

*- French losses [in Vietnam] were about 90, men, with 20, of these being french soldiers [french nationals]. - The rest were recruited into the French Foreign Legion from other parts of Europe and the French Union.*

The year olds within this category were classified as Landsturm 1st Ban for "volunteer" purposes, home defense, or, as in time of war, to fill active duty needs, and, in peacetime, were only required to register. Crown Prince Wilhelm of Prussia commented in his memoirs that while commanding the 2nd Company of the 1st Garde Regiment of Foot in , a number of his soldiers were the fourth successive generation to serve in the 2nd Company of that regiment. Rejected men, which ran no more than 5 or 6 per cent, were liable for no service. This group would comprise those who would fill the ranks quickly in time of war. In peacetime, it often was applied o Depot raised troops. Before that time, the figure was higher, however, when war was declared, many men joined early. Men are not released until age All of the class was sent to the front after months training, giving the organizations in the field much needed replacements and new reserve formations Reserve Divisions , and the 8th Bavarian. Part of this class received only 3 months training. The September group was in the front by January, , with the remainder completely used by July, , due to heavy losses at the front. Most of these troops went to the somewhat quiet Eastern Russian front in order to release veterans to the Western front to replace the Fall, losses. Since February, , recruits, after a month training session, were sent to field recruit depots behind the front lines for additional or specialized training. The average size of these units were about 1 battalion per Division, or about men. Unfortunately, it was not always possible to send the newly graduated recruits to companion units, so many of them became distributed throughout the army as they left the recruit depot. The tallest men were assigned to the 1st, 5th, and 9th companies of each regiment, the shortest to the last company in each Battalion, the 4th, 8th, and 12th. Bunks were wooden doubled decked, with straw mattresses. Special approval had to be granted by the Kaiser for any foreign officer to enter the compound. Heat was provided by steam, or individual stoves of tile or cast iron. The light supper meal was tea, coffee, or chocolate and bread. Soup was served on occasions. The subsistence was meager, but it taught the soldier frugality and endurance which would prove useful in the front. The soldier was expected to add to his meal from his own pocket, particularly breakfast and supper. The training lieutenants arrived at and the Sgt. The company commander handed out punishments, made decisions of leaves, etc. By the first week of February, the unit was ready for inspection by the commanding officer, who judged their proficiency and assigned those who passed the test to a permanent position within the company. The famous "Kaisermaneuvers", or yearly mock engagements to which many foreign heads of states and other dignitaries were invited, involved 3 or 4 designated Army Corps. There were also individual shooting "cords" to be won for marksmanship within each regiment. After these maneuvers, the units returned to garrison, those due for discharge were released, and new recruits inducted. Bavaria survived intact due to its close friendly ties with France, with whom Prussia was on good terms at that time and that careful balance could not be upset quite yet until the Franco -Prussian war of These sections were attached as required to the infantry regiments, and in many cases were immediately absorbed to create a 2nd machine gun company per regiment, so that by the end of , several regiments had two machine gun companies. During the winter of , after initial successes of the machine gun on the battlefield, a new "Machine Gun Marksman Sections" MGSS were organized and trained to fully exploit the full potential of that weapon. They proudly wore on their left sleeve a metal badge of an MG08 heavy machine gun surrounded by a belt of cartridges. Weight of entire gun assembled was pounds with 7 pints of water. K for use against tanks, loophole plates and tracer L. Long out of print, my copy is worn and falling apart from use. If you can obtain a copy - do so. His information in the beginning of the book is the best I have encountered on understanding the German soldier prior to WWI. I have told him this in person. Do not be fooled, the book covers more than just "German Steins" and I use it at least once a week for quick German Unit reference material. Anyway, here it is agin for the readers enjoyment. I just do not have time to fine tune it. It was their last chance for an all out Spring offensive in , hopefully before the American contingents could be of any real use to the Allies. By October , the success of the operation was such that

General Ludendorf ordered all German armies to train and maintain a battalion of storm troops. Their tactics included a wide use of grenades, requiring them to carry a large supply onto the field, usually in special double "grenade" bags made of burlap sand bags slung under around the neck and under each arm. Uniforms were re-enforced with leather patches at spots most likely to wear while maneuvering on the field. Use of the Granatenwerfer light bomb thrower and cup launchers could prepare an area for assault or pin down an enemy force that was a threat to the operation. Those already in the front lines were rotated back to training depots to rest and retrain in the latest tactics, with new skills being taught by these new "stormtroop" instructors. Moral became high among the actual "stormtroop" battalion as they were no longer limited to sitting in the mud and taking whatever was being thrown their direction. Their successes, no matter how small, were publicized from the homefront to the front line newspapers, feeding a new spirit of accomplishment and hope into a worried and anxious populace. The fresh supplies of non-essential material captured by the Germans was so overwhelming that they begin to see the hopelessness of their situation, as Germany was being starved into demoralization, both at home and at the front, with no hope in sight for relief. The French counted on this to stop the German hordes, and it worked all too well. Future wars would be fought with carefully planned world strategies and the best combined weapons technology - land, sea and air. World War I was truly the last argument of the royal houses of Europe, the last "argument of Kings". Estimated cost of WWI in U. Australia sent , men overseas, sustained , casualties: Now one can see why WWII was slow to evolve. No one in the World wanted another war, thus Hitler was able to rise to power unchallenged until it was too late to stop his war machine from starting a Second World War. The remainder of the escorts were supplied by the British.

Chapter 2 : World War II Oddities, Part 1: Foreign Born Nazi Soldiers | Owlcation

*Interesting fact: Even today the Verdun battlefield is a vast graveyard, where the mortal remains of over , missing soldiers remain where they fell, unless discovered by the French Forestry Service and laid in the Douaumont Ossuary.*

This organization of forces was due to a lack of supplies, forcing each division to seek out basic provisions along with the representatives of the army supply arm that was supposed to aid them. Even though Ducrot shrugged off the possibility of an attack by the Germans, MacMahon still tried to warn the other divisions of his army, without success. This battle saw the unsupported division of General Douay of I Corps, with some attached cavalry, which was posted to watch the border, attacked in overwhelming but poorly coordinated fashion by the German 3rd Army. As the day wore on, elements of one Bavarian and two Prussian Corps became embroiled in the fight, and were aided by Prussian artillery which blasted holes in the defenses of the town. Douay held a very strong position initially thanks to the accurate long range fire of the Chassepots, but his force was too thinly stretched to hold it. Douay was killed in the late morning when a caisson of the divisional mitrailleuse battery exploded near him. No matter who took his place, the encirclement of the town by the enemy had put the entire division in peril. Despite a never-ending attack of Prussian infantry, the soldiers of the 2nd Division kept to their positions. The people of the town of Wissembourg finally surrendered to the Germans. Those who did not surrender retreated westward, leaving behind 1, captured men and all of their remaining ammunition. Battle of Spicheren Main article: The aging General Karl Von Steinmetz made an overzealous, unplanned move, leading the 1st Army south from his position on the Moselle. He moved straight toward the town of Spicheren , cutting off Prince Frederick Charles from his forward cavalry units in the process. However, planning for the next encounter was more based upon the reality of unfolding events rather than emotion or pride, as Intendant General Wolff told him and his staff that supply beyond the Saar would be impossible. Therefore, the armies of France would take up a defensive position that would protect against every possible attack point, but also left the armies unable to support each other. Treating the oncoming attacks as merely skirmishes, Frossard did not request additional support from other units. By the time he realized what kind of a force he was opposing, it was too late. Seriously flawed communications between Frossard and those in reserve under Bazaine slowed down so much that by the time the reserves received orders to move out to Spicheren, German soldiers from the 1st and 2nd armies had charged up the heights. Instead of continuing to defend the heights, by the close of battle after dusk he retreated to the south. The German casualties were relatively high due to the advance and the effectiveness of the chassepot rifle. They were quite startled in the morning when they had found out that their efforts were not in vainâ€”Frossard had abandoned his position on the heights. The French had also been reinforced, but their recruitment was slow, and their force numbered only 35, By afternoon, both sides had suffered about 10, casualties, and the French army was too battered to continue resisting. Having lost any hope for victory and facing a massacre, the French army disengaged and retreated in a westerly direction, hoping to join other French forces on the other side of the Vosges mountains. The German 3rd army did not pursue the withdrawing French. It remained in Alsace and moved slowly south, attacking and destroying the French defensive garrisons in the vicinity. It was also one of the first clashes where troops from various German states Prussians, Badenians, Bavarians, Saxons, etc. It was not without cost, however, as Prussia lost 10, to death or wounds. With the Prussian army now steamrolling, , French soldiers were bottled up in the fortress of Metz following several defeats at the front. Despite odds of four to one, the III Corps launched a risky attack. Once blocked from retreat, the French in the fortress of Metz had no choice but to engage in a fight that would see the last major cavalry engagement in Western Europe. The battle soon erupted, and III Corps was shattered by incessant cavalry charges , losing over half its soldiers. Meanwhile, French suffered equivalent losses of 16, soldiers, but still enjoyed huge numerical superiority. On 16 August, the French had a chance to sweep away the key Prussian defense, and to escape. Two Prussian corps attacked the French advanced guard thinking that it was the rearguard of the retreat of the French Army of the Meuse. Despite this misjudgment the two Prussian corps held the entire French army for the whole day. The French had lost the opportunity to win a

decisive victory. Battle of Gravelotte Main article: Privat, was the largest battle during the Franco-Prussian War. The combined German forces, under Field Marshal Count Helmuth von Moltke, were the Prussian First and Second Armies of the North German Confederation numbering about infantry battalions, cavalry squadrons, and heavy cannons totaling , officers and men. On 18 August, the battle began when at But the French had spent the night and early morning digging trenches and rifle pits while placing their artillery and their mitrailleuses in concealed positions. Finally aware of the Prussian advance, the French opened up a massive return fire against the mass of advancing Germans. The battle at first appeared to favor the French with their superior Chassepot rifle. However, the Prussian artillery was superior with the all-steel Krupp breech-loading gun. Privat which were commanded by General Canrobert. All of the Prussian Guard attacks were pinned down by lethal French gunfire from the rifle pits and trenches. Privat to prevent the Guards attack from failing too. Privat forcing the decimated French forces to withdraw. With the Prussians exhausted from the fighting, the French were now able to mount a counter-attack. The next morning, the French Army of the Rhine, rather than resume the battle with an attack of its own against the battle-weary German armies, retreated to Metz where they were besieged and forced to surrender two months later. The casualties were horrible, especially for the attacking Prussian forces. A grand total of 20, German troops were killed, wounded or missing in action during the August 18 battle. The French losses were 7, killed and wounded along with 4, prisoners of war half of them were wounded for a total of 12, The Prussian Guards Infantry Divisions losses were even more staggering with 8, casualties out of 18, men. The 2nd Guards Infantry Brigade lost 39 officers and 1, men. The 3rd Guards Infantry Brigade lost 36 officers and 1, men. On the French side, the units holding St. Privat lost more than half their number in the village. Siege of Metz and the Battle of Sedan Main articles: The further crushing French loss was sealed when the , soldiers surrendered on 27 October. Franco-Prussian war of Defence of Metz by the French Army. After a sharp fight in which they lost 5, men and 40 cannons, the French withdrew toward Sedan. Napoleon III ordered the army to break out of the encirclement immediately.

### Chapter 3 : Great War Militaria

*At the outset of the Franco-Prussian War, German soldiers concentrated flawlessly on the French frontier while only, French soldiers could be moved to face them, the French army having lost, stragglers before a shot was fired through poor planning and administration.*

Military history of France and List of French Paratrooper Units The military history of France encompasses an immense panorama of conflicts and struggles extending for more than 2, years across areas including modern France, greater Europe, and French territorial possessions overseas. According to the British historian Niall Ferguson, France has participated in 50 of the major European wars fought since, and in battles fought since BC, they have won, drawn 10 and lost After the decline of the Roman Empire, a Germanic tribe known as the Franks took control of Gaul by defeating competing tribes. The "land of Francia," from which France gets its name, had high points of expansion under kings Clovis I and Charlemagne. With an increasingly centralized monarchy, the first standing army since Roman times, and the use of artillery, France expelled the English from its territory and came out of the Middle Ages as the most powerful nation in Europe, only to lose that status to Spain following defeat in the Italian Wars. In parallel, France developed its first colonial empire in Asia, Africa, and in the Americas. Under Louis XIV, France achieved military supremacy over its rivals, but escalating conflicts against increasingly powerful enemy coalitions checked French ambitions and left the kingdom bankrupt at the opening of the 18th century. Resurgent French armies secured victories in dynastic conflicts against the Spanish, Polish, and Austrian crowns. At the same time, France was fending off attacks on its colonies. France reached the zenith of its power during this period, dominating the European continent in an unprecedented fashion under Napoleon Bonaparte, but by it had been restored to its pre-Revolutionary borders. The rest of the 19th century witnessed the growth of the Second French colonial empire as well as French interventions in Belgium, Spain, and Mexico. France and its allies were victorious this time. Social, political, and economic upheaval in the wake of the conflict led to the Second World War, in which the Allies were defeated in the Battle of France and the French government surrendered and was replaced with an authoritarian regime. As a result, France secured an occupation zone in Germany and a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The imperative of avoiding a third Franco-German conflict on the scale of those of two world wars paved the way for European integration starting in the s. France became a nuclear power and since the s its military action is most often seen in cooperation with NATO and its European partners. International stance today[ edit ] See also: France and weapons of mass destruction Today, French military doctrine is based on the concepts of national independence, nuclear deterrence see Force de frappe, and military self-sufficiency. France remains a firm supporter of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other cooperative efforts. Outside of NATO, France has actively and heavily participated in both coalition and unilateral peacekeeping efforts in Africa, the Middle East, and the Balkans, frequently taking a lead role in these operations. France has undertaken a major restructuring to develop a professional military that will be smaller, more rapidly deployable, and better tailored for operations outside of mainland France. Key elements of the restructuring include: Since the end of the Cold War, France has placed a high priority on arms control and non-proliferation. France agreed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in and supported its indefinite extension in After conducting a controversial final series of six nuclear tests on Mururoa in the South Pacific, the French signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in Since then, France has implemented a moratorium on the production, export, and use of anti-personnel landmines and supports negotiations leading toward a universal ban. The French are key players in the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe to the new strategic environment. France remains an active participant in: France has also signed and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention. Jean-Claude Mallet, a member of the Council of State, to head up a thirty-five member commission charged with a wide-ranging review of French defence. The commission issued its White Paper in early Under the reorganisation, the identification and destruction of terrorist networks both in metropolitan France and in francophone Africa will be the primary task of the French military. Redundant military bases will be closed and new weapons systems

projects put on hold to finance the restructuring and global deployment of intervention forces. Among other countries, France provides troops for the United Nations force stationed in Haiti following the Haiti rebellion. These troops were initially sent under the terms of a mutual protection pact between France and the Ivory Coast, but the mission has since evolved into the current UN peacekeeping operation. The French Armed Forces have also played a leading role in the ongoing UN peacekeeping mission along the Lebanon - Israel border as part of the cease-fire agreement that brought the Lebanon War to an end. Currently, France has 2, army personnel deployed along the border, including infantry, armour, artillery and air defence. There are also naval and air personnel deployed offshore. They warned that further cuts would leave the armed forces unable to support operations abroad. However, the Constitution puts civil and military government forces at the disposal of the gouvernement the executive cabinet of ministers chaired by the Prime Minister , who are not necessarily of the same political side as the president. Historically, France relied a great deal on conscription to provide manpower for its military, in addition to a minority of professional career soldiers. Following the Algerian War , the use of non-volunteer draftees in foreign operations was ended; if their unit was called up for duty in war zones, draftees were offered the choice between requesting a transfer to another unit or volunteering for the active mission. Young people must still, however, register for possible conscription should the situation call for it. As of the French Armed Forces have a reported strength of , active personnel.

## Chapter 4 : French Army in World War One

*Prior to World War II, the Wehrmacht strove to remain a purely German force; as such, minorities, such as the Czechs in annexed Czechoslovakia, were exempted from military service after Hitler's takeover in Foreign volunteers were generally not accepted in the German armed forces prior to*

Two armies mark WWI armistice centenary Serbia holds war games Serbia, which is sometimes wrongly accused of starting World War I after a Serb nationalist assassinated the Austrian archduke in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in , was holding large military drills on Saturday to mark the armistice centenary. He also announced more state investment into the armed forces and more armored transporters supplied by its traditional ally, Russia. The live-ammunition maneuvers, dubbed "The Century of Winners," are widely seen as a show of force amid rising tensions with neighboring Kosovo. The works were created by artists from the 31 countries involved in the conflict. Untitled, detail Uecker has been using nails in his art since the s. Dead Warriors Each artist was given the same material to create a work for the exhibition: Through discolorations or even leftover war projectiles, traces of the conflict can still be seen in the wood itself. This work is by Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov. Dead Warriors, detail One of the best-known Bulgarian artists of his generation, Solakov has regularly participated in international exhibitions, such as the Documenta 12 and Documenta 13 , and the Venice Biennale in , and His storytelling works include historical references and touches of humor. Here, he added a few ink spots to the cube of wood to create a work called Dead Warriors. World War I caused 20 million deaths and about 23 million military personnel were wounded, making it one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. Untitled, detail Nitsch has long shown his fascination with bloody scenes. His performances in the early s were so provocative that they led to court trials and imprisonment. Although the year-old artist now avoids killing animals during his performances, his " Aktion" from still involved a slaughtered bull, five dead pigs and liters of blood. The blood on the wooden block, however, is paint. Untitled Botha is best known for his sculptures carved out of books. The South African artist often juxtaposes light and movement with dark figures in a state of conflict. Untitled, detail Born in , Botha is one of the youngest artists in the show, along with the Ukrainian Aljoscha and the Turk Cevdet Erek. Interestingly, her installation was the only one to include a video on an iPad. However, for his work entitled The Disappearing Boys, he created a very concrete sculpture. The Disappearing Boys, detail The curator of the exhibition, Mattijs Visser, said he was fascinated by how the works on show reveal deep connections with the country of origin of the artists. These victims were known as the Disappeared. Fell War and death also have consequences for subsequent generations. The Australian artist Fiona Hall placed a charred cradle on a coffin in her work, entitled Fell. The sculptor was the first to represent Australia in its new pavilion at the Venice Biennale when it opened in May Fell, detail Hall is renowned for transforming ordinary, everyday materials into organic forms in her works, giving them historical and contemporary relevance. Sawdust was sometimes added to baked goods during World War I to compensate for shortages of flour. He split his block of wood into two pieces. Double World, detail Boghossian is renowned for his experimentation with fire and smoke in his works. In Double World, one side is burnt, representing the losers of the conflict. The sharp edges of the two pieces show how the different camps appear threatening to each other and clash, but the two laser-cut blocks also fit perfectly together, which the artist sees as a symbol of hope.

**Chapter 5 : 42 Quotes From Germans About American Troops After World War I | Mental Floss**

*French military history has a long and varied history that is both passionate and with varied tones of brilliant success and bitter failure. At no time in recent history has this been truer than during WWII when France was soundly defeated and soon after occupied by Germany.*

For the notification of next-of-kin of members of the former German Wehrmacht who were killed in action. The WAST can help with the following: Provide certificates confirming a person was killed in action. Providing supporting documentation when applying for death certificates. Help solve MIA cases. Help decode Wehrmacht identity discs. Provide known locations of war graves. Aid in the administration of personal effects. Provide records of Military Service. Provide proof of time spent as a POW. Provide proof of decorations and Honour Awards. Provide proof of nationality. Please note that in accordance with the German Data Protection Law the Deutsche Dienststelle WAST is only allowed to provide information to the persons concerned, their relatives or their legal heirs, or to Authorities in the carrying out of their legal duties. History of the WAST: It took up its duties on In addition to providing information about foreign prisoners-of-war its main tasks were the registration of German Wehrmacht casualties wounds, illness, deaths, MIAs , the processing of these cases including personal status control and official grave service. After the occupation of Thuringia, from the At the end of January the WAST returned to Berlin and received its present name, which is a literal translation of the American designation. During the early post-war years the Deutsche Dienststelle WAST received many comprehensive records of other military and para-military organisations. In addition, in December , it took over a large amount of records of the one-time Wehrmacht for evaluation. Owing to post-war laws the original task of the WAST has increased considerably. Because of its unique material the Information Office is approached by private individuals as well as authorities dealing with cases which concern Wehrmacht service and its effect in numerous areas. After an Administration Agreement on the

*Today, French military doctrine is based on the concepts of national independence, nuclear deterrence (see Force de frappe), and military blog.quintoapp.com is a charter member of NATO, and has worked actively with its allies to adapt NATO "internally and externally" to the post-Cold War environment.*

German troops trying to rescue a French soldier from sinking in a mud hole, Germans helping a French wounded soldier, Picture taken during the Battle of Verdun, one of the most deadliest battles of the Great War. The concentration of so much fighting in such a small area devastated the land, resulting in miserable conditions for troops on both sides. The shells turned up the earth and left gigantic craters that would then fill with water in the unbelievably heavy rains. Falling in some of these places would be equatable to slower, thicker, stickier quicksand. Once soldiers were trapped in it often it was impossible to extract them. Soldiers would beg their friends to shoot them and spare them the agony of slowly drowning in the mud. Falkenhayn, the commanding German officer, hoped to capture a number of French positions, forcing the French to counter attack to retake them, leaving them open to bombardment from German artillery positions. Falkenhayn hoped to recreate the devastation wrought on the French forces that the German artillery had inflicted during a series of battles in the Champagne region the year before. The offensive began in February, and by May, more than , German and French soldiers had become casualties. This casualty rate was particularly troubling for the Germans. While the French rotated their units out of the lines and replaced them with fresh ones, the German units were kept in the line and suffered continuously. The continued back and forth continued until December of when hostilities in the sector finally subsided thanks in part to the Battle of the Somme which required Germany to divert forces to repelling the British offensive. Even by the First World War standards, the horror that the men faced at Verdun was extreme. Flamethrowers were used for the first time as was phosgene gas, the artillery barrages were continuous and absolutely massive and the casualty rates are among the worst suffered. It also became a symbol of French resistance. The French armies had largely been humiliated and on the backfoot until Verdun and their victories there, no matter how small or costly, symbolized their devotion to resisting German aggression. Verdun did do enormous damage to the French forces. It saw the real beginnings of discontent in the French armies which would eventually lead to outright mutiny in some areas. The movie portrays the battle of Verdun, primarily by recreating the battle on its location, but also with the use of newsreel footage and dramatic scenes. November 22, Any factual error or typo?

**Chapter 7 : German Military Records WWII - Addresses for Information and Research**

*The German Army (German: Deutsches Heer) is the land component of the armed forces of Germany. The present-day German Army was founded in as part of the newly formed West German Bundeswehr together with the Marine (German Navy) and the Luftwaffe (German Air Force).*

June 4, Wikimedia Commons In , the United States compiled a report on German attitudes towards American troops and their behavior during the war and subsequent occupation. Below are some highlights and excerpts from that report, which you can read in its entirety here. All told in this war I have participated in more than 80 battles. I have found your American Army the most honorable of all our enemies. I therefore honor you, and, now that the war is over, I stand ready, for my part, to accept you as a friend. Einem, commander of the Third German Army 2. But since our troops have been in action the opinion has changed, and he says that though Germany is at present a defeated nation, he believes that they would be victors in a war with any nation in the world with the exemption of the United States. A group of 14 were brought in one day and when asked about their units refused to talk. They refused to work and talked back to the officers, much to the annoyance of the officers and the concealed delight of the men. All officers in the German army even when in active field service have one or more trunks and from time to time are allowed to leave for the purpose of obtaining uniforms. But from the standpoint of military discipline it is a mob, pure and simple. The men appear slouchy, the officers to not stand out from the men in appearance and they do in any European army. They are wonderfully mild mannered men and a great contrast to the domineering attitude of our own soldiers. Your troops, not even one, have spoken a single disagreeable word to anyone, and when we offered them wood for cooking and heating purposes they accepted with what seemed to be a certain shyness. I spoke to a Frenchman a few days ago, who stated that the working men in France demand 25 francs per day. I am glad and thankful we are having American troops occupying our town, otherwise we would have the same trouble as many of the larger cities. Erasmi of Kylburg They much prefer the Americans as troops of occupation. Since the Americans have arrived the German people have learned to like them. One of them says that American soldiers were partly responsible for the condition of his yard. Army report, April 17, , in Trier They begrudge our monopoly of the dance. Children under 12 years certainly never had any claim to a bed. We are supposed to sleep on the floor. But the officers and General are boasting scoundrelsâ€”in our house 10 men and 2 officers are quartered. They slam the doors so hard that the whole building shakes. But that is only because of the terribly high food prices, for the Americans eat up our little bit and pay outrageous pricesâ€”The roads are all rundown from the army autos, and people are being killed every day by crazy chauffeurs. Electricity plants are over burdened and the inhabitants get a feeble current so that the Herr Americans may burn 3 lamps in every latrine. Articles that just before our occupation were sold to the people and the German soldiers for 25 to 30 marks are now bought by the Americans for from 80 to marksâ€”a great many articles are being made expressly for the American souvenir hunters and in almost all cases these are made of cheap imitation material. We have a large aviation field. Seven out of ten of the population are Americans. Many of the girls have fallen deeply in love with them. A new song has already been composed, as follows: Wo steht denn das geschriben. Du sollst nur Deutsche lieben? Man liebt doch auch America. One can love America also. If any American talks to me I am prepared to give him an answer. Martha Strodter is engaged to an A Stanier of Grenzhausen How the censors will rave when they read this letter, but I am only writing the truth. They are the wildest when they are after the girls. In the report, this is under the headline: Another girl was unceremoniously spanked in broad daylight, and she is 23 years old too. And what can one do? However, it serves them right. Anton Bursch, shopkeeper in Echternach The French hate us because we took Alsace and Lorraine, but you only entered the war to make sure that England and France would be able to pay you the money you had lent them. For that reason we are glad that the country is being occupied by Americans instead of French or English. Row-boats were often used to deceive German U-boats, and when the letter came to render assistance concealed guns opened fire on the U-boats. If not I will send you a copy. Hoover does not speak well of us. Do you get as much chocolate as I do! I am tired of the stuff and also of the entire pack,

although I have had many very pleasant hours with them. The Americans cannot grasp that we have so much work to do. Things are better for them in America than for us here. I may yet go with them. Then you would indeed make eyes.

Chapter 8 : Germany to abolish compulsory military service | World news | The Guardian

*The soldiers were buried alive in when a huge Allied shell exploded above the shelter causing it to cave in. The soldiers have been laid to rest in at a German war cemetery at Illfurth.*

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 Friedenssheer 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 9 : French Toy Soldiers | eBay**

*In March the German high command decided that due to the high desertion rate and poor morale, soldiers from Alsace-Lorraine could not be relied upon to fight against France on the Western Front. Instead they were posted to the Eastern Front, or the Navy, or used for internal garrison duties.*

Each year the Ministry of War Modified forms of conscription were used by Prussia, Switzerland, Russia, and other European countries during the 17th and 18th centuries. The first comprehensive nationwide system was instituted by the French Republic in the wars following the French Revolution and was institutionalized by Napoleon after he became emperor in 1804. After his defeat in 1815 it was discontinued, then reinstated a few years later, but with restrictions. Between 1806 and 1813, Prussia developed a conscript system based on the principle of universal service, which eventually became the model for the rest of Europe. After its defeat in 1871, France returned to conscription. In 1872 universal military service was reintroduced, but the law covering it did not apply equally to all. In general, people of comfortable means could discharge their military obligation in one year of volunteer service, while many professionals—doctors, clergymen, and some government workers—were granted total exemption. As in Germany, the overall effect was to cause the standing forces to be manned by members of the lower classes, while the better placed in society dominated the reserves. During the 19th century the conscript system of recruiting troops became common throughout Europe, even in Russia, where there was a crude form of conscription bordering on impressment. Men unlucky enough to be seized went off for a lifetime of service. By 1864 the term was reduced to 15 years, but the conscripts often never saw their families again, and the Russian Army under the tsars remained an army of conscripted peasants imperfectly integrated into the system. Initially the army of the newly formed Soviet Socialist government consisted of volunteers who were required to enlist for three months. Under this system the size of the army dwindled to only 100,000 men. Conscription was reinstated, and by 1917, during the height of the Civil War, the Soviet armed forces had reached a peak of 5 million. In the 1920s all able-bodied male members of the proletariat were required to register, and 30 to 40 percent of them were summoned into military service. Russian men drawing lots to decide who in their district will be conscripted to serve in the army. Under this law, every boy at age 18 joined a labour service corps for six months, and he entered a two-year term in the military at age 20. After the two years he was transferred to the active reserves until he was 30. It was, however, primarily effective as a stimulus for volunteering and was abandoned when the war was over, not to be revived until World War I. During the succeeding period Great Britain and the United States were the only major Western powers not to adopt compulsory military service during peacetime. Traditionally, small volunteer armies were maintained in these countries. Moreover, in Britain, which was essentially a sea power, the Navy took priority. World War II; draftU. Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, blindfolded, drawing the first number in the second round of military conscription in the United States during World War I, June 27, 1917. In spite of its elitist samurai tradition, Japan accepted the spirit behind the mass army more fully than the nations of Europe. Conscription was selective rather than universal and produced about 1 million new men for training each year. Called for a two-year term, the conscripts were made to feel that the army belonged to the nation and that it was an honour to enter it. When a man completed his two years of service, he entered the reserves. By the eve of World War II, most officers came from the middle classes rather than the samurai class and so had an affinity with the enlisted men. All in all, the conscript army during this time was a living symbol of equality to the Japanese, and they served in and supported it with near-fanatical devotion. The coming of the thermonuclear era after World War II shook, but did not displace, the theory of mass armies, and only a few major powers dispensed with some sort of compulsory service. The most conspicuous example of this was Japan, which was completely demilitarized in the years after World War II and which eventually re-created its armed forces on a small scale and on a volunteer basis. Another special case was Britain, which continued its peacetime conscription until 1960, when it was replaced by voluntary enlistment and the idea of a mass army was virtually abandoned. Canada followed the same pattern. China eventually settled down to conscription on a highly selective basis. West Germany, which was demilitarized after World War II, reestablished conscription in 1956 on a selective basis. The Soviet Union retained an especially

rigorous system of universal conscription, with a minimum of two years of service at age 18, preceded by part-time military training in school and periodic refresher training afterward. When active service ended, the conscript was placed in the active reserve until he was In the United States, although peacetime conscription on a selective basis was ended in as part of a program to establish an all-volunteer military service, registration for a future draft if needed was reinstated in Even France and Germany moved away from conscriptionâ€”without, however, repudiating its presumed social benefits.