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 (WAS), 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 (WAS), 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

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”
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
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”

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
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Slide 20: Case Study: 1st Company Commander
   Context Sheet: “Case Study: 691st Regiment in October 1941”

Slide 21: Question

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