

Abstract

This thesis deals with the involvement of the Austrians in the 2nd tank division SS „Das Reich.“ The introductory part analyzes personnel cast of the division and aims at finding the answer to the question, in which period the largest number of the Austrians served in the division and possibly how many. The main focus is put on the question, whether the Austrians in the division who owned the highest army decorations of the Third Reich were represented by below-average or above-average numbers in view of their total number. We can not omit to mention a social profile of these decorated men, which provides us with broader point of view of their personalities. Last but not least, the thesis deals with the question, whether the Austrians took part in war crimes committed by the division.

Key words: division "Das Reich", *Waffen-SS*, Austrians, social profile, war crimes, high decorations