

WEREWOLVES

A HUNTER'S GUIDE



GRAEME DAVIS

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INTRODUCTION

In 2013, I received an email from Joseph McCullough, the author of *Zombies: A Hunter's Guide*. During the course of writing his book, Joe had been granted unprecedented access to the US Army's 34th Specialist Regiment, nicknamed the Nightmen, and had been approached to compile an official unit history of this remarkable group of men and women. Impressed by what he had seen of my research into the Knights Templar, Joe invited me to collaborate with him on the Nightmen project. Both flattered and intrigued, I agreed and began working on background research.

It was while I was researching the 34th's operations in World War II – in particular, their encounters with the *Werwolf* guerillas of SS Obergruppenführer Hans-Adolf Prützmann in Cologne and elsewhere – that I first heard of the Tyana Institute. I began with orthodox sources, and made a number of inquiries through contacts in various European universities, but this initial research hit a dead end.

In the interests of the Nightmen project, I should probably have moved on. However, the few snippets of information I had unearthed on the Tyana Institute convinced me that there was more to find. I turned to less orthodox avenues of inquiry, and what I found fully bore out my first instincts. There was a story here, I knew – though what I could not have anticipated was just how many stories there were, and how many different groups were involved. I called Joe, and after looking at my initial findings he agreed to give me time to continue this line of research.

Werewolves are far from unknown. From the Big Bad Wolf of nursery tales to the computer-generated beasts of the movies, they have earned a prominent place in popular culture. Everyone knows that one bite from a werewolf is enough to pass the curse of lycanthropy on to the victim; that the full moon forces them to change shape and surrender their human reason to savage animal passions; that wolfsbane and silver are their only weaknesses. Almost no one knows that there are many forms of lycanthropy, and not all of them are occult in nature.

The following pages tell a few of the stories I have uncovered. There is much work still to be done, many facts to be verified and many more leads and sidetracks to be followed. A definitive treatment of the subject may take a lifetime – perhaps more than one lifetime – and the deeper one delves, the more elusive hard information becomes.



I still hope, one day, to return to the history of the Nightmen. Of course, there is always the chance that when I do, I will stumble upon yet another irresistible side-track. Until then, I offer my thanks to Joe for the email that began this whole journey, to the personnel of the 34th who were unfailingly patient and helpful in answering my questions, and to others – many others – who for various reasons prefer to remain anonymous.

The 17th-century painting *Jupiter and Lycaon* by Jan Cossiers. In the ancient Greek myth, Lycaon decided to test the god Zeus (called Jupiter by the Romans) by serving him human flesh. Zeus punished Lycaon by turning him into a wolf. Many believe that Lycaon was the father of all werewolves and that the original virus can be traced back to him. Others think he is just one more example of a man cursed by dark sorcery.