to be worn by individual companies, but although they were certainly made, it is not clear if they were ever actually issued or worn.

There were five companies, each of about 120 men. On duty a black German steel helmet was worn which had a white mobile swastika on its right-hand side.

The black uniform was the formal "walking out" and parade dress; for more active purposes, Danish army khaki was often worn (with the black collar patches). One point of difference was that the shoulder straps worn with the khaki uniform correspond to those of the German army/Waffen S.S. type and not, as on the black uniform, the Allgemeine S.S. type. The fatigue uniform was light khaki drill.





While in training, the Schalburg members wear the Danish army khaki uniform with the black collar patches and special arm shield.

The Schalburg Corps was armed but only with light infantry weapons. Its flag was a white mobile swastika on a black field with, in the upper left quarter, the heraldic shield of Denmark.

A so-called "Schalburg Cross" was instituted and may possibly have been issued (although only one award - and that posthumous - is recorded), but it was certainly manufactured. Many post-war copies, alas, exist!

After the General Strike in Denmark in June/July 1944 the Schalburg Corps was withdrawn from Copenhagen and moved to Ringstad outside the city where it was incorporated into the S.S. as *S.S. Ausbildungs-Btl. Schalburg* (S.S. Training Battalion Schalburg). It was, six months later, renamed the *S.S. Vagt-Btl. Sjaelland* (S.S. Guard

Battalion Zealand). Martinsen was relieved of his command in October 1944 ostensibly for criticizing the Germans. His place as *Korpschef* was taken by T. I. P. O. Madsen. Officially the Schalburg Corps was disbanded on 28 February 1945.



Schalburg Cross. White mobile swastika on red. Gold oak leaves. White enamel cross with gilt outline.

The Danish volunteer at right proudly wears his Cross of the Danish Volunteer Battalion in Finland.



Cross of the Danish Volunteer Battalion in Finland (in "Winter War" of 1939/40). This decoration is sometimes mistakenly identified as the Schalburg Cross.





Above: tentative sketch of cap badge of both the E.T. and the Hipo Corps.



Sketch of E.T. officer's uniform. Black, very similar to that of the Schalburg Corps, but the cap badge is the three lions of Denmark in a wreath of oak (or possibly laurel) leaves. The upper part of the badge is a white and red oval rosette. Rank insignia probably the same as for the Schalburg Corps.



Collar patch. Silver runic E.T. on black. Black and white piping for non-commissioned ranks, silver for officers.



Members of the "Hipo" Corps at target practice. The cap badge was that of the Danish Police surmounted by the white and red national cockade.

### Intelligence Service (E.T.) - Hipo Corps

The Intelligence Service (*Efterretnings-Tjenesten*) of the Schalburg Corps was withdrawn from its parent body in April 1944 and placed under the direct control of the Higher S.S. and Police Leader in Denmark, Gunther Pancke. On 19 September 1944, as a consequence of what the Germans regarded as its "unreliable behavior" during the General Strike, the Danish Police in its entirety was "stood down". In their place Pancke ordered that the E.T. form its own auxiliary police. This body, known as the Hipo (*Hilfspolizei*) Corps, was to acquire an ugly reputation (it was said to have been responsible for the murder of at least 50 resistance suspects). The E.T., under German guidance, became a sort of Danish S.D. Its original three *Afdelinger* (Departments) were expanded to eleven, of which the Hipo Corps was *Afdeling* 5. The E.T. wore a black uniform similar to that of the Schalburg Corps without the arm shield. The cap badge was that of the Danish Police (the lions and hearts emblem within a laurel, or oak, wreath) surmounted by a red and white oval rosette. Ranks, worn on the left collar, appear to have been the same as those of the Schalburg Corps. The right collar patch was black with a silver runic "E.T." Piping for the collar patch was black and white for non-commissioned ranks, silver for officers.



The Hipo Corps, however, did not wear this type of rank insignia but (it would appear from photographs) wore shoulder strap rankings similar to those of the German army or police. Most of the E.T. were non-uniformed. Two plain clothes groups, the Schiøler Group (*Afdeling 4*) and the Jørgen Lorentzen Group (*Afdeling 9c*) were active in hunting down members of the Danish resistance.

### G.S.D. (Germanische Sturmbann Dänemark)

In September 1942 the Allgemeine S.S. in Germany established what were known as Germanic Battalions in areas of the Reich where there existed large concentrations of workers from "nordic" countries (Flanders, Holland, Scandinavia and even "German" Switzerland). Seven such battalions were set up in industrial cities - in Berlin, Dresden, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Brunswick and Nuremberg. Uniforms, supplied by the S.S., consisted of a khaki shirt, black tie and black trousers. Service in these volunteer battalions was performed either in after-work hours and on weekends. It was not necessary to have belonged to a pro-Nazi political party in one's homeland in order to be eligible to join. Since the total strength of these *Germanische Sturmabteilungen* (counting all nationalities) amounted, in March 1944, to only 2,179 and since there were some 35,000 Danish workers in Germany, it would not appear that it was markedly successful in inducing Danish workers to volunteer. Indeed the Danish Battalion (*Germanische Sturmbann Dänemark*), located in Berlin, had to be closed down in January 1943 because of a lack of recruits. What Danes there were in the erstwhile Battalion were then reallocated to units of other national origin.

In truth, the *Germanische Sturmabteilungen* were never anything other than recruiting agencies for the Waffen S.S. It is not known if the various national volunteers were permitted to wear any distinctive insignia indicative of their racial origin, but it would appear doubtful.

### German Navy and Naval Guard Units

Early in the occupation the German Navy began taking on Danish volunteers. Although (as mentioned previously) German naval regulations did allow for non-German volunteers to wear a shield badge on the arm to denote their country of origin, there is no evidence of this applying to the Danes. Certainly there was no all-Danish Kriegsmarine unit of any sort. There was, however, an all-Danish (apart from its German cadre) Naval Guard Unit (*Marinevaegtere*) which protected German naval shore installations in Denmark. This unit had begun as a Civil Guard (*Civilvaegtere*) which had been "armed" only with police batons and was un-uniformed apart from a white brassard on which, in black, were the words "Im Dienst der deutschen Wehrmacht" (In the service of the German armed forces). Occasionally, a German naval cap might be worn. Until the beginning of 1943 this force amounted to only

# Im Dienst der Deutschen Wehrmacht

Arm band worn by the Naval Guard Units (*Marinevaegtere*).



Danish member of the *Marinevaegtere* (Naval Guard unit).

around 250 men, but on 22 January 1943 it was decided that it should be put into uniform and expanded to between 1,500 and 2,000 men. The newly named *Marinevaegtere* were then kitted out with a dark blue uniform (not that of the German Naval Police) consisting of a tunic buttoned to the neck, long trousers and shoes, and a peaked cap with the German army type wreath cockade surmounted by a German army-type eagle and swastika badge. There were only three noncommissioned ranks:

Marinewächter  
Truppführer  
Zugführer

(The above are the German designations.) Officers were German. On duty the guards carried revolvers or rifles and were trained in anti-sabotage work sometimes even assisting the Gestapo to track down resistance suspects. Volunteers had to sign on for a minimum of one year's service and had to undergo three to four weeks of initial training at the Naval Guard School in Copenhagen.

### Sommer's Guard Corps

One of the most ardent of the pro-German Danes was Poul Sommer, a Lieutenant in the Royal Danish Air Force who, after the conquest of his native land, joined the Luftwaffe and fought with distinction on the Eastern Front (shooting down three enemy aircraft) and, later as a Captain with *Jagdgeschwader 27* in Sicily gained a further trio of aerial victories. On his return to Denmark, he was responsible for setting up a guard unit for the protection of Luftwaffe airfields and other installations in Denmark. This formation was properly the Guard Corps of the German Luftwaffe in Denmark (*Vagtkorpset det tyske Luftvaaben i Danmark*), but was always popularly known as *Sommers Vagtkorps* (Sommer's Guard Corps). It wore the blue-grey uniform of the Luftwaffe. Non-commissioned personnel were Danish, but almost all the officers were German. In February 1944 it opened its own Corps School (*Korpsset Skole*) at Jonstrup. It had, in all, about 1,200 men organized in five companies (one in Copenhagen, the other four quartered at Luftwaffe airfields throughout Denmark). Like the Naval Guard Unit, it was not a merely passive defense formation, but worked actively with the S.D. in combating the Danish resistance sending special "anti-sabotage groups" out in plain clothes to seek out and arrest suspects. When the Hipo Corps was formed some eight hundred members of the Sommer's Guard Corps transferred to it.

### Airfield Defense Commando

In addition to the above Guard Corps organized by Poul Sommer, the German Air Force in Denmark also set up, in April 1943 at its main air base at Tye, a so-called *Flugplatzkommando* (literally "airfield commando"). This consisted mainly of Germans and *Volksdeutsche* (i.e. residents of Denmark) but Danes could also join if they wished. The uniform was the normal Luftwaffe short blouse, trousers and cap. German-speaking personnel wore a yellow arm band with, in black, "Deutsche Wehrmacht" (German armed forces), while Danish-speakers had on their yellow brassard the Danish words "Den tyske Vaernemagt Kombaterterne" (Combatant in the German armed forces). All volunteers took an oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler and were allowed, on duty, to carry small arms.



Arm band worn by the Airfield Defence Commando

### Heimwehr and German Self-Defense Corps of North Schleswig

The Volksdeutsche community of North Schleswig contributed some 8,000 of its members to the German armed forces (spread throughout the various branches of the services - there was no single all-North Schleswig unit). Those left at home were required to assist the German occupation authorities in countering Danish resistance. In the spring of 1942 a *Heimwehr* (Home Defense) force was raised among the Volksdeutsche of North Schleswig (pro-Nazi Danes could, if they so wished, also join). This was later renamed the Temporary Volunteer Service (*Zeitfreiwilligendienst*), or in Danish, *Tidsfrivilligtjensten*. It was armed but did not, to start with, wear a uniform apart from a peaked cap. In June 1943, however, it went into German army field-grey with, on the left arm, a yellow brassard with *Deutsche Wehrmacht* in black. It had around 1,400 members and was under the command of Peter Larsen, an S.K. officer. It was open to all able-bodied males between the ages of 17 and 60 years. Each unit had to maintain a so-called *Alarmgruppe*, or Stand-by Column, ready for immediate action in the event of any enemy landing in Denmark. In such an eventuality the rest of the Heimwehr would be mobilized as a reserve formation of the German Wehrmacht. The Heimwehr was never, in fact, employed in any sort of active capacity.

In February 1944 Peter Larsen transformed the S.K. into a German Self-Defense Force (*Deutscher Selbstschutz*, or D.S.S.) "to protect the honor, life and property of all German racial comrades". The D.S.S. retained the former S.K. uniform without the S.K. collar patch. The D.S.S. had about 500 members organized in seven companies in various parts of North Schleswig.



Danes could join the Todt Organization either as workers (without uniforms) or the O.T. Guard Unit (O.T. Schutzkommando) which, first formed in 1943, had the task of guarding O. T. installations in occupied countries (and also supervising its sometimes unwilling workers). It wore the brown O.T. uniform with black shoulder straps and a brown forage cap. A German army steel helmet was worn on duty. Schutzkommando recruits had to undergo a six-week training course outside Denmark (not necessarily in Germany; there was, for example, an important O.T. Schutzkommando training school at St. Cloud outside Paris). It is not clear if Danish volunteers were allowed to wear a nationality device, but, if so, it was probably a white cross on a red shield (as worn by the Freikorps).

There were Danish volunteers in the German Labor Service (R.A.D.) British Intelligence reckoned that (in 1942) there were 180 of these. The minimum service engagement was ten months. Danish volunteers also served with the Speer Legion in Norway. Again, it is not known if Danes in the Speer Legion wore a nationality shield (although German regulations certainly allowed this).

### Miscellaneous

Some Danish boys and girls served with the Germanische Landdienst (see Chapter on Norway) in the east. Danes served as individual volunteers in the German army and Air Force and the Home Defense Flak units in the Reich (that is to say Danish civilian workers employed in Germany) also in the Security Guard (Vegtmaendene) of German Fire Brigade units stationed in Denmark wearing the German "Fire Police" uniform. Five man patrols of this Security Guard consisted of two Germans and three Danes. They were armed with rifles or revolvers.

It has been estimated that a total of 398 Danes gave their lives in the German service.

FRANCE



The German attack in the West began on 10 May 1940 with the invasion of the low countries. By the start of June German armor was pouring into France. On 15 June the government moved to Bordeaux. On 17 June, President Lebrun called on the 84 year old Philippe Pétain, Marshal of France and "Victor of Verdun", to form a government. The aged gentleman agreed, and within less than a week (on 22 June) he had signed an armistice with Germany. Under the terms of this agreement (the only one Hitler ever signed with a defeated foe), only part of France was to be occupied (roughly three-fifths of her metropolitan territory), the rest would be free of the enemy's presence. But in both occupied and unoccupied zones the authority of the French government would apply. Since the government had established itself at Vichy in the Unoccupied Zone, the term "Vichy France" is often employed as though there were some distinction between "Vichy" and "the real France". In truth, there was none.

Since we are here mainly concerned with visible symbols and insignia, it is necessary to begin by describing the symbol with which "Vichy France" has become identified. This is a double-headed axe known as the *francisque gallique* (gallic hatchet) refined by the substitution of a Marshal of France baton for its shaft and by having its blades colored red/white/blue (red being the outer color on both sides). The actual origin of this device will be dealt with later in this chapter, but for the moment, it is sufficient to say that this emblem became for France what the swastika was for Germany. Supporters of the regime wore it; civil servants were urged in the "Official Journal" of 15 November 1941 to wear it as a lapel badge on a 16 x 20mm white shield. As we shall see, it was to be featured as part of many collaborationist insignia and even attain, in one form, the status of a national decoration on a par with the Legion of Honor.

### POLITICAL PARTIES

There was no French Nazi party, or at least, none of any consequence (the two "parties" which aspired to this name - the Parti National-Socialiste Française of Christian

Message and the Croisade Française du National-Socialisme of Maurice-Bernard de la Gâtinais - were miniscule affairs with few supporters in Paris and none outside it.) That is not, however, to say that there were no significant pro-German political groups in occupied France. There were, in fact, two major parties, three minor ones and a number of small factions which hardly merit the style of political party.

### P.P.F. (Parti Populaire Français)

Founded in June 1934 by Jacques Doriot, a one-time communist who had quarrelled with Moscow and swung to the other extreme, the P.P.F. claimed a membership of a quarter of a million on the eve of the war. Theoretically restricted to the Occupied Zone, the P.P.F. also operated in the Unoccupied Zone (where all political parties were supposedly banned) under the thinly disguised title of *Mouvement Populaire Française*.

It was also active in the French colonies, particularly in North Africa.

Political uniforms had been banned in France before the war, but with the removal of this restriction following the defeat of France, the P.P.F. adopted the blue shirt which had been (prior to the ban) traditionally associated with French fascism in the same way that the black shirt is associated with Italian fascism. The "Storm Troops" or Order Service (*Service d'Ordre*) of the P.P.F. was open to all male members from the ages of 18 to 50 years. In 1943 this formation was rechristened *Les Gardes Françaises*.

The original P.P.F. emblem was simply a white P.P.F. on a red octagon outlined in blue, but later a stylized version of the *francisque* axe head became its principal badge. This could also be thought of as a Celtic cross (an emblem which, in France, is associated more with fascism than with Christianity) with parts of the circle cut away. This device in blue on a white octagon outlined in red was worn on a black brassard by the Gardes Françaises. It also was featured on their flag.

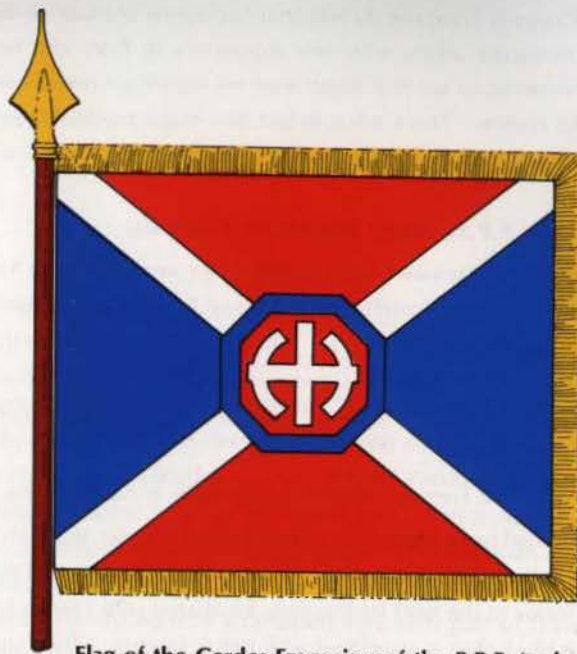


P.P.F. monogram (This was the first type of Party badge, later replaced by badge on right).



Second type of the P.P.F. emblem, (a stylized double-axe head of the "francisque" type, with or without the cog wheel).





Flag of the Gardes Françaises of the P.P.F. (red upper and lower segments, blue left and right, divided by white St. Andrew's cross). The Party flag is identical except that it has the P.P.F. monogram in the center.



Brassard of the Gardes Françaises (black brassard with blue P.P.F. second type emblem on a white octagon outlined in red, then thinly in white. White edges, which may possibly have been an indication of rank).

The youth branch of the P.P.F. was known as the *Jeunesse Populaire Française* (J.P.F.) Like their elders they wore a blue shirt. On their dark blue brassard they wore the J.P.F. emblem - what in heraldic terms is called "a croix patée fitchée at the foot" - that is to say, a cross whose lower arm, unlike the other three, is extended in a "V". The J.P.F. proper had this device in white on a red circle, but the *Groupe d'Action* (Action Group) of the J.P.F. wore this with the colors reversed, that is a red cross on a white circle.



Brassard of the Groupe d'Action du J.P.F. (Action Squad of the *Jeunesse Populaire Française*) - a red cross on white, on a dark blue brassard. The normal J.P.F. brassard has the center colors reversed, i.e. a white cross on a red circle (still on a dark blue brassard).

The full uniform, which not everyone possessed, consisted of a dark blue shirt, black tie, dark blue "battle dress" type of short tunic, blue trousers and anklets, a dark blue beret or side cap, leather belt and cross strap. Due to war-time shortages most members wore only the blue shirt, black tie and trousers with the appropriate brassard.

The so-called *Corps Franc de la Jeunesse* (an élite unit of the J.P.F.) wore a special cuff title with the name of the leader JACQUES DORIOT on their left cuff.

On the whole, the P.P.F. was unarmed, very exceptionally an officer might be allowed to carry a revolver for his personal protection. Only after the invasion of France by the Allies in June 1944 were some members of the P.P.F. given arms in order to assist the Germans and the *Milice Française* (see later in this Chapter) in battles against the French resistance.

### R.N.P. (Rassemblement National Populaire)

The other major collaborationist party was the R.N.P. (or National Popular Rally) founded by Marcel Déat in February 1941. Déat had behind him a fairly distinguished career as a soldier and pre-war politician which included a brief tenure of office as a cabinet minister (he was, from January to June 1936, Minister for Air). He had started his political life as a socialist, or "neo-socialist" as he preferred to call himself, but from 1933 onwards had started to drift towards fascism.

A month after its formation, the R.N.P. set up its own uniformed militia known as the *Légion Nationale Populaire* (L.N.P.) organized in Squads, Sections, Battalions, Groups and Brigades (there were six of these last in Paris alone).

The first design of the R.N.P. badge took the rather unusual form of a horse-shoe upon which was a right hand grasping three torches with, from left to right, a blue, a white and a red flame respectively. According to the Party newspaper, "L'Oeuvre", the horseshoe was "the common symbol of the peasant world, of artisans and of the





1st design of the R.N.P. badge (horseshoe and torches). With red L.N.P. for Légion Nationale Populaire.

major industries". The L.N.P. wore this badge, with the addition of the letters L.N.P. in red at the base, on or above the right breast pocket of their blue (or grey) shirts. Officers were allowed to wear dark blue breeches and top boots; other ranks had blue serge trousers worn with either anklets or white spats. Headgear was the *béret basque* (a small dark blue beret as distinct from the larger and more "floppy" alpine variety). The tie was red - "a souvenir of socialism" according to Déat. In 1943 the L.N.P. was renamed the *Milice Nationale Populaire* (M.N.P.) and a previous restriction which had limited membership to ex-servicemen was removed. It was, at this time, given a new, and more attractive, badge. This takes the form of a white diamond upon which is a stylized red "gamma" (rather like a German "Odalsrune" turned upside down). This is outlined in white and is against a blue background. At the apex is a blue/white/red flame. The gamma, this time in blue on a white diamond was worn on a red brassard on the left upper arm by both male and female members of the M.N.P. As if to make sure that the public did not mistake his blue shirted followers for the blue shirted followers of his rival Doriot, the M.N.P. was ordered by Déat to wear his name on a metal bar with a gamma sign above the left breast



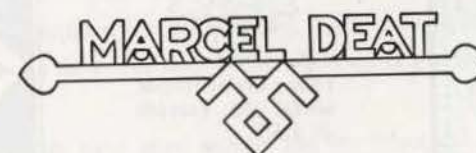
Second design of the R.N.P. badge (replaced the horseshoe badge).



Red brassard with blue emblem on a white diamond worn by both male and female members.



Two female members of the R.N.P. (blue shirts and skirts, red brassard)



Metal "Marcel Déat" badge worn by both men and women.

pocket. From a distance it looked not unlike the well-known Nazi eagle and swastika breast badge!

The youth section of the R.N.P. was the *Jeunesse Nationale Populaire* (J.N.P.) Their uniform was simply a junior version of the adult type.

"L'Oeuvre" announced that at the R.N.P. rally held in Paris in June 1942, "2,500 delegates attended representing 500,000 members". Half a million is doubtless an exaggeration (it may have been suggested by a similar membership figure claimed for the P.P.F. by Doriot), certainly when the R.N.P. was founded in February 1941 its membership was then quoted as a modest 21,000.





Presentation of a "fanion du chef" (leader's standard) at a R.N.P. rally at Palais de Chaillot in 1943. It is a red flag with a golden gamma on a white diamond. Déat is the lone figure to the right of the flag party.



Belt buckle of the J.N.P.  
Motto: "In a heroic time, a heroic youth".



Labor Front (Front social du Travail) or F.S.T.



Cadets of the R.N.P. (red gamma on white in blue square).



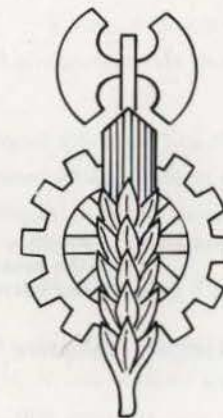
Badge of the Groupe Franc of the Milice Nationale Populaire (black ram's head on white shield. At top of shield white "Groupe Franc" on red)

## Parti Franciste

The Franciste Party, founded in September 1933 was unique among the collaborating factions in that it alone openly proclaimed itself fascist. The word "franciste" defies translation, it might be rendered roughly as "Frenchist". Under the leadership of Marcel Bucard, a highly decorated hero of World War I, the Francistes were much addicted to ceremonies in celebration of death and battle sacrifice. They were originally modeled more on Italian fascism than on German Nazism. They too adopted a blue shirt but of a lighter (French blue) shade than usual. The Party had, naturally, its own "storm troopers", known at first as the *Corps Francs*, but in 1943 renamed the *Légion Franciste*. In addition to the light blue shirt the Legion wore a navy blue tie and navy blue trousers or, for officers, breeches and top boots, and a navy blue beret. Bucard's personal bodyguard, the *Main Bleue* as it was called, had the addition of black cuffs and black collars to their light blue shirts, they also had black shoulder straps (normally shoulder straps were of the same color as the shirt with the exception of the *Groupe de l'Action Sociale* who had red straps). But by far the most interesting feature of the Franciste uniform was its badge (worn above the right breast pocket). This is a cog wheel superimposed upon which is an ear of barley - from this emanates a double-headed axe (the *francisque gallique*) which, with the modifications we have already noted, was to become the outward and visible symbol of the "Vichy" state.

The young Francistes were known as the *Jeunesse Franciste* and comprised both a boys' and a girls' section. Their uniform was much the same as their adult counterparts except that the headgear was (when worn at all) more usually a side cap than a beret. The girls wore a dark blue skirt, white ankle socks and the standard light blue shirt.

Party membership may have been around the ten thousand mark (the Francistes modestly, or shamefacedly, did not publish figures of their adherents).



Parti Franciste



In December 1942 the *Jeunesse Franciste*, to its delighted surprise, was declared by the Vichy government to be the *only* officially recognized youth movement in the Occupied Zone. There is little doubt that this was done much more to snub the pretensions of Déat and Doriot than to honor the status of an openly fascist youth movement.

The high point of the Francistes under the occupation was in July 1943 when at their congress in Paris 3,000 uniformed men paraded down the Champs Elysées.

### M.S.R. (Mouvement Social Révolutionnaire)

The M.S.R. was a break-away from Déat's R.N.P. by Eugène Deloncle which lasted from only October 1941 to September 1942 (after which date the M.S.R. minus Deloncle, reverted to the Déat fold). The M.S.R. Legion wore the same type of uniform as that of the R.N.P. Legion except for their badge which was a sword upon whose hilt is the motto "Aime et Sers" - "Love and Serve", but, in fact a pun on the letters M.S.R.!) This emblem exists in two forms - one has the sword on a background of red and white circles, the other on a blue (left) and red (right) shield with "M.S.R." The youth branch was known as the J.S.R. (*Jeunesse Sociale Révolutionnaire*) a title later changed to *Jeunes Equipes de France*. Unlike the adults they wore a khaki shirt, also (possibly) a brassard with the letters "J.E.F."



Mouvement Social Révolutionnaire (M.S.R.)



Another version of the M.S.R. badge (the motto "Aime et sers" means "Love and serve")

### Ligue Française

Founded early in 1941 by Pierre Constantini, a slightly demented Corsican air force officer, the full title was *Ligue Française anti-britannique, anti-sémitique et anti-*

*bolchevique* (The French anti-British, anti-semitic and anti-bolshevik League). Its stated aim was "a European revolution through Franco-German collaboration". The uniform of the *Milice de la Ligue Française*, the Party's "storm troopers", would seem to have been inspired more by that of the German S.A. than by any French model since it consisted of a brown shirt, black breeches, black tie, bright red arm band with a gold colored *francisque* on a white diamond, belt and cross strap and a black beret or forage cap. The Ligue's newspaper, "L'Appel", in its issue of 3 September 1942, refers to the uniform as being "all black" and states that only the Leader's personal bodyguard will henceforth wear a khaki shirt.



Ligue Française (golden "francisque" on white diamond within a red square)

The Ligue's youth section was called *Les Jeunes de France et de l'Empire* and was subdivided into the *Cadets de France* for 10 to 15 year olds and the *Phalanges de Garçons* for youths of 16 to 21 years. As its full title implies, the Ligue was strongly imbued with anti-semitism and had its own *Sections Spéciales anti-juives* (Special Anti-Jewish Sections) which co-operated with the S.D. of Paris. The degree of co-operation between the Germans and the Ligue can be gauged from the fact that members of the Ligue who had been killed by the resistance were buried with the black flag of the S.S. draping their coffins.

On 2 September 1941 the Ligue Française signed a formal agreement of mutual assistance with Doriot's P.P.F. - a rare example of co-operation between two collaborationist parties (mutual antagonism was much more the order of the day in that quarter!)

At the first, and only "National Congress" of the Ligue held in Paris on 14/15 November 1942, the press reported an audience of some 8,000, but by the end of the following year the Party had begun to fall to pieces.

### Minor Parties and Factions

(1) P.F.N.C. (*Parti Français National-Collectiviste*) - Founded by Pierre Clémenti, a sports writer, in February 1934, it was revived under the occupation. Clémenti claimed a membership of 32,000 but this was almost certainly a gross over-estimate. By September 1942 the P.F.N.C. had fallen apart to such a degree that





**P.F.N.C. (Parti Français National Collectivist)**

Doriot was able to "borrow" the name of its militia, the *Gardes Françaises*, and apply it to his own strong-arm squads. The P.F.N.C. emblem was four converging arrow heads in a white diamond within a red circle.

(2) *Front Franc* - The creation of Jean Boissel, an architect and severely disabled veteran of the First World War, the party was originally known (when first formed in 1934) as *Racisme International Fascisme* (R.I.F.) Boissel was arrested by the French government in October 1939 but freed by the Germans after the fall of France. He then resurrected his party under the name of *Le Front Franc*. It had, it would seem, only a few hundred adherents. It was violently anti-semitic and pro-Nazi and disappeared from the political scene entirely by the end of 1943 probably as a result of being out-bid in these sentiments by the larger and more successful parties. Its badge was a fasces from which emanates F.F. superimposed upon a cog wheel.



**Front Franc**

(3) P.S.F. (*Progrès Social Français*) - This was the heir to what had, before the war, appeared to be an up-and-coming force in French politics, Colonel De la Rocque's well-known *Croix de Feu* movement. After the ban on all such extra-parliamentary pressure groups in 1936, *Croix de Feu* became the *Parti Social Français*. In theory all political parties were outlawed in the Unoccupied Zone, so the P.S.F. changed its name to the *Progrès Social Français* (thus retaining the same initials!) De la Rocque,

although blindly devoted to Pétain, was wholly opposed to the drift towards active collaboration with the Germans that was becoming daily more apparent in Vichy. Much of the P.S.F. membership passed from collaboration to resistance. Eventually the Germans arrested De la Rocque and suppressed the P.S.F. The only significance of the P.S.F. was its connection with the massive pre-war *Croix de Feu* movement which many people had seen, wrongly as it was to transpire, as an important aspect of the ultra-right, even fascist side of French politics. The P.S.F. emblem was a six sided blue badge with a red P.S.F. on a white map of France.



**P.S.F. (Parti Social Français, later renamed Progrès Social Français)**

(4) *Action Française* - This was another party which failed to fill the dominant role under Vichy which its pre-war eminence might have indicated. Founded as far back as 1899, *Action Française* was an intellectual, rather than a physical, force. Its success was due in no small part to its principal champion, the distinguished philosopher, Charles Maurras. Like De la Rocque, Maurras was an admirer of Pétain, but no friend to the Germans. As a supporter of the concept of monarchy, *Action Française*, had as its badge the fleur de lys of French royalty.



**Action Française**

(5) *Parti Nationaliste Breton* (P.N.B.) - This pre-war party was born of a desire on the part of some Bretons for the secession of Brittany from the rest of France. It was not inherently fascist but since the Germans (with an eye to fermenting the maximum disunity among the French) acted as its sponsor, it began to take on a fascist tone. It raised a Storm Troop Section (in the Breton tongue "*Bagadou Stourm*") which was dressed in black uniforms supplied by the S.S. With this otherwise all-black uniform



a white tie was worn. On the left upper arm a white "triskell" was worn on a black brassard. Although this certainly resembles a three-legged mobile swastika and thus has some likeness to other fascist emblems, it is, in fact, an ancient Breton device with no connection with fascist symbolism.



Brassard of the Jeunesse Bretonne, an "Assault Troop" of the Parti Nationaliste Breton. Black "triskell" on white. This emblem, although possibly similar to a mobile swastika, is in fact, a traditional Breton sign.

## AUTONOMOUS YOUTH MOVEMENTS

In addition to the youth sections of the collaborating political parties dealt with above, there were also a number of autonomous youth movements (mainly in the Unoccupied Zone). These were:

### (1) *Les Compagnons de France*

First formed in July 1940 as a private organization by a civil servant and Scout Master, Henri Dhavernas, *Les Compagnons de France* was announced as an officially approved, voluntary, youth organization for the whole of Unoccupied France in August of the same year. In its ranks lads between the ages of 15 and 20 were to do work of national utility such as, in the country, assisting with the harvest (with so many young men still P.O.W.'s in Germany there was a grave manpower shortage on the land), or, in towns, clearing war damage.

The French army seconded officers to act as leaders. By January 1941 there were some 350 companies with about, in all, 18,000 members. At first there was no objection to Jewish boys joining, but from May 1942 they were excluded. In January 1942 *Les Compagnons* started to recruit girls, but without much success. Cadre personnel undertook to serve for a minimum of three months. Membership reached its peak in early 1942 with a figure of around 50,000, thereafter it fell off rapidly. The Germans never fully trusted *Les Compagnons* which, although loyal to Vichy, were certainly not pro-Nazi, and ordered the whole organization to be disbanded in January 1944.

The uniform consisted of a dark blue shirt and dark blue trousers (or shorts with long white stockings), a navy blue beret, leather belt and tie. The color of this tie varied with rank: grey (or beige) for the lower ranks, purple for N.C.O.'s, yellow for

junior officers, navy blue for senior officers. It is quite possible that this arrangement varied, since some sources give red for junior officers, pale blue for higher ranks and white for the *Chef Compagnon*. The first stated colors are, however, those given in *Les Compagnons* own official handbook.

Actual rank was indicated on a black shield worn on the left upper arm (this consisted of a scheme of stars and chevrons). On the left breast pocket the cloth badge of *Les Compagnons* was worn - a white cock on a red circle with a blue surround. In some cases the name of the town (eg, LYON III) appears at the top of this badge. The cock, in white metal, was also the beret badge. On the right upper arm a shield with the heraldic arms of the Province was worn. In winter a dark blue ski type uniform (not unlike the winter garb of the Hitler Youth) was worn. There was also a "supporters' club" known as *Les Amis des Compagnons*.

### Rank insignia worn on the left upper arm







Summer uniform



Breast badge - white cock on red within blue circle.

## (2) Jeunes de l'Europe Nouvelle (J.E.N.)

The pre-war Comité France-Allemagne (France-Germany Committee) was revived after the occupation in September 1940 under the name Groupe "Collaboration"; an organization, it was said, "for the middle classes, the wealthy and the cautious". Since it did not claim to be a political party, it was allowed to operate in both zones. Although itself very circumspect in its attitude towards both Vichy and the Germans, its youth branch, *Les Jeunes de l'Europe Nouvelle* (The Youth of the New Europe) was much less inhibited and came out openly on the pro-German side. Some of its sections even took up arms and, under the tutelage of the S.D., fought against the resistance. The J.E.N. operated not only in both zones of France



J.E.N. badge (white outlined red rune on blue shield). Left: Young member of J.E.N. at a rally in Vel d'Hiver, Paris.

but also among French workers in Germany where its *Jeunesse Ouvrière Française Travaillante en Allemagne* (J.O.F.T.A) helped to spread collaborationist propaganda with the approval of the Vichy government.

The uniform of the J.E.N. consisted of a dark blue shirt, black tie and dark blue trousers. Ranks were indicated both on the shoulder straps and, for officers, on a black bar above the left breast pocket. These consisted of silver, or for the higher ranks, gilt stars (the J.E.N. leader, Jacques Schweizer, had five gilt stars). The girls section of the J.E.N. wore a white blouse, black tie and dark blue skirt. Both sexes, and all ranks, wore the J.E.N. emblem on the left breast pocket. This is an unusual device for a French organization since it resembles the Teutonic *Lebensrune* ("Life rune"). It is red, outlined in white on a blue shield. The *Groupe de Protection* of the J.E.N. wore on the right breast pocket a black metal diamond-shaped badge with a "G" and a "P" on either side of a gilt trident. They also wore a silver death's head badge. The leader's personal bodyguard wore on the right breast pocket a silver badge with the monogram "J.S." (Jacques Schweizer).



Andrew Mollo

Members of the J.E.N. of the Grenoble Section attached to the S.D. and armed by them for active duty against the resistance (note J.E.N. badge)



Breast badge of Groupe de Protection



### (3) *Les Jeunes du Maréchal*

Created by Jacques Bousquet, a teacher at the Lycée Voltaire in Paris, *Les Jeunes du Maréchal* was decidedly fascist in character, their newspaper, "*Le Téméraire*" undisguisedly pro-German. They operated in the Occupied Zone only. The color of their shirt varied, sometimes navy blue, sometimes the lighter French blue. On the left breast pocket a red *francisque* on a white shield was worn. It is possible that the choice of the *francisque* on a tricolor shield as the first badge of the French N.S.K.K. was derived not so much from the emblem of the Vichy state as from this badge, since *Les Jeunes du Maréchal* were very active in recruiting French lads for the N.S.K.K. from among the high schools and colleges of occupied France. The "Marshal's Lads" were so embarrassingly collaborationist that the Marshal himself had, in July 1943, to step in and suppress this organization supposedly devoted to his person. Bosquet went on to become the director of the *École des Cadres* (Staff Training College) at Châtelain-en-Serval in the Occupied Zone which was much more overtly collaborationist than its opposite number at Uriage in the Unoccupied Zone.

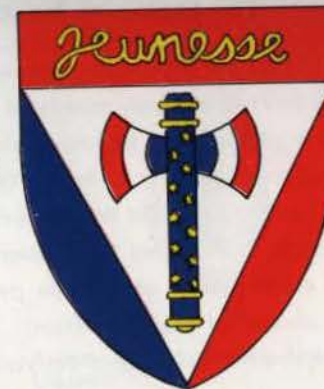


Badge worn on left breast pocket by *Les Jeunes du Maréchal*. It is simply a red "*francisque*" on white. *Les Jeunes du Maréchal* existed only in the Occupied (later North) Zone. They were enthusiastic recruiters of French youth for the N.S.K.K. and the use of the black "*francisque*" as the emblem for the French N.S.K.K. badge (on a blue/white/red shield) may have been derived from the badge of the *Jeunes du Maréchal*.

### (4) *Mouvement Jeunesse*

In the Unoccupied Zone a *Mouvement Jeunesse* was created by the Secretariat of Youth at Vichy with the object of encompassing all youth groups in the Unoccupied Zone which were sympathetic to the ideals of the regime other than those officially authorized movements already sanctioned by the government. There was also a back-up "Friends of Youth" (*Les Amis de Jeunesse*) movement. Both these groups wore a uniform consisting of a blue (or grey) shirt with a black tie and dark blue trousers. Above the left breast pocket a shield badge was worn which had a *francisque* in full color in an inverted white triangle flanked by blue on the left and red on the right. At the top of the shield is the word "*Jeunesse*" in yellow on red. This badge was in cloth on the shirt but could be worn as a miniature in colored enamels on the lapel of civilian clothes. Membership figures for this movement are not known but are unlikely to have been large since there was ample opportunity for

*Mouvement Jeunesse*. Blue and gold "*francisque*" on white with blue (left) and red (right). At top yellow "*Jeunesse*" on red. Worn on left breast pocket.



those with an inclination to wear uniform and indulge in quasi-military drill to do so in the existing youth formations.

### (5) *Jeunesse de France et d'Outre Mer (J.F.O.M.)*

A further "private enterprise" youth movement in the Unoccupied Zone was the *Jeunesse de France et d'Outre Mer* (The Youth of France and Overseas) originally founded by Henry E. Pugibet and Jean-Marcel Renault in Marseilles in January 1941. Exclusive leadership passed into Renault's hands shortly thereafter. The J.F.O.M. was a good deal more committed to collaboration than *Les Compagnons de France*. It was open to youngsters from 9 to 14 years (as *Les Cadets*) and to young adults up to the age of 25 as J.F.O.M. proper. From the very start Jews were excluded. By October 1941 the J.F.O.M. claimed a membership of 30,000.

Its uniform consisted of a grey shirt, dark blue tie and dark blue trousers (or, for girls, a dark blue skirt). The badge of the J.F.O.M. is a blue bird (described in the official J.F.O.M. handbook as "a lark" but looking rather more like an eagle!) on a white circle outlined in red with the letters J.F.O.M. in black.

After the occupation of both zones of France (in November 1942) the J.F.O.M. joined forces with Bucard's *Jeunesse Franciste* and thus, by the back door, became part of the only officially recognized youth movement in the north.

*Jeunesse de France et d'Outre Mer (J.F.O.M.)*





## The Legion of French Combatants (L.F.C.)

In August 1940 the Vichy government announced that all existing war veterans associations (in France usually associated with political factions) were to be replaced by a single organization to be known simply as the *Légion Française des Combatants*. Exactly one year later, in August 1941, the *Légion* was transformed into a semi-political movement no longer limited to ex-soldiers, but open to all willing to further what had come to be called "the national revolution" (a term which, in practice, meant the establishment of a single party state on quasi-fascist lines under the supreme authority of Marshal Pétain). The organization was now renamed the *Légion Française des Vétérans et des Volontaires de la Révolution Nationale*.

"Your duty", they were told, "is to silence critics and help maintain order in the country". There was a *Jeune Légion* for young men and women from 16 to 21 years of age. There was also the usual "supporters' club" in the form of *Les Amis de la Légion*.

The Legion was allowed to function only in the Unoccupied Zone, but was also permitted in the French colonies, being especially active in North Africa. Its welfare branch, the S.M.S. (*Services Médicaux et Sociaux*), organized rest homes for the aged, holiday camps for deprived children and cheap meals for the impoverished.



**LA LÉGION FRANÇAISE**  
VEUT FAIRE  
**LA RÉVOLUTION**  
POUR LA  
**FAMILLE**

Poster advertising the work of the Legion in bringing about a revolution "for the family".



Badge of the Legion (worn on a dark blue diamond, in cloth, as a beret badge)



Badge of the Young Legion (*Jeune Légion*)



Sports leader of the Legion (red, white, blue Olympic "rings" on yellow shield, yellow sword, dark blue diamond)



The badge of the pre-war right-wing "Jeunesses Patriotes" (Patriot Youth) to show where the legion badge clearly got its inspiration.

The uniform of the Legion was a khaki shirt, black tie, black trousers and black beret with the Legion's badge - the winged helmet of ancient Gaul upon a tricolor shield and sword. The *Jeune Légion* also wore a khaki shirt, black tie and black trousers (or a black skirt for the girls). The *Jeune Légion* badge, worn on the beret, was the warrior's helmet and sword upon a circle of red/white/blue (red being the outer color). It is interesting to note how close a resemblance this badge bears to that of the pre-war *Jeunesses Patriotes* (The Patriot Youths). The S.M.S. had a navy blue uniform with the Legion shield with S.M.S. on the sleeve. In reality, so vast was the membership of the Legion (some 1,200,000 in the Legion proper and a further 400,000 in its *Amis*) that few wore anything like the full uniform as detailed above. Most wore only the beret and badge with a dark suit.



## Service d'Ordre L gionnaire (S.O.L.)

The very size of the Legion made it unwieldy and unreliable; many had joined under the illusion that it was "patriotic" in the sense of being opposed to the Germans. To give it greater stability and political reliability it was necessary to form within this amorphous mass a smaller body of young and physically fit men sincerely dedicated to the corporatist principles of the "National Revolution". Thus, in January 1942 the Order (or Police) Service of the Legion (the S.O.L.) was born. It was first brought into being "privately" by Joseph Darnand in the Department of Alpes-Maritimes. (Darnand, who was the Legion's Regional Chief in that area, will feature prominently later in this chapter.) Its value was at once recognized and it was given "official" sanction the following month. The S.O.L. then spread to all parts of Unoc-



Rank bar (half actual size). Gold on black.



Beret badge. (Silver and black).

cupied France (and North Africa). In June 1942 Darnand was named as its National Leader. He tried to ensure that there were at least 2,000 S.O.L. men in each *d partement*. From the start, Jews, Freemasons and naturalized citizens (unless prior to 1927) were rigidly excluded. Most S.O.L. men were "veterans" of the 1939-40 "war".

The basic unit was a Main (a "hand" of four men and a leader)

Two Mains made a Dizaine

Three Dizaines a Trentaine

Three Trentaines a Centaine

Three Centaines a Cohorte

The largest formation was a Centre consisting of several Cohortes under the leadership of a Chef de Centre.

After a three-month probation, the recruit was given the title of "Knight of the New France" having, like his medieval predecessor, passed a "night of vigil under arms".

The uniform of the S.O.L. was a khaki shirt (blue in the departments of Savoie and Haute Savoie), black tie, dark blue ski trousers and a black beret. On the left arm a white edged black brassard was worn with the S.O.L. emblem in the center of a white circle. This emblem is a sword upon a black shield with S (left) and O (right). This emblem, in metal, was also the beret badge. Rank was indicated on a black bar worn above the right breast pocket. On the right upper arm the heraldic badge of the district of origin was worn.

On 30 January 1943 the S.O.L. was transformed into the *Milice Fran aise* - the history of this notorious organization will be dealt with later in this chapter.



Brassard (black and white).

Uniform of the S.O.L. was dark blue or black ski trousers, khaki shirt and black tie. On the black beret was a metal badge (as shown) was worn. Ranks shown by means of "bars" above right breast pocket (in the same manner as the Chantiers de la Jeunesse). On the right upper arm a cloth badge was worn to indicate district of origin.



## Vichy Labour Service (Chantiers de la Jeunesse)

With the defeat of France the vast bulk of the French army was taken prisoner and removed to Germany (where most of it was to remain for the rest of the war), but some 100,000 youths were in the process of being called to the colors when their country was overrun by the enemy. These young men, neither soldiers nor civilians, presented the authorities with a problem. If they were to be demobilized and sent home this would place an additional strain on an already over-taxed transport system; if they were to be retained under training, the question arose - training for what? The solution was to keep them in their camps but change them from uniformed military to uniformed workers. The concept of a State Labor Service (of the kind already in existence in Germany) had often been raised in the French right-wing press before the war; now was the opportunity to bring it into being.

General Joseph de la Porte du Theil was entrusted with the task. He was, in addition to being a professional soldier, also a Regional Commissioner in the French Boy Scouts. The new labor service reflected both influences. The experiment, originally intended only as a stop-gap measure, proved so successful that it became an established feature of life in the new France.

*Les Chantiers de la Jeunesse Française* (literally The Workshops of French Youth) date officially from 31 July 1940. The original recruits served only six months but, with the decision in January 1941 to make the Chantiers a permanent organization, the term of service was increased to eight months. All young men on reaching the normal age of conscript service (their 20th year) were required by law to serve in the Chantiers.

The organization spread rapidly in the ensuing two years. There were six Regional Commissariats in metropolitan France and one in North Africa. A naval Chantiers (*Chantiers de la Marine*) was formed in February 1941. There was also a *Jeunesse et Montagne* (literally "Youth and Mountain") section which trained young men in gliding and skiing as well as mountaineering. Both these latter were, unlike the Chantiers proper, voluntary. Units of the Chantiers were even established in French prisoner of war camps in Germany!

Since life in garrison towns was not deemed morally salubrious, many units were sent to the countryside to live under canvas. They carried out such work in forestry, land reclamation and road building.

There were thrice yearly drafts to ensure an overlap of trained and untrained personnel.

The Chantiers were patriotic and *marechaliste* (i.e. supporters of the National Revolution and out of sympathy with de Gaulle), but they were never actively collaborationist, indeed they were more often anti-German. After the Germans occupied the whole of France, the Chantiers began to disintegrate and by the beginning

of 1944 had virtually fallen apart. The organization was officially disbanded on 9 June 1944.

The uniform of the Chantiers bore some resemblance to the British army "battle dress". It consisted of a blouse, ski-trousers and beret - all in dark green. Officers, however, had a fawn colored blouse with dark green revers and dark green backing to their three silver cuff buttons. All ranks wore khaki shirts and dark green ties. Plus-fours with white stockings were sometimes worn in place of ski-trousers.



Non-commissioned ranks (extreme left) and Officer's uniforms. Both are dark green, but officer's "battle dress" tunic is fawn with green revers and green backing to cuff buttons.





The cap badge is the same as the breast badge (right) but only about half its size. It was made of cloth.



Breast badge (actual size). Light blue and yellow with green "trees". Blue/white/red flag.

The Chantiers' emblem was a draped tricolor flag against a rising sun within a frame of golden ears of corn with the letters C.J.F. at the base. This was worn on the left breast pocket by all ranks and, in a smaller version, also in cloth, as the beret badge. Rank was indicated on a metal bar above the right breast pocket. This bar was red for lower formations (*Groupements*), light blue for *Commissariats Regionaux*, and white for the General Staff. Officers had these bars of rank piped in a very fine gold wire. General de la Porte du Theil did not wear his rank in the form of a bar but as a round metal badge on the right breast pocket. This badge is blue/white/red with F.J. in the center, the outer edge is gilt laurel leaves at the apex of which is a single star.



Rank bar (half actual size) worn above right breast pocket.



Example of *Groupement* insignia worn on left arm (here for *Groupement* 35.)

## CHANTIERS DE LA JEUNESSE RANKS COMMISSARIAT GENERAL



(ii) Comm. Gen. Adjoint



(iii) Commiss. Chef de Section



(iv) Comm. S/ Chef de Section



(v) Commissaire



(vi) Comm. Adjoint Chef de Service



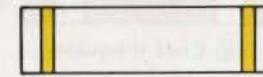
(vii) Commissaire Adjoint



(viii) Commissaire Assistant



(ix) Comm 5-7 échelon



(x) Comm 3-4 échelon



(xi) Comm. 1-2 échelon

## COMMISSARIATS RÉGIONEAUX



(i) Commissaire Regional



(ii) Comm. Reg. Adjoint



(iii) Commissaire



(iv) Comm. Adjoint Chef de Section



(v) Commissaire Adjoint



(vi) Commissaire Assistant



(vii) Comm. 5-7 échelon



(viii) Comm. 3-4 échelon



(ix) Comm. 1-2 échelon

On the left upper arm, the badge of the *Groupement* or (where it applied) training establishment was worn.

The Chantiers de la Marine wore the same uniform as the French navy except that a navy blue beret replaced the characteristic pompom hat of the French sailor. The breast badge was a compass rose with an anchor in the center against a background of the sun rising from the sea.

There was also a "veterans" association of the C.J.F. Their badge was the C.J.F. emblem in a shield shaped form surmounted by the word "Anciens" (Veterans) in green on yellow.



# GROUPEMENTS



(i) Comm. Chef de Groupement



(ii) Commiss. Adjoint



(iii) Commiss. Assistant



(iv) Chef de Groupe



(v) Assistant de Chef de Groupe



(vi) Chef d'atelier



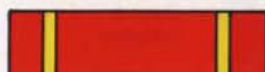
(vii) Chef d'équipe



(viii) Second d'équipe



(ix) Chef Ouvrier 5-7 échelon



(x) Chef Ouvrier 3-4 échelon



(xi) Chef Ouvrier 1-2 échelon



(xii) Apprenti Commiss.



Groupement 2



Groupement 4



Groupement 33



Groupement 34



École régionale des cadres. Pyrenees-Gascogne



École régionale de Provence



Former members of the C.J.F.



Sports Award (Brevet Sportif). 2nd Class - red on green; 1st Class is silver on green.



Chef des Travaux (Work leader - worn above rank bar)





Breast badge of the Chantiers de la Marine (i.e. Naval Section of the C.-J.F.) Right: uniform of the Chantiers de la Marine (the same as for French Navy, but with blue beret as headgear. White spats and black shoes.)



C.J.F. drummers and buglers badge



C.J.F. fanfare trumpeter's badge



Above: Marshal Pétain visits a camp of the C.J.F. accompanied (in center) by General de la Porte du Theil, the leader of the movement.



As rank insignia the General wears on his right breast pocket the badge illustrated at left - blue/white/red with black F.J. in a circle of laurel leaves surmounted by a star (in gilt).



## MILITARY VOLUNTEERS

### L.V.F. (7 July 1941 - 28 June 1942)

Having dealt with the political parties and para-military home-based uniformed formations, it is now time to turn our attention to those who volunteered to serve the Germans in a more active capacity. The best known of these is the *Légion des Volontaires Français* (L.V.F.) Until Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941, Germany and Russia had been "friends" and anti-communist activities in France had been somewhat in abeyance. But the unheralded invasion of Russia had caused great excitement among all the collaborating parties who found a new unity in their common desire to participate in the campaign. On 7 July 1941 all the leaders of these parties met at the Hotel Majestic in Paris to launch a *Légion anti-bolchévique*, shortly thereafter renamed the *Légion des volontaires français contre le bolchévisme*. Despite the fact that the Vichy government had enacted a law which forbade Frenchmen from enlisting "in foreign armies" (aimed at stopping them joining de Gaulle) and that the L.V.F. was a purely "private" affair, Pétain gave the new enterprise his personal blessing and the law was amended to state that no objection would be raised to Frenchmen joining the German forces! Hitler also approved, but asked that membership be limited to not more than 15,000. This proved to be an unnecessary circumscription since the L.V.F. received a total of only 13,400 applications to join, and of these, 4,600 had to be turned down on medical grounds (bad teeth being one of the commonest causes of rejection) and a further 3,000 on moral grounds. Of the remaining 5,800 the majority (over 3,000) were enrolled in the first three months of its existence. Naturally many, although by no means all, the volunteers came from the militias of the collaborating political parties, prominent among these were the men from Doriot's P.P.F. (including Doriot himself).

On 8 July Déat announced that the L.V.F. was to be commanded by General Hassler, a French regular officer from Alsace, and that volunteers would be allowed to wear the French uniform. Neither prediction proved true. Hassler, who had not been consulted in advance, declined the offer, and the Germans made it clear that unless France actually declared war on the Soviet Union there could be no question of sending combatants to the front in French uniform. This was, of course, strictly in accordance with international law and was to apply, at a later date, equally to the Spanish anti-communist volunteer corps. However, there was no objection to the L.V.F. wearing the French uniform in France. At home French army khaki was worn, either the 1939 infantry pattern or the slightly modified version known as Model 1942. A dark blue uniform was also sometimes worn in France. Headgear was the "fortress troops beret" (larger than the beret basque but not so large as the Alpine troops type). On the collars of the French tunic either the battalion number (a 1 or a 2) was worn below an inverted chevron or the metal L.V.F. emblem. This device is a shield surmounted by a Norman helmet. Upon the shield is an upward pointing



This French officer from the African Legion wears the Battalion number below an inverted chevron on his collar.



Metal L.V.F. badge, worn on both collars and as a beret badge (with French uniform only)

sword with L in blue, a large V in white and F in red. This Norman crusader emblem featured frequently on L.V.F. propaganda posters.

Outside France the L.V.F. was obliged to wear the standard German army uniform with only a tricolor shield on the right upper arm to distinguish it. This shield was normally the standard German army type with vertical blue/white/red center, a black frame and the word "France" in white at the top, but two variants exist. One has a straight sided shield, blue/white/red and a black outline, at the top the word "France" is in yellow on a white background (this would appear to have been a very early version, possibly French made). The other is also a straight sided shield but with



(a)



(b)



(c)



The soldier above carries the French tri-color decal on the right side of his helmet.



This French sentry in Russia wears the standard army "France" shield ("b" above).

Three types of shield worn on right upper arm. (a) early French-made with yellow "France" on white, black surround; (b) the standard German army type: white "France" on black (most commonly worn of the three); and, (c) another early version: white "L.V.F." on black, white surround.

a white frame and the letters "L.V.F." in white on a black background. Again, probably of French origin.

On 20 August 1941 the press announced that Col. Roger Labonne would assume command of the L.V.F. The sixty-year old Labonne was a distinguished military historian but with no great experience as a field commander. He was to prove less than a success when tested in action.

On 4 September the first draft of volunteers, 25 officers and 803 other ranks, left Paris for Debica in Poland. On 20 September a second contingent of 127 officers and 769 men (including Doriot in his former army rank of Sergeant-Major) followed them to the same destination. By October 1941 the L.V.F. was up to a strength of two battalions - a total of 181 officers and 2,271 men plus a liaison staff of 35 Germans. The L.V.F. was registered as Reinforced Infantry Regiment No. 638 of the German army. Most of October was passed in training, but by the end of the month both battalions were sent into the front line before Moscow as part of the German 7th Infantry Division. They arrived just in time to be caught up in the Russian winter counter-offensive that sent the Germans reeling. The L.V.F. lost half of its effective strength either through enemy action or by frost-bite.

A further 1,400 volunteers came out from France in December with the object of forming a 3rd Battalion at Debica. Some 200 of the new draft were colored (mostly Algerian Arabs). In March 1942 Col. Labonne was recalled to Paris and relieved of his command. The L.V.F. was pulled out of the front line and for the next 18 months ceased to function as a unified whole, but operated as two separate battalions (the 1st and the 3rd - the 2nd having been virtually wiped out in the winter battle before



Moscow). There was now no over-all French commander. The 1st Battalion was under Major Lacroix, the 3rd under Major Demessine. The L.V.F. was employed only on anti-Partisan operations.

On 18 July 1942 the Vichy government granted official recognition to the privately created "Croix de Guerre Légionnaire" decoration of the L.V.F. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the foundation of the L.V.F. the government presented it with a new flag; of the pattern issued to French army regiments since 1879, from which can be drawn the inescapable conclusion that the French government now regarded the L.V.F. as part of the armed forces of France. Each of the three Battalions had its own fanion. That of the 1st Battalion bore, significantly, the arms of St. Denis (the district of Paris from which Doriot came). The 2nd Battalion's fanion had the same motto as the French Foreign Legion, "March or die" (*Marche ou crève*).



Early L.V.F. standard. The flag-bearer is in French L.V.F. uniform. The officer (although French) is in German uniform.

## LEGION DES VOLONTAIRES FRANCAIS (L.V.F.) FLAGS



First design of L.V.F. flag. Gold embroidered "Légion des volontaires" on blue/white/red national flag. Reverse has "Honneur et patrie"



Second type of L.V.F. flag. The reverse is as above but also has battle honors: "1941-1942 DJUKOWO" "1942-1943 BERESINA"

Obverse has "La France au 1er Régiment de la Légion des Volontaires Français" (in gold embroidery) and gold laurel wreaths in each corner. This flag was decorated with the Croix de Guerre Légionnaire with palm leaf and two stars. The flag is the standard French Army type (1879 pattern)

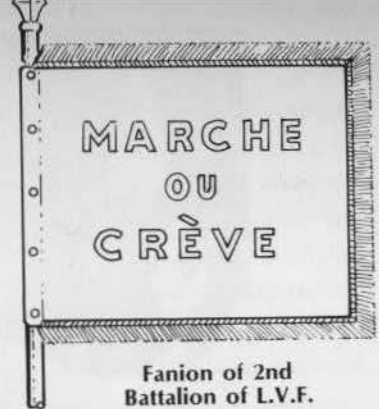


Obverse



Reverse

Flag of the École  
des Cadres of L.V.F.  
(July 1942)



Banner of 2nd  
Battalion of L.V.F.



La France a été vaincue dans la guerre contre l'Allemagne, mais on lui a donné la possibilité de s'assurer sa place parmi les autres nations du continent, dans l'Europe nouvelle. Les milieux forts et sains du peuple français, prêts à travailler pour le relèvement de la Patrie, ont compris de quoi il s'agissait: ils n'ont pas repoussé la main tendue vers eux, mais se sont intégrés dans les rangs de ceux qui, sur les champs de bataille à l'est et dans les usines européennes, combattent pour l'Europe nouvelle. Ainsi la France, grâce à sa Légion des volontaires et grâce à la collaboration de ses ouvriers, participera à la victoire de l'Europe et aura sa part aux avantages de l'avenir européen.



Adrian Forman

Volontaires français au combat. Un canon lourd bombarde une position bolchevique. - 20-25 : encore une correction. - 20-25 : coup au feu!



Une prise de l'histoire d'une femme de volontaires français. Leur volonté de lutter pour l'Europe et ainsi pour leur Patrie, se manifeste dans le cadre qui les entoure.



Banner of 3rd  
Company of the L.V.F.

Recruiting poster for the L.V.F. "Europe to the front". Holds out promise of a better place for France in the "New Europe" if she takes part in the "European" struggle against Bolshevism.





Members of the L.V.F. Veterans Association (Anciens de la Légion) at a rally in Paris on 27 August 1943. White shirt, black tie, red brassard with L.V.F. eagle.



(a)

(a) Lapel badge worn by the "Amis de la Légion" (Friends of the Legion). The eagle is silver, the shield blue/white/red.



(b)

(b) Lapel badge worn by the "Anciens de la Légion" (Veterans). The eagle and the swords are gilt. The shield is blue/white/red. The actual size of this badge is 16mm by 15mm.

## Légion Tricolore (28 June 1942 - 28 December 1942)

On 24 June 1942 the Controlling Committee of the L.V.F. sent Prime Minister Laval a memorandum proposing that the L.V.F. be taken over as an official military force, be allowed to wear the French uniform, receive French decorations, be financed by the Ministry of War and be made available for active duty "on any front where the national interest is at stake". They further suggested that a new name, *La Légion Tricolore*, be adopted "to underline the stoutly national ideal which inspires the legionary unit". These proposals were accepted, and on 28 June the transformation of the L.V.F. into the Légion Tricolore was announced. General Galy was appointed its *Commissaire Général*, and a depot was opened at Guéret in the Unoccupied Zone.

On 10 August a governmental decree stated that volunteers would receive French army rates of pay, enjoy French army pension rights and be allowed to wear the French uniform. On 27 August the new Legion was ceremonially inaugurated at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris. In October the French Post Office issued a special Légion Tricolore pictorial stamp (based on the Legion's recruiting poster) which evoked an image of Napoleonic conquest. The S.O.L. was declared to be the "police" of the new Legion. Darnand urged his men to throw in their lot with the Axis forces.

The Légion Tricolore wore the same khaki uniform and fortress troops beret as the home-based L.V.F. The only new feature was in fact a large cloth badge worn on the right breast pocket. This is a khaki shield on which is a yellow, or dark gold colored, Napoleonic eagle with lightning flashes emanating from its lower quarters. On the eagle's chest is a blue/white/red shield surmounted by the word "France" in yellow on a dark blue background. The "frame" of the whole badge is red/yellow/black (black being the outer color).



Badge worn on right breast by Légion Tricolore. Yellow eagle on brown with red/yellow/black frame (The above is half actual size).

On 28 December 1942, after having been in existence for only six months, the Légion Tricolore was quietly dissolved. The reason was simple. Hitler did not approve. If the L.V.F. were to be transformed into a French-controlled unit, what power would the Wehrmacht have to prevent its being withdrawn from Russia and brought back to France? Such a prospect could not be tolerated; the French volunteers must remain under German authority. The Légion Tricolore was, on the Führer's orders, disbanded and its newly joined personnel (that is to say those who had not previously belonged to the L.V.F.) were offered the option of transferring to the resurrected L.V.F. or reverting to civilian status. Only nine officers and eighty men elected to join the L.V.F.



Recruiting poster for Legion Tricolore. "Before history you will not be an anonymous hero". This drawing was also used on a postage stamp issued by the French Post Office in October 1942.

## L.V.F. (28 December 1942 - 1 September 1944)

For most of 1942, and all of 1943, the L.V.F. was out of front-line service, being employed only on anti-partisan operations in the German rear in Russia. At the beginning of 1942 the 3rd Battalion (in which Jacques Doriot, now promoted to 1st Lieutenant, served as Battalion Intelligence Officer) took part in a large-scale anti-partisan operation around Volost. It suffered heavy casualties and was criticized by the Germans for "lack of discipline" (its courage, however, was not questioned). The action was deemed to have been a failure and the Battalion's French commander was relieved of his post.

The 1st Battalion, under Captain (later Major) Bridoux, son of the Vichy Minister of War, was deployed with greater success against the partisans of the Smolensk region. It was, at this time, part of the German 186th Security Division.

In June 1943 the 1st and 3rd Battalions were brought together under the 286th Security Division; a reconstituted 2nd Battalion was added so that by the end of the year the L.V.F. was reunited as a single regiment. Command was now entrusted to Col. Edgar Puaud, a regular soldier and former Foreign Legion officer who had spent most of his service career in North Africa. He had recently transferred from the disbanded Légion Tricolore in which he had served as Chief of Staff to General Galy.

In January 1944 the L.V.F. fought its first action as a unified whole since its disastrous service in the front line nearly two years previously. During January and February 1944 it took part in a major action, code-named 'Morocco' (in honor of Col. Puaud), against the Soviet partisans in the forest of Somry. Out of the 6,000 or so guerrillas estimated to be active in that region, 1,118 were killed and a further 1,345 captured. This operation was judged by its German planners to have been a success.

With the launching of the Red Army's summer offensive in June 1944, the L.V.F. found itself once again in the front line. Four hundred Frenchmen under Major Bridoux supplemented by miscellaneous scratch German units formed a *Kampfgruppe* (Battle Group) which fought a successful delaying action against the Russians at Bobr in the Ukraine. The Soviet communique spoke of "stiff resistance by two French divisions" - a compliment to the fighting qualities of less than a battalion of Frenchmen!

In April 1944 the Vichy government promoted Puaud to the rank of Brigadier General (although the Germans still regarded him as holding only the rank of Colonel). On 1 September 1944 the L.V.F. ceased to exist. It found itself, without prior consultation or forewarning, absorbed into the French Waffen S.S.

Before going on to deal with this development, a few further words remain to be said about the insignia of the L.V.F. The Napoleonic eagle of the Légion Tricolore continued to be worn by some officers of the L.V.F. after the disbandment of the Légion Tricolore. It is interesting to note that "Ambassador" de Brinon (Vichy's





**Ambassador de Brinon visiting French troops on the Eastern Front.**

diplomatic emissary to the German authorities in occupied Paris) wore one on the right upper breast of his French Diplomatic Corps uniform. In fact, this eagle was by no means exclusively associated with the Légion Tricolore. It had, as we have noted, already featured as the obverse center piece of the Croix de Guerre Légionnaire (instituted by the L.V.F. Committee in March 1942). It was also to be seen on the flag of the *École des Cadres* (Staff College) of the L.V.F. at Montargis near Orleans (the College opened early in 1943). Staff at this College continued to wear it as their badge after the dissolution of the Légion Tricolore. Indeed, it would seem to have replaced the Norman helmet and shield as the principal symbol of the L.V.F. Both the Veterans (*Anciens*) and Supporters (*Amis*) of the L.V.F. used it as their emblem. *Les Amis de la Légion* and *Les Anciens de la Légion* wore the same "uniform" consisting of a white shirt, black tie and dark trousers (or dark skirt for the *Amies* - the female Supporters). On the left upper arm a red brassard was worn. This was bordered in silver or gilt to denote "officer" status. In a white circle in the middle of the brassard was a Napoleonic eagle - in gold for Veterans, in silver for the *Amis*. With civilian clothes the *Anciens* wore a small gilt enamel lapel badge in the form of the Napoleonic eagle upon crossed swords (size: 16mm by 15mm). The *Amis* wore a silver eagle without the swords.

There was also a short-lived youth supporters group, known as *Les Jeunes Forces Françaises*, but in May 1942, it was decided that this should merge with the youth movement of the P.P.F. (doubtless due to Doriot's dominant influence within the L.V.F.)

### **The French S.S. / The Sturmbrigade**

Although individual Frenchmen had succeeded in getting themselves accepted into the Waffen S.S. from the very start of the occupation - it has been estimated that some

300 "private enlistments", mainly in the "Wilking" and "Totenkopf" Divisions, had been made by French citizens - it was not until July 1943 that the Waffen S.S. officially opened its ranks to French volunteers. On the 22nd of that month a *Comité des Amis de la Waffen S.S.* was established under the Presidency of the Vichy Minister of Information, Paul Marion. It was the controlling body of a new unit known, between August 1943 and July 1944 as the French S.S. Volunteer Grenadier Regiment. After July 1944 it was renamed the French S.S. Volunteer Assault Brigade (in French, *La Brigade d'assaut des volontaires français*, or, in German, *Französische S.S. Freiwilligen Sturmbrigade*). The main recruiting office was at 24 avenue du Recteur Poincaré in Paris. Volunteers were required to be "free of Jewish blood", physically fit and between the ages of 20 and 25 years (although these upper and lower limits were to prove "flexible" - some lads of 17 found their way in). Physical standards were rather higher than for the L.V.F. Not unexpectedly a high percentage of those who offered themselves were from the militias of the P.P.F., R.N.P., Francistes, etc. and the J.E.N. as well as the royalist *Action Française*, but there were many without political affiliations of any sort. University students were prominent among the volunteers. Some 3,000 applications were received to join. Joseph Darnand was granted an honorary commission as an *Obersturmführer* (1st Lieutenant) although he never actually served with



"With your European comrades under the sign of the S.S. you will conquer". A recruiting poster for the Waffen S.S.

the Regiment or, as far as can be ascertained, ever wore an S.S. or any other German uniform.

In August 1943 a first draft of 800 French volunteers arrived at the Sankt Andreas Camp at Sennheim in Alsace. There they were put through their paces by Dutch and Flemish-Belgian instructors speaking German! Uniforms were entirely German without French insignia of any description. The blue/white/red shield (worn on the left cuff) did not make its appearance until well into 1944. This absence of any specific French emblem troubled the S.S. volunteers much less than it would have done those of the L.V.F. since they wished to identify with the Germans and not, unlike the L.V.F., be seen as a French regiment which happened to be serving alongside its German "allies".

The French unit was most commonly known, after July 1944, as the *Sturmbrigade*, but the term *Brigade Frankreich* was also employed. It is said that a cuff title "FRANKREICH" (France) was worn by some members of the *Sturmbrigade*, but no documentary or photographic evidence of this has come to light.



"You too. Your comrades await you in the French Division of the Waffen S.S."



In November 1943 thirty French officer candidates were sent to the S.S. *Junkerschule* at Bad Tölz in Bavaria, and a further hundred *aspirants* were selected for training as non-commissioned officers at the S.S. School at Posen. The remainder of the volunteers were sent for further training to camps in Bohemia. On 18 July 1944 the regiment, which by then had received back its trained officers from Bad Tölz and its N.C.O.s from Posen, was sent into the front line. At this time its strength was 1,688 officers and men. On 10 August it was in action in Galicia as part of the 18th S.S. Division "Horst Wessel". In the heavy fighting that ensued, of its 18 officers, 7 were killed and 8 wounded; 130 other ranks were also killed and 661 wounded. It was pulled out of the line and sent to regroup near Danzig. In September 1944 Himmler announced that the Assault Brigade and the L.V.F. were to be amalgamated as a *Waffen-Grenadier Brigade* of the S.S. for which he had selected the name "Charlemagne".

From this Brigade there was, later, to grow the Charlemagne Division, but before going on to detail its history, it is necessary to deal with the other French military collaborators since many of these too were to end up in the Division.

### N.S.K.K. (Including Speer Legion and Transportgruppe Todt)

Although, as in the case of the *Waffen S.S.*, individual enlistments in the N.S.K.K. had been going on since virtually the start of the occupation, an official French section of the N.S.K.K. was not established until July 1942. The initiative appears to have come from Capt. Troupeau, brother-in-law of General Bridoux, the Vichy Minister of War. The main office was in rue Godot-de-Mauray in Paris, although recruiting was carried out throughout the whole of France (but concentrated mainly in the Occupied Zone). In this enterprise the *Jeunes du Maréchal* were particularly active and, as we have already noted, the choice of the *francisque* as the badge on a blue/white/red shield for the French N.S.K.K. may have derived from the *francisque* of the *Jeunes du Maréchal*. By the end of the year (1942) a first Company of about 200 men had been raised. By the end of the war there were seven companies. Volunteers were accepted up to the age of 50 and were required to sign on for a minimum engagement of two years. The French N.S.K.K. was attached to the *Luftwaffe* and wore its uniform with N.S.K.K. ranks on collar and shoulder.

The first version of the arm badge was a black *francisque* on a blue/white/red shield with a black frame at the top of which is N.S.K.K. in white. Normally the *francisque* is plain black, but slightly more elaborate examples exist which have small white stars on the baton part of the *francisque*. The second version of the arm badge is a blue/white/red shield without the *francisque* within a white (inner) and black (outer) frame with the word FRANCE in white on black at the top. Photographs sometimes





**SI TU VEUX QUE LA FRANCE VIVE  
TU COMBATTRAS DANS LA WAFFEN ⚡  
CONTRE LE BOLCHEVISME**

Claude Glasine



Andrew Mallo

Normal type of French N.S.K.K. arm badge, but some versions are better made and have stars on the Marshal's baton.



Alternative version of French N.S.K.K. arm badge (possibly French-made).



A French volunteer in the N.S.K.K. sews the Driver's Service Badge to the sleeve of his tunic. Note the French-type of arm badge. The significance of the "bar" below this shield is unknown, but may indicate length of service. Date: 9 December 1944.

show a white, or silver, bar being worn beneath this arm shield. The significance of this bar is not known, but may possibly indicate length of service.

In addition to the N.S.K.K. Gruppe Luftwaffe, the N.S.K.K. Transportgruppe Todt also recruited French drivers. This organization, which wore O.T. uniform with N.S.K.K. rank insignia, was the transport fleet of the semi-civilian Todt Organization. In France its main task was the construction of the so-called "Atlantic Wall". French volunteers may, or may not, have worn a national shield.

By the middle of 1942 the Speer Legion (a sub-division of the N.S.K.K. Transportgruppe Todt) decided to utilize the large number of Red Army prisoners-of-war who were M/T drivers on work connected with the activities of the Todt



Organization. Since there existed in France, especially in Paris, large groups of Russian émigrés from the 1917 revolution (and consequently rabidly anti-communist), the Speer Legion was keen to recruit Russian-speaking French citizens to act as a cadre for the Soviet defectors. In this it met with some success.

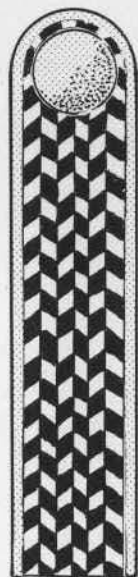
The Speer Legion had its own uniform and its own scheme of ranks; as well as its individual collar patch (a metal Sp on black, later replaced by a stylized SP in cloth, or wire, on the appropriate "arm of the service" colored patch). Foreign volunteers in the Speer Legion (latterly called the *Transportkorps Speer*) wore the same uniform as the German nationals but on the upper left arm they had an 80mm shield (n.b. this is much larger than normal arm shields) which had "the wearer's national colors" - presumably, in the case of Frenchmen, a blue/white/red shield. German regulations lay it down that "stateless persons shall wear a plain white shield". Some of these "stateless persons" could have been from France (for example, pre-war refugees from the Soviet Union or the Soviet occupied Baltic states who had not yet been granted French citizenship).



First type of collar patch



Second type of collar patch



Shoulder strap with light blue piping.



Badge for side of forage cap

Before the S.S. began to recruit openly in France, many Frenchmen had used the N.S.K.K. as a "backdoor" way of getting into the Waffen S.S. since transference from the N.S.K.K. to the S.S. was encouraged and facilitated. Indeed, when in July 1943 the Waffen S.S. opened the door to Frenchmen, the first draft of volunteers to arrive at Sennheim were mainly transferees from the French N.S.K.K.

At Melun in the Department of Seine-et-Marne, the N.S.K.K. had its own drivers school - not merely for French recruits but also for those from other parts of occupied Europe as well.

It has been estimated that possibly some 2,000 Frenchmen served with the N.S.K.K. and Speer Legion. Not all the N.S.K.K.'s duties were non-combatant, for example, in the closing months of the war one French N.S.K.K. unit fought in Hungary against the Russians as an anti-tank formation, while others, in northern Italy, were actively engaged in combating the partisans.

French N.S.K.K. men sent to the East formed part of the so-called N.S.K.K. *Einsatzgruppe Russland* (N.S.K.K. Active Service Group "Russia"). As the piping on the shoulder straps and as the background color to the inverted triangular forage cap badge, the French N.S.K.K. had blue. There were so many non-Germans in the N.S.K.K. that one German newspaper reported, "If you meet a young N.S.K.K. man he is probably a Dutchman, a Frenchman, or other foreigner; only the elderly men are German - they are the administrators and supervisors". The bulk of the French N.S.K.K. was later, as we shall see, absorbed into the Waffen S.S.

### Railway Flak Units

When, in November 1942, the Germans occupied the whole of France, the "Armistice Army"\* as it was called, was disbanded. This left France with virtually no means of self-defence. The Germans, however, were anxious that the French should share some of the burden of protecting French property, especially the railway network, from allied air attack. In April 1943 an appeal went out for anti-aircraft personnel of the former "Armistice Army" to re-engage in what were to be known as "Home Defense" Flak batteries. It was hoped that 15,000 could be raised. The actual number who came forward is not known, but it is likely that it fell considerably short of the desired figure since a second, more urgent, appeal was made two months later. This time it was hinted that conscription might have to be applied if sufficient numbers could not be obtained by voluntary enlistment. A third drive for recruits was mounted in November 1943 when it was announced that in addition to the static "Home Defnese" units there was also to be a mobile "Railway Flak" formation. This

\* Under the Armistice signed with Germany on 22 June 1940 France had been allowed to retain 100,000 men in her army.



was to consist of German 88mm guns mounted on railway trucks which would be used to protect French rolling stock from attack by low-flying allied fighter-bombers. Volunteers wore dark blue French Air Force uniforms with red artillery insignia.

### Navy and Naval Police

In February 1944 the German Navy began to appeal for French volunteers; the main recruiting office was at Caen in Normandy (to be the scene, a few months later, of heavy fighting following the D-Day landings). But, as with the other German armed forces, individual "private" enlistments had certainly taken place before that late date especially in the traditional sea-going regions of Brittany and Normandy. Probably not less than one thousand (some estimates place it as high as two thousand) Frenchmen served in the German Kriegsmarine. German regulations state that foreign volunteers will be allowed to wear an arm shield in their national colors, but no evidence can be found that the French volunteers ever wore the blue/white/red shield of France, or any other distinctive insignia of their own.

The German Navy also raised in France an indigenous Naval Police, known as the *Kriegsmarine Wehrmänner* (roughly "Navy Militiamen") who wore a dark blue uniform consisting of a tunic with six buttons closed at the neck, trousers, leather belt



General Puaud of the French army reviews French volunteers in the *Kriegsmarine Wehrmänner*. Their uniform is neither French nor German in origin; may possibly have been captured Polish army dyed navy blue. On the left arm is a badge somewhat like that of the German Police. Naval type eagle and swastika badge worn above right breast pocket. All ranks appear to have worn N.C.O. tress (presumably silver) on both collars.

and forage cap. On the collar silver tress of the type worn by German N.C.O.s extended a distance of approximately two and a half inches (that is to say it was not worn completely around the collar). This adornment appears to have been worn by all ranks, not merely non-commissioned officers. A German Navy eagle-and-swastika emblem was worn above the right breast pocket. The belt buckle was of the German Navy type. On the front of the forage cap a cloth eagle and swastika badge appeared. On the left upper arm a cloth badge rather similar to that of the German police (but smaller) was worn. Regrettably a detailed photo of this badge is not available. No shoulder straps appear to have been worn, except possibly, by non-commissioned officers. A photograph of a group of several *Kriegsmarine Wehrmänner* at an L.V.F. congress in Paris shows only one wearing shoulder straps and on these is a gilt anchor (possibly an indication of his rank).

Another, quite separate naval police unit of French volunteers was the *Kriegswerftpolizei La Pallice* (roughly The Military Wharf Police of La Pallice). This unit consisted of some 250 to 300 Frenchmen who assisted in guarding the important U-Boat base at La Pallice (near La Rochelle) on the Bay of Biscay. They wore a uniform rather like that of the above *Kriegsmarine Wehrmänner* except that the yellow German Navy eagle-and-swastika emblem was worn not above the right breast pocket but on the left upper arm above a yellow (or white) brassard with the words "*Im Dienst der deutschen Wehrmacht*" ("In the service of the German armed forces"). On the right upper arm they had a blue/white/red arm shield with the word FRANCE exactly like that worn by the L.V.F. They were provided with a miscellany of small arms.

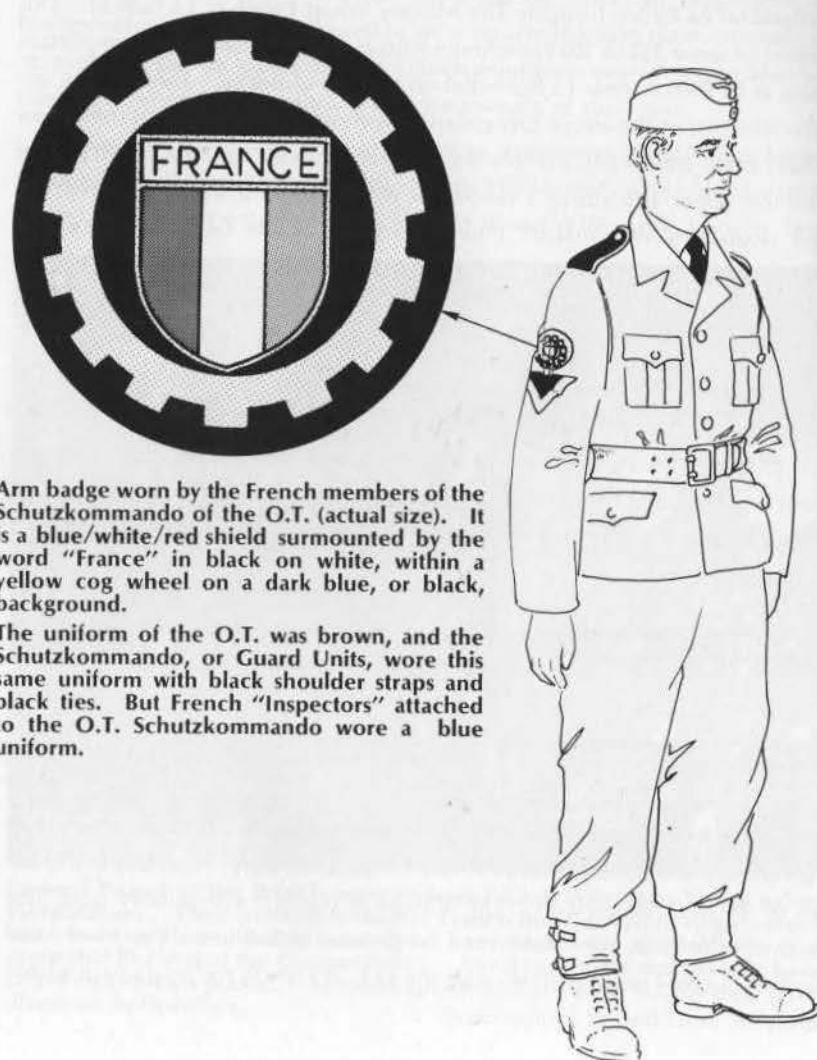
The allied invasion of France does not appear to have deterred the German Navy from continuing its attempts to recruit Frenchmen. For example, the "*Journal de Rouen*" of 29 June 1944 (i.e. three weeks after the first allied landings) carried an advertisement urging young Frenchmen to join the *Kriegsmarine*. It reads, somewhat naïvely, "To be a sailor is to have a trade - enlist today in the German Navy" (hardly a very "steady" job in June '44!)

### Organisation Todt Schutzkommando

An estimated total of a quarter of a million workers were employed by the Todt Organization (O.T.) in France, of these most were French civilians, some genuine volunteers, other less voluntary (merely "taken over" when the firm for which they worked accepted a sub-contract from the O.T.), others still were, especially in the latter stages of the war, simply conscripts drafted in under a compulsory labor law agreed between the Vichy government and the German authorities. There were also large numbers of non-French workers with the O.T. in France, the majority of whom could hardly be described as "volunteers".

To provide a guard unit with the dual purpose of protecting its property against theft and sabotage and supervising its involuntary "volunteers", the O.T. set up its own uniformed and armed *Schutzkommando* which had a semi-military status. Its uniform was a brown tunic, open at the neck, worn with a khaki shirt and black tie, black shoulder straps, brown trousers and anklets and a brown forage cap. Since most physically fit young German males were already in the armed forces, the *Schutzkommando* of the O.T. had to rely largely on foreign volunteers to fill its ranks. Frenchmen in the *Schutzkommando* wore on their right upper arm a blue/white/red shield surmounted by a black "FRANCE" on white within a yellow cog wheel. French inspectors of the O.T. had a dark blue uniform.

Civilian workers usually wore a white, or orange colored brassard with ORG. TODT in black. The German "Order of Battle" of 1944 states that workers from the west



Arm badge worn by the French members of the *Schutzkommando* of the O.T. (actual size). It is a blue/white/red shield surmounted by the word "France" in black on white, within a yellow cog wheel on a dark blue, or black, background.

The uniform of the O.T. was brown, and the *Schutzkommando*, or Guard Units, wore this same uniform with black shoulder straps and black ties. But French "Inspectors" attached to the O.T. *Schutzkommando* wore a blue uniform.

may wear on the Org. Todt brassard "a shield in their national colors", which in the case of France, would appear to mean a blue/white/red device, but no photographic evidence of this has come to light.

Not to be confused with the *Schutzkommando* of the O.T. was the *Schutzkorps* of the GBAF (Generalbevollmächtigter für den Arbeitseinsatz. Frankreich - Plenipoten-tiary General for Labor Operations. France) which was a sort of "private Gestapo" run jointly by the Org. Todt and other German labor agencies in France. Created shortly before the allied invasion, in April-May 1944, it consisted of non-uniformed Germans and French collaborators who worked closely with the S.D. Its innocuously named "League of Social Order and Justice" furnished recruiting officers for work in Ger-many or agents-provocateurs to flush out "hostile elements" in the labor force as cir-cumstance required. The P.P.F. at first co-operated with the League by putting at its disposal its *Groupes d'Action* whose brief was to round up would-be labor draft dodgers, but these groups proved to be so fiercely unpopular with their compatriots, that Doriot had later to suppress them.

## Teno

*Technische Nothilfe* in France sought to recruit French technicians in competition with its rival, the Org. Todt. Like the French N.S.K.K., the French Teno volunteers were attached to the Luftwaffe and wore its blue-grey uniform with black Teno ranks and other insignia. It is not known if the French volunteers were permitted to wear a national shield or any other distinctive emblem.

## The French S.S. / The Charlemagne Division

The L.V.F. and the French Assault Brigade of the Waffen S.S. were, as we have noted, linked as a single unit in the autumn of 1944. This new formation was known as the *Waffen-Grenadier-Brigade "Charlemagne"*. But by this date much of France had been liberated, and hundreds of French military collaborators had been evacuated along with the retreating Wehrmacht to Germany. In addition to the N.S.K.K., Org. Todt *Schutzkommando*, Kriegsmarine volunteers, naval police, depot personnel and recruitment bureaux staff, came whole units of Vichy's own detested internal security police, the *Milice Française* (of which more later).

Himmler decided to appropriate the best elements of all these for his own uses and thereby raise the French S.S. Brigade to the strength of a full division. The *Reichsführer S.S.* informed Darnand that he would have to surrender one third of his *milice* to the S.S., another third would have to go to work in the German armaments industry, the rest he was graciously allowed to keep. Thus, whether they wished it or not, some 2,500 *miliciens* were drafted into the Waffen S.S. About 800 French volun-teers from the German navy or naval police were also transferred without consultation



into the S.S., but 160 or so of these were released following their very strong protests against the move. In this they were a good deal more fortunate than the seventy L.V.F. men who tried to resist being remustered to the S.S. As a consequence of their objections they ended up in a concentration camp!

By taking over "unemployed" N.S.K.K., Schutzkommando, Teno, and other French military and para-military collaborators, and by an intensive recruiting drive among French workers in Germany, Himmler succeeded in raising the "Charlemagne" to a strength of about 7,340 men, made up (roughly) as follows:

Former Assault Brigade	about 1,000
Former L.V.F.	about 1,200
Former Milice Française	about 2,500
Former Kriegsmarine and Naval Police	640
Former N.S.K.K. Schutzkommando, etc.	about <u>2,000</u>
Total	7,340

It is quite impossible to describe the "uniform" of the "Charlemagne" since every possible variation existed in the insignia that was worn. The one thing that can be said with certainty is that the Joan of Arc sword in a wreath of laurel leaves, so often illustrated as being the collar device of this Division, was *not* worn. Veterans of the "Charlemagne" have supplied the following information on the insignia that was actually worn: the most usual collar patch was simply the standard S.S. runes, but some personnel who had formerly been in the employ of the S.D. in France wore the plain black collar patch of that service. Some of the new S.S. men were from the French section of the Army's celebrated Brandenburg Division (*Legionienkompanie* of II/Regt. of the Brandenburg Division was largely French), these enterprising characters "manufactured" their own runes by cutting them out of jam tins! They also transferred their (army) eagle and swastika emblem from the right breast to the left upper arm. Ex-L.V.F. men continued to wear their army style shield on the *right* upper arm. On the left upper arm, (either upper arm or cuff) some members of the "Charlemagne" wore the standard S.S. pattern French shield (i.e. a straight-sided shield without "FRANCE" at the top), others used the former L.V.F. shield but with the word FRANCE turned inwards so as to conceal it. In addition to this there were at least three privately made versions of the national shield which followed neither the L.V.F. nor the S.S. regulation pattern!

Of the volunteers themselves, some of the "Frenchmen" were from Indo-China (now Vietnam) and Laos, and there were even, incredible to say, some Jews (who had volunteered for the German para-military forces in occupied France in order to protect themselves from deportation and possible death). There was also one Japanese and a black ex-milicien from Martinique - this last however was just too much for the S.S. even in these last desperate days, and he was refused admission to the Division.



Standard S.S. runes collar patch.



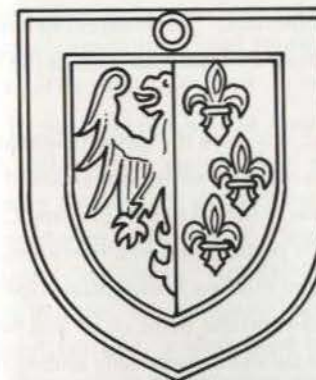
Special "sword of St. Joan" collar patch, possibly intended only for former miliciens in the Charlemagne Division (probably never actually made or worn).



Former Wehrmacht-type arm shield (right upper arm) carried over into S.S.



S.S. type French shield. Worn either on left cuff or below S.S. arm eagle.



Metal badge designed for the Charlemagne Division but never issued. Black eagle on yellow; three yellow fleur de lys on royal blue. The badge was made (an example is shown in the book "La Division Charlemagne") but never worn.

# Charlemagne

Cuff title of Charlemagne Division, silver and black.



A cuff title "CHARLEMAGNE" was certainly manufactured (probably in Prague), but few, if any, ever wore it. A divisional badge, in the French tradition,\* was also made but, in this case, definitely not worn. This is a metal badge in colored enamels and is in the form of a shield with, on the left, a black eagle on a yellow field and, on the right, three golden fleurs de lys on a royal blue background (this badge, not in color, was the vehicle sign of the Division).

A word must be said about the Joan of Arc sword collar patch. Credence has been lent this non-existent patch by two facts: (a) such a device was certainly muted by the Germans. S.S. *Brigadeführer* G. Krukenberg had met Darnand's objections that his *miliciens*, many of whom were devout Catholics, would refuse to wear the pagan runes of the S.S., by saying they would not be called upon to do so but would have instead "a sword like that of Joan of Arc". This promise was, of course, never honored. (b) A highly fanciful "map" produced by the S.S. Propaganda Department in the closing months of the war purports to show the arm and collar devices of the many different nationals serving in the Waffen S.S. Emanating from a (by this time) liberated France is this collar patch.

After a winter of training in the Rhone valley, the Brigade, now officially upgraded to a Division as the 33. *Waffen Grenadier Division der S.S. "Charlemagne"*, was deemed fit for active duty. It now consisted of two regiments - the 57th Regiment (made up mainly of former L.V.F. men) and the 58th Regiment (mainly former *Sturmbrigade*). The divisional commander was Edgar Puaud with the rank of *Waffen-Oberführer der S.S.* (or to the French, *Général de Brigade*). Krukenberg commanded the German staff attached to the Division - in practice this meant that he passed on to Puaud the orders of their mutual (German) superiors. Jean-Marcel Renault of the J.F.O.M. acted as liaison officer between the French and German staffs of the Division.

"Tiger" tanks were promised, but never delivered, nor were the less-efficient Skoda models offered as a substitute. The Division had to make do with German and Italian "left-overs". In February 1945 the Charlemagne was in action as part of Army Group Vistula in Pomerania. On the 25th of that month it participated in a fierce engagement around the town of Hammerstein. The force of the Red Army's assault split the French in three. One group was trapped in a pocket on the Baltic coast and had to be evacuated by the German Navy to Denmark, the survivors eventually ending up at Neustrelitz (about 60 miles north of Berlin). A second group, less lucky, tried to withdraw under cover of a fog which, unfortunately for them, cleared, exposing them to the murderous fire of the Russian artillery. Puaud was in this party and was posted "missing" (his actual fate has never been determined). A third group, mistakenly believing that all the Baltic ports were now in enemy hands, attempted a fighting retreat westwards, but by 17 March all had either been killed or taken captive.

Dr. Gustav Krukenberg, Commander of the Charlemagne Division.



In mid-March all that was left of the Charlemagne was regrouped at Neustrelitz. Although never officially disbanded as a Division (it remained as such on the paper strength of the S.S. until the very end), the most that could be scraped together at Neustrelitz was one infantry regiment which was given the designation of *Waffen-Grenadier Regiment der S.S. "Charlemagne"*. It consisted of about 700 infantrymen plus a pioneer battalion of a further 400 men.

On 27 March Krukenberg, now effectively commander of the "Division" paraded his men. Frankly he acknowledged the desperate nature of the war situation and admitted that many of the supposed "volunteers" were not there of their own free will. He absolved all those who no longer wished to go on fighting from any further obligation to do so. They were promised that they could revert to non-combatant status - one officer and three hundred other ranks availed themselves of this offer. The remainder took an oath of unconditional loyalty to Hitler.

In the early hours of 24 April 1945 about four or five hundred volunteers from the "Charlemagne" were rushed south to join the defenders of Berlin. Due to very heavy Russian air attack some one hundred perished on the way. In Berlin the Frenchmen, classified as a *Sturmabteilung* (Assault Battalion), were attached to the Danish-Norwegian "Nordland" Division. It is not, therefore, technically correct to say that the "Charlemagne" Division took part in the defense of Berlin. The "Division" (all told, it amounted to less than 700 men) remained at Neustrelitz. The French Assault Battalion fought with undeniable heroism, and terrible loss. Within a week its strength had been reduced to 120 men. Three Frenchmen were awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross although, due to the chaotic conditions prevailing at the time, only one (Sergeant Eugène Vaultot\*) actually received the decoration - on 29 April. Three days later he was killed. Hitler committed suicide on 30 April, and

\*The book "Their Honor Was Loyalty: a history of the Knight's Cross holders of the Waffen SS..." gives his name as Vaultot.



the defense of the city fell to pieces. Such was the end of the "Charlemagne" volunteers.

One last word remains to be said regarding Frenchmen in the S.S. When Germany took over the disputed region of Alsace-Lorraine (which had changed hands three times since 1870) she made Lorraine part of Gau Westmark, while Alsace was incorporated into Gau Moselland. Not all residents were granted German citizenship (many were, of course, entirely French), but in August 1942 conscription began to be applied to all youths in both regions who were of military age, with the result that some 130,000 were drafted into the German forces.\* In January 1944 the S.S., presumably acting on the assumption that the Alsace-Lorraine were potential *Volksdeutsche*, conscripted a large number of 18 year-olds into the "Das Reich" Division. It was this Division which was to perpetrate one of the most notorious atrocities ever committed by the S.S. in France - the destruction of Oradour-sur-Glane. Ironical that this horrific "German" action should have been carried out, in part at least, by Frenchmen (albeit against their will). In an attempt to avoid exacerbating the feelings of the citizens of the restored provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, the French government, after the war, granted an amnesty to all Frenchmen who had been impressed into the German armed forces and, "who had committed war crimes under orders".



Vehicle sign for the Charlemagne Division.

#### Internal Security and Police Forces in France, 1940-1944 Milice Française

On 19 December 1942 Laval was summoned to Hitler's presence and brusquely informed that the German authorities in France were far from satisfied with the reliability of the French police and that the French must, therefore, create a special security force whose loyalty to the regime was beyond question which could be counted on to deal with "terrorists" in an appropriately merciless fashion.

The nucleus of just such a force already existed in the Service D'Ordre Légionnaire (S.O.L.) On 10 January 1943 it was announced that the S.O.L. was to be renamed the

\*Conscription for the German Labor Service (R.A.D.) had been in force in Lorraine since April 1941 and in Alsace since July 1941.



## MILICE FRANÇAISE

### ASSEMBLÉES CONSTITUTIVES DE LA MILICE FRANÇAISE

**FRANÇAIS, FRANÇAISES**

### LA PATRIE EST EN DANGER

*l'existence même de la FRANCE  
est en jeu. Chaque jour le danger  
intérieur se précise et s'aggrave.*

### FACE AU PÉRIL COMMUNISTE

*LA MILICE FRANÇAISE forgera  
l'unité du Peuple FRANÇAIS.  
Ce sera notre seul et vrai combat.*

**TOUS A L'ASSEMBLÉE  
DE LA MILICE FRANÇAISE**

**Dimanche 28 Février 1943**

**A 10 HEURES**

**OPÉRA MUNICIPAL de CLERMONT-Fd**

**JOSEPH DARNAND**  
Secrétaire Général de la Milice Française

A notice announcing the formation of the Milice Française. It reads: "Founding assemblies of the Milice Française. French men and women, the fatherland is in danger. The very existence of France is at stake. Each day the internal threat becomes more obvious and more acute. In face of the communist peril the Milice Française will unite the French people. That is our sole and true struggle. Everyone (should come) to the assembly of the Milice Française on Sunday 28 February 1943 at 10 a.m. at the Municipal Opera House at Clermont-Ferrand. Signed: Joseph Darnand, General Secretary"

*Milice Nationale* (National Militia). On 30 January the new militia severed all connection with the Legion of Veterans and Volunteers of the National Revolution. Shortly thereafter the *Milice Nationale* was rechristened the *Milice Française*.

Membership of this new formation was not restricted to former S.O.L. men. Anyone "morally and physically fit to support the new state...and assist in the maintenance of internal order" was welcomed into its ranks. On 1 February 1943 Joseph Darnand was nominated National Chief of the *Milice Française*.

Like the S.O.L., new recruits had to undergo a three-week training and probation period, at the end of which, kneeling, they swore the following oath, "I undertake upon my honor to serve France, even to the sacrifice of my own life. I swear to devote all my strength to the triumph of the revolutionary ideal of the *Milice Française* whose discipline I freely accept".

The *Milice* was divided into three main sections:

- (1) The Franc-Garde
- (2) Les Miliciennes (Women's Section)
- (3) Avante-Garde Milicienne (Youth Branch)

The Franc-Garde, the "troops" of the *Milice*, was further sub-divided into:

- (a) Franc-Garde Permanente
- (b) Franc-Garde Non-permanente

The first consisted of the "regulars", young and fit men who belonged to full-time units quartered in former army barracks and available for active duty in any part of France. The latter were a sort of Home guard or Civil Guard, older men who lived at home and performed their duties in after-work hours although always subject to "mobilization" in the event of an emergency.

The *Milice* was now organized along military lines although the archaic S.O.L. terminology was still retained for the names of its units - *Main*, *Dizaine*, *Trentaine*, *Centaine* and *Cohorte*. The smallest unit was a *Main*; the largest a *Centre* consisting of four *Cohortes*, and roughly equivalent to a Regiment.

The uniform of the *Milice* was a dark blue tunic, dark blue beret, khaki shirt, black tie and dark blue ski trousers. This was the *official* uniform, but French army khaki was also worn (possibly due to a shortage of suitable blue uniforms). Some photographs even show *civilian* shirts being worn. On active duty a French army steel helmet was worn. When the jacket was not worn a black brassard with the *Milice* emblem in white was worn on the left upper arm.

This emblem is a stylized gamma in a circle. The choice of the third letter of the Greek alphabet as the badge of the *Milice Française* was explained thus: the gamma is the zodiacal sign of the Ram and therefore of force, but Aries (the Ram) is also the segment of spring (21 March to 20 April) and is therefore additionally symbolic of rejuvenation - the *Milice Française* stands for the power and energy of a reborn France. An added reason, although never officially stated, was that a gammadion (from the same origin) is an alternative word for a flyflot or swastika!

In addition to being used as a beret badge and a steel helmet emblem (on the front of the helmet), it was also worn on the right breast pocket of both tunic and



Full dress *Milice* uniform - dark blue with khaki shirt and black tie. Sometimes puttees or anklets were worn. Below: breast badge of the Groupe Spécial de Sécurité - black *Milice* emblem, black surround, white center, silver G.S., death's head and "Devant". Actual size is smaller (66mm by 50mm).



shirt. For the *Franc-Garde* it is silver or white on black, for the Women's section white on blue enclosed by a red circle narrowly outlined in white, for the *Avant-Garde Milicienne* silver or white on red. The staff of the *Milice* training school at Uriage had the black and silver badge upon a downward pointing silver sword.

Rank was indicated on the shoulder by a system that approximated to that of the French army. On both collars of the tunic the *Franc-Garde* wore the number of their *Cohorte* below an inverted double chevron (in the French army manner). The *Groupe Spécial de Sécurité* (G.S.S.), a new formation created towards the end of 1943 to provide protection for senior *Milice* leaders and carry out "special assignments" (a sinister phrase!) wore in place of the *Cohorte* number, a silver wire death's head. Their enamel breast badge was a black bordered white shield with a death's head, gamma, and "G.S." surmounted by the word *Devant*.





Breast badge of the "Franc Garde" (i.e. the "regulars" of the Milice Française) Black and silver.



Breast badge of the Avant-Garde Milicienne (i.e. the cadets, or youth branch, of the Milice Française); a silver gamma on red.



Breast badge of other miliciens than the Franc Garde or Avant-Garde (i.e. the non-"regular" formations and female members). Silver gamma on blue within a red circle with narrow silver edges.



Badge of the École d'Uriage (the national training school of the Milice at Uriage). Silver and black.

The actual sizes of the above are: for Franc Garde, 40mm when worn on breast pocket, 15mm when worn as a lapel badge (with civilian clothes). Same dimensions for badge of non-Franc Garde miliciens (and women), also same dimensions for Avant-Garde badge (although the author can vouch only for the smaller, 15mm type). The École d'Uriage badge is 38mm across the circle.



Brassard worn with khaki shirt when in summer, or undress uniform (black with white Milice emblem).



Collar insignia of Groupe Special de Securite in place of the normal Cohorte number. (A silver wire death's head on black.)

#### MILICE FRANÇAISE RANKS



Franc-garde



Chef de main adjoint



Chef de main



Chef de dizaine adjoint



Chef de dizaine



Chef de groupe (Centaine)



Chef de groupe (Cohorte)



Chef de trentaine adjoint



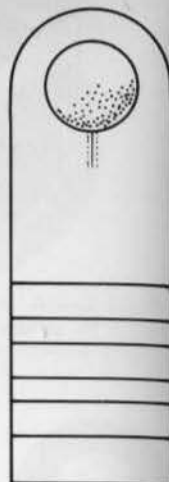
Chef de trentaine  
(gold bar)



Chef de centaine  
adjoint  
(two silver bars)



Chef de centaine  
(two gold bars)



Chef de cohorte  
adjoint  
(three silver bars)



Chef de cohorte  
(3 gold bars)



Chef de centre adjoint  
(one silver star)



Chef de centre  
(one gold star)



Chef départemental  
adjoint (two silver  
stars)



Chef départemental  
(2 gold stars)



Chef régional adjoint  
(3 silver stars)



Chef régional  
(3 gold stars)



Délégué général de  
la milice en Zone  
nord (Max Knipping)  
(4 gold stars)

**NOTE:**

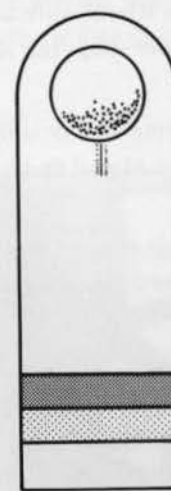
The two highest ranks were Secrétaire général adjoint (Deputy Secretary General) and Secrétaire général held, respectively, by Francis Bout de l'An and Joseph Darnand. Neither of these two men wore rank insignia of any kind.

**MILICE FRANÇAISE**

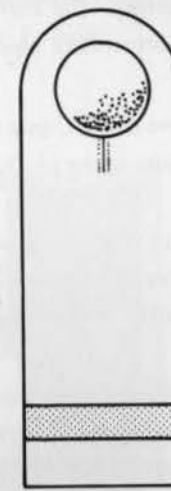
**SPECIAL RANKS FOR THE TRAINING SCHOOL (ECOLE DES CADRES) AT URIAGE**



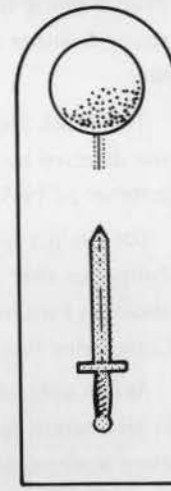
Stagiaire



Élève-aspirant  
(red/gold bars)



Aspirant  
(gold bar)



Chef du 1er échelon  
(gold sword)

**NOTE:**

All Training School shoulder straps are light blue. In theory the Chef de l'école wore red shoulder straps, but in practice, light blue as all the others.





**Chef du 2ème  
échelon  
(2 gold swords)**



**Chef du 3ème  
échelon  
(3 gold swords)**



**Chef adjoint de  
l'école  
(gold gamma)**



**Chef de l'école  
(gold gamma  
upon gold sword)**

On the left upper arm a shield with the heraldic badge of the region to which the unit belonged was worn.

The Criminal Investigation Branch of the Milice, the 2e Service, consisted partly of plain clothes, partly of uniformed personnel. In smaller towns, the 2e Service and the G.S.S. were linked together under the designation *Section Spéciale*.

In February 1943 the Milice took over the École National des Cadres at Uriage as its main training headquarters. The staff at this school wore very light blue shoulder straps, trainees wore normal dark blue shoulder straps but with the lower half light blue.

The Youth Section, the *Avant-Garde Milicienne*, was for lads between 15 and 20 and was directed by the leader of the J.F.O.M., Jean-Marcel Renault. It was formed in the summer of 1943.

For the first year of its existence the Milice was allowed to operate only in the South Zone, but after 31 December 1943, it was permitted to function in the North Zone also. Its Paris headquarters was, ironically, in the former headquarters of the French Communist Party.

At first only native (white) Frenchmen were accepted into Milice, but in April 1944, in an attempt to swell its ranks, it signed on some 200 colored Algerians (of whom there were several hundred thousand in metropolitan France).

The Germans showed considerable reluctance about entrusting the Milice with modern weapons. It was not until October 1943 when Darnand, along with about a dozen other senior Milice officers, signed up with the S.S., that they would allow the *Franc-Garde* to have up-to-date machine guns. The Milice was so chronically short of arms that sometimes its members would pad out their empty holsters with paper to

convey the impression that they contained revolvers! Apart from small arms, the usual Milice weapons were Bren or Sten guns. If any unit boasted "artillery" it was almost certainly some obsolete gun that it had acquired for itself from ex-World War I stocks!

Estimates of the numerical strength of the Milice vary. By D-Day (June 1944) there were possibly about 5,000 members of the *Franc-Garde Permanente*, with a further 8,000 in the *Non-Permanente* Section (who, on Darnand's orders, were "mobilized" after the Allied landings). Counting all sections; male, female and youth, there may have been a membership of around 29,000 on the eve of liberation. In Paris there were only 400 - a surprisingly small number for the largest city in France, but explainable possibly by the fact that the collaborating political parties had begun to place their own strong arm squads at the disposal of the authorities. This combined official and unofficial formation was known as the M.N.A.T. (*Mouvement National Anti-Terroriste*), and consisted of, in addition to the regular Milice, Action Groups from Doriot's P.P.F.; the *Groupe Franc* of Déat's *Milice Nationale Populaire* (formed in June 1943); the *Brigades bleues* of the Franciste Party, as well as miscellaneous young thugs known as the *Jeunes Gardes* who could be relied on to rough-handle Jews, resisters or other "enemies of the state".

Large scale actions, with German assistance, were fought by the Milice mainly in rural areas against concentrations of armed *Maquisards* (usually in mountainous or wooded areas in the South Zone). With the liberation of France the *Franc-Garde*, as we have noted, fled to Germany where its fittest members were impressed into the Waffen S.S. From what was left, Darnand formed two light infantry battalions which were then sent to northern Italy to right the Partisans.



**Flag of the Milice Française. Black  
Milice emblem with gold wording.**



## Brigade (Légion) Nord-Africaine

As we have already noted, the Milice was unwilling to enroll colored colonials into its racially self-aware ranks and did not do so until April 1944 and then only after considerable German pressure. The Germans were anxious to exploit anti-communist sentiment among Moslems, and already the S.D. in France had noticed how readily they were able to recruit Islamic Algerians (mainly from the Paris region). Indeed these characters came forward in such numbers that, in January 1944, the S.D. was able to set up a *Brigade* (also referred to as a *Légion*) *Nord-Africaine*. Recruiting was carried out on the Germans' behalf by the ultra-nationalist Algerian leader of the *Parti du Progrès Algerien*, Mohamed el Maadi. He succeeded in persuading some 400 of his compatriots to offer their services to the S.D., but about 100 had to be refused on account of their criminal records.

Although their uniform was virtually the same as that of the *Milice Française*, consisting of a dark blue tunic, trousers and beret with a khaki shirt (this *ensemble* being supplied at bargain prices by a Jewish smutter dealer, Joanovici of Paris!), the North African Legion were very definitely not connected with the Milice. Officers and senior N.C.O.s were all white Frenchmen and wore standard S.D. field-grey (without any special French insignia of any sort to distinguish them from their German colleagues - this seems to have been standard practice in the case of Frenchmen in the ranks of the S.D.) This cut-throat formation was under the command of a notorious French police officer, Henri Lafont (his real name was Chamberlain) who held a commission as an S.D. *Hauptsturmführer*.

"Lafont", along with another French police officer, Pierre Bony, had already formed, under S.D. guidance, a French equivalent of the Gestapo, known as the *Corps d'Autoprotection français*, which tracked down and tortured resistance suspects before handing them over to the Germans.

The North African Legion carried out active operations against the *maquis* in the Dordogne region, sometimes in parallel with the *Milice Française*, although there was never any direct co-operation between these two anti-resistance bodies.

## Milice (Bretonne) Perrot

Extremists of the Breton Nationalist Party (P.N.B.) formed their own militia to fight the resistance in the early months of 1944. This formation, which had no connection with either of the above, was known as the *Milice Perrot* (or in the Breton language, *Bezenn Perrot*.) The name derived from Father Jean-Marie Perrot, a parish priest of Scrignac, who on 12 December 1943, had been brutally killed by the local resistance for his too-outspoken advocacy of collaboration with the Germans as a road to Breton autonomy. The Germans were quick to cash in on autonomist anger, and S.D. head-

quarters at Rennes not only permitted the formation of this volunteer militia (of about 200 fanatics) but granted its leader, Célestin Lainé (who went under the pseudonym of Le Coz), a commission as an S.D. *Obersturmführer*.

There is some doubt as to what uniform the *Milice Bretonne* (or *Milice Perrot*) actually wore, but it was probably improvised; possibly the black garb of the P.N.B.'s own Storm Troop with items of field-grey supplied by the S.D. Its officers, at least those who held S.D. commissions, probably wore the standard S.D. uniform.

The *Milice Française*, of course, also fielded units in Brittany, and these formations wore the black and white "ermine" arm shield of the Province of Brittany, but this does not signify that they had any connection whatsoever with the *Milice Perrot*; on the contrary the ideology of the *Milice Française* was utterly opposed to all that the Breton nationalists stood for, since the P.N.B. was "anti-France" and wished for the break-up of the union. There was, therefore, open conflict rather than cooperation between the two.

With the liberation of France, the *Milice Perrot* fled with the retreating Germans, were absorbed into the *Waffen S.S.* and are said to have been virtually wiped out in the final battles of the war (in the Hanover area).

## French Police

Although the French police were often called upon to assist in the rounding-up of Jews, labor draft dodgers and resistance suspects and even, in certain instances, actually participate in armed operations in co-operation with the Milice and the Germans, against the *maquisards*, it would be quite wrong to suggest that the French police were collaborationist - indeed actual resistance movements existed within the police itself. However, equally it would be inaccurate to say that the police was entirely free from the taint of voluntary collaboration with, in particular, the S.D. The structure of the police under the occupation as follows:

In October 1941 the Vichy Minister of Justice, Pierre Pucheu, instituted three entirely new police departments each under a rather sinister designation. These were:

- (a) P.Q.J. (*Police des Questions Juives* - literally the Police for Jewish Matters, but popularly, and more accurately, known as the Anti-Jewish Police).
- (b) S.P.A.C. (*Service de Police Anti-communiste*). Nominally anti-communist, but in practice anti-any form of resistance. Its "Special Brigades" had a dread reputation. One such, under Police Commissaire David in Paris, arrested 2,611 resistance suspects in the course of its three years' activity; 495 of these were turned over to the S.D., and about a quarter of this latter number were to perish in German concentration



camp. Jacques Doriot was an Executive Director of the S.P.A.C.

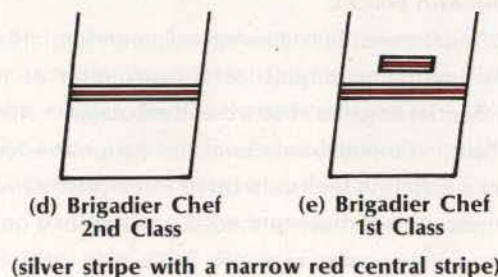
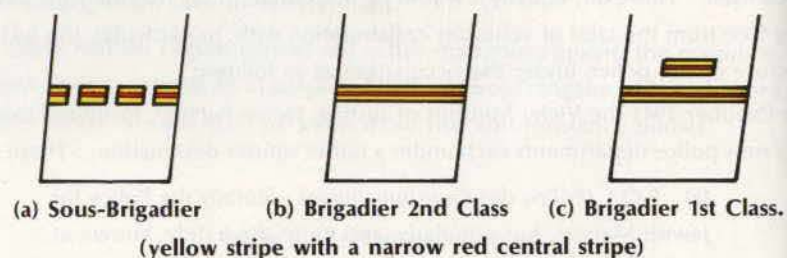
(c) S.S.S. (*Service des Sociétés Secrètes*). The "Secret Societies" against which this branch of the police directed its attention were mainly the lodges of the Freemasons - seen by the Catholic authorities of Vichy as potential breeding grounds of dissention.

The pre-war *Sûreté Nationale* was renamed *Police Nationale*. For police purposes the Unoccupied Zone was divided into Regions consisting of groups of former *départements* under a Regional Prefect of Police assisted by one (or in very large Regions, two) *Intendants de Police*. Each of the departments of the Region was under a Departmental Prefect. All towns with a population of over 10,000 had a branch of the National Police.

The sub-sections of the National Police were:

- (a) Police de Sécurité Publique
- (b) Police de Sûreté
- (c) Police des Renseignements Généraux
- (d) Groupes Mobiles de Réserve (G.M.R.)
- (e) Régiments de la Garde
- (f) Garde des Communications
- (g) Garde du Maréchal.

#### Non-commissioned officer ranks (worn round both cuffs)

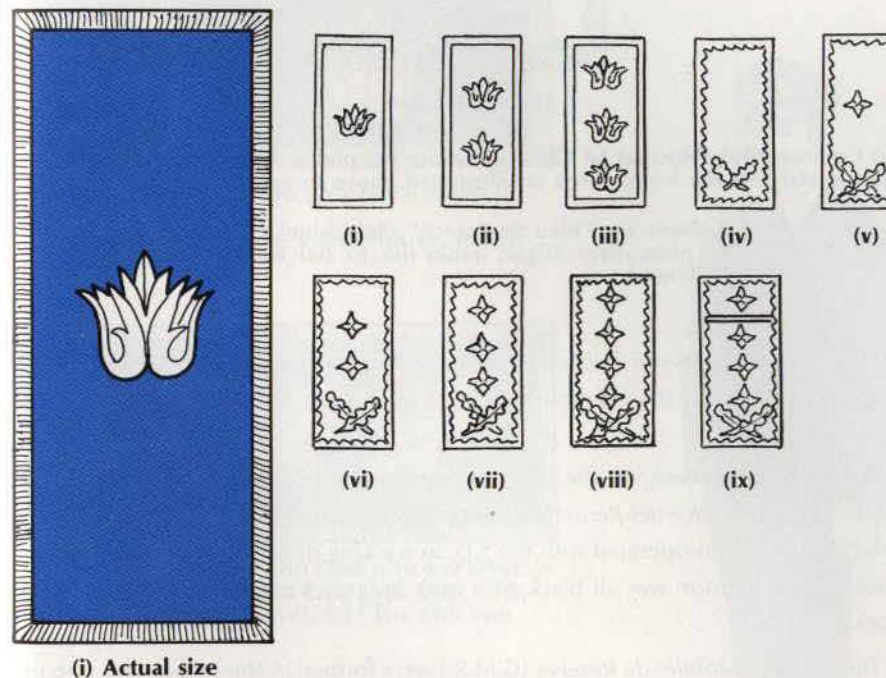


Collar patch for Brigadier  
1st and 2nd Class (silver  
acanthus leaf on light blue).

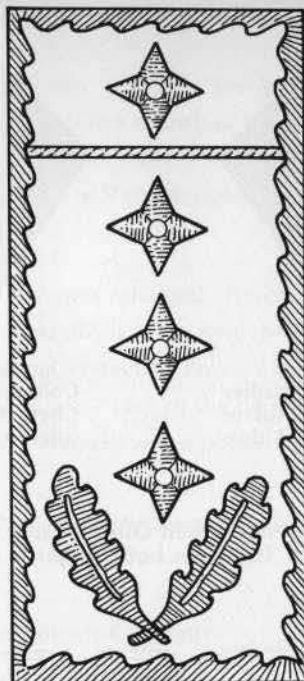


Collar patch for Brigadier  
Chef, 1st and 2nd Class  
(silver on light blue).

#### Commissioned Officer Ranks (worn on both cuffs)



- (i) Officer de Paix 2nd Class; one metal acanthus leaf
- (ii) Officer de Paix 1st Class: two metal acanthus leaves
- (iii) Officer de Paix Principal: three metal acanthus leaves
- (iv) Commandant 4th Class: crossed oak leaves in silver wire
- (v) Commandant 4th Class: Crossed oak leaves plus one silver wire star
- (vi) Commandant 2nd Class: crossed oak leaves plus two silver wire stars
- (vii) Commandant 2nd Class: crossed oak leaves plus three silver wire stars
- (viii) Commandant Principal 2nd Class: crossed oak leaves plus four silver stars



(ix) Actual size

(ix) Commandant Principal 1st Class: as before but plus a silver wire "bar" between the top star and the lower three (as illustrated above in actual size)

All the above are "bleu de France" (light blue). Ranks (i) to (iii) have plain silver edges, ranks (iv) to (ix) have the inner edges indented.

The *Police de Sécurité Publique* was concerned principally with normal peace-keeping. It retained the old pre-war police blue uniform although with new rank insignia.

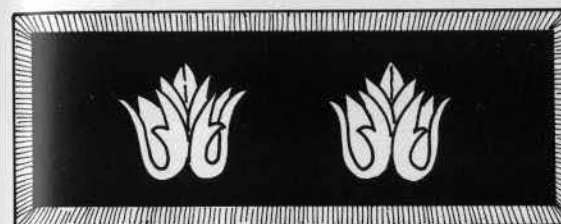
The *Police de Sûreté*, on the other hand, was engaged mainly in anti-resistance work. Like the *Police des Renseignements Généraux* (General Intelligence Branch of the Police), they co-operated with the S.D. in tracking down elements hostile to the state. Their uniform was all black with rank insignia worn above the right breast pocket.

The *Groupes Mobiles de Reserve* (G.M.R.) were formed in November 1942 with the specific task of actively combating terrorist movements. In April 1943 the G.M.R. took on an independent existence and was no longer technically a sub-division of, as previously, the *Sécurité Publique*. There were 41 G.M.R. groups in the South Zone and 16 in the North Zone - a total of 10,442 officers and men (as in 1944). Each group, of about 200 men, was fully motorized, lived in barracks in the principal town of the region for which it was responsible and could be called out by the Police Intendant of

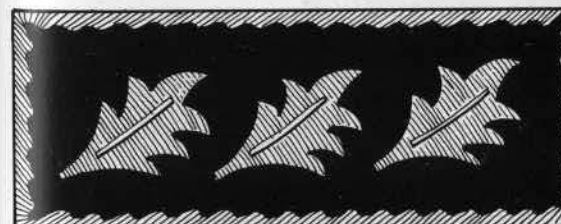
the Region, or any of the Departmental Prefects under him, to reinforce the local police in such actions as the rounding up of Jews or labor draftees or to deal, independently, with armed terrorist attacks. This latter duty was to involve fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with the *Milice Française* in pitched battles against the *maquisards*. The G.M.R. uniform was police blue for non-commissioned ranks, but officers had the new all black garb of the *Police de Sûreté* with light blue collar patches, light blue cuff facings with silver rank insignia, a light blue cap band, and a light blue stripe down the outer seams of their breeches. The distinctive emblem of the G.M.R. was a silver lion's head in a circle. This was worn on the left upper arm. A colored enamel metal badge was worn on the right pocket to indicate the G.M.R. unit, usually with the name of the district, but some units carried special names, for example, Dupetit-Thouars (an 18th century French naval hero).

#### POLICE DE SÛRETÉ

Rank insignia  
(worn above right breast pocket)



Inspecteur de Police (two grey metal acanthus leaves.  
Inspecteur Principal de Police (three metal acanthus leaves)

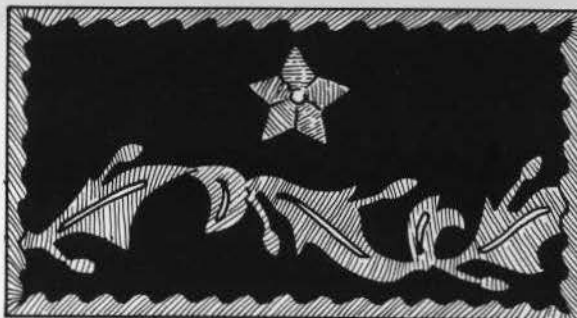


Commissaire de Police. 4th Class with one silver wire leaf; 3rd Class with two; 2nd Class with three (as illustrated above), 1st Class with four.

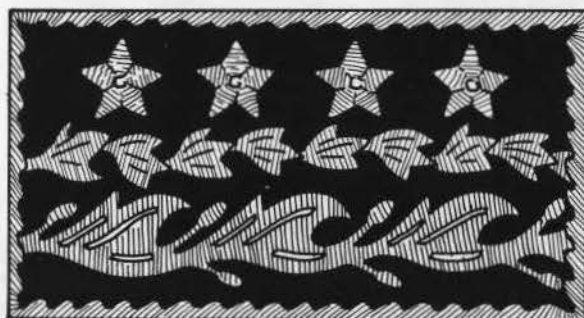
Inspecteur de Police. Black, or very dark blue, uniform with silver buttons, silver "francisque" within laurel wreath on both collars. Silver cap badge and ornamentation. Black shoes.







Commissaire Principal 3rd Class with one star (as illustrated), 2nd Class with two stars, 1st Class with three stars.



Commissaire Divisionnaire



Inspecteur General (silver wire)  
Controleur General (the same but in gold wire)

# SECURITY POLICE Headgear



Inspecteur (and Inspecteur Principal) de Police



Commissaire de Police, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Class



Commissaire Principal (1st Class has three stars, as above, 2nd Class two stars, 3rd Class one).



Commissaire Divisionnaire



Controleur General



Inspecteur General



All the above are black with silver ornamentation



Badge for steel helmet and O.R.'s kepi.



Officer's cap badge. Silver wire on black (actual size - from an example in Dodkins Collection).



Other ranks uniform (police blue)



Arm badge of the G.M.R. Silver lion's head



Officer of the Police Nationale



Metal badge worn on right breast pocket to indicate region of origin (here for Limagne).

G.LeMarec

The *Régiments de la Garde* were the Vichy successor of the *Garde Républicaine Mobile* (naturally the word *Républicaine* had to be dropped since Vichy did not regard itself as a Republic), but from the point of view of uniforms it remained virtually unchanged. Its bursting grenade badge still bore the letters R.F. (*République Française*). Parade dress was black with red epaulettes, but the *tenue de Campagne* (active service dress) was French army khaki. Until the occupation of the whole of France (November '42) the *Régiments de la Garde* formed part of the Armistice Army under the Ministry of War, but when the Germans moved into the Unoccupied Zone and the "Armistice Army" was stood down, the *Garde* was saved by being incorporated into the National Police and placed under the Ministry of the Interior. It was



A late version of breast badge.



Collar insignia  
(gilt)



(a)



Badge for  
helmet



(b)

Uniform: (a) for parade dress - black with red epaulettes and red top to képi. (b) "Combat dress". French army type khaki with black collar patches with gold exploding grenade.



Badge worn on the right breast pocket. The number in the wreath indicates the number of the regiment.



Sports Instructor (Moniteur Sportif) of the Vichy Police (all branches of police)

restricted to the South Zone only. It had a strength of about 300 officers and 9,000 men distributed in nine regiments (six in France and three in North Africa).

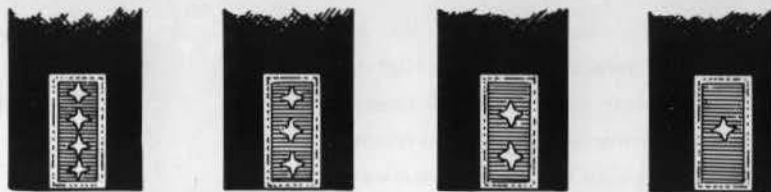
*Garde des Communications* (full title: *Service des Gardes des Voies et des Communications* - Service of Guards of Highways and Communications) was set up in January 1941 to protect road and rail communications against possibly resistance sabotage. It was armed (with rifles and revolvers) and was recruited mainly from ex-servicemen. The police blue uniform was worn with green collar patches and, for officers, green cuff facings (with rank insignia in silver wire). The cap badge was a green shield with, at the top, blue/white/red; upon this was a downward pointing white dagger upon a white cog wheel. When, at a later stage, civilians had to be conscripted to fill out its ranks, they wore a white brassard with, in the center, a cloth badge of the same design as the cap badge but about twice its size.

Cap  
badge



Cuff rank of (probably) the top rank. Silver wire acanthus leaves and stars on a green background (actual size; from an example in the collection of M.Maitret).

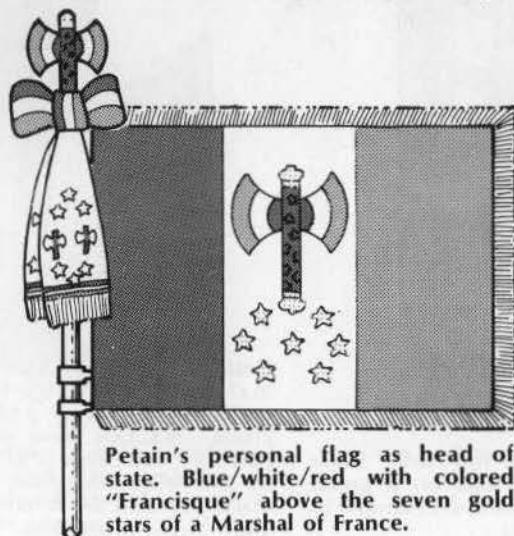
Uniform of lowest rank. It is the normal dark blue of the French police. Collar patches are green. N.C.O.'s have on the collar patch the same type of acanthus leaf as for the Police Nationale. Black belt and black cross strap, also black boots or leggings.



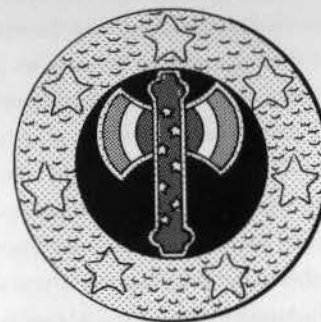
Examples of the first four officer ranks: silver stars on a green cuff patch outlined in silver (names of ranks unknown)

The *Garde du Maréchal*, Pétain's personal bodyguard, consisted of about 1,000 specially-selected former N.C.O.s with distinguished war records. They wore the "horizon blue" uniform of the French army of the 1st World War. They had a collar badge in the form of a colored *francisque* upon a silver grenade with "E.F." (*État Français*) on the body of the grenade. The same device was worn on the silver belt buckle. Officers had a rather splendid breast badge which has the *francisque* in full color upon a black background, outlined in a "frame" of gilt wire, the whole being upon a grass green background. Pétain's personal staff wore, on the left breast pocket, a 33mm circular metal badge which has, in colored enamel, a *francisque* on black within a gilt circle with seven stars (seven stars are the insignia of a Marshal of France).

Other minor "police" formations which may be mentioned were the *Garde Maritime*, started in June 1942 with headquarters at Brest to supervise ports and harbors with the object of either preventing "wanted" persons from escaping or unwanted agents from arriving, and the *Gardes Messiers* (Harvest Guard) started in the summer of 1943 to counteract the increasing sabotage of crops.



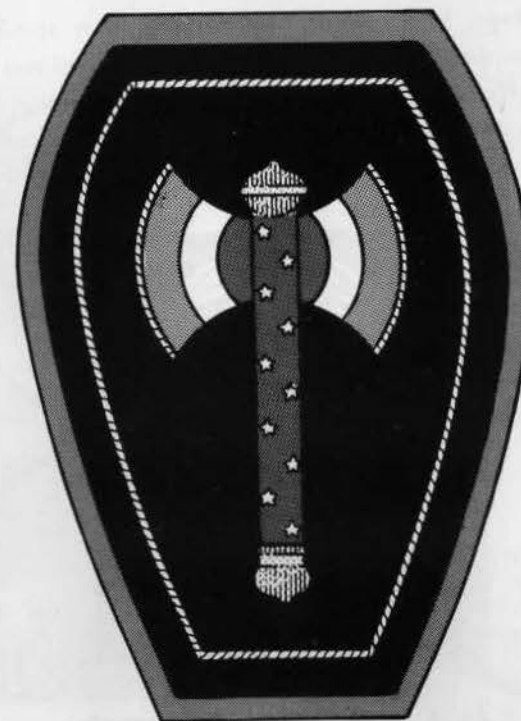
Pétain's personal flag as head of state. Blue/white/red with colored "Francisque" above the seven gold stars of a Marshal of France.



Badge worn on the left breast pocket by personal staff of the Marshal. Actual size is 33mm. Colored "francisque" on black with gold surround with seven stars.



Collar badge. Colored "francisque" with silver wire exploding grenade and gold "E.F." (*État français*). The same emblem was used as the belt buckle design (silver buckle measuring 65mm by 60mm).



Officer's breast badge (actual size, drawn from an example in Dodkins Collection). It is in cloth and is a colored "francisque" on black with gold wire frame. Outer edge is green.



## Colonial Units

This work deals the with *European* volunteers, but naturally many European Frenchmen lived at this time in North Africa, and from among these, various pro-Vichy and pro-German formations were raised. French North Africa was not initially occupied by German troops, but with the mounting activity of the desert war in Egypt and Libya the German military presence throughout north Africa greatly increased. One of the first French units to be subjected to German pressure was the celebrated Foreign Legion, many of whose members were, of course, of German origin. The Wehrmacht combed out some 300 of these and incorporated them into the African Special Purposes Division, first formed in August 1941. On 28 November 1941 this formation was renamed the 90th Light African Division. It comprised the following:

155th (Mot.) Infantry Regt.

200th (Mot.) Infantry Regt.

361st (Mot.) Infantry Regt.

Panzer-Gren. Regt. (Mot.) Afrika

Most of the ex-Foreign Legionnaires were in the 361st (Mot.) Infantry Regiment.

Panzer-Gren. Regt. (Mot.) Afrika was formed from *Sonderverbande 288 (Arab)*. Two of its three battalions were German, the third was Arab. The arm badge of *Sonderverbande 288 (Arab)* was a white palm tree within a white palm leaf wreath which has a white swastika at its base. Behind the tree a yellow sun rises, the whole is on a dark green background.



Arab). White palm tree and wreath, golden sun, background, dark green.

In July 1941 the Germans from the Military Mission to Iraq backed the unsuccessful revolt by Rashid Ali el-Kilani against the British in that country. The refugees from

this failed *coup* were transported by the Germans to occupied Greece and at Cape Sunion (near Athens) regrouped as a military unit within the German army under the designation of *Sonderstab F* (Special Staff F). The F derived from the name of its German commander, Helmuth Felmy. The unit was expanded through the recruitment of Arab students (some from the French colonies) at German universities and Palestinian Arabs who had been taken prisoner by the Germans while serving in the British forces in North Africa and Syria. In January 1942 the unit was at Company strength and was renamed the *Deutsch-Arabisches Lehrabteilung* (German-Arabian Demonstration Unit, or D.A.L.) It was also known, incorrectly, as the "Free Arabian Corps". The uniform was German colonial with, on the right upper arm, a green/white/black patch surmounted by red on which is two stars (which is, in fact) the Iraqi flag). At the base is *FREIES ARABIEN* (Free Arabia) and at the top its equivalent in Arabic script. In the summer of 1942 a second Company of the D.A.L. was raised. This consisted mainly of Arabs from French North Africa and was listed as Battalion 845 of the German Army.



D.A.L. (Deutsch-Arabisches Lehr-Abteilung) arm badge.

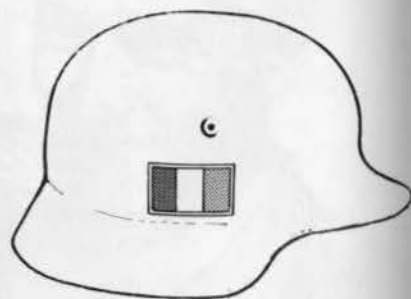
In French Tunisia the D.A.L. began to recruit among the local population for volunteers willing to serve the Afrika Korps either as laborers or as combat troops. The laborers, or pioneer units, wore standard French colonial khaki with a white or yellow brassard with "Im Dienste der Deutschen Wehrmacht" in black lettering. The combat troops wore the D.A.L. uniform with the Freies Arabien arm badge. Roughly six hundred were employed on combat duties and saw some minor action against the British; but after the D.A.L.'s German commander, Colonel Meyer-Ricko, was killed, morale began to slump and the D.A.L. had to be pulled out of the front line.

In June 1943 a new D.A.L. Company was raised in Greece. It consisted this time of French Moroccan Arabs. Although given parachute training they were never employed in this capacity, but spent the war as security guards in occupied Greece.

After the Anglo-American landings in North Africa in November 1942 most of the French possessions in that area opted to join de Gaulle. An exception was Tunisia where a leading official of the P.P.F. succeeded in persuading the Tunisian Resident General, Admiral Esteva, to oppose the "invaders". On 20 November Laval announced over the French radio that an "Imperial Legion" would be raised to defend the French empire against the Anglo-Saxons. Two days later Darnand proclaimed the formation of a *Phalange Africaine* (African Phalanx) which was to recruit volunteers through the offices of the (then still extant) *Légion Tricolore*. To command the new force, Vichy chose (perhaps intentionally) a complete nonentity - a Captain in a



Badge worn on right breast pocket by the *Phalange Africaine*. Yellow and black (The above is actual size).



German steel helmet with blue/white/red "bar" on side worn by the *Phalange Africaine*.

colonial infantry regiment, Pierre-Simon-Ange Cristofini. The Captain, a Corsican, who had recently signed on with the *Légion Tricolore*, now found himself advanced to Lt. Colonel. On 29 December he arrived by air in Tunis and instituted an immediate recruiting drive. It cannot be said to have met with a massive response. The *Phalange* managed to muster only 406 men and had to take on local Arabs to achieve even that modest figure.\* On 13 February 1943 the non-white recruits (132 Tunisian Arabs) were removed from the *Phalange* and incorporated into the D.A.L. *Phalange* volunteers wore the French colonial uniform with, on the right breast pocket, a yellow *francisque* on a black shield outlined in yellow. On active duty they wore German army steel helmets with a blue/white/red "bar" on the side.

On 18 March 1943 the *Phalange* took an oath of loyalty to Pétain. A week later they saw their first action. In a brief encounter with the British 8th Army, they suffered some 70 casualties. In a later engagement, this time against Free French forces, 14 of their number were taken prisoner. They were charged with high treason, found guilty and shot. The *Phalange* was then renamed the *Légion des Volontaires Français de Tunisie* and awarded the *Croix de Guerre Légionnaire* with Palm Leaf (to be worn as a unit citation on its flag). The end came shortly thereafter with the collapse of all resistance in Tunisia in May 1943. Cristofini who had "retired" to his native Corsica was, after the war, arraigned on a charge of high treason and shot.

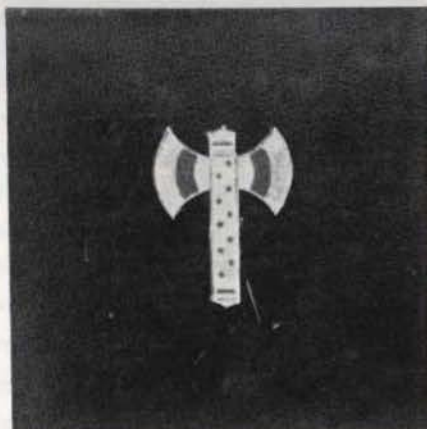
\*It had been hoped to raise two Brigades of Europeans and one demi-Brigade of Arabs!

## Decorations and Medals of the French (Vichy) State, 1940-1945

(1) *Insigne de la Francisque Gallique* Created on 26 May 1941 and made public under a decree published on 16 October 1941, the *Francisque* Decoration was intended by the Vichy authorities to rank as the highest national award on a par with the Legion of Honor (which, however, continued to be awarded in its existing, republican form - strangely enough Vichy did not attempt to alter the design of the Legion of Honor although it has undergone many alterations dictated by political change since its institution by Napoleon I in 1802). The *Francisque Gallique* is a small enameled badge measuring 24mm by 21mm which could be worn on military or civilian dress and was awarded to, "(a) persons who have participated in actions before the war which conformed to the principles of the National Revolution, (b) who have shown since the war an active attachment to the person and work of the Marshal, (c) who have performed brilliant deeds of military or civic service".

Each badge was numbered on the reverse. Less than 5,000 were awarded.





Maroon colored case for the Francisque Gallique decoration with gilt, embossed facsimile on lid.



Francisque Gallique Decoration (actual size)

(2) *Ordre National du Travail* (National Order of Labor) Instituted on 1 April 1942 in three classes, *Chevalier* (medal on a ribbon), *Officier* (the same but with a rosette on the ribbon), *Commandeur* (worn at the throat). It takes the form of a blue enamel Maltese cross outlined in gilt and tipped with gilt balls. Between the arms of the cross are gilt laurel leaves. The obverse center piece has a profile of Petain in gilt surrounded by a blue circle upon white, in gilt, is "Phillipe Pétain Maréchal de France Chef de l'état". The reverse center piece is a colored *francisque* on gilt within a blue circle with, in gilt, "*Ordre National du Travail*". It would seem that only the lowest grade (*Chevalier*) was ever actually awarded, and only about 200 of these were issued which makes it one of the rarest of French decorations! The ribbon (for all grades) is blue with red edges.

(3) *Croix de Guerre, 1939/40* All those who had received the *Croix de Guerre* under the Daladier and Reynaud governments (that is to say the republican governments in power at the start of the war and at the time of the Fall of France) had to return their decorations and, after an examination of each individual case, were issued with a new version of this award. Instituted on 28 March 1941 it is, apart from the color of the ribbon and the fact that the reverse now has 1939/1940 in place of 1939, identical to the previous type. The new ribbon is green with black edges and five black stripes (it could be thought of as similar to the 1914/18 type of ribbon with black replacing red). Three other versions of the Vichy issue *Croix de Guerre* are said to exist:

(a) with an obverse design of a *francisque* above the words *État français*. The reverse has 1944. The ribbon is the same as above.

(b) Obverse: republican type, reverse with date 1942; ribbon unknown.

(c) As above but with date 1943 on reverse.



Obverse



Reverse

Ordre National du Travail



Croix de Guerre  
1939-40 reverse



Obverse of Croix de Guerre, 1944.  
The reverse has the date "1944"

These last two may have been instituted by Admiral Esteva for actions in Tunisia, but no confirmation of this has been obtained. If this were so, it is probable that old republican Croix de Guerre were simply "adapted" by adding a new reverse piece (possibly locally produced in North Africa).

(4) *Croix de Guerre Légionnaire* A much more celebrated Vichy Croix de Guerre is that instituted by the Committee of the L.V.F. in March 1942 and granted official recognition under a law of 18 July 1942. This is a bronze cross of similar proportions to the normal Croix de Guerre, but the swords are omitted and a wreath of laurel leaves added to the center obverse. The obverse center piece is the Napoleonic eagle with FRANCE on a shield (not in colors), the reverse reads: "Croix de Guerre Légionnaire". The ribbon is green with broad black edges and seven narrow black stripes. The same scheme of ornamentation as before was permitted for wear on this ribbon. That is to say:

- (a) A bronze star to indicate a citation in a Regimental or Brigade Dispatch
- (b) A silver star to indicate citation in a Divisional Dispatch
- (c) A gilt star to indicate citation in a Corps dispatch
- (d) A bronze palm (or laurel branch) to indicate citation in an Army dispatch.

Possibly around 400 awards of this decoration were made. Although Vichy decorations have not received much attention from the fakers, it has to be said that the Croix de Guerre Légionnaire is an unhappy exception and that many fakes of this are in circulation.



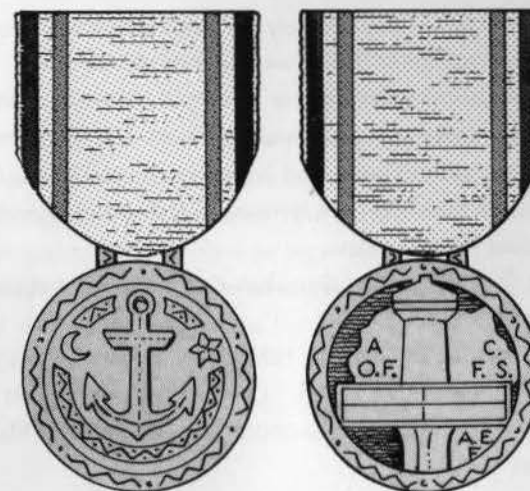
Obverse  
Reverse  
Croix de Guerre Légionnaire

(5) *Croix du Combattant, 1939/40* Instituted on 28 March 1941 the Cross for Combatants of the 1939-40 "war" retains the same design as that for the 1914-18 war, except that the dates are now 1939-1940 and the ribbon is sky blue with broad black edges and three black central stripes.



Croix du Combattant  
1939-1940. Reverse

(6) *Médaille du Merite de l'Afrique Noire* This Medal for Merit in Black Africa was instituted on 26 June 1941 and is in one class only - bronze. The obverse shows an anchor with crescent, star and vaguely "Arabian" ornamentation. The reverse has a sword hilt upon a map of North Africa with the initials of the various (then) French



Obverse  
Reverse  
Médaille du Merite de l'Afrique Noire



colonial possessions. This medal was given for distinguished service in the African colonial Empire. The ribbon is sky blue with green and red stripes close to the edges (green being the outer color).

(7) *Médaille du Levant* Instituted on 24 December 1941 and given for operational service against the British and Free French in Syria between 8 June and 13 July 1941. It is identical to the Syrie-Cilicie medal of 1922 except that it is bronze and has a bar "Levant 1941".



**Médaille du Levant**



Alternative version  
of "bar".

(8) *Médaille Coloniale* This is simply the existing Colonial Medal (instituted in 1893) to which three new "bars" have been added. These are:

(a) *Afrique Occidentale Française* (French West Africa). Instituted on 21 November 1940 and presumably commemorating the successful resistance to the Anglo-Free French attack on Vichy-held territory at Dakar and elsewhere on the West African coast.

(b) *Côte des Somalis* (Somalian Coast). Instituted on 13 September 1941.

(c) *1940 Côte des Somalis 1941*. Instituted on 26 December 1941 to replace the above. Given for actions against the British campaign to clear Italian occupied Abyssinia and Vichy-controlled Somaliland.

(9) *Médaille pour les Acts de Courage et de Dévouement* (Medal for Acts of Courage and Dedication). The obverse design is identical to its republican



**Médaille Coloniale  
with two "bars".**

predecessor (although it was proposed that a head of Pétain be substituted - this was never done). The reverse reads *État Français Ministre de l'Intérieur* (and a space is left for the recipient's name).

(10) *Medal of Honor for Railwaymen*. This non-portable medallion was instituted in 1942 (exact date unknown) and is in two grades: bronze and silver. It was given to railway workers who were wounded in allied air attacks while on duty. Only about fifty were issued. Regrettably no illustration or other details of this rare and interesting award are available.

(11) *Medal of Honor of Marshal Pétain*. This decoration was instituted some time during 1942 and was intended to reward acts of exceptional gallantry, but it appears that it was never issued and possibly never put into production.

Awards of the *Reconnaissance Française* medal and the Civil and Military Wounded Medals were made by the Vichy authorities, but these medals were exactly the same as the pre-war types and cannot therefore be regarded as "Vichy awards". Naturally all Frenchmen serving in the German armed forces were entitled to all German military decorations and war badges even up to the highest, the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.