

CASE STUDY: A WEHRMACHT BATTALION AND ITS ORDERS, FALL 1941

Guide to the PowerPoint Presentation

Slide 1: Title Slide: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum logo

Slide 2: Title Slide: *A Wehrmacht Battalion and its Orders, Fall 1941: A Case Study*

Slide 3: The German Military Tradition: Section 47, German Military Penal Code (1872)

Context sheet: “Codes of Conduct in the German Military”

Citation: Keller C., *Militär-Strafgesetzbuch für das Deutsche Reich*, trans. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Berlin: Weidmann, 1873).

Slide 4: The German Military Tradition: A German Soldier’s Pay book

Context sheet: “Codes of Conduct in the German Military”

Citation: Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt), translation United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Slide 5: The German Military Tradition: Excerpts from “Ten Commandments for the Conduct of the German Soldier at War”

Context sheet: “Codes of Conduct in the German Military”

Citation: Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt), translation United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Additional Information: For a translation of the entire “Ten Commandments for the Conduct of the German Soldier at War”, see context sheet “Codes of Conduct in the German Military”

Slide 6: The Military and the Nazi State: Question

Slide 7: The Military and the Nazi State: Military Provisions of Versailles Treaty (1919)

Context Sheet: “The German Military and Hitler”

Citation: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Additional information: Please see the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Holocaust Encyclopedia article: [Treaty of Versailles, 1919](#)

Slide 8: The Military and the Nazi State: Hitler and the SA

Context Sheet: “The German Military and Hitler”

Photo Caption: Adolf Hitler addresses a rally of the Nazi paramilitary formation, the SA (Sturmabteilung), in 1933.

Citation: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of William O. McWorkman

Additional information: By 1934, the SA had grown to nearly four million members, significantly outnumbering the 100,000 member professional army. Holocaust Encyclopedia article: [Röhm Purge](#).

Slide 9: The Military and the Nazi State: German Military Oaths

Context Sheet: “The German Military and Hitler”

Citations: Robert B. Kane, *Disobedience and Conspiracy in the German Army* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2002), 227; J. Noakes and G. Pridham, eds., *Nazism, 1919-1945: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts*, vol. 1, *The Nazi Party, State and Society 1919-1939* (New York: Schocken Books, 1983), 185-186.

Additional information: During World War I, soldiers swore their allegiance to the Kaiser (emperor) of the German Empire. Under the Weimar Republic, the oath shifted to the first example here, which emphasizes

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loyalty to the Republic's constitution. It was not until President Hindenburg's death in the summer of 1934 that German soldiers swore an oath to Hitler personally.

Slide 10: The Invasion of the Soviet Union: Excerpt from "Guidelines for the Behavior of the Troops in Russia," May 19, 1941

Context Sheets: "Planning the Invasion of the Soviet Union" and "Racial Ideology in Practice in the Soviet Union"

Citation: Hans-Adolf Jacobsen, "Kommissarbefehl und Massenexecutionen sowjetischer Kriegsgefangener," in *Anatomie des SS Staates*, vol. 2, trans. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Munich: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, 1989), 187-188.

Slide 11: The Invasion of the Soviet Union: Summary of the Barbarossa Jurisdiction Decree, May 13, 1941

Context Sheets: "Planning the Invasion of the Soviet Union" and "Racial Ideology in Practice in the Soviet Union"

Citation: RG-242, NOKW-2080, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD, trans. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Slide 12: Map: "Invasion of the Soviet Union, 1941-1942"

Context Sheet: "Planning the Invasion of the Soviet Union" and "Racial Ideology in Practice in the Soviet Union"

Citation: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Additional Information: Holocaust Encyclopedia Articles: [Invasion of the Soviet Union, June 1941](#); [The Soviet Union and the Eastern Front](#)

Slide 13: Case Study: 1st Battalion, 691st Infantry Regiment, German-occupied eastern Belarus

Context Sheet: "Case Study: Army Group Center (Rear)" and "Belarus"

Slide 14: Map: Eastern Belorussia Soviet Union 1933

Context Sheet: "Belarus" and "Case Study: Army Group Center (Rear)"

Citation: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Slide 15: Case Study: Command Hierarchy

Context Sheet: "Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941"

Slide 16: Case Study: "Verbal Order Issued"

Context Sheet: "Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941"

Slide 17: Discuss: Questions

Slide 18: Case Study: 2nd Company Commander

Context Sheet: "Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941"

Slide 19: Case Study: 3rd Company Commander

Context Sheet: "Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941"

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Slide 20: Case Study: 1st Company Commander

Context Sheet: “Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941”

Slide 21: Question

Slide 22: Question

Slide 23: Question

Slide 24: Title Slide: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum logo