

SS FREIWILLIGEN-LEGION "FLANDERN" - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1941/04/10	Hamburg, Langenhorn	Activation, formation Freiwilligen-Standarte "Nordwest" (volunteers of Denmark, Netherlands, Flanders)	
1941/07/14	Radom, Poland	Training, formation, designated SS Freiwilligen-Verband "Flandern" (source: T175, roll 110, frame 2634681)	Subordinate to: SS Fuehrungshauptamt (SS FHA)
1941/08/03	Debica, SS Truppenuebungsplatz	Training	
1941/09/07 1941/09/14	Arys, East Prussia	Transfer, training, reorganized "1. Inf Rgt. (mot) Freiw.-Leg. Niederlande" and "1. verstaerkte Inf Batl. (mot) Freiw.-Leg. Flandern"	
1941/10/01	Arys	Formation, redesignated Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern" (German and Flemish volunteers, 1. Batl. of Rgt. "Nordwest")	C.O.: SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Michael Lippert, 1941/10/01-1942/04/18
1941/11/10	Tosno, Soviet Union via Tilsit, Riga, Pskov	Transfer	Subordinate to: 2. SS Infanterie-Brigade (mot), 1941/11/10-1942/07/23
1941/11/18	Tarasovo, Rublevo, Aviati	Antipartisan, reconnaissance, security operations	
1941/12/15	Sabile (Zabeln), Kandava (Kandau) Latvia	Winter quartering	
1942/01/09	Tosno, Soviet Union via Valmiera Latvia, Torma, Narva, Tartu (Dorpat), Estonia, Kingisepp	Movements of part of SS Freiw.-Leg. "Flandern"	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/01/17	Podberez'ye, Tyutitsy, Zapol'ye, Koptsy (Kopcy)	Defensive and assault operations	
1942/01/12	Sabile (Zabeln), Kandava (Kandau)	Formation, Gruppe Debes (Begleit-Batl. RF-SS, rest of SS Freiw.-Leg. "Flandern" and Flak-Abtlg. Ost)	
1942/01/29	Koptsy, Soviet Union via Smiltene, Latvia	Movement	
1942/02/02	Koptsy, Zemtitsy, Zapol'ye, Andryukhinovo (Andrichnowo), Tyutitsy, Krutik	Regrouping, reconnaissance, defensive operations	
1942/02/27	Podberez'ye	Movement for rest	
1942/03/02	Zemtitsy, Veshki	Reconnaissance, assault, defensive operations	
1942/03/09	Novgorod, Chechulino	Rehabilitation	
1942/03/17	Krutik, Lyubtsy, Tyutitsy	Defensive, reconnaissance operations	
1942/04/23	Dolgovo, Bol'shoye Zamosh'ye, Maloye Zamosh'ye, Glukhaya Kerest', Gorenka River sector	Defensive, reconnaissance, assault operations	C.O. SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Josef Fitzthum, 1942/04/18-1942/07/14
1942/07/04	Ossiya	Rehabilitation	
1942/07/21	Staro-Panovo	Russian breakthrough	SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Konrad Schellong, 1942/07/15-1942/08/18
1942/07/22	Krasnogvardeisk, Krasnoye Selo, Lyubolyady, Finskoye Koyrovo	Formation, Kampfgruppe "Fitzthum" (SS Freiw.-Leg. "Niederlande" SS Freiw.-Leg. "Flandern") counterattack by Legion "Niederlande" rest of Legion "Flandern" in reserve	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/08/08	Finskoye Koyrovo Borisov	Release of SS Freiw.-Leg. "Flandern" by Kampfgruppe "Fitzthum"	Subordinate to: 1. SS Infanterie-Brigade (mot), 1942/08/28

Only two records of the SS Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern" were available at the National Archives and are reproduced on NARS Microfilm Publication T354, roll 653, and described following the unit history. Additional reference found in the records of Reich Leader SS, T175, rolls 109-111, were used to supplement the unit history.

1943/05/31	Debica, Poland Truppenuebungsplatz Heidelager	Reorganized as SS Sturmbrigade "Langemarck" (source: T175, roll 111, frame 2635303)	
------------	--	--	--

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>Ia, KTB Nr. 1 mit Vorgeschichte der Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern." War journal concerning the activation and formation of Freiwilligen Standarte "Nordwest" in Hamburg-Langenhorn, 11 Apr 1941; from Freiwillige (volunteers) of the Netherlands and Flanders; Belgian and Flemish personnel assigned to Companies 1, 6, and 8 and trained as riflemen; transfer of the Flemish companies and designated as SS Freiwilligen-Verband "Flandern" to Radom (Generalgouvernement), Poland, 14 Jul; continued formation and training, movement to Truppenuebungsplatz (troop training camp) Debica, 3 Aug; regimental units of Standarte "Nordwest" consisting chiefly of Flamen Batl. were formed and motorized, 11 Aug; transfer to Truppenuebungsplatz Arys, East Prussia, 7 Sep, by order of RF-SS Himmler, 14 Sep; both Inf Rgt., the Freiwilligen-Legion "Niederlande" and SS Freiwilligen-Standarte "Nordwest," were reorganized as "1. Inf Rgt. (mot) Freiwilligen-Legion Niederlande" and "1. verstaerkte Inf Batl. (mot) Freiwilligen-Legion Flandern" due to a lack of appropriate number of volunteers. Formation of Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern," 1 Oct 1941; from Rgt. units of Flemish personnel and 1. Batl. of Rgt. "Nordwest" consisting of German and Flemish volunteers, training and operational readiness, 27 Oct. Transfer to the Tosno area, Russia via Tilsit, Germany, Riga, Latvia, and Pskov (Pleskau), Russia, 10-17 Nov; antipartisan operations and security duties in the Tarasovo, Rublevo, and Aviati areas, 18 Nov-14 Dec; movement to winter quarters in Sabile (Zabeln) and Kandava (Kandau), Latvia via Luga and Pskov, Russia, and Cesis (Wenden), Latvia, 15-18 Dec.</p>	1941/11/10-1941/12/18	SS FrwLeg Flandern 30180/1	653	1

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Afteraction report regarding the assignment of reinforced company of Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern" in the Olomna, Maluksa, Kustovo, and Lipovka River areas, 24 Nov-3 Dec 1941; combat and ration strength reports; casualty lists; officer registers; and inventories of motor vehicles.	1941/12/19-1942/07/23	SS FrwLeg Flandern 30180/2	653	151
Ia, KTB Nr. 2. War journal concerning assignments during winter quartering with the Latvian population in Sabile and Kandava, 19 Dec 1941-3 Jan 1942; and preparation for movement, 3-8 Jan; transfer of part of the Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern" from Sabile, Latvia to Tosno, Russia, via Riga and Valmiera (Wolmar), Latvia, Torma, Narva, and Tartu (Dorpat), Estonia, and Kingisepp, Russia, 9-16 Jan; movement to, defensive, and assault operations in the Podberez'ye, Tyutitsy, Zapol'ye, Koptsy (Kopcy) 17 Jan-1 Feb 1942; formation of Gruppe Debes (consisting of Begleit-Batl. RF-SS, Legion "Flandern," Flak-Abtlg. Ost) and preparation for transfer in the Sabile and Kandava areas by the rest of Freiwilligen-Legion "Flandern," 9-29 Jan; transfer of the remainder of the unit, 29 Jan-1 Feb from Sabile, Latvia to Koptsy via Smiltene, Latvia and Lyubolyady, Grigorovo, and Podberez'ye, Russia; regrouping, reconnaissance, and defensive operations in the Andryukhinovo (Andrichnowo), Koptsy, Zemtitsy, Zapol'ye, Tyutitsy, and Krutic areas, 2-26 Feb; movement for rest to Podberez'ye, 27 Feb-1 Mar; assault, reconnaissance, and defensive operations in the Zemtitsy and Veshki areas, 2-8 Mar; movement to Chechulino by Novgorod for rehabilitation, 9-16 Mar; reconnaissance and defensive operations in Krutik, Lyubtsy, Tyutitsy, 17 Mar-22 Apr; movement to Dolgovo, 23-27 Apr; defensive, reconnaissance, and assault operations in Dolgovo, Bol'shoye and Maloye Zamosh'ye, and				

CONTENTS

DATES

ITEM NO.

ROLL 1ST FRAME

Glukhaya Kerest' areas, and Gorenka and Kerest' River sectors, 28 Apr-3 Jul; rehabilitation in Ossiya, 4-17 Jul; construction and maintenance of roads between Ossiya and Gorenka, 18-20 Jul; breakthrough of Russian Forces at Staro-Panovo, 21 Jul; movement to Lyubolyady, Krasnogvardeisk, Krasnoye Selo, 22-23 Jul; and counterattack by Freiwiligen Legion "Niederlande" and part of Freiwiligen Legion "Flandern" (with rest in reserve) in the Finskoye Koyrovo area, 23 Jul 1942. Also data relating to enemy operations and strength, German and enemy losses, and air and artillery situation.