

WERWOLF (Werewolf), code name of a Nazi organization for sabotage operations behind the Red Army lines. The decision to establish the group was taken by the Nazis in September 1944, after their defeats at the hands of the Soviets and in the face of the Red Army advance to the German border. Obergruppenführer Hans-Adolf PRÜTZMANN was put in command, and three thousand to four thousand men were recruited, mostly from the SS and the HITLERJUGEND (Hitler Youth). Werewolf teams began operating in January 1945, but scored little success; before long most of the men were caught and liquidated. A few small teams tried to operate after the war was over, mainly against the Polish authorities in Silesia. The last of these groups was eliminated by the Polish security services in 1947.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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