THE GERMAN POLICE

Prepared jointly by M.I.R.S. (London Branch) and E.D.S. in consultation with the War Office (M.I. 14(d))
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Generalkommandantur. As explained in para. 18, Police Forces in a Generalkommandat (sub-District Commander of Police) are under the command of an SSPl (Sub-District Commander of SS and Police). The KdS is the representative on his staff for Sipo (SD) and PS affairs and therefore holds the same position on a smaller scale as his superior, the BBS, does for the whole occupied territory.

In the course of the war, as more and more countries were overrun by the German Army, the Sipo and SD were ordered to take charge of security and police duties in the newly occupied regions. This included such special tasks as the tracking down of subversive elements, the taking of hostages and the prompt rounding up of Jews and Freemasons. For this purpose mobile task forces, known as Sipo and SD Kommandos and Einsatzkommandos were formed to operate under officers called Kommandeure der Sicherheitspolizei and des SD. Each of these units was assigned a certain area. After the initial period of occupation they usually became more and more static, setting up Headquarters in the largest town of the area with parts of the unit, known as Teilkommandos, established as outposts in smaller towns. The organisation of these Kommandos, Einsatzkommandos and Teilkommandos is largely the same as the one previously described for the Headquarter units in the occupied countries. Thus the SS, whereas inside Germany the Gestapo, Kripo and SD have their separate static Headquarter and their separate chain of command, in occupied countries they appeared in combined Headquarters with a much greater degree of unity between the various Abteilungen. KdS and their (Einsatz-) Kommandos were established in France, for example, at Angers, Bordeaux, Chalon/s/Marne, Dijon, Limoges, Lyons, Marseilles, Montpellier, Nancy, Orléans, Paris, Poitiers, Rennes, Rouen, St. Quentin, Toulouse and Vichy. As one after the other of these occupied territories was liberated by the Allies many of these Einsatzkommandos again became mobile, at first establishing Headquarters closer to the Reich borders and finally even setting up their offices inside the Reich.

As the military situation in Germany deteriorates the presence of these Kommandeure within the Reich itself will become even more logical. Indeed, evidence already exists that a KdS has already been established in the Reich (an occupied territory) to take over and unify the work of the formerly separate Gestapo, Kripo and SD Headquarters.

In addition, Kommandeure der Sipo und des SD have existed for several years inside Greater Germany where combatting of partisan activities made a local concentration of Sipo and SD power necessary. Kommandeure of this kind were established in Veldes/Krain and Marburg/Untersteimermark, former Yugoslav territory which was annexed by Germany.

94. Sipo and SD Communications: Radio

From the very beginning the SS and the Police considered communications to be a matter of the utmost importance. They owe a considerable part of their power to their control of communications, which they expanded enormously after the "Advent to Power" in 1933. It is not surprising, therefore, that the organisation of signals personnel and the quality of their equipment have always been of the highest order, invariably surpassing those of the Wehrmacht or Civil Authorities; thus, many Police W/T and R/T operators are capable of remarkably high speed transmitting and receiving over protracted periods.

They are trained in such establishments as the Funkschule der Sipo und des SD (W/T School of the Sipo and SD) at Castle Grünberg in the Protectorate, the Schufer Nachrichtenschule (Protection Police Signal School) at Eilenburg, the Polizeischule für Nachrichtenhelferinnen (Police School for Signal Operators) at Erfurt and the SS Nachrichtenschule (SS Signals School) at Unna.

The basic system of German Police wireless transmission is the "Polfunk," a dense network of immobile W/T stations situated all over Germany and controlled by the General Wireless Stations in Berlin (Hauptfunktatelle Berlin). This network is made up of Leitjunktstellen (Regional Control Wireless Stations) and Nebenleitjunktstellen (Branch Wireless Stations) of which there are one or two in every Wachtbezirk. The Nebenleitjunktstellen each have a number of smaller Funkstellen (Sub-Sections) working with them. There is also a large number of small transmitting stations, known as Gendarmeriefunktstellen (Rural Police Wireless Stations) located in the mountainous country of former Austria.

The Polfunk system is operated by the Orpo, but is at the disposal of all branches of the German Police. The Kripo makes extensive use of it for Fahndungen (Searches for Wanted Persons) and for other important work. The Inspectorate of the Internationale Kriminalpolizeiliche Kommission (IKPK—International Criminal Police Commission) is employed. For details of the Polfunk network and the IKPK noun code see Annex F.

The SS and SD also utilise the work of immobile W/T stations, but this is not nearly so extensive as the Polfunk. Very few of its stations are in Germany proper, the majority being established in occupied territories, especially in Norway and the East; the reason for this is probably the comparatively poor and uncertain communications in those countries.

It is interesting to note some of the instructions which are issued to Sipo and SD personnel with regard to this radio network. For instance, it is specifically stated that wireless is only to be used where no substitute or other means of communication are available, or where the message concerned is addressed to a limited number of recipients. Messages of high security classification, such as "Geheime Reichssache" (Top Secret), can be sent by wireless only in the absence of means other than wireless of communications are available, and must of course be sent in code. At no time may messages received by wireless be re-transmitted to the final recipient over ordinary postal telephone lines; the recipient may only be told over the telephone that there is a message for him. Further instructions state that wireless messages should contain no more than 20 type-written lines and must be in telegraphic style, omitting all reference to file numbers or any other identification. Other details concerning the Sipo and SD wireless network, and the full text of the German instructions are given in Annex F.

The Sipo and SD also own a considerable amount of mobile two-way wireless equipment of excellent quality which they can, if need be, supplement by similar high quality transmitting and receiving gear held by the Orpo as well as by paramilitary organisations. The NSKK, the HJ and the SA maintain signals units of their own which are well equipped, though their personnel is probably not as highly trained as that of the Sipo and SD.
95. Telephone and Teletype

For long-distance communications the Sipo and SD use mainly underground single-wire or multiwire telephone and teletype channels, each wire carrying a multi-load of anything from 5 to 12 circuits. It is not certain whether these lines are owned and maintained by the Sipo and SD or whether they are rented from the postal authorities, but as the maintenance of an independent network, spread all over Germany and some of the occupied countries as well, would mean an enormous expenditure of money and manpower, it is more likely that the lines are merely rented and actually belong to the regular postal network. Recently captured documents stressing the importance of security and warning all Sipo and SD personnel against the use of telephone and teletype when transmitting classified information in plain language, seem to bear out this assumption.

For local, short-distance communications, however, the Sipo and SD undoubtedly possess lines of their own. Those lines, partly telephone and partly teletype, connect for instance many Grenzpolizeiposten of the Gestapo with the controlling Grenzpolizeikommissariat, or Kriminalreviere with the local Kripo Headquarters. It is believed that many of these lines are scrambled.

No documents showing the location and inter-connections of Sipo and SD telephone lines have come to hand up to the present time, but an original German list of August, 1941, plus several amendments up to 1943 have yielded details of the Sipo and SD teletype network (see Annex E). This network not only connects the main Headquarters of the Sipo and SD, but its branch-lines also reach the various regional and district offices. Direct teletype lines provide connections with the private residences of HITLER and HIMMLER, the Foreign Office, the Reich Ministry of the Interior, and the Headquarters of HIMMLER's Personal Staff. Other teletype lines are extended to the Concentration Camps and the Volksgerichtshof (People's Court) as well as to the Headquarters of the Military Districts and the Gestapo Frontier Police Posts.

It must be assumed that a number of new lines have since been added, probably extending branch lines down to most, if not all of the lower echelons of the Sipo and SD as well as to the branch offices of the Militärisches Amt (M.I. Bureau).

Complete control of all the German Police communications networks is a necessity for the Allies, since it will mean control over the most dangerous potential source of opposition which the Occupying Forces are likely to encounter. In this connection it is significant that, according to a number of sources, HIMMLER's forces are collecting lightweight and mobile signal equipment of all types, including lorry driven wireless transmitters and field receiving sets. Depots for such equipment are reported to be located near Concentration Camps (e.g. Oranienburg).

The networks of the Gestapo, Kripo and other German Police services, when fully controlled, would also constitute a most useful system of inter-communication between the various Allied regional Headquarters and other military units.