Der Sanittsdienst Des Heeres 1939 1945

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adolf hitler had high hopes for his conquest of norway which held both great symbolic and great strategic value for the fuhrer despite early successes however his ambitious northern campaign foundered and ultimately failed adam claasen for the first time reveals the full story of this neglected episode and shows how it helped doom the third reich to defeat hitler and raeder the chief of the german navy were determined to take and keep norway by doing so they hoped to

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preempt allied attempts to outflank germany protect sea lanes for german ships access precious scandinavian minerals for war production and provide a launchpad for luftwaffe and naval operations against great britain beyond those strategic objectives hitler also envisioned norway as part of a pan nordic stronghold a centerpiece of his new world order but as classen shows hitler s grand expectations were never realized gring s luftwaffe was the vital spearhead in the invasion of norway which marked a number of wartime firsts among other things it involved the first large scale aerial operations over sea rather than land the first time operational objectives and logistical needs were fulfilled by air power and the first deployment of paratroopers although it got off to a promising start the german effort particularly against british and arctic convoys was greatly hampered by flawed strategic thinking interservice rivalries between the luftwaffe and navy the failure to develop a long range heavy bomber the diversion of planes and personnel to shore up the german war effort elsewhere and the northern theater s harsh climate and terrain claasen s study covers every aspect of this ill fated campaign from the 1940 invasion until war s end and shows how it was eventually relegated to a backwater status as germany fought to survive in an increasingly unwinnable war his compelling account sharpens our picture of the german air force and widens our understanding of the third reich s way of war

volume ix i of this series focuses on how the war affected individuals from soldiers to slave labourers after examining the party s role in moulding public attitudes and how german society related to the holocaust it looks at the social structure of military units ideological indoctrination of the troops and resistance to the regime the second world war affected the lives and shaped the experience of millions of individuals in germany soldiers at the front women children and the elderly sheltering in cellars slave labourers toiling in factories and concentration camp prisoners

challenging previous accounts megargee shatters the myth that german generals would have prevailed in world war ii if only hitler had not meddled in their affairs instead he observes that the military s strategic ideas were no better than hitler s and often were worse 20 photos

in 1940 the world was on a knife edge the hurricane of events that marked the opening of the second world war meant that anything could happen for the aggressors there was no limit to their ambitions for their victims a new dark age beckoned over the next few months their fates would be determined in fateful choices ian kershaw re creates the ten critical decisions taken between may 1940 when britain chose not to surrender and december 1941 when hitler decided to destroy europe s jews showing how these choices would recast the entire course of history

there is still a widespread assumption that the second world war was won in the west when in fact

the tide was first turned on the eastern front this book written by two internationally known experts on the subject argues that hitler s ostkrieg was the central event of the global conflict between the allies and the axis powers however this is much more than a traditional military political history it deals with nazi crimes and economic exploitation with the psychological war no less significantly this volume provides a guide to the extensive literature on the war in the east including largely unknown soviet writing on the subject indispensable for military historians but also for all scholars who approach this crucial period in world history from a socio economic or cultural perspective

the author of case white the invasion of poland delves into the strategy and weaponry of armored warfare during the early years of the russo german war the german panzer armies that swept into the soviet union in 1941 were an undefeated force that had honed their skill in combined arms warfare to a fine edge the germans focused their panzers and tactical air support at points on the battlefield defined as schwerpunkt main effort to smash through any defensive line and then advance to envelope their adversaries initially these methods worked well in the early days of operation barbarossa and the tank forces of the red army suffered defeat after defeat although badly mauled in the opening battles the red army s tank forces did not succumb to the german armored onslaught and german planning and logistical deficiencies led to over extension and failure in 1941 in the second year of the invasion the germans directed their schwerpunkt toward the volga and the caucasus and again achieved some degree of success but the red army had grown much stronger and by november 1942 the soviets were able to turn the tables at stalingrad robert forczyk s incisive study offers fresh insight into how the two most powerful mechanized armies of the second world war developed their tactics and weaponry during the critical early years of the russo german war he uses german russian and english sources to provide the first comprehensive overview and analysis of armored warfare from the german and soviet perspectives his analysis of the greatest tank war in history is compelling reading includes photos

from unstoppable blitzkrieg to brutal defeat follow guderian s panzers as they race toward moscow and collide with disaster on june 22 1941 nazi germany launched operation barbarossa the surprise invasion of the soviet union that opened the eastern front in world war ii with lightning speed and devastating success the german army tore through soviet territory and rolled over the red army scoring some of the most dramatic victories in military history until the blitzkrieg bogged down during the approach on moscow at the spearhead of the attack was general heinz guderian one of the most celebrated and controversial commanders of the war who commanded a tank group in the center of the german front that stretched from the baltic to the black sea guderian s panzers reconstructs barbarossa from the perspective of generaloberst guderian and his 2nd panzer group

with the german war machine at the height of its martial prowess in june 1941 guderian s group of 250 000 men and 900 tanks rapidly broke through the soviet frontier defenses and thrust some 600 kilometers into soviet russia in a matter of weeks in doing so playing an integral part in the successful encirclement cauldron battles of belostok minsk june july 1941 and smolensk july august 1941 each of these battles resulting in the loss of several soviet armies and hundreds of thousands of prisoners despite having sustained alarming losses of personal and equipment in these opening battles guderian pushed his men and himself to even greater achievements culminating in the triumphant cauldron battle of kiev in the ukraine september 1941 that obliterated soviet southwestern front and resulted in the capture of over 600 000 red army pows it was perhaps germany s greatest victory in wwii and guderian had made it happen in october november 1941 the german ostheer eastern army launched a desperate attempt to seize moscow and once again heinz guderian and his tank troops were at the forward edge of battle yet by the end of november the entire german offensive exhausted stretched thin dangerously reduced in strength and suddenly largely paralyzed by the fall rain and snow had ground to a halt meanwhile in early december the resurgent red army launched a major counteroffensive that in the weeks ahead not only threatened guderian s forces with annihilation but those german army group center writ large guderian and the ostheer as a whole were now trapped in a remorseless war of attrition they could never win refusing his superiors orders to stand fast in the face to the advancing soviet juggernaut guderian continued to jerk back in retreat with the remnants of his forces and thus was relieved of his command on 26 december 1941 military historian and eastern front expert craig luther draws on new material from letters to diaries to tell the story of guderian s armored force during operation barbarossa and fleshes out the story with vivid firsthand accounts from the soldiers who slugged it out with the red army on the eastern front the book traces the ups and downs of guderian and his panzer group during six pivotal months of world war ii and explains why and how the germans especially its panzers achieved such impressive successes only to be defeated on moscow s doorstep

the scope and scale of operation barbarossa the german invasion of the soviet union make it one of the pivotal events of the second world war yet our understanding of both the military campaign as well as the war of annihilation conducted throughout the occupied territories depends overwhelmingly on top down studies the three million german soldiers who crossed the soviet border and experienced this war are seldom the focus and are often entirely ignored who were these men and how did they see these events luther and stahel two of the leading experts on operation barbarossa have reconstructed the 1941 campaign entirely through the letters as well as a few diaries of more than 200 german soldiers across all areas of the eastern front it is an original

perspective on the campaign one of constant combat desperate fear bitter loss and endless exertions one learns the importance of comradeship and military training but also reads the frightening racial and ideological justifications for the war and its violence which at times lead to unrelenting cruelty and even mass murder soldiers of barbarossa is a unique and sobering account of 1941 which includes hundreds of endnotes by luther and stahel providing critical context corrections and commentary

a comprehensive record of all of hitler s bunkers and command centers including those built and used like the bergof as well as those under construction and those that never got past planning

the second world war in eastern europe is far from a neglected topic especially since social cultural and diplomatic historians have entered a field previously dominated by operational histories and produced a cornucopia of new scholarship offering a more nuanced picture from both sides of the front however until now the story has still been disjointed and specialized whereby military social economic and diplomatic histories continue to give their own separate accounts this collection of essays attempts to bring these themes into a more cohesive whole that tells a complex multifaceted story of war on the eastern front as it truly was this is one of the few critical examinations that includes both perspectives and looks at the war as a multi front effort it also reveals how myths are created around military conflicts and have direct relevance to current developments in europe linking them to a broader discussion of the second world war its impact and utility today it gives a historical dimension to pressing issues and will be of interest and relevance to history students policymakers political scientists diplomats and foreign policy experts the eastern front will be a useful reference source since some chapters rely on extensive new archival research and materials ego sources as well as extensive findings of non western scholars thereby bringing their work to the attention of a broader audience

on the murderous road to racial purity hitler encountered unexpected detours largely due to his own crazed views and inconsistent policies regarding jewish identity after centuries of jewish assimilation and intermarriage in german society he discovered that eliminating jews from the rest of the population was more difficult than he d anticipated as bryan rigg shows in this provocative new study nowhere was that heinous process more fraught with contradiction and confusion than in the german military contrary to conventional views rigg reveals that a startlingly large number of german military men were classified by the nazis as jews or partial jews mischlinge in the wake of racial laws first enacted in the mid 1930s rigg demonstrates that the actual number was much higher than previously thought perhaps as many as 150 000 men including decorated veterans and high ranking officers even generals and admirals as rigg fully documents for the first time a great

many of these men did not even consider themselves jewish and had embraced the military as a way of life and as devoted patriots eager to serve a revived german nation in turn they had been embraced by the wehrmacht which prior to hitler had given little thought to the race of these men but which was now forced to look deeply into the ancestry of its soldiers the process of investigation and removal however was marred by a highly inconsistent application of nazi law numerous exemptions were made in order to allow a soldier to stay within the ranks or to spare a soldier s parent spouse or other relative from incarceration or far worse hitler s own signature can be found on many of these exemption orders but as the war dragged on nazi politics came to trump military logic even in the face of the wehrmacht s growing manpower needs closing legal loopholes and making it virtually impossible for these soldiers to escape the fate of millions of other victims of the third reich based on a deep and wide ranging research in archival and secondary sources as well as extensive interviews with more than four hundred mischlinge and their relatives rigg s study breaks truly new ground in a crowded field and shows from yet another angle the extremely flawed dishonest demeaning and tragic essence of hitler s rule

volume vii of the germany and the second world war series looks at germany and her japanese ally on the defensive after the tide of war turned in 1943 an exhaustive study of the air war over the reich and the luftwaffe s growing impotence is followed by an account of the invasion of occupied france and the allies advance to germany s borders a final section examines japan s defeat and capitulation and the creation of a new order in the far east by the spring of 1943 after the defeat at stalingrad the writing was on the wall

contains documents including memoirs letters diaries and newspaper articles relating to nazism

by the time hitler declared war on the soviet union in 1941 he knew that his military machine was running out of fuel in response he launched operation blau a campaign designed to protect nazi oilfields in romania while securing new ones in the caucasus all that stood in the way was stalingrad

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