



# TO BATTLE: The Formation and History of the 14. Galician SS Volunteer Division

*By Michael Melnyk*

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## **TO BATTLE: The Formation and History of the 14. Galician SS Volunteer Division** By Michael Melnyk

Of all the 'foreign' Waffen-SS divisions, the 14th has arguably maintained a higher public profile and continued to attract more attention in the UK, USA, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and Poland than any other.

Drawing extensively upon a wide variety of sources, the author details the abortive history of German/Ukrainian relations during the first half of the twentieth century which preceded the formation of the Galician Division in the spring of 1943.

Set firmly within the political context of the time, this work demonstrates that from the outset both German and Ukrainian architects of the Division sought to exploit the formation for their own conflicting agendas.

The author gives a careful assessment of the Division's military engagements and explains the reasons for its tragic demise at the Battle of Brody, emphasizing how the military initiative and vast material superiority of the Red Army led to its virtual destruction during the Soviet summer offensive of 1944. The book concludes with the cessation of hostilities, when the Division, despite being the focus of Stalin's attention, escaped the forced repatriation operations undertaken by the Western Allies in the immediate postwar period.

### Key Features

A widely-researched, accurate, detailed and impartial account of a particular Waffen-SS division which continues to fascinate

Contains detailed appendices

Presents over 250 previously unpublished photographs, combined with maps, documents and other illustrations

Set to become one of the most important English-language books to appear on the Waffen-SS in recent years

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- Rank: #5159360 in Books
- Published on: 2008-10-17
- Format: Deluxe Edition
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.03" h x 9.10" w x 12.26" l,
- Binding: Hardcover

- 352 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

This book is a fine addition to literature on WWII and serves as a model of how history should be written. Recently a host of poorly researched and often sensationalised works have been published on the German Army and in particular SS formations. This work stands in vivid counterpoint to these 'potboilers'. The author's impeccable scholarship is readily apparent and the book will be of lasting value. (*David M. Glantz*)

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