

Special Duties for the SS in "Operation Barbarossa,"

March 13, 1941

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Staff Command Secret Document

Chief Only

Only Through Officer

High Command of the Wehrmacht

WFST [Armed Forces Operation Staff] Div. L (IV/Qu)

No. 44125/41 g.K.Chiefs

Orders for Special Areas in Connection with Directive No. 21*

(Operation Barbarossa)

Within the area of Army operations, the Reichsfuehrer SS will be entrusted, on behalf of the Fuehrer, with special tasks for the preparation of the political administration tasks which derive from the decisive struggle that will have to be carried out between the two opposing political systems. Within the framework of these tasks, the Reichsfuehrer SS will act independently and on his own responsibility. Apart from this, the executive power vested in the Supreme Commander of the Army and in command levels acting under his orders will not be affected. The Reichsfuehrer SS will ensure that operations are not interfered with by the execution of his tasks. Details will be worked out directly between the High Command of the Army and the Reichsfuehrer SS....

*Occupied Eastern Territories.

Source: Yitzhak Arad, Yisrael Gutman, Abraham Margalio (Eds.), *Documents on the Holocaust, Selected Sources on the Destruction of the Jews of Germany and Austria, Poland and the Soviet Union*, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem 1981, Document no. 169, p. 375.