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## Chronicle Whetstone

Summary by Martin Schlagner, 2016-03-27

The group WHETSTONE was founded in the summer of 1984 in front of the Iron Curtain in West Germany in the town called Siegen as a pure power-heavy metal band.

The region was already known that from their ancestral many HM groups.



[Source: 001\_Whet\_FoundingMembers (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

### Founding members in 1984 were

Martin Schlagner	vocals, git
Joerg Gudelius	git
Frank Andrzejewski	bass
Uwe Bensch	drums

As Martin did not feel, that his voice was enough, the band was looking for a singer.

For a while Sebastian Beaumer was responsible for the vocals. Another search resulted in 1986 the singer Stefan Neuser, with his voice, songwriting qualities and a new horizont for the band.

In December 1986 the first official demo-tape of the band



[Source: 002\_Whet\_BloodUnitedDemoCover (C) wieland-promtion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

entitled "Blood United" by WHETSTONE & Markus Schneider had been produced in 4-track Ping-pong method. The tracks "Rider of the light", "Choose the right", "Invader" and "Blood United" were published by the tape.

### Members of the band were at this time

Stefan Neuser	vocals
Jörg Gudelius	git
Martin Schlagner	git
Frank Andrzejewski	bass
Uwe Bensch	drums,

rehearsing in a music room of a school and made their first live gigs.

Because of the lyrics, predominantly "black metal" corresponded at that time, in early July of 1987, the three group members Joerg Gudelius, Fank Andrzejewski and Uwe Bensch left the group because of "reasons of their Christian faith and conscience".



Stefan Neuser und Martin Schlagner (rechts) halten nach der Trennung von Frank Andrzejewski, Jörg Gudelius und Uwe Bensch die „Whetstone“-Fäne hoch.  
Foto: Schneider

[Source: 003\_Whet\_FirstCut (C) Westfalenpost, S 712\_2, 1988-07-28, Schneider, Siegen, Germany 2016 (P)]

However, the singer and guitarist remaining - persevered WHETSTONE.

Already on 10/07/1987 Axel Büdenbender (now called Axel Williams) could enforced against his rival Thomas Kircher (later "Accu\$er") and was now the fixed bassist.

About the former friend and drummer, Hubertus Stricker, WHETSTONE got a new rehearsal room in a shelter and basement of another school.

Hubertus played in the band initially and just helping out, because he felt bound in the other group "Mom" too much. Further search for a suitable drummer and solo guitarist in this period, there were many musicians in this region, later played with other HM-Bands, that are now known throughout Germany and Europe.

On 24.07.1987, the 18-year-old Burkhard Schmallenbach (ex-band "Squad") sat opposite his competitor Michael Stözel by (ex-band "Thunderbolt") and became the new solo guitarist of WHETSTONE.

After a long back and forth, the "Slayer fan" Hubertus Stricker decided in the end of August 1987, to leave his band.

### **WHETSTONE in version 2.0 was back now.**



[Source: 004\_Whet\_Comeback (C) Siegener Zeitung, 1987-09-24, Germany 2016 (P)]

### Members since the end of August 1987

Stefan Neuser	vocals
Burkard Schmallenbach	git
Martin Schlagner	git
Axel Büdenbender	bass
Hubertus Stricker	drums.

### Crew members were:

Heike Schueler	management
Martin Konrad	helping hand
Ralph Birkenstautz	helping hand

With an old typewriter Martin wrote all "official" letters. At that time the idea had been born, to write the letters to the organizers under the name "Wiland-Promotion" in English spelling.

## 03.10.1987, WHETSTONE, Live-Gig in Sutrop



[Source: 005\_Whet\_Sutrop\_Live (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

About a month later, the band had his first gig in the new formation, which can also be found on the live recordings of the sampler.



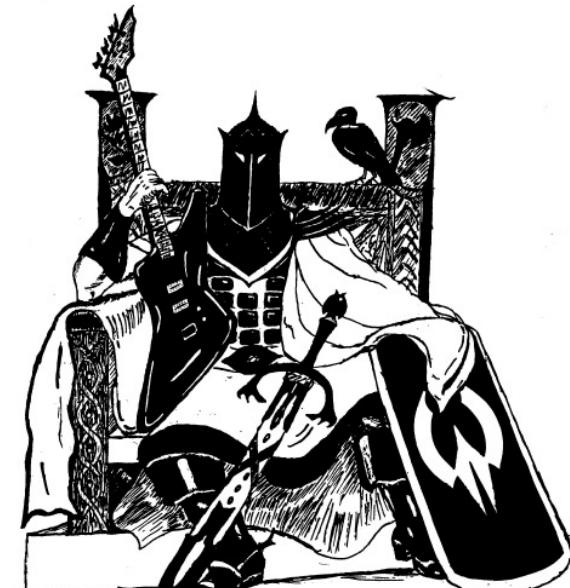
[Source: 006\_Whet\_Sutrop\_Live-Backstage-after (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

In particular, through the musical influences of Burkhard (git) and Hubertus (drums), the style had changed in the meantime. Newly composed songs went in this time, inspired by other groups, toward "speed metal".

The track "Seven Seals" was originated in this period. Other lyrics by Stefan, were much more demanding. The further development of the band had been started.

So the members wanted to find a new name for the old, new and future material, which did not yet exist. "Ancient Metal" was born.

Distinguished Axel drew the WHETSTONE Mascot "**Kalle**"



[Source: 007\_Whet\_AncientMetal\_Kalle\_logo (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

At that time it was common, that bands visually distinguished from others.



[Source: 009\_Whet\_AncientMetal\_PromofotoA (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

Matching to the name "Ancient Metal", WHETSTONE presented themselves also live in their own and new stage-out-fits.



[Source: 010\_Whet\_AncientMetal\_PromofotoB (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

Audiences and media-critics responded differently.

**13.05.-05.15.1988,  
Studio recordings for the 2nd WHETSTONE-Demo "Ancient Metal"**



[Source: 008\_Whet\_AncientMetal\_Cover (C) wieland-promotion, Wilnsdorf, Germany 2016 (P)]

The recordings of the 4 tracks "The Massage", "Incubus", "Seven Seals" and "In The Night" were performed now with 8-track technology.

Involved persons were

Stefan Neuser	vocals
Burkhard Schmallenbach	git
Martin Schlagner	git
Axel Büdenbender	bass
Hubertus Stricker	drums

Markus Schneider	Co-Production with WHETSTONE
Holger Giebel	Mix, Scene VI Studios victories.

With the release of demos managed WHETSTONE in September 1988 a positive vote in the young German HM-Magazine ROCK HARD.

After further gigs it came to the last joint gig on 18.03.1989.

After then, in July 1989, Stefan Neuser (vocals) and Martin Schlagner (git) left the group, followed by Axel Büdenbender (bass).

Burkhard Schmallenbach (git) and Hubertus Stricker (drums) remained and could find with Alex Wintjes (bass) a new member to complete WHETSTONE again.

About a 3/4-year the last three Whetstoner's examined other musicians. But without success for a suitable voice, **WHETSTONE resolved in the beginning of 1990, about 5 1/2 years after the establishment.**

The ex-WHETSTONE members found afterwards again and as:

Stefan Neuser	(vocals)	theIMMORTAL
Burkhard Schmellenbach	(git)	common band projects with Alex Wintjes and Hubertus Stricker later theIMMORTAL
Martin Schlagner	(bass)	theIMMORTAL
Axel Williams [Büdenbender]	(bass)	WYCKED
Alex Wintjes	(bass)	common bond projects with Burkhard Schmellenbach and Hubertus Stricker
Hubertus Stricker	(drums)	common bond projects with Burkhard Schmellenbach and Alex Wintjes,

of course, there were following activities in other bands or so-called "creative breaks".

Individual members are still musically active:

Burkhard Schmellenbach

*B HUMAN! (git)*

<http://bhuman.jimdo.com>



Martin Schlagner

*(currently in studio construction and bass)*

<http://wieland-promotion.de>



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