THE EASTERN FRONT, 1941–45, GERMAN TROOPS AND THE BARBARISATION OF WARFARE

Omer Bartov



in association with St Antony's College Oxford

Contents

List of Tables	х
Preface	xi
List of Abbreviations	xv
Introduction	1
1 Life, Hardship and Death at the Front	7
Introduction	7
The Military Events	
The 12th Infantry Division	7
The Grossdeutschland Division	9
The 18th Panzer Division	11
Manpower and Casualties	12
The 12th Infantry Division	12
The Grossdeutschland Division	15
The 18th Panzer Division	18
Physical Hardship	21
Marching	21
Rest and Sleep	22
Living Conditions	22
Clothing	23
Food	24
Health	25
Battle Fatigue	26
Discipline and Morale	27
The 12th Infantry Division	27
The Grossdeutschland Division	31
The 18th Panzer Division	33
Conclusion	35
2 The Officers: Backbone of the Army	40
Introduction	40
The Sample	40

viii Contents

Data Analysis	43	
Aristocratic Officers Regular and Reserve Officers		
Education	54	
Profession-Social Class	58	
Promotion	61	
Conclusion	63	
3 Indoctrination and the Need for a Cause	68	
Introduction	68	
Forms and Intensity of Ideological Instruction	69	
Radio and Film	69	
Written Propaganda	70	
The Spoken Word	73	
The Enemy as 'Untermenschen'	76	
The Efficacy of Indoctrination	87	
Contributing Factors	87	
Indications of Success	92	
Conclusion	100	
4 Barbarism and Criminality	106	
Introduction	106	
The Maltreatment of Russian POWs	107	
Fighting Partisans and Murdering Civilians	119	
Exploitation, Evacuation and Destruction	129	
Conclusion	142	
Appendix: Maps	157	
1. Russia: December 1941 to April 1942	157	
2. March-Route and Area of Operations of the 18.Pz.Div., 1941–1943	158	
3. Retreat to the Dniepr and March-Route of the GD Division to Rumania	160	
4. Area of Operations of the GD Division, February–March 1945	162	

References	164
Bibliography	194
Index	20

Contents

ix