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Laksevåg, 19.03.01

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Kjære Bjørn,

Først og fremst vil jeg takke deg for at du tok kontakt med meg. Vi hadde en svært hyggelig samtale, og jeg håper dette vil gjenta seg i fremtiden.

Jeg føler at jeg kanskje vet mer om deg enn du vet om meg, så jeg tillater meg å skrive kort om meg selv:

Jeg er 30 år, bor på Laksevåg i Bergen. Jeg er gift og har to barn på 2 og 4 år. Jeg jobber som designer og driver et eget lite reklamebyrå. Jeg ønsket å være selvstendig næringsdrivende, da begge mine barn har vært kronisk syk og har flere sykehusopphold bak seg. En vanlig jobb ville ikke kunne godta fraværet dette medfører.

Jeg har alltid vært interessert i 2. verdenskrig, og har forsøkt å lese alt jeg har kommet over av bøker. Dessverre er historiebøkene fra perioden 1945 frem til i dag så fargelagt, at de kan knapt brukes som referansemateriale. Dette var noe jeg ønsket å rette på.

I februar 1999, startet jeg opp Nuav som på kort tid ble den største siden i Norge på andre verdenskrig. Formålet var å fremstille historisk informasjon på en nøytral måte. Nå skriver vi mars år 2001, og vi har hatt mer enn

85 000 besøkende på våre sider. Med tiden har der blitt flere og flere medarbeidere i Nuav, bla. Bjørn Jervås fra Bodø, Hugh Page-Taylor fra Australia, Halvor Sperbund fra Bergen for å nevne noen. Vi er støttet av O.Kavli og Knut Kavli's fond, Eugen Nielsens fond samt Bergen Kommune. Disse har ingen påvirkning av materialet som presenteres, det er derfor svært interessant at Bergen kommune har valgt å støtte prosjektet Nuav.

Vi har vunnet over 20 internasjonale priser for innhold og design, så med besøksantallet vi har opparbeidet, føler vi at vi er på trygg grunn når vi sier at vi også er den beste internettsiden om Norge under andre verdenskrig.

Nåvel, som avtalt vedlegger jeg en liste over artikler som kan printes ut til deg (Bilag 1). Jeg har også vedlagt 2 artikler fra listen, hhv. Fra Hugh Page Taylor og Bjørn Jervås. (Bilag 2 og 3)

Som nevnt håper jeg at vi kan diskutere mer i tiden fremover, jeg tror at Nuav kan være en god samarbeidspartner for deg og kanskje INO. Den informasjonen du sitter inne med, er svært verdifull for oss og alle som besøker sidene våre, så jeg håper at snakkes snart!

Med vennlig hilsen



Kurt Monsen  
Leder Nuav  
www.nuav.net

Bilag 1

Document: KIM01/0870 classified.

TOP SECRET *OK!*

Received 04. April 1940

ARTICLE SECTION  
articles, units,  
OOB's, etc. for  
your eyes only!

24



**Articles, interviews and biographies.**

German, volunteers & NS:

Operation Weserubung-The German Invasion of Norway.

Nasional Samling-The Governments

Den Norske Legion-Freiwilligen Legion Norwegen

Norwegian volunteers.

6. SS-Gebirgsdivision

The Fallschirmjäger Battle at Dombaas.

History of the Norwegian Political SS.

Allied:

99th Battalion (separate) - US Army.

The Soviet advance into Norway.

Norwegian Police units in Sweden.

The dangerous coast

Commando operations in Norway

Miscellaneous:

Bergen 1940 (-45.)

Drama at Haltenbanken

The bomb raids at the u-boat bunker at Laksevaag.

**Research, Orders of battle, units, etc.**

German, volunteers and NS:

Luftwaffe/heer units under operation Weserubung.

Kriegsmarine units under operation Weserubung.

German Panzer Unit in Norway 1940.

German organisation & weapons 9. April 1940

German Flak units in Norway.

German air force units in Norway 1940-45.

Iron Cross 1. class awarded to Norwegians

Allied:

Order of battle-North Norway 1940

Norwegian aircraft in 1940

Norwegian uniforms & equipment 1940.

Miscellaneous:

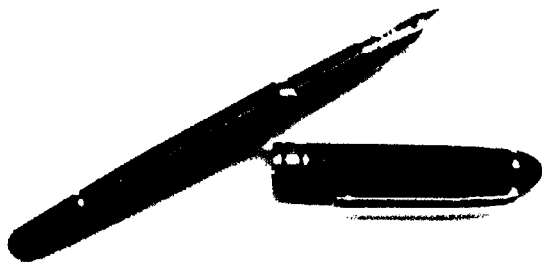
German rank and insignia: Army, kriegsmarine, luftwaffe and Waffen-SS

Book reviews

Norwegian Waffen-SS volunteers soldbuch..and the history behind.

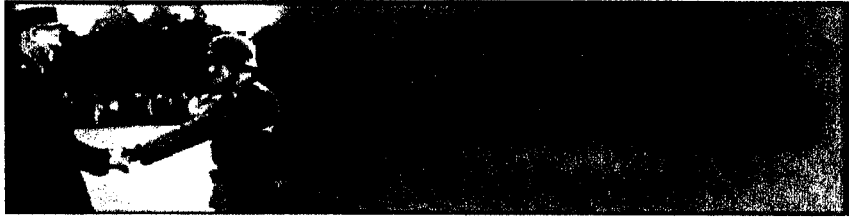
Fake colors! WW2 images with colors added by Nuav!

Back to Norway during WW2  
Go to the Norwegian article section



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### Motto: Min ære er troskap

Germany invaded Norway on April 9th, 1940, and in September of that year Josef Terboven was appointed Reichskommissar. Under him and representing the SS in occupied Norway came a "Higher SS and Police leader", at first SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Weitzel, but soon after replaced by SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Wilhelm Rediess. ("Der Höhere SS – und Polizeiführer beim Reichskommissar für die besetzten norwegischen Gebiete")

Vidkun Abraham Lauritz Quisling (born 1887) was the Norwegian Minister of Defence in the Agrarian Government (Bondepartiet), but when this fell in 1933 he formed a fascist-style political party called the Nasjonal Samling (NS – National Union or Unity). His party with its para-military troops the Hird (similar to the SA of the NSDAP in Germany) was consequently in existence when the Germans invaded. (editor: there was a small nazi party in Norway too, "Det Norske Nasjonalsosialistiske Parti"). Quisling was believed to have been a party to the German invasion, and the regime he proclaimed upon their arrival so incensed the Norwegian people that it lasted only a week. Quisling still continued to lead his Nasjonal Samling, however, which was the only political party permitted in Norway by the occupying forces. Reichskommissar Terboven was extremely hostile to Quisling and as unco-operative as possible, but on Hitler's orders did help him to build up the strength of the N.S. The success of Quisling's efforts can be seen from the increase in N.S membership from 6 000 in September 1940 to its peak of between 45 000 and 60 000 in early 1943.

Under German occupation the Nasjonal Samling grew (the youth organization was called N.S.U.F – Nasjonal Samlings Ungdoms Fylking) and with it the Hird, which was then outfitted with uniforms and insignia similar to the German S.A. There was, however, no Norwegian political SS organization such as already had been formed in Holland and Flanders, as Quisling was very much against the idea. For despite his shortcomings, Quisling was fanatically pro-Norwegian and he rightly saw the political SS a movement towards a Great German Reich, and a threat to Norway of being incorporated into it as a mere district (Gau). But whereas Quisling was against the formation of a Norwegian political SS, Himmler, his "Higher SS and Police Leader", Rediess, and Reichscommisar Terboven were strongly in favour of it.

Quisling and Terboven fought bitterly and the latter did all in his power to diminish the importance of Quisling and his Nasjonal Samling. One of Terboven's attempts was even to replace Quisling as "Fører" (leader) of the N.S in June 1940 by his old friend from the Saar Elections, Chief of Police Jonas Lie (born 1899), who although not a member of the party was a strong sympathizer. (Editor: Lie is said to have joined the N.S in July 1940). It was only through the diplomacy of one of Quisling's best friends, Albert Viljam Hagelin, that the plan failed, for Hagelin stated (quite without foundation) that Quisling had appointed him as deputy leader of the N.S and that he should therefore take over the leadership and not Lie.

This rivalry between Terboven and Quisling continued and in mid-1941 Terboven and Lie once again got together and set about the formation of a Norwegian political SS contingent behind Quisling's back. According to subsequent N.S propaganda, it was at a meeting of the 7th Hird Regiment "Viking" in Oslo on May

16th 1941, that the creation of such a unit was first suggested, and it was a suggestion that apparently met with some enthusiasm, for a number of Hird men present declared themselves willing to join at once. They had not long to wait, for just one week later (May 21st 41) a Norwegian political SS formation was established and called "Norway's SS" ("Norges SS"). On that day Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler flew in to Oslo where he was met by Reichskommissar Terboven, a disgruntled Quisling, and a number of senior SS and Wehrmacht officers, and then taken to the Nasjonal Samling's Party House.

The ceremony opened with a speech by the Rikshird's chief of staff, Orvar Sæther, who spoke to his former Hird men that had volunteered to be the first aspirants of the new Norwegian SS. He explained how they were about to join SS comrades from all the other Germanic countries, and how their role was to protect and safeguard the future of the Germanic race.

Once Sæther had handed over his Hird men to the SS, Heinrich Himmler took the stand and described to them the development of the SS in Germany from its establishment in 1925 until the present day, and also how the SS stood as a guarantee for the future of the Germanic communities. Having referred to the achievements of the Norwegian volunteers in the SS Regiment "Nordland" (5.SS-Panzerdivision Wiking) which had been raised in January 41, Himmler stated that the formation of the Norges SS was a new and important step toward for the Germanic community. The honour for its foundation, he told his audience, would fall upon Norway.

\*



Nordland cufftitle

Private collection

Himmler then appointed cabinet minister and Norwegian Chief of Police Jonas Lie as SS-standartfører and leader of the Norwegian SS – Lie was a sympathizer of the N.S but not a party member and was a man disliked and distrusted by Quisling. The oath of allegiance was taken by Lie, who then administered it to his men, and was given to both Hitler and Quisling.

Immediately after the ceremony the new SS aspirants travelled to the SS school at Elverum, where they received a beginners course lasting six weeks.

To sum up, although the Norwegian SS was created as a subdivision of the Nasjonal Samling it was very strongly opposed by Quisling, and recruiting by Jonas Lie was at first carried on behind Quisling's back, and later in direct defiance to his orders. Loyal N.S members were urged to oppose Lie's recruiting drive and this met with partial success at first, but the Norwegian SS was too strongly backed by both Lie's State Police and Terboven's Reichskommissariat to be blocked in this way. Whether Quisling liked it or not, and he certainly did not, the political SS had arrived in Norway, and there it was to stay until the very end of the war.

On May 11th, 1941, the Department of Justice issued an order in which it outlined the rights the participant in the SS had with respect to his previous civilian work and his pay in civilian life.

On June 22nd, 1941, Germany and her allies attacked the Soviet Union, and the Norwegian SS was presented with an ideal opportunity to further its anti-communist and pan-Germanic convictions. Upon the declaration of war with

**Russia some 85% of the Norwegian SS under sveitfører Captain Berg, as well as their leader Jonas Lie, volunteered for the Norwegian Volunteer SS Legion ("Freiwilligen SS-Legion Norwegen", or "Den Norske Legion".) and almost all were eventually promoted to officer (editor: those who had Norwegian pre-war officer education) or N.C.O rank (editor: those who had served as sergeants in the pre-war Norwegian army or navy)**

**(NOTE: Some confusion existed in contemporary Norwegian publications as to the exact number of Norwegian SS men that volunteered for the Legion. Of the original 130 members – and one report gives this as 151 – some sources state that 85% joined, whereas other give 85 men.)**

**The Norwegian SS thereby provided five company commanders, one of whom had been killed and two wounded before the end of 1943. In fact, the majority of the leaders of the Legion were drawn from the Norwegian SS.**

**On February 1st, 1942, Vidkun Quisling was appointed Minister President of Norway, and his personal power and that of his Nasjonal Samling and its para-military organizations was increased from that date, for he was no longer the leader of a political party tolerated by the Germans – he was the leader of the Norwegian Government.**

**Fourteen months after its establishment the title "Norges SS" was altered on July 21st, 1942, to "Germanske SS Norge" ("Germanic SS Norway – G.S.S.N") by a Party Order signed by Quisling. This document is worthy of full translation:**

**"Party order of the Germanic SS Norway dated July 21st 1942.**

**On May 21st, 1941, the "Norges SS" was established. In addition to the rules and regulations laid down at the time the following new rules and regulations are established:**

- 1. The name "Norges SS" shall be changed to "Germanske SS Norge".**
- 2. "Germanske SS Norge" is a National Socialist military organization which shall consist of men of Nordic race and mentality. It is an independent subdivision of the Nasjonal Samling, which is directly subordinated to the N.S fører (Leader of the NS, i.e Quisling) and is responsible to him. It is at the same time a subdivision of the Greater Germanic SS and shall contribute its part to pointing out before the Germanic people the road to a new future and create the foundation for a Germanic peoples' association.**
- 3. The following may be accepted as members of the "Germanske SS Norge" if they otherwise comply with the conditions covering membership in the SS:**
  - a) male members of the Nasjonal Samling**
  - b) Norwegian citizens who have served at least one year in the Waffen-SS or in the Norwegian Volunteer Legion.**
  - c) Other Norwegian citizens provided that the General Secretariat of the Nasjonal Samling approves their application.**
- 4. The transfer of the various subdivisions and special organizations of the Nasjonal Samling to the "Germanske SS Norge" or vice versa may be effected to the extent as may be deemed necessary. In the event the consent of the Fører to the special organization or subdivision must be secured covering the proposed transfer.**
- 5. Members of the SS cannot at the same time belong to the Rikshird or NSUF. An exception to this rule is made in regard to party officials and leaders in the mentioned special organizations.**

**Oslo, July 21st, 1942  
(signed by Quisling and R.J Fuglesang)"**

**Apart from the racial and political requirements, volunteers for the Germanske SS**

**Norge had to be between 17 and 40 years of age and not less than 170 cm in height.**

It is interesting to note that the formation of the Norwegian political SS, in contrast to the other three branches of the Germanic SS, paralleled on the surface at least that of the Allgemeine SS in Germany, for the SS in both cases was an élite force created within – and later from – the original party para-military organization (the S.A in Germany and the Hird in Norway). Evidence of the strong connections between Hird and Norwegian SS can be found in the fact that for some time they shared the same newspaper – "Hirdmannen" ("The Hird Man"). For from the issue dated May 24th, 1941, to that of April 4th, 1942, "Hirdmannen" was sub-titled "Kamporgan for Rikshird og Norges SS" ("Combat journal for the national Hird and the Norwegian SS"). It was over a year after the formation of the Norwegian SS that they founded their own newspaper, and the first issue of "Germaneren – Kamporgan for Germanske SS Norge" appeared on July 25th, 1942.

As the war progressed and the Axis powers' chances of victory faded, the Norwegian SS was used more as a front line formation than the political organization that it had been intended for. It has been seen that as Germany went to war with the Soviet Union the majority of the original members of the Norwegian SS volunteered for service in the Norwegian Volunteer Legion – this was to be the first of many such contributions. On March 11th, 1943, members of the Germanske SS Norge joined SS-Panzergrenadier-Regiment "Norge". Soon afterwards the Germanske SS Norge formed a full company of their own to fight on the Eastern Front, and this paraded before Quisling on May 6th, 1943, under the command of SS-Obersturmführer and Deputy Leader of GSSN, Olaf T Lindvig (he had been appointed as such on March 13th, 1943).



Olav T. Lindvig marching in front of the GSSN in Oslo.

On May 20th, 1943, Jonas Lie was awarded the SS-Totenkopfring by Himmler. On August 16th, 1943, after the "SS Day in Oslo" (SS-Dagen 14-15 August) Quisling spoke to units of the Norwegian SS on parade at Slottsplassen, and on the following day (August 17th) the Norwegian SS, together with the Police, National Hird and Quisling's bodyguard (Editor: Førergarden - led by Kapt. Henschien, later Sophus Kahrs) were integrated into the Norwegian armed forces. (NOTE: According to Keesing's the law was dated August 14th, 1943).



Bjørn Østring

The total strength of the Norwegian SS at September 30th, 1944 was 1 247, of which 330 were at the front, 245 in the police and 511 in emergency units. Thus the Norwegian SS then consisted of only 161 men, but with 3422 aiding members ("S.M.") and 9 137 subscribers to their newspaper "Germaneren".

For some time Himmler thought that Lie was leading the Norwegian SS in a somewhat disinterested manner and was not giving this task the attention and devotion it deserved. He therefor replaced Lie on January 1st 1945, by (Minster of

**Justice) Sverre Riisnæs.** (Editor: Riisnæs probably was one of the most extreme characters in N.S. He avoided getting death penalty in '45 due to insanity. He died in 1988, never giving up his N.S beliefs)

On March 1st, 1945, Olaf T Lindvig (then an SS-Hauptsturmführer) again took up the post of Chief of Staff of the Norwegian SS ("Stabsleder GSSN") which had previously been held by Leif Schøren.

In May 1945 Norway was liberated by the Allies, and the German capitulation was broadcast on the 7th. Two days later Terboven and Rediess drank large quantities of akevitt and beer and committed suicide by sitting down on a land mine in a bunker on the Crown Prince's property (Skaugum).

Jonas Lie also consumed more akevitt than was good for him, for it induced a heart-attack and he died of malarial shock. Vidkun Quisling declined offers of escape and, unlike Terboven, Rediess and Lie refused to commit suicide and stood trial for treason. He was executed on October 24th 1945.

(Editor: the last days were truly bizarre. Rediess shot himself, and Terboven hid the body for 12 hours in his bedroom, before he dragged it with him into the bunker. The Norwegians gathered in two "camps", the N.S men stayed with Quisling, and the "germanics" Lie, Riisnæs and Rogstad teamed up together. They were found by Norwegian police soldiers, only Riisnæs was then alive.)

## OPPLÆRING

### Training

SS-skole Elverum was opened on the day of the foundation of the Norwegian SS, May 21st, 1941, and the first batch of volunteer aspirants went there directly for a six weeks course. In August 1942 the Kongsvinger Fortress was opened as a school for the Germanske SS Norge and in that month 42 recruits were admitted. The course lasted four weeks and the instruction comprised both military and political subjects. On October 16th 1942, more SS men were admitted to what is assumed to have been the second course. In December 1942 a third course was held which was subdivided into three parts, comprising a short course for front line soldiers; a non-commissioned officers' course for SS men, and a recruiting course. An officer from Vest-Oppland named Karsten Sveen was in charge for these courses.

While not actually attending training courses, members of GSSN continued their normal civilian activities. They were trained within their local SS-Storm during off-hours each Wednesday evening and every second Sunday.

In 1942 a riding school for the Germanske SS Norge ("SS-Rideskolen") was opened in Oslo at Drammensvegen 1. It was commanded by Major Henschien, and Herr Dryander was "Leiter des Rennstalles". Based upon this riding school a cavalry section of the Norwegian SS was formed under Major Henschien with 20 horses.

In September 1942 a riding meeting for German and Norwegian SS was held at Porsgrunn, and Major Henschien, Captain Waksvik, Bernt Anker and Dryander took part. Mention has also been found of the "Norges Rideskole" at Vinderen (Hippodromen), in connection with the Germanske SS Norge.

SS SCHOOLS: SS-Skole Elverum, SS-Skole Kongsvinger Festning, SS-Rideskole Oslo, and Norges Rideskole, Vinderen. (Editor: for a period there was a SS school at Holmestrand too. SS Vaktbataljon Norge was educated there.)

## SS Ranks

HIRD

NORGES SS

ALLGEMEINE SS

Hirdmann	SS-mann	SS-Mann
Nestspeider	SS-stormmann	SS-Sturmmann
Speider	SS-rodefører	SS-Rottenführer
Nestlagfører	SS-nestlagfører	SS-Unterscharführer
Lagfører	SS-lagfører	SS-Scharführer
Kommandersersjant	SS-nesttroppfører	SS-Oberscharführer
Troppsfører	SS-troppfører	SS-Hauptscharführer
Nestsveitfører	SS-neststormfører	SS-Untersturmführer
Sveitfører	SS-stormfører	SS-Obersturmführer
-	SS-høvedsmann	SS-Hauptsturmführer
Fylkingfører	SS-stormbannfører	SS-Sturmbannführer
Nestregimentfører	SS-neststandartfører	SS-Obersturmbannführer
Regimentfører	SS-standartfører	SS-Standartenführer
-	SS-nestbrigadefører	SS-Oberführer
-	SS-brigadefører	SS-Brigadeführer
Stabssjef	Stabsleder	-

Germanske SS Norge	Allgemeine SS
Standart	Standart
Stormbann/Fylking	Sturmbann
Storm	Sturm
Tropp	Trupp
Lag	Schar
Rode	Rotte

## THE FIRST PATTERN UNIFORM

The 130 volunteers for the Norwegian SS that assembled at the N.S party house on May 21st, 1941, wore German Army field grey uniforms, with German SS belts, Hird shoulder straps and brassards.

None of the volunteers wore collar patches. The newness of the shoulder straps suggest that they were specially made in one batch and issued with the uniforms, and it is therefor probable that while they followed the style of Hird rank strap, they used white and silver piping and braid in place of red and gold.

Jonas Lie wore shoulder straps of a Hird regimental commander, and a field grey SS leaders peaked cap with the SS version of the national emblem, "Solørn" or "N.S. Riksørn" – "Sun Eagle".

The volunteers wore field grey field caps with a white metal button in front (which may have had the Death's Head on it) and the emblem of N.S machine embroidered in grey silk on a black cloth base on the left side.

This uniform was worn until replaced on, or shortly before September 25th, 1942, by the black service uniform of the German General SS.

The uniform was made up of: SS Service tunic, overcoat, breeches, Ski trousers (black), SS Ski cap (the SS peaked cap was not issued), steel helmet M35, Leatherwear (from June 42 the German SS buckle was worn), SS Service Dagger (an example with the Norwegian version of the SS civilian badge on the top of the grip does exist!)

### Badges of Rank

Hird rank insignia was worn. Badges of rank appeared on both shoulder straps only and consisted of silver braid bars of differest widths for NCO ranks. From



September 1942 the GSSN wore German badges of rank.

#### Collar patches

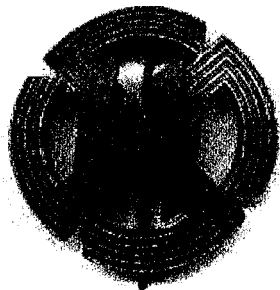
Rank was shown on the left collar patch in the usual way, but all ranks wore the circular swastika ("Solhjulet" – "Sun Wheel") on the right patch.

Thus the unit within the Norwegian SS was not shown on the right collar patch as in the Dutch and Flemish branches, but then this is not surprising as the GSSN never constituted a full regiment.

#### Germanske Runemerke

#### Germanske Dugleiksrune

The only recorded awards of the Germanic Proficiency Runes in Norway were made at the Norwegian SS School on August 16th, 1944, when SS-Obergruppenführer Rediess, acting upon instructions from Himmler, awarded ten in silver and fifteen in bronze to members of GSSN. Also present were SS-neststandartfører Riisnæs, and the leader of the Germanische Leitstelle in Norway, SS-Sturmbannführer Leib.



Germanic Proficiency Rune in Bronze

### Organisasjon Germanske SS Norge (Organization)

The complexity of the Staff of the Norwegian SS at first increased as the organization itself grew and eventually decreased as the war drew to a close and more desk-bound members were called to the front.

To illustrate this fact the organization of the Staff is set out below at three (3) different dates:

#### 1942

Kontor (Office) Drammensveien 1, Oslo

\*Sjef (Commander) Minister Jonas Lie, Akersgata 44, Oslo.

\*Stedfortreder (Substitute) SS-stormfører Olaf T Lindvig (ref. "N.S. årbok 1942")

#### 1943

Hovedstaben (H.Q. Staff) Drammensveien 105, Oslo

\*Sjef (Commander) -SS-standartfører Jonas Lie.

\*Stabsleder (Chief of Staff) -Leif Schøren.

\*Adjutant -SS-stormfører Hallvard Svelle.

\*Presse & propaganda -SS-neststandartfører Sverre Riisnæs.

\*Organisasjonsavdelingen (Organization Section), -SS-stormfører Hallvard Svelle.

\*Økonomiavdelingen (Economics Section) -SS-mann, advokat (lawyer) Arne Schultz.

\*Personalavdelingen (Personell Section) -SS-lagfører Karl G. Blomfeldt.

\*Stabslegen (Staff Doctor) -SS-nestlagfører Johan Fasting.

\*Idrettslederen (Sport Leader) -SS-nestlagfører Bertel Paaske.

**Forvaltningslederen (Administration Leader) -SS-nestlagfører Rolf Woye Pedersen.**

- \*Kultur og radio (Culture & Radio) -SS-nesttroppfører Karl Aagaard (-) Østvig
- \*Juridisk rådgiver (Legal Consultant) -SS-nesttroppfører, høyesterettsdommer Arvid Vasbotten
- \*\*"Germaneren" og skoleheftene -SS-nestlagfører Egil Holst Torkildsen
- \*Støttende medlemmer (Aiding members) -Mari Selle
- \*Norges Rideskole (Norwegian Riding School) Vinderen, Oslo. (Hippodromen)
- \*\*"Germaneren" Akersgaten 8, Oslo
- \*SS-skole (SS-School) Kongsvinger Festning (Fortress)

Note: In addition to the above, the following relevant entries are to be found in "Germaneren" dated January 30th, 1943:

Hovedkontoret (Head Office) Colbjørnsens gt. 1, Oslo  
 \*SS-rideskolen (SS Riding School) Drammensveien 1, Oslo

1945 (Ref. "Nasjonal Samlings telefonliste og adressebok", Januar 1945)  
 Hovedstaben (H.Q. Staff) Drammensveien 105, Oslo

Stabsleder (Chief of Staff)

Adjutant

Organisasjonsavdelingen (Organization Section)

Personalavdelingen (Personnel Section)

Økonomiavdelingen (Economics Section)

Stabslegen (Staff Doctor)

Idrettslederen (Sport Leader)

Forvaltningslederen (Administration Leader)

Resepsjonen (Reception)

"Germaneren" Akersgt. 8, Oslo

SS-skole (SS School) Kongsvinger Festning (Fortress).

**DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

The Norwegian SS was subdivided into units in exactly the same manner as the Allgemeine-SS in Germany, but of course on a much smaller scale, and a comparison between the two can be seen from the following chart:

Germanske SS Norge	-Allgemeine SS	-English Equivalent
Standart	Standart	Regiment
Stormbann / Fylking	Sturmabann	Battalion
Storm	Sturm	Company
Tropp	Trupp	Platoon
Lag	Schar	Squad
Rode	Rotte	File

The following comments can be made on the units of the Norwegian SS:

**Standart:**

Although the rank of SS-standartfører was held, there do not appear to have been any units of this size in the Norwegian SS.

**Stormbann:**

Also referred to as "Fylking", only one is recorded and that SS-stormbann Oslo-Akershus. (possibly the result of a fusion of SS-storm Oslo with SS-storm

Akershus)

Theoretically an SS-stormbann could contain up to 4 SS-stormer.

**Storm:**

The basic local unit of the Norwegian SS which was established as a volunteer unit. It was commanded by an SS-stormfører and carried the name of the district. Late in the war an attempt was made to number each SS-storm and that of Oslo received the number "1". The others, however, do not appear to have been so numbered. The SS-storm contained 3 or 4 tropp and combined all the units of a "fylke".

**Tropp:**

The "tropp" was commanded by a troppsfører and although in theory it could contain 3 or 4 lag, in practice it contained only 3. It was arranged that the leader of the "tropp" and the leaders of the subordinate "lag" should as far as possible live in the same district.

**Lag:**

Commanded by a "lagfører" who should, as far as possible live in the same district as his troppsfører. It contained 9 men. A "rode" contained 3 men.

**SS-stormer (SS Companies)**

SS-storm (SS-Company) *	NS fylkesorganisasjon (NS District)	SS-stormfører (Company commander)	Adresse (Address) *
1*	-	-	-
Agder{	F.O. 9 Agder	?	Østre Strandgate 61
Akershus	F.O. 1 Aust-Viken	Gunnar Theodorsen	?
Aust-Agder{	F.O. 9 Agder	Trygve Gårbo (fung.)	?
Bergen#	-	-	-
Buskerud	F.O. 3 Vest-Viken	Petter T. Sandborg	Haugesgt 17, Drammen
Hedmark§	F.O. 4 Hedmark	Sverre Lie	Grønnegt. 1, Hamar
Hordaland#	F.O. 12 Bergen/ Hordaland	Richard Clason	?
Møre og Romsdal	F.O. 15 Møre og Romsdal	Frithjof Sanner	?
Nordland	F.O. 18 Nordland	Eilif Spjeldnes	?
Oppland§	F.O. 4 Hedmark og Oppland	Sverre Lie	?
Oslo*	F.O. 2 Stor-Oslo	Arne Juel Odde Kjell Kracht Hallvard Svelle	Drammensv. 105
Rogaland	F.O. 11 Rogaland	Olav B. Haugland	Kongsgt. 18
Stor-Oslo*	-	-	-

Sør-Trøndelag	F.O. 16 Sør-Trøndelag	Hans P. Hoff / Knut Solberg	?
Telemark	F.O 8 Telemark	Arne Stridsklev (fung.)	Hesselberggt, Skien
Vest-Agder{	F.O. 9 Agder	Mathias Jacobsen	?
Vestfold	F.O. 3 Vest-Vikes	Herman Bay / H. Nygård	Kammegt 4
Østfold	F.O. 1 Aust-Viken	Gunnar Lindblom	?

\*SS-storm Oslo was eventually renamed SS-storm 1, Stor-Oslo, and at times was known as SS-storm Stor-Oslo. It was the first formed SS company and was originally commanded by Police Lieutenant Arne Juel Odde. It contained 3 "tropper".

{At one time there was just one SS company in N.S. District 9, called "Agder", at another time there were two, "Aust-Agder" and "Vest-Agder".

# The name "Bergen" appeared on an SS Company flag, yet although Norway's second largest town, no company has been found bearing this name. The 12th N.S. District included Bergen and Hordaland, and although the SS company formed there carried the second name, the first appears to have been used on the flag.

§ Originally N.S District 4 included both Hedmark and Oppland, but in accordance with the regional reorganisation law of October 29th, 1943, Oppland was made into a separate District and numbered 5.

NOTE: The 13th, 19th and 20th N.S Districts appear never to have contained formations of the Norwegian SS.

By  
Hugh Page- Taylor

An outstanding expert of SS, and he is a well-known author on the subject. He welcomes comments or additions / corrections to the article.

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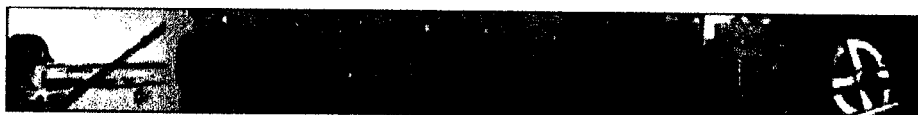
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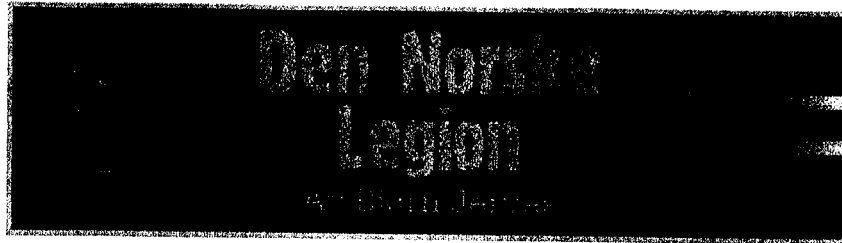
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### (Freiwilligen Legion Norwegen)

*“Den Norske Legion”, hereinafter abbreviated “DNL”, was formed on the 29th June 1941 by order of Joseph Terboven, and their first recruiting rally was held in Oslo on the 4th July 1941.*

Originally, this unit was promised to be a fully Norwegian one, with Norwegian uniforms, weapons, language and officers. Of course, this illusion never came true.

The main purpose of this formation was to join the Finnish forces in their fight against the Russians, and many saw this to be the start of a new National Norwegian army. Finland has always had a special position in the Norwegian hearts, so at least 2000 volunteered, many of these were ex-Norwegian officers, NCO's and soldiers. Actually, 500 out of a total of 1500 pre-war Norwegian officers volunteered to DNL.

The first commander, *Finn Hannibal Kjelstrup*, left DNL on the 1st December 1941, as he adamantly refused the Legion to be a part of the German OOB. *Jorgen Bakke*, who also resigned, on the 15th December 1941 after only two weeks, succeeded him.

Finally, *Major Arthur Quist*, became the commander of “Den Norske Legion”.

*The uniforms used were standard SS, but most men used the Norwegian Lion instead of the SS runes. Members of NS wore the Raven and St.Olav Cross on the sleeve, and all men also wore a Norwegian flag on the upper arm. The German decals on the helmets were usually removed.*



The main purpose of DNL was to fight in Finland, but this never happened. In December 41, 1900 men had volunteered; however of the 900-1000 accepted, about 20 were more than 50 years of age!

DNL was organized as a reinforced battalion, and according to the ex-SS Sturmbannführer *Frode Halle*, the total strength after basic training was about 700 men. Most officers were Norwegians, and many saw this unit as the real beginning of a New Norwegian national army.

DNL consisted of three infantry companies, a heavy weapons company, an anti-tank company and a war reporters company. A replacement battalion, formed in Norway by the German officer *Heinrich Petersen*, never reached DNL.

The first battalion was called "Viken", and the other planned battalions were named "Gula" and "Frosta". As it turned out, they were never formed.

Many of the volunteers did not accept the strong German influence, and left DNL – especially after it turned out that they were to participate in the siege of Leningrad instead of going to Finland. DNL was never; as seen by the Germans, a first class combat battalion, but it was suited to the static warfare in the trenches by Leningrad.

Fighting in trenches can also get quite hard, as it did in DNL's sector – they surely had to suffer their losses...

DNL arrived in the Leningrad sector in late February 1942, and took up positions south of the city, at Puskin. A few days later DNL dug in at Krassnoe Selo, about 13 km westwards. DNL came under the administration of the 2. SS-Infanterie-Brigade. (Latvian volunteers)

In May 1942 The 14th (PAK) company of DNL was moved to Konstantinovka (now named Golorowo), about 3 km north of Krassnoe Selo, and the other companies to Urizk for rest, since they had seen hard combat, and needed replacements. DNL returned to the front lines in June 1942.

In February 1943 DNL found itself engaged in more heavy fighting, as the second Battle of Lake Lagoda took place. The 14 Panzerjaeger kompanie, which was detached to the Spanish 250 Infanterie Division, was engaged in fighting the Russian offensive at Mga, close to Krasny Bor. The commander of 2.SS-Infanterie-Brigade, SS Ogruf. Friedrich Jeckeln, praised the Norwegian anti-tank gunners, now equipped with 7,5cm PAK38 anti-tank guns instead of the 3.7cm PAK35/36.



An extremely rare officers version of the DNL cuffband, full length and with fabrication tag still attached.

Kurt Monsen collection

DNL remained in Leningrad until spring 43, and had at least 180 casualties.

Back in Norway, both the N.S party and "Germanske SS Norge" (GSSN) had severe problems in maintaining their organizations, since so many prominent members served at the front.

"1.SS und Polizeikompanie" was soon attached to DNL.

This company was lead by GSSN chief, and Police minister *Jonas Lie*. It served with DNL in 1942-43. Its strength was about 160 men. It was withdrawn in March 1943.

In late March 1943, DNL was disbanded, but the bad experiences in the co-operation with the Germans, caused severe problems with the recruiting of Norwegian volunteers later, in fact for the rest of the war. Most survivors, who wanted to continue fighting, joined "23. SS-PzGren-Rgt "Norge" (Norw.Frwg.1)

Strength

<b>August 1941</b>	<b>700 men</b>
<b>December 1941</b>	<b>1.218 men</b>
<b>March 1942</b>	<b>1.150 men</b>
<b>May 1942</b>	<b>600 men</b>
<b>December 1942</b>	<b>1.000 men</b>
<b>January 1943</b>	<b>678 men</b>
<b>May 1943</b>	<b>600 men</b>

### Commanders

*Finn Hannibal Kjelstrup*  
*Jørgen Bakke*  
*Arthur Quist*



*Arthur Quist*

### Company Commanders

**1st Company:** *Olaf Lindvig*, later the German officers *Radbruch* and *Ziegler*

**2nd Company:** *Karsten Sveen*

**3rd Company:** *Jørgen Braseth*, later *P. T. Sandborg*

**4th Heavy Company:** *Ragnar Berg* (KIA), later *Njaal Reppen*

**14th PAK-Company:** *Finn Finson*

A fifth company was planned, and this was to be led by Ustuf. Rolf Wirum, who formerly was platoon commander of 4th platoon / 4th company. This was however never to get properly formed, and the men were scattered among the other companies.

**The general staff of “Den norske Legion”, July 1941, in Oslo  
(administrative):**

*Leader: Col. Finn H. Kjelstrup*

*Adjutant: Lt. Tor Marstrander*



**I. Organisation dept.:**

**Capt. Erling Søvik**  
**Capt. Brun**  
**Dagfinn Carlsen**  
**Capt. Per Carlson**  
**Maj. Arthur Qvist**  
**1.Lt. Bernt Anker**

**II. Personell dept.:**

**Capt. Kaare Vagn Knudsen**  
**Capt. Brynjulf Gottenborg**  
**Secretary Bjørnstad**  
**Lt.Col. Gabriel**  
**Faye Holmboe**  
**Lt. Svendsen**  
**1.Lt. Sverre Kjelstrup**

**III. Supplies dept.:**

**Capt. Eilif Guldberg**  
**Capt. Arne Flekstad**  
**Secretary Bang**  
**Secretary Jensen**  
**1.Lt. Sjuls**

**IV. Informations dept.:**

**Maj. Arne Tellefsen**  
**1.Lt. Waaler**  
**1.Lt. Gudem Larsen**

**V. Womans dept.:**

**Capt. Rolf Falk-Muus**  
**Mrs. Martin**  
**Mrs. Seliger**  
**(Aud Fritzner joined later)**

**Archives:**

**Lt. Peder Ellingsen Bae**  
**Ass. Welzien**

**Propaganda leader.:**

**Walter Fürst**

**Medical leader.:**

**Capt. Reidar Folkmann Schaaning**

**Clothing dept.:**

**Maj. Carl Oscar Carlson**  
**Adjoint Lt. Quamme**

**Cashier:**

**Lt. Stabæk**

**Revision:**

**Lt.Col. Brynjulf Wesenberg**

**Leader Østlandet:**

*I. Personel office: Maj. Andreas V. Thue*

*II. Budget office: Col. Arnold Løchen*

*III. Naval office: Maj. Sem-Jacobsem*

Bjørn Jervås is one of the major contributors to this site, and has written many articles for other ww2 sites.

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