

Contents

Foreword — VII

Acknowledgements — IX

About the Author — XII

Introduction — 1

1. Sources — **5**
2. The Great Taboo: Contemporary Press and Early Scholarship — **8**
3. What about Lesbian Soldiers? — **16**

Historical Preamble: Homosexuality's Reception in Earlier German Armed Forces — 17

1. "Sexually Inverted" Soldiers in Prussia and the German Empire — **17**
2. The Reichswehr: Fact and Fiction — **22**
3. Homosexuality in Wehrmacht, Police and SS: Biographical Examples — **29**

I Unfit to Serve? Evaluating Homosexual Men's Military Fitness — 37

1. Homosexuality as an "Official" Disease — **37**
2. Fitness for Service — **40**
 - a.) Error Code 12 VI: Permanently Unfit to Serve — **41**
 - b.) Psychiatric Evaluation in the Armed Forces — **46**
 - c.) New Fitness Regulations for 1979 — **50**
3. Calls for Tolerance within the Ranks — **55**
4. Excursus: "A Knife's Edge." HIV and AIDS in Bundeswehr Policy in the 1980s — **57**

II Among Comrades: Life as a Homosexual Soldier through the Lens of Individual Memory and Experience — 64

1. Memories of Rejection and Tolerance — **70**
 - a.) Tolerance and Intolerance within the Ranks — **75**
 - b.) Bundeswehr Campus Memories — **85**
 - c.) "Gays in the Military": A 1994 Article in Junge Soldaten — **90**
 - d.) The "Gay Envoy" to Bundeswehr University Munich — **92**
2. Forced Mimesis: Concealment, Repression, Denial — **94**
 - a.) The Paradigm of "Military Masculinity" — **97**
 - b.) Suicide or Marriage? — **103**

3. “The Ideal Soldier”? Self-Assurance through Alexander, Caesar and Prince Eugene — **106**
4. Five Military Lives in Personal Recollection — **113**
 - a.) “It was as if my world collapsed.” A Private is Forced Out — **113**
 - b.) “Remain a Soldier or Become a Human.”
A Captain Remembers — **115**
 - c.) Trailed by Rumors: Thirteen Years as an Officer — **118**
 - d.) “Your Reputation May Precede You.” A Staff Sergeant Looks Back — **119**
 - e.) “Then All Hell Broke Loose.” A Company Commander Is Discharged — **121**

III Illicit Acts?

Male Homosexuality in Criminal and Disciplinary Law — 130

1. §175 after 1949 in West Germany — **130**
2. A World War Veteran Comes Undone — **134**
3. Punishing Consensual Sexual Activity Between Soldiers Under §175 (up to 1969) — **137**
4. Courts Martial from 1899 to 1945 and Parallels with Rulings in Military Service Court Rulings — **139**
5. Psychiatric Evaluations as a Means of Adjudication — **146**
6. Excursus: The 1969 Murder of Four Soldiers — **149**
7. “Lex Bundeswehr?” The BMVg and the Decriminalization of Male Homosexuality in 1969 — **151**
8. “Civilian Courts’ Lax Handling of Homosexuality”: Disciplinary Rulings against Consensual Sex after Criminal Reform — **156**
 - a.) “Otherwise Normal.” A 1970 Ruling on a Staff Sergeant and Five Other Soldiers — **161**
 - b.) Private Is Private—or Is It? — **164**
 - c.) A Mild Verdict against a First Sergeant from 1980 — **167**
 - d.) “A Deviation in Impulse under the Disinhibiting Effects of Alcohol” — **169**
9. Sexual Assaults Perpetrated by Homosexual Soldiers — **171**
 - a.) Parallels to Rulings in Imperial Navy Courts of Honor — **178**
 - b.) Disciplinary Action after Acquittal in Criminal Proceedings — **179**
 - c.) Drunkenness as a Mitigating Factor — **180**
 - d.) “Why Are You Only Reporting This Incident More than Half a Year Later?” Investigations into Navy Officers — **190**

10. Statistics in Summary — **193**
 - a.) 1956 to 1966 — **193**
 - b.) 1976 to 1991–92 — **196**
11. Immediate Dismissal under §55 (5) of the Legal Status of Military Personnel Act — **201**
12. The Matter of Rehabilitation — **205**

IV Unfit to Command? — 209

1. “Unresolvable by Us.” A Reserve Lieutenant against the Ministry of Defense, 1972 — **210**
2. “Jeopardizing Discipline and Fighting Power.” The 1977 Case of a Lieutenant — **215**
3. A Subject for Debate in Parliament: The Case of Captain Lindner, 1981 — **220**
4. Policy Papers, from 1982 and 1984 — **224**
5. Excursus: “Teachers’ Fear of Outing Themselves.” — **235**
6. “I’ll Just Say I’m Gay Then.” Attempts to Shorten the Length of Service — **236**
7. “Homosexuality and Military Service in Germany.” A SOWI Study from 1993 — **240**
8. Case by Case, or Blanket Rejection? — **243**
9. Internal and Political Pressure for Change — **250**
 - a.) “Completely Detached from Individual Personality.” A Medical Officer’s Years-Long Struggle for Gay Rights in the Military — **250**
 - b.) The Federal Working Group of Gay Soldiers — **255**
 - c.) A Letter to the Minister and Its Consequences: A First Lieutenant’s Career Comes to an End — **259**
 - d.) “In the Name of the People: The Plaintiff Is Legally Entitled to Be Accepted for Career Service.” — **268**
 - e.) A Lieutenant Is Removed as Platoon Leader, 1998 — **270**
 - f.) Political Pressure — **277**
10. Silent Acceptance? — **279**

V Under Suspicion: Homosexuality as a Security Risk — 284

1. “Personnel Security Risks”: Security Review Guidelines — **284**
 - a.) “Enemy of the State”? — **285**
 - b.) 1971: “Abnormal Tendencies in the Sexual Realm” — **287**
 - c.) 1988: “Sexual Conduct That Can Lead to Blackmail” — **292**

2. Security Reviews in Practice — **296**
 - a.) The Principles of “Legality” and “Opportunity” — **312**
 - b.) Pragmatic Solutions from 1916 — **313**
 - c.) An “Admissible, Requisite and Imperative Measure with a Great Sense of Proportion” — **316**
 - d.) “It’s Nobody’s Business Who I Go to Bed With” — **318**
3. A Hurricane Whirls about the Taboo: The General Kießling Affair, 1983–84 — **321**
 - a.) “No Fritsch Affairs” — **324**
 - b.) Investigation by Any Means — **328**
 - c.) Protecting the Private Sphere, or Security Interests? — **336**
 - d.) “What Will They Do with Me?” The Kießling Affair’s Impact on Homosexual Soldiers — **339**
 - e.) “Can a homo become an Officer in the Bundeswehr?”
Public Response to the Scandal — **341**
4. Parliament Debates “Homosexuality as a Security Risk” — **345**
5. Between Scylla and Charybdis — **352**
6. New Legal Principles, New Regulations:
“Irrelevant to the Security Clearance Process.” — **356**

VI A New Millennium – a New Era — 362

1. The European Dimension: The 1999 ECHR Verdict against the British Armed Forces — **363**
2. The Legal Dimension: A First Lieutenant’s Complaint and Questions from Karlsruhe for the BMVg — **368**
3. The Political Dimension — **374**
4. The Internal Military Dimension: “The Service Branches’ Position on Homosexuality Rock Solid” — **379**
5. “The Dam Has Broken!” — **391**
6. New Working Principles: Tolerance and Privacy Protection — **403**
7. Lindner v. the Federal Republic of Germany: A Former Captain’s Struggle for Restitution — **410**

VII What of the Others? The Practices of Other Armed Forces — 413

1. European Armed Forces by Historical Comparison — **413**
2. The Netherlands: “It Goes without Saying” — **420**
3. Great Britain: “Immediate Dismissal as Unfit to Serve” — **423**
4. The U.S.: “No Queens in the Marines” — **427**

5. The NVA and GDR Border Troops: Operational Personal Checks by the MfS — **433**
 - a.) “Not an Issue” — **434**
 - b.) 1988 and On: “Equal Rights and Duties for All” — **438**
 - c.) “Beaten up in the Washroom.” NVA Soldiers’ Experiences — **440**
 - d.) OPK “Lover” and other Surveillance Measures — **442**
 - e.) Excursus: Homosexuals in the Ranks of the MfS — **448**
 - f.) OPK “Traitor” — **451**
 - g.) “You’ll Be Here at Eight!” Rulings on Sexual Assault — **455**
 - h.) An East German Military Career — **463**

Conclusion — 468

1. Male Homosexuals’ Fitness for Military Service — **468**
2. Personal Recollection and Experience — **468**
3. Male Homosexuality in Criminal and Disciplinary Law — **469**
4. Unfit to Command? — **471**
5. Homosexuality as a “Security Risk” — **474**
6. A New Millennium – a New Era — **475**
7. Historical and Lateral Views of other Armed Forces — **476**
8. The Matter of Lesbian Soldiers — **477**
9. “We Have to Betray the Essence of Who We Are” — **478**

Postscript — 481

Sources and Bibliography — 482

1. Archival Sources — **482**
2. Service Regulations — **483**
3. Court Rulings and Correspondence — **483**
4. Autobiographical Sources — **484**
5. Conversations and Interviews with Contemporary Witnesses — **485**
6. Sources from the German Bundestag — **485**
7. Sources from the German Reichstag — **486**
8. Secondary Literature — **486**
9. TV Documentaries — **495**

List of Abbreviations — 496

Index — 498

