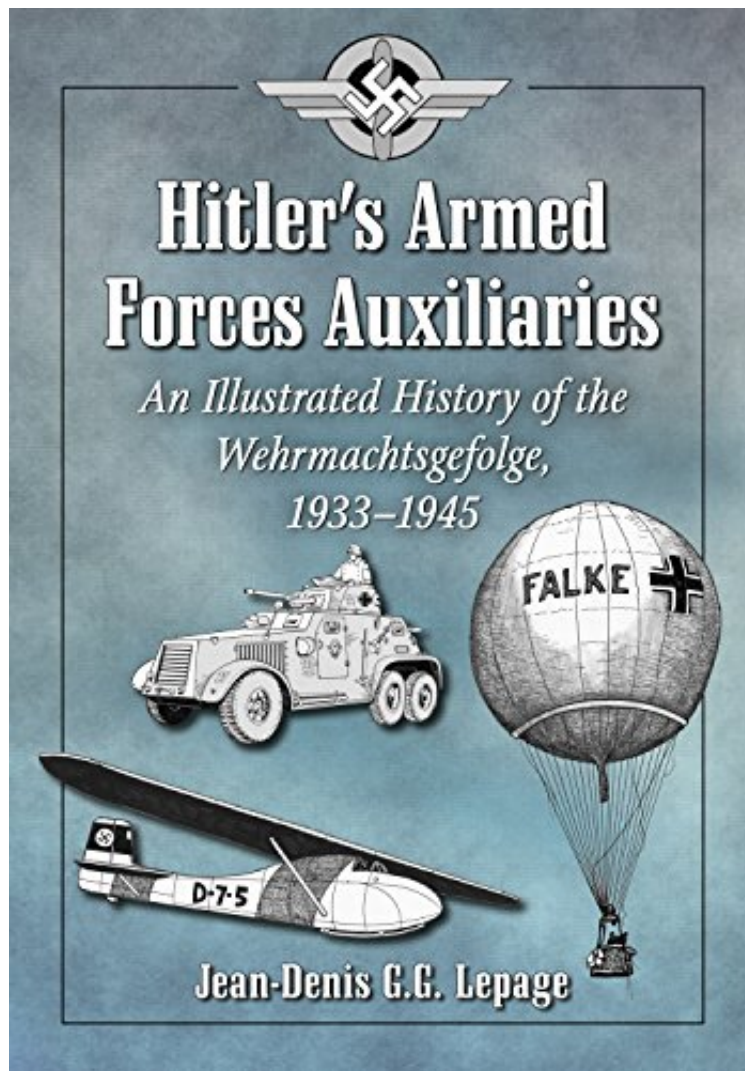


[Mobile book] Hitler's Armed Forces Auxiliaries: An Illustrated History of the Wehrmachtsgefolge, 1933-1945

Hitler's Armed Forces Auxiliaries: An Illustrated History of the Wehrmachtsgefolge, 1933-1945

Jean-Denis G.G. Lepage

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Jean-Denis G.G. Lepage : Hitler's Armed Forces Auxiliaries: An Illustrated History of the Wehrmachtsgefolge, 1933-1945 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's Armed Forces Auxiliaries: An Illustrated History of the Wehrmachtsgefolge, 1933-1945:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 1933-1945 is an excellent illustrated history that documents the development
By Robert A. Lynn
HITLER'S ARMED FORCES AUXILIARIES: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE WEHRMACHTSGEFOLGE, 1933-1945
JEAN-DENIS G.G. LEPAGE
MCFARLAND PUBLISHING,

2015 QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$45.00, 208 PAGES, ILLUSTRATIONS, CHRONOLOGY, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX

In 1938, Hitler directed two paramilitary labor organizations—the Reichsarbeitsdienst, recruits undergoing pre-military training and Organization Todt, a unique mobilization of private construction firms—to support the armed forces (Wehrmacht) in their duties. Hard-pressed transport and supply units were further aided by the NSKK, the Nazi motoring organization, and, from 1944, by the Transportkorps Speer. Finally, in September, 1944, with military defeat looming, all manpower with any military potential was drafted into the Deutscher Volkssturm. These organizations were designated "Wehrmachtsgefolge" (Armed Forces Auxiliaries) to give their members protection under the Geneva Convention if taken prisoner. The total strength of these organizations was an estimated 1,200,000 in 1939, peaking in 1944 at an estimated 3,800,000—40% of the size of the armed forces. Although units were generally inferior to their armed forces equivalents, their contribution to the war effort was far from negligible. Determined that these Auxiliaries shouldn't achieve armed forces status, Hitler decreed in 1941 that their uniforms shouldn't be Army field-grey; that they should wear rank insignia on collar-patches, not shoulder straps; and that their organization identification badge should be worn on the upper sleeve, not on their right breast. These orders were only partially obeyed: personnel, considering themselves increasingly to be members of the overall armed forces, introduced uniform and insignia modifications which, especially in the case of the NSKK and Transportkorps Speer, made them virtually indistinguishable from their comrades in the three armed services.

HITLER'S ARMED FORCES AUXILIARIES: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE WEHRMACHTSGEFOLGE, 1933-1945 is an excellent illustrated history that documents the development, structure and organization, uniforms, regalia, and technical data of these units and discusses their role in the war and during the pre-war period. This is a fascinating read and a very valuable book, looking at a crucial but often overlooked aspect of the Second World War. It remains focused on the title subject throughout, and in such a way as to make this really a useful study for anyone interested in this subject.

Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn,
Florida Guard
Orlando, Florida

The story of Hitler's Wehrmachtsgefolge (armed forces auxiliaries) is less well known than that of Germany's other armed forces in World War II, such as the panzer divisions, the Luftwaffe and the Kriegsmarine. The Organization Todt (construction company), Reichsarbeitsdienst (labor service), Nationalsozialistische Kraftfahrer Korps (drivers' corp) and Volkssturm (people's militia) were given the status of armed forces auxiliaries to protect their members under the Geneva Conventions should they be taken prisoner. By 1944, the Wehrmachtsgefolge comprised 40 percent of the German armed forces, and their contribution to the war effort was far from negligible. This illustrated history documents the development, structure and organization, uniforms, regalia and technical data of these units and discusses their role in the war and during the prewar period.

About the Author: Historian, writer and illustrator Jean-Denis G.G. Lepage is the author of numerous books. His interests include World War II and medieval and French history. He lives in Groningen, Netherlands.