

**Chapter 1 : A German Soldier's Letter ( )**

*From what I've heard and studied, life as a Nazi Soldier, was a hard and brutal life. They witnessed mass murders, and some even took a part in them. Many feared their lives, when they realized what a tyrant Hitler was.*

Or Germany had to export coal to France without getting paid for it. Or Germany had to export products that it manufactured without getting paid for it all in the name of reparations for the war. The economic downturn was when the government was running out of money and simply started to print money. In prices were going up all the time. At that time, one dollar could buy quadrillions of German marks. So if you wanted to buy a newspaper, you had to pay billion for one newspaper. Things were not worth anything anymore! People were getting paid twice a day and then the wives were going to the factory gates to get the pay and run to the stores to buy whatever they could get because prices kept going up constantly. Germany really needed a savior to pull them out. Well that was in so it still took quite a long time. The way national is pronounced in German is nazional. So for you, nothing personal changed from when you were five until you were ten, correct? At ten I went into the junior grade of Hitler youth, but also called young folk or pimpf but pimpf has such an awkward sound in English. He would rather smoke cigarettes than pay the dues. And my mother was not in it either. When you went into the Junior Hitler Youth, were you required to go, or was it just something you really looked forward to and wanted to sign up for? I think I looked forward to it. Maybe a little more emphasis on discipline, learning to march, stand at attention, turn right and left, or about face, all those commands we had to learn and what to do. And even how you stand at attention. Push out your chest! Have your head very rigid! And your toes had to be a 60 degrees or whatever laughing. Where was this Junior Hitler Youth? There were various groups. And about 50 guys to each group. After this you went into the Hitler youth? That was automatic, yes. By that time I was already Of course that was already in and the war started in , September first. Do you recall any memories of the prosecution [persecution] of Jews? His name was Eugen Rosenzweig. He was a nice fellow, I had nothing against him. My aunt had an apartment with him, and he was taken away. But we never asked her about him. Was that odd for you at all? My father was the youngest one. And this sister, I think she thought herself better than my father was, so I think they looked down on us. Her husband had a position in the party. And they were better off than we were, so they looked down on us. Later, after the husband had been taken away, then she lived with my grandmother. I liked my grandmother. They lived in an apartment within five minutes from ours. Did you have any prejudice against Jewish people? Were you taught a prejudice? Yes, uh, Jews were considered to be undesirable, unfriendly, certainly not Germans. What about when you were growing up as a young kid, before Hitler youth " were they just other people or were they not desirable still? Although when I started school in , we started ever day with a Christian prayer. Now, for example, do you know in your class who is Jewish or what religion they are? No, not at all. Well everybody of course had to have identification papers, and on that was your religion, and certainly the city governments knew what religion you were. Now you stayed in the anti aircraft unit until when? From to so about one year, [when] I was seventeen. After that where did you go? I went to the military training camp in southern Germany What was your experience in the training camp? That was really strict, because they really got us ready to be shipped to the front, so we had to exercise, we had to be ready to fight. So your family was surviving on their own? Now my father was drafted into service around or so. He got to France after France had already been occupied by the German forces. Then my brother, who was a year and half older than I was, had also been in the Hitler Youth and then after, I think in , all Germans had to spend one year in what was called the Workers Service, where the young people were shipped all over the country building autobahns, or working on farms, but of course, I was too young. But then in I was drafted into the Anti-Aircraft Unit, my whole class was. Your whole class of Hitler youth? Not my whole school class. Well, during summer vacation we had a four week training course in anti aircraft. In my class there were kids born in and The ones born in were kept with the anti aircraft unit after the training course. The ones born in , which included me, were sent back to school. We were drafted at the beginning of So you were 16 years old at this point? Now this was while you were in the Hitler youth? Now of course the Hitler youth, I think we met only

twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays and only for about two hours or so. Did you learn how to use a gun? I think there was one gun or so for each unit and one of the older guys then demonstrated how to take it apart, put it together again, how to aim and how to shoot. But we did not carry a gun. Was it hard work? You had to march and you had to sing, and play war games. We went camping, had political and history lessons, certainly to the extent that Germany is better than any other country and Germany had been wronged after the first world war and Germany deserved a place among all the other nations just like the French or the British. So yea, we were not unhappy about being in the Hitler youth, about being German, we were proud to be German. How long were you in the Hitler youth? Only from when I was fourteen to sixteen, because at sixteen I was drafted into the anti aircraft unit. Now what is that [anti aircraft unit]? Except the guns that we had could shoot about feet, and the planes were coming at us from 25,â€so our guns were useless. I remember the attack on the Mercedes factory and our unit, our position, was right across the river up on a hill. So the planes were coming â€” it was a beautiful day, and about 1: And they actually released their bombs before they had come across our positions, we were right on the path. So we could see the planes, we could see the bombs falling downward hitting the factory. And then you tried to shoot at them? Well what did you do? And laughing hoped the bombs would not hit our positionsâ€it was only about a mile or so. It was a little close! Now your whole class got drafted from school? Well, instead of summer vacation, we had that training course. And then got sent home again, then in January we were drafted. At this point where did you go? These anti aircraft units were stationed all around the city, and we were one of them. Why they gave us these small gunsâ€maybe they expected some attacks from fighter planes that come down closer, but they all were 25 â€” 30, feet high. Now our guns were 36 millimeters. Other units had 88 millimeter guns. Why were you given such useless guns then? But we still had to remain in our positions.

**Chapter 2 : The History Place - Hitler Youth: Hitler's Boy Soldiers**

*Most German soldiers were willing to commit themselves to the army and fight. Not all Germans were Nazis. A former artillery officer, Siegfried Knappe, explains in his haunting memoir "Soldat" (Soldier): Those of us who were soldiers in the German Army during World War II were young men fighting for their country.*

He was later "dismissed" after it became known that he was a " Mischling ersten Grades" as defined by the Nuremberg Laws , having half Jewish ancestry. In January , after World War I ended with the signing of the armistice of 11 November , the armed forces were dubbed Friedensheer peace army. The army was limited to one hundred thousand men with an additional fifteen thousand in the navy. The fleet was to consist of at most six battleships , six cruisers , and twelve destroyers. Submarines , tanks and heavy artillery were forbidden and the air-force was dissolved. A new post-war military, the Reichswehr , was established on 23 March General conscription was abolished under another mandate of the Versailles treaty. The American historians Alan Millet and Williamson Murray wrote "In reducing the officers corps, Seeckt chose the new leadership from the best men of the general staff with ruthless disregard for other constituencies, such as war heroes and the nobility". These officers saw the role of an air force as winning air superiority, tactical and strategic bombing and providing ground support. That the Luftwaffe did not develop a strategic bombing force in the s was not due to a lack of interest, but because of economic limitations. A secret collaboration with the Soviet Union began after the treaty of Rapallo. Germany helped the Soviet Union with industrialization and Soviet officers were to be trained in Germany. German tank and air-force specialists could exercise in the Soviet Union and German chemical weapons research and manufacture would be carried out there along with other projects.

Nazism and the Wehrmacht After the death of President Paul von Hindenburg on 2 August , Adolf Hitler assumed the office of President of Germany , and thus became commander in chief. In February , the Defence Minister Werner von Blomberg , acting on his own initiative, had all of the Jews serving in the Reichswehr given an automatic and immediate dishonorable discharge. Hitler was most surprised at the offer; the popular view that Hitler imposed the oath on the military is false. German re-armament was announced on 16 March as was the reintroduction of conscription. The conscription law introduced the name Wehrmacht; the Reichswehr was officially renamed the Wehrmacht on 21 May In December , General Ludwig Beck added 48 tank battalions to the planned rearmament program. In a speech delivered in the Reichstag, Hitler stressed that by occupying Czechoslovakia, Germany gained 2, field cannons, tanks, anti-aircraft artillery pieces, 43, machine guns, 1,, military rifles, , pistols, about a billion rounds of ammunition and three million anti-aircraft rounds. This amount of weaponry would be sufficient to arm about half of the then Wehrmacht. As World War II intensified, Kriegsmarine navy and Luftwaffe air force personnel were increasingly transferred to the Heer army , and "voluntary" enlistments in the SS were stepped up as well. Following the Battle of Stalingrad in , fitness standards for Wehrmacht recruits were drastically lowered, with the regime going so far as to create "special diet" battalions for men with severe stomach ailments. Rear-echelon personnel were sent to front-line duty wherever possible, especially during the last two years of the war. Foreign volunteers were generally not accepted in the German armed forces prior to German propagandists wanted to present the war not as a purely German concern, but as a multi-national crusade against the so-called Jewish Bolshevism. Hence, the Wehrmacht and SS began to seek out recruits from occupied and neutral countries across Europe: The "voluntary" nature of such recruitment was often dubious, especially in the later years of the war, when even Poles living in the Polish Corridor were declared "ethnic Germans" and drafted. In the reshuffle in , Hitler became the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and retained that position until his suicide on 30 April Each of these high commands had its own general staff.

Chapter 3 : How was the life of nazi soldiers during ww2????????????!!!!? | Yahoo Answers

*Additionally, he felt he was "acting under orders, and he attempts to defend himself with this analogy: "The first time a company of soldiers gets a volley of machine gun fire they don't all get up and say, 'We don't agree with this 'we're going home.'"*

Share via Email Helga Weiss in the Prague apartment she has lived in since she was born, apart from the years she was imprisoned by the Nazis in concentration camps. In , Helga Weiss came to terms with the idea of dying with one important condition. Altogether, between and , she and her mother were sent to four camps: But sharing with her mother made the impossible bearable. We were together and it was a great help. At 83, she still climbs the steep stairs each day and is a lively, friendly presence, surrounded by family photographs and paintings produced during her career as an artist. Helga was born in this flat and it has always been her home, apart from the four years she spent in Nazi concentration camps. It was ransacked and occupied during the war but there are echoes of life as it was before the war. Helga with her parents, Irena and Otto, and her paternal grandmother, Sophie Otto Weiss was a talented aspiring musician but as a soldier in the First World War, he sustained hand and arm injuries and went on to work in a bank. He married his wife, Irena, and in Helga was born. Those early years were happy. Otto encouraged his daughter musically, but she had no obvious talent for it; her gift was for art. I always painted what I saw "a man in a meat store," for instance. As war loomed, the eight-year-old Helga began to keep a diary in words and pictures. The first pages record the growing Nazi threat: It was because of the political situation, says Helga, that she remained an only child "a decision her father made. Helga and her mother had no idea what lay ahead. They thought the war would soon be over. I took two very small dolls, a pad, watercolours and crayons," she says. Conditions were slightly better there and the group, "tried to stay human beings and be young," she says. They organised dances and celebrated birthdays and religious holidays "they once made a potato gateau as a treat, from food scraps they had managed to save. But the first drawing she made is a jolly picture of two children building a snowman "she smuggled it through to her father who sent back a crucial message: The pictures show queues for food; a bleak, basic washroom; a girl ill with tuberculosis; the crowded waiting room in the emergency clinic; people on stretchers; bread transported in a hearse marked "Welfare for the young". Another drawing marks the birthday of her friend, Francka. The girls had been born in the same maternity ward, and the sketch shows them as babies in , in their shared bunk bed in , and in , wheeling prams together. The last drawing is accompanied by a note to say that Francka died in Auschwitz before her 15th birthday. Many musicians had smuggled in instruments and one sketch shows families gathered around a violin trio giving a concert in a dormitory. He was in his mids, she was not yet Helga describes the day her father left in her diary, the corners of his mouth twitching as he tried to smile, hands shaking as he held her. Then he was gone. Three days later, she and Irena left. Just in time, she got her diary and a novel and some poetry by her father to her Uncle Josef, who worked in the records department at the camp. He bricked them into a wall to hide them. Helga and her mother were sent to Auschwitz , where they joined the notorious queue as they arrived: To survive, it was essential to end up on the right. Prisoners who knew the fate that lay ahead on the left whispered warnings: I have friends who are still alive "they are the same age as I am "but their mothers were [sent to the left]. So I was lucky twice. Not only that I was not sent, but that I was together with my mother. They were told to strip naked and their heads were shaved. She remembers being outside, shaved head freezing, and Irena reaching over to cup her bare scalp. It was all the comfort she could offer. Then came a day transport by rail to Mauthausen in Austria. Irena was so weak she could hardly stand and both suffered from frostbite, lice and constant, raging thirst. In one four-day period they had nothing to eat but two potatoes, half a cup of tea and two spoons of sugar. Along the route, news arrived that Berlin had fallen. At Mauthausen, they went without food for five days. Had there been just one more day before peace was declared, Helga suspects her mother would not have survived. Days later, on 5 May , the camp was liberated by the Allied forces. Helga Weiss and her father, Otto, in She last saw him in Terezin, in , when he left with 5, others, destination unknown. But she remembered his words: In the first months, they found it unbearable to be alone together in

the flat, which was so full of memories of their life together before the war. In the evenings they walked the streets together until it was time to sleep. The diary has been published as she wrote it in the s, as it was found at the bottom of a drawer. In the prologue of the book, Helga explains that although "the writing is childish, the style prolix, naive," she felt editorial changes would have affected the authenticity of the story. Her Uncle Jindra, for example, was sent from Auschwitz to Mauthausen and experienced such cold that his legs had to be amputated. He died as a result. His wife knew he had died and where, but was never told those details. There was no question of Helga and her mother living apart after the war. Irena remained single and when Helga married, her husband shared the apartment with them. Irena helped with her son and daughter, and lived until she was 90. Maybe she had no reason. There is only one moment during our interview when she wells up with emotion, but they are tears of happiness. Just last week, she says, her great-granddaughter got her first tooth.

**Chapter 4 : Reminiscences of a German World War II Veteran - SPIEGEL ONLINE**

*Long before the war the Nazi propagandists brainwashed German soldier that, without a war and occupation of foreign lands Germany can not exist. Fascist troubadours sang hosanna to "total war" that will raise Germany from European ruins up to the world domination.*

Viewer discretion is strongly advised. If you are unsure to proceed, please leave this webpage now. It seems there is no force that could stop the spread of the Brown Plague. Several European countries, poorly prepared for the defense or corrupted and weakened by Nazi agents inside, ceased to exist one by one, and German military machine, not getting a payback, within one year and eight months continued to move almost non-stop where it was sent by the maniac. This was called the "high moral condition" of the German army. Long before the war the Nazi propagandists brainwashed German soldier that, without a war and occupation of foreign lands Germany can not exist. Fascist troubadours sang hosanna to "total war" that will raise Germany from European ruins up to the world domination. For many years the military command drummed into the brain of the German soldiers that the lightning strike will bring coveted victory to the army. This was one of the main components of the moral training of the Hitler soldier. Day after day the German soldier has been poisoned by zoological nationalism. His consciousness was distorted by the idea that only he, "pure-blood Aryan", is created to dominate and win. Nazi fascist propaganda stuffed heads of the soldiers with prescriptions, like "Northern race strives to dominate" and "Those who do not belong to a good race belong to the garbage bin". Hitler, by his own expression, assumed the "right to kill millions of people of inferior races. In the narrow circle of his closest confidants Hitler cynically admitted that he "had no the slightest regret for the precious blood. Nazi propaganda was designed to support the "spirit" of the German soldier. It advertised the upcoming military looting. It corrupted the soul of a German soldier with promises of easy profit. It fanned the lowest instincts of a man, to whom "everything is permitted": The fascist thugs of the SS divisions are the main carriers of this "spirit. Cane discipline weaned ordinary German soldier to think about what he was doing and understood for what he is fighting for. Many of the German POWs say: We are the soldiers. Many, especially young people, are still stupefied by the nationalistic fervor. It has quite a large number of those, whose consciousness is diluted by the fear of the fascist dictatorship, which suppresses the slightest glimmer of human thought. But why in this case, the Nazi Command has such a strong concern about the morale of the German soldier? Why Nazi command after a year after the start of the "lightning war" forced to issue multiple orders to improve morale of the troops? Easy victories over a weak opponent and uncontained riotous life in the occupied countries completely corrupted the soldiers. Typical in this respect is the 79th Division which was deployed in France, until it was transferred to the Eastern Front. In his "special order" Lieutenant-General Strecker provides a detailed list of "feats" of the soldiers from this division. They were stealing everything: Starting with the robbery of the French population, the German soldiers began to plunder one another. Corporal Carl Fey 6th Company, 6th Infantry Regiment has been systematically stealing postal packages, addressed to the soldiers of his company. Where is a theft, there is a violence and sexual crimes. Soldier Theodore Kaufmann HQ of the 3rd Battalion, Infantry Regiment , threatening with the loaded revolver, demanded that the French innkeeper brought him a girl. In another case, this gallant soldier struck year-old woman in the head with a revolver, after he presented her the same requirement. Abominable customs which prevail among the "fuehrers" are apparently widespread among some soldiers. As can be seen from the "special order", these and other similar facts of life and living of 79th Division are far from isolated. The order was signed May 12, Captured documents indicate that the same customs prevailed in the other units of the German army. German High Command is concerned, but not by these facts. Soldier Berthold Schlotgauer feldpost wrote to his brother Hans: From the very beginning of the war, "commanding officers not only permitted, but in fact encouraged looting and violence. They gave soldiers the whole cities to plunder. For example, Warsaw was given to German soldiers for 3 days. This is how Hitler supported the "spirit" and "moral" standing of a German soldier. III Hitler and his bragging propagandists boast of the discipline and order in the Nazi army. But only those who want to be deceived will believe it. Documents seized on the

battlefield, irrefutably testify that the discipline of the fascist troops, based on a stick and a lie, is cracking. Such material will continue to be sent out on a regular basis. One rifleman did not return after a holiday to his unit. He intended to cross the Dutch border. One artilleryman left his unit just before it joined the fight at the front. He tried to cross the Swiss border. One rifleman shortly before his unit went on offensive, cut off index finger on the left hand to be unable to participate in the battle. One corporal chopped three fingers on his right hand with an ax. He was hoping to get dismissal from the army due to unsuitability for the service. Refusal to obey an order and attacking an officer. One rifleman, while on duty, missed to fall in and stood before the sergeant, holding his hands in his pockets. After receiving command of his non-commissioned officer to take the proper military stand, he shouted in front of the whole team: When, after his arrest the officer on duty wanted to search his pockets, he hit his hands. One corporal incited a pair of his companions to beat up a non-commissioned officer. One gunner used service difficulties to express his discontent. He repeatedly said that on the first opportunity he will get even with the officers. One rifleman in the presence of other soldiers said: In general, I am ashamed to even wear a uniform and serve the state. No wonder that the German High Command is trying to prevent anti-fascist sentiments of enslaved people to penetrate into the ranks of soldiers of the occupational forces. The German command seeks to establish an impenetrable barrier between German soldiers and population of the occupied territories. Instead, he is recommended to visit brothels, in organized manner. Brauchitsch wrote in secret memo on September 26, Since brothels are already established by military units or civilian authorities, its visit by a soldier is not considered as a violation of these directives. Severe food shortage in the country, terrible poverty, drudgery, feeling of hopelessness and endless "lightning. Letters received by the soldiers from home, usually imbued with hopeless longing. Well, now we are doomed and sold, or do you really see our future in pink colors? I just feel despair, thinking about all those years. And what did we have? Work from morning till night, scant food, only the most basic clothing, and we should already be satisfied. They took you from me three years ago, and you must have a life which they ordered and prescribed. My best years are going down the drain, and I only know work, and I have just a bare minimum to eat. I cannot even think about a quiet sleep. I think that this is not just my opinion, because everybody complains, except for the war profiteers who collect their dividends even now. For my boss the war is like a toy. These people feel good in any conditions, if only they are getting money. I would tell you everything, but one is just afraid to open mouth. Hope is the only thing which was left for us. And how many similar letters, full of doom, come to the front! Fascist censors, evidently, are powerless to stop its flow. The difficult economic and political situation in Germany, Hitler dictatorial terror, constantly increasing bombardment of the German cities by British aircraft, all this does not promise any hope for a better future. This can not leave morale of the Nazi army intact. When this army was thrown against Soviet Union, not only civilian population, but many soldiers were also confused. When we learned about the war, we did not know what to think. And many soldiers thought that march on Moscow will be as easy as the march on Paris. This hope was mixed with aspirations of a plunder, good meal and drink. I hope we find something there to eat and drink ", Kurt Viber wrote to his parents in Stuttgart. He did not have a chance to eat, or drink, or even send the letter. German soldiers began to experience on their own experience that tactic, battle-tested in the West, fails in the East. Gradually psychosis of self confidence began to weaken. Powerful blows which Red Army throws on fascist invaders begin to clean up the minds of many German soldiers. Losses, which were inflicted on the German Army, produced a quite sobering effect. According to the captured reports of the German sanitary service and notes of the German medics, one can put together an approximate picture of the German losses.

**Chapter 5 : The Morning Call - We are currently unavailable in your region**

*Using personal narratives, this book illustrates the daily lives of German soldiers in World War II, from their early victories on the Western and Eastern Fronts to their defeats at Stalingrad and the Battle of the Bulge, and the ultimate collapse of the Third Reich.*

By the fall of , it was clear to Germans that the war was not going well. This letter from a soldier urges his wife to remain confident of victory, even though she and their children have been bombed out of their home and are being moved for safety to the countryside. Der Schulungsbrief was the widely-circulated Nazi Party monthly for political education. The attack by the countless hordes in the past weeks is over. The silence of death rests over the battlefield, over the smoking, destroyed Soviet tanks, over the masses of troops the Bolsheviks drove to death. The loneliness of the steppes returns. Their attack was in vain, their sacrifice forgotten, broken against our death-spewing weapons, against our strength, against our will, against our faith, which is stronger than any challenge. For in our hearts is Germany, the Germany that must live. Germany, that is you and the children. You are the homeland for us, and we carry you in our hearts. We fight and sacrifice and bleed for you. We never weaken for a second, for you must be protected. Back in our trenches, we think of home. I hold your last dear letter in my worn hands. Thank you for the words and news, for which I am deeply thankful. The war is now falling on my dear homeland. You write to me of the terror attacks by the British and Americans, and of heavy sacrifices, privations and worries that you also now face. I am filled with enormous rage, as are all of us here. There must be revenge, thousand-fold revenge. But in my heart there is deep and holy thanks for those who through their sacrifice rescued you, for what they lost, you still have. Has that occurred to you? My dear wife, now you suddenly face problems that you have never before had. They are similar to the problems we soldiers face every day and every hour: Will you fail this hour of trial? Were that to happen, you would not be my wife, because I know that you will remain brave. Our children are still happy and healthy. To ensure their life in the great German future, you must allow them to leave the city for the safety of the countryside, there from whence our ancestors came, and from which will come the strength to build our new Reich. I know how unspeakably hard it will be for you to give up everything that you loved and valued, but it is not so much as to outweigh victory. And do you know how happy I will be to know that you are safe? We can lose everything we have, everything except our honor, our homeland, and the lives of our children. That we must defend, and win victory. You must think the same way all of us do: Now more than ever we must stand together, help each other, obey every order. Your heart must tell you: That is our most holy confession. We carry it through the hell of these unimaginably difficult days of August, and it will shine in us when we rebuild our ruined cities and our children are happy around you. My dear wife, I greet our children. Stay brave, loyal, and proud, and learn what the soldier has long known: My e-mail address is available on the FAQ page. Go to the German Propaganda Home Page.

Chapter 6 : Life of a Nazi soldier | Open Library

*A Nazi soldier on the western front in The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration American G.I. John Frankemolle was guarding a group of captured German soldiers in Europe during.*

Comment How much did the Wehrmacht soldiers know about the Holocaust? Noticeably more than they were later willing to admit. The exhibition "War of Extermination. The Crimes of the Wehrmacht," which the Hamburg Institute for Social Research took to several German cities between and , consistently triggered angry protests. Some critics claimed that the entire undertaking was a sham because a few images had not been displayed in the correct chronological order. The Holocaust is generally mentioned peripherally in the conversations between German soldiers that have now been viewed in their entirety for the first time. It is only mentioned on about pages of the transcripts, which, given the monstrosity of the events, seems to be a very small number. One explanation could be that not many soldiers knew about what was happening behind the front. Another, much more likely interpretation would be that the systematic extermination of the Jews did not play a significant role in the conversations between cellmates because it had little news value. When conversations do turn to the extermination process, the emphasis tends to be on questions of practical implementation. There are hardly any passages in which the listeners are surprised by what they are hearing. Almost no one indicates that the stories being told are somehow unbelievable or that he is hearing them for the first time. Details of the Holocaust The transcripts contain comprehensive details about the exterminations, including the mass shootings, the killings with carbon monoxide in specially prepared trucks, and the later disinterment and incineration of the bodies as part of "Operation ," with which the SS sought to eliminate the traces of the Holocaust starting in Hardly any soldier says that he was directly involved, but many talk about what they saw or heard. The accounts are often astonishingly detailed and, in any case, much more precise than the information German investigators could later glean from witness testimony. They had to lie down like sardines in a can, with their heads toward the middle. At the top, there were six marksmen with submachine guns who then shot them in the back of the neck. It was already full when I arrived, so the ones who were still alive had to lie on top, and then they got shot. Before this happened, they had to turn in their valuables at another station. The edge of the forest was here, and in here there were the three trenches on that Sunday, and here there was a line that stretched for one-and-a-half kilometers, and it was moving very slowly. They were standing in line to be killed. When they got closer, they could see what was going on inside. Roughly at this spot, they had to hand over their jewelry and their suitcases. A little farther along, they had to take off their clothes, all except their shirts and underpants. It was just women and little children, like two-year-olds. About 3 million people died in the ghettos or were killed by hand, often by a shot to the back of the neck, which made it necessary to create special firing squads. In principle, soldiers in the Wehrmacht were exempt from performing these tasks, which were handled by special SS units and police battalions. No Attempt to Keep It Secret Many of the reports revolve around the unreasonable demands imposed on the marksmen, the monotony of the work, in which the firing squads had to be relieved every few hours "because of overexertion," and the special challenges of this type of piecemeal work. Many Wehrmacht soldiers became witnesses to the Holocaust because they happened to be present or were invited to take part in a mass shooting. These people are always shot in the morning. The fact that the people involved did not try to keep their activities a secret demonstrates how much the perpetrators took for granted the "mass shootings of Jews," as one of the POWs in Trent Park called it. In fact, something resembling execution tourism developed in the conquered territories. In addition to soldiers who were stationed nearby, local residents also came to witness the killings, sometimes even bringing along their children.

Chapter 7 : Wehrmacht - Wikipedia

*Get this from a library! Life of a Nazi soldier. [Cherese Cartlidge; Charles Clark] -- Depicts the life of Nazi soldiers during war time, including initiation, training, and conditions they were forced to endure in battles fought.*

That scream, that horrible scream, the scream that has echoed and reverberated in his head for the last 71 years. That scream, shrill and terrible, that only he can hear now, as he sits at his dining table in a small house at the end of a quiet, dead-end street, in a quiet living room with a vase of tulips and a gingerbread heart on the shelf, with the words "Opa is Fantastic" written on it with icing. The scream transports Heinz Otto Fausten back 71 years to a trench in Kalikino, Russia, 2, kilometers 1, miles away. The journey takes him a fraction of a second. Suddenly he is 21 again, and caught in a ruthless, violent world where life is about nothing but survival. He is crouched on the ground next to his friend Ekkehardt. They are cowering in the trench, the entire company, one man next to the other. The trench is their only protection. Suddenly the company commander in front shouts to the soldiers behind him: They crawl past dead bodies and the wounded, the ones who have already tried and failed. The Russians are throwing everything they have into the attack: A fourth man, Tritschler tumbles toward Fausten, his left hand dangling from his arm by the tendons. Tritschler rips off the nearly severed hand with his other hand. Ekkehardt has been hit and is lying on the ground next to him. Fausten tries to get to his friend but runs into a counterattack, fires until his clip is empty and is forced to retreat. There are Russians and Germans everywhere, and everyone is running and shooting and trying to stay alive. Most of them fail, but Fausten runs and survives, carrying a wounded man on his back. Then he hears his friend Ekkehardt screaming: Until suddenly the screaming stops. It happened in Kalikino, in October His voice trembles and his eyes are moist with tears. On this evening, the sheer force of memory has penetrated the wall he had erected around the past. Whenever Fausten used to talk about the war, like many of those who were part of it, it was with a strange sense of detachment. But even though he is now 92, he remembers what happened with photographic precision, as if the best way to describe the essence of the war is in the form of a military report. Or perhaps this levelheaded approach is the best way for men like Fausten to cope with the horrors of the war and how it affected the people who were in it. The report also described what happened and who shot at whom, complete with ranks, names, places and the number of dead. It was a report written with the cold eyes of his generation, which saw things that would have been better unseen. Not as a child, and certainly not as an adolescent, in the post era, when Germans were asking questions about blame and responsibility. And not now either, at 60, on that evening last week. Peter Fausten had always been interested in why, and not how, it all happened. He wanted to know why his father had participated, and whether he had lost more during those years in Russia than his right leg: Fausten, who became an art teacher and principal of the Sinzig high school after the war, says he would give the film a B grade. There were a few minor errors, he adds. The questions are being now asked by the children of the wartime generation, and by the grandchildren. This is their last chance to ask these questions, before the last survivors are dead. He had to force himself to do it. He only watched because ZDF had interviewed him for a documentary, but one that was never aired. Fausten has his own, more jarring images in his head, images ZDF would never have shown, images that, to be complete, require the crashing and the exploding, the stench and the taste, the shock and the pain of war. Heinz Otto Fausten comes from a family of university graduates. His father was an electrical engineer who owned his own business. His family was too Catholic for that, says Fausten. After graduating from high school in , he served in the Reich Labor Service. He remained at the university for a few more months, studying German and geography, and then he volunteered for the army, knowing that he would be drafted soon, anyway. As a volunteer, he was allowed to choose his branch of the military. He wanted to be in a tank division. And so he ended up on the Russian border, in an infantry fighting vehicle, on June 21, , prepared for the attack and for a war of aggression, one that would devastate both the country before them and their own souls.

### Chapter 8 : Life of a Nazi Soldier | Military History Veteran

*how was the life of the nazi soldiers during the ww2? okay so i already know about the life of the jewish people. they had to hid in annexes and they were captured and sent to concentration camps where they had to shave their heads nd be starved to death or put into a gas chamber and they barely.*

He was a member of the Luftwaffe anti-air squad who burst into tears as his world crumbled around him. His father died in but when his mother died in leaving the family destitute, Hans-Georg had to find work in order to support the family. At 15 years of age he joined the Luftwaffe. According to the story that Henke maintained throughout his life, he was based in Stettin with a battery of 88mm guns. As the Soviets advanced so the German forces were pushed back towards Rostock. It was here where the Soviets finally overran their unit, that these photographs were taken. The alternative story is given by the American photojournalist John Florea. The area in which the photos of Hans-Georg were taken is incontrovertibly Hessen. A number of photos taken clearly show areas of the town which still exist today. Furthermore as these photos indicate, he was bearing boots when captured and not, as he alleged later, with rags on his feet. John Florea is adamant that Hans-Georg is not sobbing because his world had crumbled but rather due to combat shock after being overrun by the American forces. The sole motive for Henke dissembling on this issue must relate to the fact that after the war he elected to join the Communist Party and live in East Germany. The East German Communists regarded all those who had surrendered to the Americans as a potential third force. To cover his tracks, Henke changed the story from being overrun by Americans to being captured by the Russians. He went on to live a full life and died in He was crying from combat shock, having been mixed in with a regular infantry unit that had been overrun by the US with hard fighting. His father died and his mother in Colorized versions from two different artists. As a son of a former Communist sympathiser, Hans-Georg himself joined the Communist party and went to live in Finsterwalde in East Germany after the war. November 20, Any factual error or typo?

### Chapter 9 : The Life Of A Nazi Soldier by Michael Finnegan on Prezi

*A Nazi soldier's letter to his wife in Background: By the fall of , it was clear to Germans that the war was not going well. A letter from a soldier urges his wife to remain confident of victory, even though she and their children have been bombed out of their home and are being moved for safety to the countryside.*

However, his unexpected conflict with the Soviet leadership cost him his life. He informed the Soviet Border Guards that the next day, June 22, at 4 am, German armies would attack Soviet territory. Liskow was unaware that this act would soon cost him his life. When the information reached the General Staff and Stalin, it was too late – German artillery had already begun firing. Why did he do it? It turned out that in defecting to the Soviet Union, Alfred Liskow left behind a wife, child, father and mother. He had previously been a member of the Alliance of Red Front-Fighters, a semi-legal German communist organization. Even within this radical organization, Liskow was considered too extreme. My parents and I hate Hitler and his regime. There are many such families in Germany. Soldier of propaganda The outbreak of war confirmed that Alfred Liskow had been right. His further activity was tied with Soviet propaganda. Together with anti-fascists, he agitated nationwide, telling people that the German soldiers had no appetite for the war. His photo was published in newspapers and propaganda materials with lines such as: Executive Committee of Communist International Comintern in He was himself charged by Dimitrov with Fascism and anti-Semitism. In captivity, he showed signs of mental illness. It is unclear whether this was real or simulated. In July, Liskow was released and sent to Siberia, where all trace of him was lost. It is believed that Liskow died in suspicious circumstances near Novosibirsk in late One thing is certain – Liskow outlived the Comintern dissolved May , which he utterly despised. Here you can read about a German soldier who became a Hero of the Soviet Union.