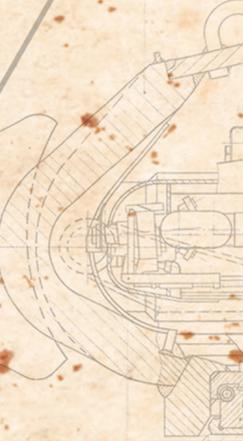


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SS:

The Killing Grounds



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SS: The Killing Grounds

In 1940 Hitler ordered the construction the most secret project the Nazi war machine had conceived. Deep in the impenetrable forest of Central Bohemia, a massive 440 sq km SS training ground, designed to create the perfect Nazi soldier to dominate the East was being created. But is that all these Killing Grounds were designed for? Using the work of military and architectural research brought to life by re-enactment and cutting-edge CGI, we will begin to pull back the shroud of mystery that has surrounded this forest hideout and uncover its secrets.

The year is 1940, after one of the most successful military campaigns Europe has ever seen, Blitzkrieg has given Germany control of almost the whole of Western Europe. It is now preparing for its defining war; eastward with the Soviet Union. A key part to the success of this new Eastern front would be the battle-proven, loyal-unto-death Nazi combat unit Waffen SS or Protection Squadron. Loyal to Hitler alone this elite division of the German infantry, who gained power under the notorious Heinrich Himmler in the interwar years, were responsible for some of the most heinous acts of the 20th century; enforcing the final solution, maintaining blind allegiance to the Fuhrer and enforcing Nazi values and ideology. To continue their menacing work they would need an eastern HQ - The secretive and infamous SS Truppenübungsplatz Böhmen.

The first established Waffen SS training institution in Germany was an engineering school, providing Aryan recruits with the knowledge required to wage 20th Century war; trench-building, mining, demolition, bridge-building etc...In this new, improved SS training academy in the east, artillery, anti-tank, cavalry, dentistry, science and even a sniper school were established responding to the changing needs of the battlefield. This would be a bulwark to inevitably underpin the Nazi's eastern empire, oppressing peoples from Prague to Vladivostok and in Benešovsko, Czechoslovakia a land between two rivers, a uniquely enclosed area of 440 km sq secreted in a forest and difficult to access by road they found it.

What it contained and why it was built has, until now been lost to history and ever since, has been a locus of conspiracy theories, mysteries and unanswered questions:

- What was the true purpose of the often strange, sometimes monstrous buildings in the complex? Were they part of the Eastern Final Solution and the murder of innocent Jews?
- Was this facility used to house stolen artefacts and secret weapons as the Nazi's power grew?
- Why was the Supreme court for Hitler's personal army located in the wilds of Moravia far from his German HQ?
- Why did the Nazi party decide to build a river dam in this region, when all other resources were strictly dedicated to the war effort?
- Why did US Colonel Creighton Adams, when liberating Czechoslovakia go directly to this facility and remove Obergruppenführer KH Franks archives, only to return them partially complete months later?
- Why did the US not capture those operatives fleeing the site on liberation, or did they find other uses for them?
- Why were American planes shot down over the area and why were the crew shot immediately from orders at the highest level?
- Did the famous Amber Room, stolen by the Nazi's from the Tsar's Palace rest in this strange collection of buildings?

After the war, the history and facts of the area were forgotten and obscured by changing events, with the region changing hands from Germany, briefly to the US but then falling behind the quickly descending Iron Curtain. However, the secrets of the area have been a matter of great attention for the secret services of both the Czechoslovak and Soviet communist regimes and CIA and, in modern times, of mystery seekers and treasure hunters.

However, in recent decades, the training grounds, their peculiar architecture and their functions have been the subject of research by both professional and amateur historians. The result of their work is an extensive account; papers, books, and original films which provide the material from which this documentary will rely on. However, in order to do the subject justice, we will move to and from the archival research with real life demonstrations, at the places that still bear a tangible trace of SS domination. We will take the viewer onto the SS training ground, demonstrating what it took to become an unthinking, murderous follower of Adolf Hitler. We will deliver this series to the highest quality, creating original content and not relying on the same historical footage utilised many times before. To do this, we have secured the full cooperation of the Military History Institute of the Army of the Czech Republic, providing access to original WW2 military equipment and weapons, including exact replicas of uniforms and the original preserved locations. We will then employ leading European experts in the field of military history, top re-enactment teams and ex-serving military personnel to bring to life the roles of the SS in one of the most heinous regimes in history.