

A Genius For War The German Army And General Staff 1807 1945

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This book explores the intricate relationship between the German Army and its General Staff a unique institution that shaped the development and conduct of warfare for over a century From the Napoleonic Wars to the Second World War it investigates the evolution of strategic thinking operational doctrine and tactical innovation highlighting the triumphs and failures of this formidable military force German Army General Staff Military History Warfare Strategy Tactics Napoleonic Wars World War I World War II Prussian Army German Empire Weimar Republic Nazi Germany A Genius for War offers a comprehensive and critical examination of the German Army and its General Staff spanning a tumultuous period from 1807 to 1945 The book delves into the origins of the General Staff its organizational structure and its role in shaping German military doctrine and strategy It analyzes the profound impact of Prussian military reforms the rise of the German Empire the First and Second World Wars and the institutions eventual demise The narrative highlights key figures who influenced German military thought such as Clausewitz Moltke Schlieffen and Guderian examining their strategies and tactical innovations It explores the evolution of German military doctrine from the emphasis on offensive maneuver warfare in the 19th century to the development of Blitzkrieg in the 20th The book also delves into the social political and cultural contexts that shaped the German military examining its relationship with civilian society and its role in German national identity

Through meticulous research and insightful analysis *A Genius for War* offers a nuanced and thoughtprovoking account of a military institution that left an enduring legacy on the world Conclusion The German Army and General Staff embodied both brilliance and brutality While their military innovations shaped the art of warfare for over a century their strategic thinking often led to devastating consequences This book invites readers to contemplate the complex 2 interplay between military innovation strategic brilliance and the dangers of unchecked ambition By understanding the history of this formidable institution we can learn valuable lessons about the enduring power of military organization the importance of strategic thinking and the crucial role of ethics in war FAQs 1 How did the German General Staff differ from other military structures The General Staff was a unique institution unlike any other military organization at the time It was a professional corps of officers dedicated to planning training and coordinating military operations Its emphasis on intellectual rigor strategic thinking and continuous improvement contributed to its effectiveness and influence 2 What was the impact of Prussian military reforms on the German Army The Prussian military reforms of the 19th century were instrumental in shaping the German Army These reforms introduced a system of universal conscription emphasized rigorous training and fostered a professional officer corps This transformed the Prussian army into a formidable military force that would eventually dominate Europe 3 Did the German Armys strategic thinking always lead to success While the German Army achieved remarkable victories in the 19th and early 20th centuries its strategic thinking was not always successful The disastrous results of the First World War particularly the stalemate on the Western Front illustrate the limitations of the Schlieffen Plan and the dangers of inflexible strategic doctrines 4 What were the key innovations of Blitzkrieg and how did they influence warfare Blitzkrieg a German strategy of lightning warfare that employed rapid mechanized attacks and air power revolutionized warfare in the 20th century Its success in the early stages of World

War II demonstrated the effectiveness of combined arms operations and the importance of mobility and surprise 5 What lessons can we learn from the history of the German Army and General Staff The history of the German Army provides valuable lessons about the importance of military organization strategic planning and the dangers of unchecked ambition It highlights the need for flexibility innovation and ethical considerations in warfare By understanding the successes and failures of this formidable military force we can gain valuable insights into the complexities of war and the enduring need for prudence in its pursuit 3

The WehrmachtThe Rise of the Wehrmacht [2 Volumes]Instrument of WarHitler's SoldiersThe German ArmyThe German Army and Nazi Policies in Occupied RussiaWar of ExterminationThe German Army on the Eastern FrontThe German Army in WarThe German Army, 1933-45Enduring the WhirlwindThe German Army, 1933-1945The German Army in the WestHandbook on German Military ForcesThe German Army and the Defence of the ReichHandbook on German Military ForcesOn the German Art of WarThe German Soldier in World War IIBattle for the RuhrThe Wehrmacht Tim Ripley Samuel W. Mitcham Dennis Showalter Ben H. Shepherd Herbert Rosinski Theo J. Schulte Hannes Heer Jeff Rutherford Andrew Hilliard Atteridge Albert Seaton Gregory Liedtke Matthew Cooper Siegfried Westphal Bob Carruthers Matthias Strohn David I. Norwood Bruce Condell Dr Stephen Hart Derek S. Zumbro Tim Ripley The Wehrmacht The Rise of the Wehrmacht [2 Volumes] Instrument of War Hitler's Soldiers The German Army The German Army and Nazi Policies in Occupied Russia War of Extermination The German Army on the Eastern Front The German Army in War The German Army, 1933-45 Enduring the Whirlwind The German Army, 1933-1945 The German Army in the West Handbook on German Military Forces The German Army and the Defence of the Reich Handbook on German Military Forces On the German Art of War The German Soldier in World War II Battle for the Ruhr The Wehrmacht *Tim Ripley Samuel W. Mitcham Dennis Showalter Ben H.*

*Shepherd Herbert Rosinski Theo J. Schulte Hannes Heer Jeff Rutherford Andrew Hilliard Atteridge Albert Seaton Gregory Liedtke
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the rise of the wehrmacht is the first comprehensive work to deal with the german war effort in world war ii from this point of view its uniqueness lies in the fact that it covers the entire war effort from the point of view of the german military that actually conducted and fought the war something that has never been done before on this scale excellent books have been written about the german army navy the luftwaffe and the ss as well as about the panzer branch the parachute arm the u boat forces etc but this is the first to cover them all in depth mitcham also covers the german wehrkreise roughly translated as military district system in depth and recognizes its importance both in the formation and expansion of the german army before the war and in its continuing importance throughout the conflict he deals with the german rearmament in greater depth and detail than has been done before points out the importance of the police in the development of germany s reserves before and during world war ii and offers new insights into the evolution and development of the german military doctrine of kesselschlact the decisive battle of encirclement and annihilation in addition the rise of the wehrmacht explains the problems the wehrmacht faced because of its too rapid expansion this expansion was far more rapid than the german generals intended and resulted in many problems especially in terms of equipment shortages and a shortage of qualified officers finally mitcham addresses the contributions of the hitler youth to the war effort where their work on farms fire and rescue crews

in nursing and as postal workers for example provided essential services to german infrastructure

drawing on more than a half century of research and teaching dennis showalter presents a fresh perspective on the german army during world war i showalter surveys an army at the heart of a national identity driven by yet also defeated by warfare in the modern age which struggled to capitalize on its victories and ultimately forgot the lessons of its defeat exploring the internal dynamics of the german army and detailing how the soldiers coped with the many new forms of warfare showalter shows how the army s institutions responded to and how germany itself was changed by war detailing the major campaigns on the western and eastern fronts and the forgotten war fought in the middle east and africa this comprehensive volume examines the army s operational strategy the complexities of campaigns of movement versus static trench warfare and the effects of changes in warfare

a penetrating study of the german army s military campaigns relations with the nazi regime and complicity in nazi crimes across occupied europe for decades after 1945 it was generally believed that the german army professional and morally decent had largely stood apart from the ss gestapo and other corps of the nazi machine ben shepherd draws on a wealth of primary sources and recent scholarship to convey a much darker more complex picture for the first time the german army is examined throughout the second world war across all combat theaters and occupied regions and from multiple perspectives its battle performance social composition relationship with the nazi state and involvement in war crimes and military occupation this was a true people s army drawn from across german society and reflecting that society as it existed under the nazis without the army and its conquests abroad shepherd explains the nazi regime could not have perpetrated its crimes against jews prisoners of war and civilians in occupied countries the

author examines how the army was complicit in these crimes and why some soldiers units and higher commands were more complicit than others shepherd also reveals the reasons for the army s early battlefield successes and its mounting defeats up to 1945 the latter due not only to allied superiority and hitler s mismanagement as commander in chief but also to the failings moral political economic strategic and operational of the army s own leadership

this discussion of the german military occupation of areas of russia during the second world war re evaluates many critical interpretations of wehrmacht activities and concentrates on the responses of the lower ranks to their policies

this volume contains the most important contributions by distinguished historians who have thoroughly demolished this wehrmacht myth the picture that emerges from this collection is a depressing one and raises many questions about why ordinary men got involved as perpetrators and bystanders in an unprecedented program of extermination of racially inferior men women and children in eastern europe and the soviet union during the second world war pub desc

a documentary history of the war of annihilation nazi germany fought against the soviet union its people and the red army during world war ii histories of the german army on the eastern front generally focus on battlefield exploits on the war as it was fought in the front line they tend to neglect other aspects of the army s experience particularly its participation in the racial war demanded by the leadership of the reich this ground breaking book aims to correct this incomplete often misleading picture using a selection of revealing extracts from a wide range of wartime documents it looks at the totality of the wehrmacht s war in the east the documents have previously been unpublished or have never been translated into english and they offer a fascinating inside view of the army s actions

and attitudes combat is covered and complicity in hitler s war of annihilation against the soviet union there are sections on the conduct of the war in the rear areas logistics medical judicial and the army s tactics motivation and leadership the entire text is informed by the latest research into the reality of the conflict as it was perceived and understood by those who took part

excerpt from the german army in war in the following chapters i have tried to give briefly and in plain untechnical language an account of the origin of the german military system and the organisation and war methods of the german army i trust that the little book will prove interesting and useful to readers of the war news and to many of our young soldiers who are now training to meet that army in the field i have endeavoured to make the book a collection of facts with only so much discussion of them as is necessary to make them clear to the reader avoiding as far as possible any attempt at criticism but the mere statement of these facts is enough to show that the german army is a very formidable fighting organisation and i think it is well that this should be understood it is a mistake to underrate an opponent the germans made this mistake with regard to our own gallant army some writers here at home appear to me to have been as much at fault in their estimates of the german army at the outset of the war in our case a mistake of this kind has very unfortunate results in the first place it does an injustice to our own splendid fighting men if the german army were an inefficient out of date war machine if it sent to the front a crowd of blundering leaders and half hearted soldiers there would be little credit due to those who have stood up so gloriously against its onset about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do

however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

beskrivelse af den tyske hær 1933 1945 herunder gennemgang af hærrens udvikling fra en hær på ca 100 000 mand reichheer til den flere millioner mand store wehrmacht under 2 verdenskrig samt gennemgang af udrustning taktik beskrivelse af væsentlige operationer og endelig den tyske værnemagts endeligt i 1945 bogen findes også i en anden udgave udgivet i usa meridan book new american library new york s å se isbn nr 0452007399

despite the best efforts of a number of historians many aspects of the ferocious struggle between nazi germany and the soviet union during the second world war remain obscure or shrouded in myth one of the most persistent of these is the notion largely created by many former members of its own officer corps in the immediate postwar period that the german army was a paragon of military professionalism and operational proficiency whose defeat on the eastern front was solely attributable to the amateurish meddling of a crazed former corporal and the overwhelming numerical superiority of the red army a key pillar upon which the argument of german numerical weakness vis à vis the red army has been constructed is the assertion that germany was simply incapable of providing its army with the necessary quantities of men and equipment needed to replace its losses in consequence as their losses outstripped the availability of replacements german field formations became progressively weaker until they were incapable of securing their objectives or eventually of holding back the swelling might of the red army this work seeks to address the notion of german numerical weakness in terms of germany s ability to replace its losses and regenerate its military strength and assess just how accurate this argument was

during the crucial first half of the russo german war june 1941 june 1943 employing a host of primary documents and secondary literature it traces the development and many challenges of the german army from the prewar period until the invasion of the soviet union in june 1941 it continues on to chart the first two years of the struggle between germany and the soviet union with a particular emphasis upon the scale of german personnel and equipment losses and how well these were replaced it also includes extensive examinations into the host of mitigating factors that both dictated the course of germany s campaign in the east and its replacement and regeneration capabilities in contrast to most accounts of the conflict this study finds that numerical weakness being the primary factor in the defeat of the ostheer specifically as it relates to the strength and condition of the german units involved has been overemphasized and frequently exaggerated in fact germany was actually able to regenerate its forces to a remarkable degree with a steady flow of fresh men and equipment and german field divisions on the eastern front were usually far stronger than the accepted narratives of the war would have one believe

the handbook on german military forces is an indispensable primary reference source for historians and enthusiasts in 1945 the allies were still engaged in bitter fighting against stiff resistance from the german armies in the west the us war department was determined to do its best to equip the us forces fighting the germans in the field with as much knowledge as possible march 1945 saw the issue of an astonishing document entitled the handbook on german military forces this was a truly remarkable work of intelligence gathering which formed a vast compendium of all the relevant knowledge amassed on the german wehrmacht amazingly accurate and comprehensive the handbook ran to over six hundred pages and was designed to equip commanders in the field with everything they were likely to need to know about the german forces the handbook remained classified until 1953 and then slipped into obscurity this

new paperback reprint rescues this great work from obscurity covering the psychology organisation tactics and operational aspects of the german forces the weapons machines aircraft and uniforms of the german forces are also documented within the handbook the handbook on german military forces is a fascinating primary reference source for historians and enthusiasts alike providing an invaluable insight into the detail of the german army which is still an unrivaled source of information today

an exploration of the development of military theory and doctrine in the german army between the wars

in march 1945 the u s war department issued a restricted document called handbook on german military forces the restricted classification was removed in 1953 but the handbook has until now remained virtually unknown the book is a massive compendium of information on every aspect of hitler s forces it gives credence to the contention that by 1945 u s army chief of staff george c marshall may have known more about the german military than did hitler himself exceptionally well organized and exhaustively detailed the handbook examines german military personnel from the lowest levels to the high command it describes the wehrmacht s administrative structure unit organization field tactics fortification and defense systems weapons and other equipment and uniforms and insignia moreover it presents this abundance of information in a manner that is remarkable for its depth and clarity the book contains an astute analysis of the psychology of the german soldier and charts the ways in which the attitudes of hitler s men changed over the course of the war it also considers the strengths and weaknesses of the german weapons systems describes how allied soldiers could make use of captured weapons and offers advice on how allied military personnel might avoid being captured themselves hundreds of tables organizational charts and illustrations some in color add further value to the book handbook on german military forces will prove

indispensable to scholars of world war ii as well as to all devotees of military history

an excellent translation of a groundbreaking doctrinal document the first to include the 1933 and 1934 components of the german manual the editors introduction can stand alone as an excellent secondary reference to the value and purpose of *truppenführung* maj michael a boden armor there are a handful of books every student of the military art should read on the german art of war *truppenführung* is one of them the editors have provided a valuable addition to the list of vital military readings dr james jay carafano field artillery *truppenführung* represents the culmination of lessons learned from the german army's operational experience in world war i on the german art of war is a must read for anyone with either a professional or casual interest in german military history especially those who wish to understand how the german army enjoyed such success at the operational and tactical levels of warfare in world war ii lt col robert b bane air space power journal excellent the editors and their publisher have done the military history community a great service in issuing such a fine edition of this very important manual it should become a standard reference for those interested in german performance during world war ii as well as american doctrinal debates before that war and after the vietnam war stephen a bourque army history there's everything in here from how many trains can be loaded or unloaded at a railroad station to how to cope with a threat to one's flank very useful for anyone interested in the german army and in tactics and operations the nymas newsletter this volume is indispensable condell and zabecki have done military historians a great service their translation is crisp and their notes informative students military professionals anyone in fact interested in the development of modern warfare will benefit from reading it robert citino *truppenführung* the twentieth century equivalent of sun tzu's *art of war* served as the basic manual for the german army from 1934 to the end of world war ii this astonishing document provided the doctrinal framework for blitzkrieg and as a

consequence for the victories of hitler s armies rather than giving german military leaders a cookbook on how to win battles truppenfuehrung offered instead a set of intellectual tools to be applied to complex and continually changing battle conditions the keys to understanding the psychology philosophy and social values of the german army that fought world war ii are to be found here this first complete english language translation is annotated to help the contemporary reader understand its military and social context

contents introduction d zabecki truppenfuehrung part i 1933 introduction order of battle task organization command reconnaissance security marches attack pursuit the defensive disengagement withdrawal delaying action combat under special conditions quartering cavalry truppenfuehrung part ii 1934 armored combat vehicles air defense units communications chemical warfare smoke obstacles armored trains transport logistical support in the operational area of operations appendixes german infantry division 1937 1938 notational german panzer division 1935 1937 german divisional staff 1937 1938 contents of u s army fm 100 5 field service regulations operations 1940 german analysis of u s field service regulations

the german soldier in world war ii is a graphic portrait of the life of the private soldier in the army of the third reich containing first hand accounts from german army veterans who served in the war this book is for anyone interested in the history of world war ii and the third reich

a richly detailed epic narrative that gives the perspective of the german officers soldiers and civilians trapped in one of the bloodiest battles toward the end of world war ii ultimately leading to the massacre of 350 000 german troops shows what it looked felt and sounded like for the german troops encircled by the allied juggernaut in the west as the dealt with hitler s increasingly surreal

commands to stand and fight to the last man

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