

The Baltic States and Finland 1939 -1945

Estonians serving in the Finnish Armed forces from 1939 to 1941: During the fall and winter months of 1939, small numbers of Estonians escaped from a Soviet controlled Estonia to Finland. Some of these Estonian refugees immediately volunteered their service to the Finnish Armed Forces so they could help Finland preserve her freedom. Other Estonian refugees in Helsinki approached the Finnish military because they wanted to help Finland in its hour of need; much as the Finnish "Pohjanpojat" Company had come to the aid of Estonia in 1918.

In the late fall of 1939, a company sized unit of approximately 60 Estonian soldiers was actually established by the Finnish Army. However, for the duration of the 1939-1940 Soviet-Finnish Winter War, the Estonians remained in a Finnish Army training camp. They did not participate in combat against the Soviet Army. The only foreign soldiers who actually fought the Soviets in Finland during the Winter War "en masse" were the Swedish volunteers of the "Svenska Frivilligkåren".

After Finland signed the armistice treaty with the Soviet Union in March of 1940, the Finnish military established a second company composed of Estonian soldiers. Of note is that it was primarily from the second Finnish-Estonian company that the (Estonian) ERNA long-range reconnaissance team were created from.

Estonians serving in the Finnish Armed Forces from 1941 to 1944: Finland entered the war against the Soviet Union on 25 June 1941. Finland knew that if the Finnish nation were to make it through the "Continuation War", it would need all of the manpower it could muster; that included using the Estonian volunteers. As a result, Finnish military authorities decided to place the available Estonian soldiers into training and front line units. Nearly all of the Estonian soldiers who volunteered to serve in the Finnish military, were accepted. The instruction and training routine for the Estonians was identical to that of Finnish soldiers - with one exception. Estonian soldiers were also trained by the Finns for an eventual resurrection of an "Estonian National Army", should that day have ever come. A mixture of Estonian and Finnish was used as the "common communication language" until the Estonians became more proficient in Finnish.

Estonians in the Finnish navy: Approximately 400 Estonians also served in the Finnish Navy from 1941 to 1944. About half of the Estonians served as land based naval personnel at the Finnish Navy Base in Turku. The remainder served aboard nearly every Finnish naval vessel - except the submarines. The largest single concentration of Estonian sailors in the Finnish Navy was aboard the Coastal Battleship "Väinämöinen"; it is known that at least 38 Estonians served on board her.

Ostbattalion 664: This battalion, raised by the Germans, consisted primarily of native Ingermanlanders (Ingrians) who had resided in the Baltic region (primarily northwestern Estonia and Ingermanland. It is entirely possible that a few Estonian citizens, but of Ingrian heritage, may have served in the unit. In early 1943, Ostbattalion 664 was transferred to Finland by Germany so it could be incorporated into a special Finnish unit - Heimopataljoona 3 (Heimo P. 3). The Finnish idea was to create a unit manned by Finno-Ugrian peoples. Most of the personnel in Heimo P. 3 had in fact had been captured by the Finns during the Winter War. In March of 1944, Heimo P. 3 was transferred from the Finnish Army's 10th Infantry Division to the 2nd Infantry Division where they performed primarily in forestry and fortification construction duties. On 22 May 1944, Heimo P. 3 was placed up on the front lines at Ohtas. A month later, in June of 1944, the units lost a number of personnel due to desertions. This caused the Finnish military command to question the combat effectiveness of the unit and it withdrew Heimo P. 3 from the front lines. After the September 1944 armistice, the Soviets demanded the return of all Heimo P. 3 soldiers. Not all could be returned to Soviet custody because many had already "escaped" to the west.

Finnish-Estonian military Uniforms 1941-1944: The Estonians who served in the Finnish Army from 1940 to 1944 wore standard Finnish Military uniforms. A small blue-black-white woven shield was also worn on the left sleeve. Estonians serving in Finnish military intelligence units from 1940 to 1945 wore Finnish uniforms, but probably without the distinctive Estonian arm shield. In 1944, most of the Estonians serving in the Finnish military expressed their desire to return to Estonia to help defend the nation from a second Soviet occupation. While the departing Estonians were honorably discharged from the Finnish Army for

their services rendered, some elected to remain in Finland. Those who remained were quickly demobilized after Finland signed its armistice with the Soviet Union in September of 1944.

Jalkaväkirykementti 47 (JR 47 -- Infantry Regiment 47): After the start of the Winter War, the Finnish government placed most of the available Estonians in Finland into the 3rd Battalion of Jalkaväkirykementti 47 (JR 47 -- Infantry Regiment 47).

During the 1939-1940 Winter War, JR 47 was attached to the Finnish 12th Infantry Division. At that time, no Estonians were attached to JR 47. The unit's third "Estonian battalion" was more a paper unit than a fully deployable combat unit. However, in 1942, JR 47 was officially enlarged by the addition of the 3rd all-Estonian Battalion. At that point, JR 47 was transferred to the Finnish 18th Infantry Division.

The Estonian 3rd Battalion was nicknamed as the "Vallila" Battalion because it was first raised in the "Vallila" suburb of Helsinki and it remained there for quite some time. After receiving additional training at three separate Finnish training centers (25. Jalkaväen Koulutuskeskuksessa (Infantry Training Center Nr. 25) in Porokylä near Nurmes, the 4. Jalkaväen Koulutuskeskuksessa and the 26. Jalkaväen Koulutuskeskuksessa), the Estonian "Vallila" Battalion was sent to the front lines in Karelia.

Expansion into the Jalkaväkirykementti 200 (JR 200 -- Infantry Regiment 200 -- Jalaväerügement 200 in the Estonian language): Because the pool of available Estonian soldiers in Finland was large enough, the Finnish military elected to enlarge the Vallila Battalion into a regiment. The regiment however, only contained two infantry battalions instead of the Finnish norm of three. The order calling for the establishment of an all-Estonian Infantry Regiment was signed by the Marshall Gustav Mannerheim, on 08 February 1944. Lieutenant-Colonel Eino Kuusela, a former graduate of the Estonian Military Academy, was selected to be the regimental commander of JR 200. JR 200 had the following composition:

- 1st Battalion (900 men), formerly the "Vallila" Battalion
 - 1st Rifle Company
 - 2nd Rifle Company
 - 3rd Rifle Company
 - 4th Rifle Company
- 2nd Battalion (700 men), (from Estonians quartered at various Finnish training centers)
 - 5th Rifle Company
 - 6th Rifle Company
 - 7th Rifle Company
 - 8th Rifle Company
- 3rd Battallion (not raised - left vacant)
 - 9th Rifle Company (not raised - left vacant)
 - 10th Rifle Company (not raised - left vacant)
 - 11th Rifle Company (not raised - left vacant)
 - 12th Rifle Company (not raised - left vacant)
- Attached to JR200:
 - 13th Mortar Company
 - 1st Heavy Mortar Company
 - six 120mm mortars
 - 1st Light Mortar Company
 - three 81mm mortars
 - 2nd Light Mortar Company
 - three 81mm mortars
 - 14th Anti-tank Company
 - three 50mm
 - three 75mm

Major Eero Kivela of the Finnish Army was given command of the 1st Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Vaino Savonen, a Finnish military officer who also was a graduate of the Estonian Military Academy (pre-1939), was given command of the 2nd Battalion.

By late May of 1944, JR 200 contained approximately 2.600 Estonian soldiers, though they had not yet been sent into battle as a regiment. That all would change during the month of June 1944. At that time, JR 200 formed a part of the Karelian reserves of the Finnish Army.

During the summer of 1944, the eastern end of the Karelian front was defended by Finland's III Army Corps and the western end of Karelia was defended by the Finnish IV Army Corps. The Finnish 10th Infantry Division (1st and 58th Infantry Regiments) guarded the westernmost approaches in Karelia. The Soviets launched their initial summer 1944 attack against the Finnish 10th Infantry Division. On 09 June 1944, at 0830 hours, the Soviet attack began. Five Finnish battalions defended against the 21st Soviet Army composed of at least five Soviet Army Corps, reinforced with artillery and armored units.

The fighting was extremely intense and swift between the attacking Soviets and the defending Finns. By 10 June 1944 (a day later), the Finnish 10th Infantry Division had no more reserves left with which to stop the Soviet offensive. Because the 1st Battalion of JR 200 was located not too far behind the lines of the Finnish 10th Infantry Division, it was immediately placed on the front lines. They were in fact located at the Jalkala training camp located about 10 miles (16 km) from the southern Karelian front lines. Though essentially fighting a defensive war and retreating slowly, the Estonians took heavy casualties like all of the other Finnish combat units in the area. After 10 days of continuous fighting, the Finnish forces were able to slowly stabilize the situation. As a result of that successful stabilization effort, the 1st Battalion of JR 200 was withdrawn from the front lines and sent to the western shores near the city of Viipuri for rest and refitting.

On 20 June 1944, the 2nd Battalion of JR 200 also arrived near Viipuri from its camp at Taavetti. Regretfully, Viipuri itself was lost to the Finns on 20 June 1944 just as the Estonians arrived in the area. However, the Soviets had advanced much faster in southern Karelia than the Finns had anticipated. Both Finnish and Estonian forces near Viipuri watched in horror as they saw the Soviets pull down the Finnish flag and hoist the red hammer and sickle over the city of Viipuri.

The Finnish military command deployed the 1st Battalion of JR 200 on to the nearby island of Leppäsaari opposite of Viipuri. During the next few days, the Soviets made numerous small scale, but unsuccessful attacks against the Estonian positions on Leppäsaari. The 2nd Battalion of JR 200 had been distributed nearer the larger islands of Suoninsaari and Uuransaari located near the mouth of the Viipuri Bay. There, the Estonians of the 2nd Battalion of JR 200 were to serve primarily as reserve units. The Soviets eventually captured these two islands, but stiff Estonian and Finnish resistance prevented the Soviets from fully exploiting their gains. The 2nd Battalion of JR 200 was never directly engaged in this round of fighting, but they did come under constant Soviet artillery fire and took light casualties. On 07 July 1944, the German 122. Infanterie Division, "Grief", arrived in the Viipuri area to help stabilize the situation. JR 200 was relieved from its front line positions and transferred to the narrows of the Vuoksi river. Although the Germans were then sent to occupy a critical river crossing positions, the Soviets did not really attack there either, except for the occasional artillery or mortar barrage.

In July of 1944, a small change was made regarding the command structure of JR 200. An Estonian, Captain Voldemar Pärilin, was authorized to take over command of the 1st Battalion of JR 200. Likewise with the 2nd Battalion, where Major Johann Peiker assumed its command. Lieutenant Colonel Kuusela however retained command of the JR 200 regiment.

At this point in time, the Estonian soldiers in Finland had begun to experience serious morale problems. The Soviet advances in the summer and early fall of 1944 into Estonia were foremost on their minds. While the Finnish military did not doubt the ability of the Estonians to perform in combat up to the same standards as regular Finnish units, there was enough hesitation in their minds to cause them to re-evaluate the overall combat effectiveness of JR 200. The Soviets were back at the borders of Estonia and many Estonians wanted to return to Estonia to help defend the nation.

By the middle of August 1944, the Finnish military agreed to disband JR 200 and allow the Estonians to return to Estonia. The German authorities were also contacted regarding the wishes of the Estonians in Finland. After some hasty consultations, the Germans gave their approval for the transfer of the Estonians back to German control. In their discussions with Estonian and Finnish officials, the Germans made it

abundantly clear that the men of JR 200 were to be assigned to the 20. Estnische SS Panzer-Grenadier Division. On 16 August 1944, JR 200 was officially removed from the Finnish military combat lists. Lieutenant-General Tuompo thanked the Estonians for their service to Finland and read a greeting on behalf of Mannerheim. Finland's last official act towards JR 200 was to award the Estonians of JR 200 37 Finnish Liberty Crosses and 200 other medals. The Estonians were disarmed by the Finns, though they retained their Finnish uniforms. The blue-black-white arm shield was also retained but the Finnish blue-white-blue headgear cockade was however removed. Finnish records indicate that 168 officers, 162 NCO's and 1422 men returned to Estonia. 172 men of JR 200 elected to remain in Finland.

On 19 August 1944, the German steam ship "Wartheland" arrived at the Finnish port of Hanko, loaded the Estonians on board and made the return voyage to Paldiski. From now on, the Estonian "Soomepoisid" were considered to be German soldiers.

JR 200 Regimental Flag: While the regiment was being established in Finland, it was not given an official flag. However, during the summer of 1944, one of the mothers of an Estonian soldier serving in JR200 made a flag for the regiment. The flag is Estonian as is the coat-of-arms. The silver finished finial is of the Finnish coat-of-arms. The flag arrived in time for the ceremony on 22 August 1944 where General Tuompo gave JR200 its farewell speech. The text reads "EESTI AUKS, TULEVIKU PANDIKS, 1944" (For the honor of Estonia, as a pledge for the future, 1944). The flag currently resides with the Estonian house in Lakewood, New Jersey, USA.

Finnish-German-Estonian island hopping efforts in the Gulf of Finland 1941-1944: As a result of the March 1940 treaty signed between Finland and the Soviet Union, Finland lost most of its territory in Karelia along with the city of Viipuri, it lost the port city of Petsamo in the north, Hanko was ceded to the Soviet Union and Finland also lost all of the larger islands it had in the Gulf of Finland (Lavansaari, Peninsaari, Ruusikerisaari, Seiskarisaari, Suurisaari, Iso-Tyttarsaari, Pieni-Tyttarsaari). Moscow wasted no time in sending small garrison forces to each of these islands.

On 27 October 1941, the Soviet military ordered the evacuation of most of the islands it held in the Gulf of Finland. It was believed that those forces, no matter how small they may have been, could be better utilized in the defense of Leningrad. Small evacuation fleets removed most of the Soviet garrison units as quickly as possible. The Soviet garrison on Lavansaari and Suurisaari remained at their posts until 06 December 1941.

On 19 December 1941, the Soviet military reversed their previously held opinions. It decided to re-occupy some of the larger islands in the Gulf of Finland. On 24 December 1941, contingents of Soviet forces were thus re-introduced on Lavansaari and on Seiskarisaari. Though the Finnish military had sent a small occupation force to Suurisaari shortly after the Soviets departed, it was not enough to prevent the Soviets from evicting the Finns from Suurisaari on 01/02 January 1942. On 12 March 1942, Marshall Mannerheim ordered General Aaro Pajari to mount an operation to retake Suurisaari. A special operations group called "Taisteluosasto Pajari" was created for the undertaking. The staff unit of the 4th Infantry Regiment was temporarily placed at General Pajari's disposal.

A short while later, the Finns had assembled the necessary landing forces. Starting his attack and invasion from Luppisaari (not far from the city of Kotka on the Finnish coast). General Pajari divided his amphibious force into two attack groups. "Osasto Sotisaari" (Osasto S) was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel L. Sotisaari. Its assignment was to attack from the west side of the island with the 2nd Battalion/6th Infantry Regiment and 1st Battalion/27th Infantry Regiment. "Osasto Miittise" (Osasto M) was commanded by Major Miittise, who landed on the eastern side of the island. His force was actually a diversionary force, as Major Miittise's prime objective was to prevent the Soviets from retreating back to Leningrad from the eastern side of the Suurisaari.

German support was requested by Finland and initially granted. However, as soon as the Germans began "Unternehmen Raubtier", the attack of the German 18th Army against the Soviet Shock Army defending the southern regions of Lake Ladoga, the Germans cancelled their support promise. All German reserves would be needed for "Unternehmen Raubtier". At this juncture, Finland would have to island-hop on its own. Later, small support forces were in fact however made available to the Finns for their island hopping

efforts.

After a few fierce fire-fights, the surviving members of the Soviet garrison on Suurisaari surrendered (about 200 survivors from a 400 man force). The Finnish island hopping operations could now begin. On 29 March 1942, a small reconnaissance team was landed on Suuri-Tyttarsaari. It was quickly determined that there were no Soviet forces on the island. However, much to their surprise, the Finns learned that the Germans had sent a small occupation force on to Suuri-Tyttarsaari in the form of the 18th Company/(Estnische) Sicherungsabteilung 184 on 01 April 1942.

On 02 April 1942, the Soviets landed a small force on Suuri-Tyttarsaari with the intent of occupying same. This force immediately ran into the small Estonian force and a fight quickly broke out. That same day, the Finns landed reinforcements on the island. The numbers now weighed against the Soviets and they were forced to slowly surrender/withdraw. On 04 April 1942, the Germans landed a small force of their own to augment the Estonians and the Finns already on the island. In addition to troops, the Germans also brought in an 88mm gun and a 40mm gun (these two guns remain on the island to this day). The island was cleared of all Soviet resistance on 08 April 1942.

On 25 May 1942, a German force was landed on Pieni-Tyttarsaari. No Soviet forces were located on the island. Both of the Tyttarsaari islands remained in Finnish/German hands until the fall of 1944. The Estonian 18th Company was returned to its parent unit a shortly after May of 1942. Numerous attempts were made by the Finns and the Germans to also capture the islands of Lavansaari and Seiskarisaari, but the attacking forces were never able to gain a foothold on these island. After a while, the Germans cancelled all further offensive operations against these targets.

Estonian long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) forces in Finland (1940 to 1944): The Finnish military was particularly proud of the fact that its soldiers, regardless of rank, had the ability to think quickly and successfully fend for themselves in fast-paced combat situations. As many of the Estonian refugees who arrived in Finland from Soviet controlled/occupied Estonia did so their own, many Estonian soldiers too came to be seen by the Finnish military as being “quick thinkers” and “can do” individuals. This made many Estonians attractive candidates to serve in the very specialized commando and long-range reconnaissance teams of the Finnish Army. Finland also needed all the intelligence on Soviet military activities it could gather and Estonians were seen as a natural source for intelligence gathering activities, especially after the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States.

During the Second World War, the Finnish military placed a few select Estonians into special Finnish commando units:

The ERNA long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) unit supporting the Finnish Army - As a short background, the ERNA teams were first created by the Germans and the Finns during the spring of 1941. Approximately 60 Estonian soldiers were selected from the pool of available Estonian men in Finland. 15 of those were transferred to Staffans Island in Sökö, Espoo, not far from Helsinki. This small group was trained in wireless communications skills. Of importance to note is that while the ERNA men were considered to be Finnish soldiers, they wore Finnish army uniforms with a small Estonian shoulder shield, they were for all practical purposes controlled by Fregattenkapitän Cellarius, the German Abwehr point man in Finland at the time.

After Barbarossa commenced, the Estonian ERNA teams participated in a number of rear-area reconnaissance missions behind Soviet lines, but in their native Estonia. Key successes were actions fought on the Estonian islands of Muhumaa and Saaremaa as well as near Tallinn. In a few cases, the inserted ERNA teams provided critical troop movement data to the advancing German forces in Estonia. When the Estonian islands were secured, a number of ERNA team members elected to return to Finland. Upon their return, the Finnish military assigned them to the Swedish Volunteer Battalion. Thus, the last formal action of the ERNA LRRP team was in September of 1941, when they participated in the Finnish military efforts to seize Hanko. Specifically, a platoon of ERNA soldiers was attached to the Swedish volunteer company as its commando platoon. As such, the ERNA soldiers were the first to advise the Finnish military that an attack against Hanko was no longer required - the Soviets had already evacuated the port city. After this, they were disbanded - on paper, that is.

Though technically disbanded as a unit by the Germans in the fall of 1941, in reality, the Estonian ERNA soldiers continued to be active in the Finnish Army until the Soviet-Finnish armistice of 1944. For a short while after September of 1941, the ERNA men continued to train in Espoo. They were then given the cover name of "Haukat" or "Haukka". In the early part of the Finnish Continuation War, ERNA team members participated in numerous long-range reconnaissance actions behind Soviet lines. In nearly every instance, they were integrated into regular Finnish long-range reconnaissance units.

In 1942, circumstances allowed for the insertion of an "all Estonian" manned long-range team deep into Soviet territory. A Finnish team leader was offered to the Estonian team, but they declined the offer. Given the opportunity, they preferred to stay together as one unit. Regretfully, the mission ran into trouble shortly after the teams were inserted behind Soviet lines.

Specifically, on 30 August 1942, a group of 13 ERNA long-range reconnaissance patrol members were selected by the Finnish military to perform a special mission in the Archangelsk-Vologda region. The Finnish mission number was 46/1 (46/1 means the 46th patrol of Osasto Vehniäinen operating in the Karelian isthmus area; /2 would represent Osasto Kuismanen operating in the Sortavala-Porajärvi region; /3 Osasto Marttinen in the Repola-Uhtua region and /4 Osasto Paastalo in the Kiesting/Petsamo region. In 1943, the four independent departments were merged into one, the designations then were 1/ErP4, 2/ErP4, 3/ErP4 and 4/ErP4.).

Two key goals of all Finnish LRRP missions were to collect military intelligence on Soviet rear area capabilities and to sabotage Soviet rail lines. Patrol 46/1 was controlled jointly by the Finns and the Germans. The 13 man team was divided into two sub-teams, each to be inserted separately. Nearly every team member of patrol 46/1 was also a former ERNA long range reconnaissance team member. A German Luftwaffe Ju-52 (BA+KG), was made available to the Estonian team at the Nurmoila airfield. Leutnant Ossendorf, of the German Luftwaffe, was the pilot of the Ju-52. To aid in navigation, the public radio station in Petroskoi was to have played music, which the Ju-52 could use as a known, friendly beacon for vectoring. With everything set, Leutnant Ossendorf departed Nurmoila at 2300h on 30 August 1942. Although the Petroskoi radio station stopped transmitting at 2400h, the Ju-52 did make it to the drop region using on-board maps. At the prescribed time, they dropped off the first Estonian team as per orders.

However, once they landed, the Estonians quickly realized that their landing zone was not on any of their maps. There had been a shortage of accurate regional maps prior to the onset of the mission and this would come back to haunt the team. To hopefully alleviate any major problems, the teams were given a number of different maps, each map overlaid with a set of grids. The idea was to send in the Estonian teams, then guide them to their targets by referencing the various grids on their many maps. The first Estonian team, not being able to locate its position (because it really was not on their maps), radioed for assistance. Back in Finland, control center thought that the Estonians were lost and simply could not read a map. The resulting clarification transmissions only served to additionally confuse both parties. This was only the beginning of the problems on this mission.

The second group, also composed of six former Estonian ERNA men, were flown to approximately the same area on 31 August 1942; again by Leutnant Ossendorf. The goal of the second team was to help rescue and re-direct the first team back to their assigned map square. The Ju-52 thought it was in the right area as they were able to see the recognition fires made by the first team.

For this particular portion of the mission, a third flight; this time was also scheduled. A Ju-88, 4D+CP, flown by Luftwaffe Leutnant P.W. Stahl, was used only to drop off additional supply crates to both teams. This was supposed to have happened on 02 September 1942. But shortly after the second team was dropped, an emergency message was transmitted. The second team did not land next to the first team - they had landed next to a Soviet youth camp (a Komsomolsk camp). The fires Leutnant Ossendorf had seen were not recognition fires, they were camp-fires. The Soviets were now fully alerted and quickly gave chase.

As fast as possible, a rescue mission was put together by the Finns and the Germans. Inclement weather delayed the first rescue flight scheduled for 13 October 1942. A Luftwaffe Heinkel He 115 C-1 (8L+IH;

probably from Küstenfliegergruppe 906 in Norway) was to land at Lake Latsya and extricate all surviving team members. However, on 22 October 1942, the He 115 failed to report back shortly after arriving at the pick-up area. It was presumably detected by the Soviets and destroyed.

Both of the Estonian teams had marched back towards the Finnish lines by foot from the Archangelsk region. They were tired and had sustained some casualties. It was a race against time for the Estonians.

On 23 October 1942, a coded message was received by the Finns. The Estonians requested a second pick-up attempt. The Finns wanted to rescue and extricate the Estonians (in consideration of the expenses and time involved in creating and maintaining such a specialized capability and also to rescue one of their own teams out of harms way). The Germans would not allow such a support mission to take place. In the end, the Soviets caught up with the ERNA commandos (both groups), killed some in firefights and captured others.

After this incident and out of disgust for the German decision to cancel all further support, the Finnish military severed all further joint long-range commando actions with the Germans. It was one of the single largest Finnish commando team losses of the Second World War.

Gruppe Cellarius - A separate entity from the ERNA long-range reconnaissance teams. This German controlled commando unit operated out of Helsinki. It served primarily as a training site for future German-Estonian commandos.

"Unternehmen Rheumatismus" (Reumatismi in Finnish) - During the Fall of 1942, Captain Cellarius and his group had managed to train a small group of Soviet (Russian) POW's in the art of sabotage and covert landings. The goal was to destroy the lighthouse on the Ingrian coast at the village of Shepelivi located in the Soviet held Oranienbaum pocket. This lighthouse was a vital navigational aid to Soviet naval vessels entering and departing Kronstadt harbor. On 29 September 1942, a small fleet of ships departed Seivästö harbor, in German held Ingermanland. The fleet was discovered by alert Soviet coastal watchmen, who quickly opened fire on the small ships. Since surprise was now lost, the mission was scrubbed and the ships returned to their base. No further actions were undertaken in support of "Unternehmen Rheumatismus".

Finland's "Haukka" commando group - This small group of Estonian commandos was first established on 15 October 1943 within the Finnish military. Their mission, once they were fully trained, was to establish themselves in Estonia and report to the Finnish military primarily on Soviet troop dispositions. They were not operationally deployed by the time Finland signed its armistice with the Soviets in September of 1944; though they conducted a number of training mission into Estonia in 1943. They were inserted into Estonia and reported to Finland after September of 1944. The Soviets were able to neutralize all of the "Haukka" Estonians operating in Estonia by the end of 1945.

Finland's "Stella Polaris" and "Syväri" military intelligence units: A number of Estonian ERNA commandos were also present in these special Finnish military intelligence units. The "Stella Polaris" operation, named after a Swedish coastal trawler, was the Finnish effort to transfer key intelligence documents on the Soviet Union to Sweden for safe-keeping. A few Estonian intelligence officers of the Finnish military participated in this undertaking during the fall of 1944 - prior to the Finnish armistice agreement. The Syväri long-range commando unit operated against the military targets deep behind Soviet military lines. After all of the "Stella Polaris" records on intercepted Soviet wireless messages were transferred to Sweden in the fall of 1944, Estonian soldiers ceased supporting those requirements.

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