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Concerning the Gendarmerie  
Military Program

Report No: EAV-1277

Date of Information: 14 January 1954

Place Acquired: Austria, Vienne

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Source: Austrians with extensive contacts in official and officer circles.

1. Johann Linsbauer and Theodor ~~Ingl~~sedler, chief and deputy respectively of Abteilung 5/Sch of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, were promoted to Gendarmerie colonels as of 1 January 1954. Each formerly held the civil service grade of Regierungsrat.
2. Abteilung 5/Sch, which is the administrative office for the Gendarmerie military training program, has two main subdivisions and an office administrative staff. The office administration, or Kanzleistelle, is directed by Oberkontrollor Schubert (fnu); the two main subdivisions are the Personalgruppe and the Intendanzgruppe.
3. Personnel matters of the military Gendarmerie are administered by the Personal gruppe, which includes Gendarmerie Major Hubert Wingelbauer, Gendarmerie Rittmeister Karl Schrems and Gendarmerie Rittmeister Dr. Herbert Sederl. Its tasks include assembling of files on candidates proposed for the training program, obtaining security investigations of these candidates from the Staatspolizei and maintaining personnel files on all officers active in the military program.
4. The Intendanzgruppe, which is concerned with supply and budget problems, includes Gendarmerie Oberstleutnant Emil Pirchl, Gendarmerie Stabs-Rittmeister Marboe (fnu) and Gendarmerie Rittmeister Eugen Szamcic.
5. Excluding Abteilung 5/Sch and Pensionsabteilung A in the Ministry of Finance, which has handled the planning and administration of the military Gendarmerie program and which still is responsible for planning, all personnel in the program are located in various schools in western Austria. The following units exist:
  - a. Oberoesterreich I, Linz/Ebelsberg - This school consists of one "Bataillon" (approximately 800 men) and one armored car reconnaissance company ("Fahreinheit", about 80 men, equipped with M-8 armored cars).
  - b. Oberoesterreich II, Linz/Ebelsberg - School; consisting of one "Bataillon".

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- c. Steiermark, Graz (headquarters only) - School; consisting of one "Bataillon" spread out among several Styrian communities.
  - d. Kaernten, Klagenfurt (headquarters) - School; consisting of one "Bataillon" and one "Fahreinheit", quartered in a number of locations.
  - e. Tirol I, Innsbruck - School; consisting of part of a "Bataillon" and one "Fahreinheit".
  - f. Tirol II, Woergl - School; consisting of part of a "Bataillon" (Tirol II was formed by splitting the "Bataillon" originally stationed exclusively in Innsbruck).
  - g. Gendarmerie Abteilung D, Stadl-Paura/Oberoesterreich - This is the supply organization for the military units.
  - h. Gendarmerie Abteilung K, Enns/Oberoesterreich - This is the officers' training school, under the command of Gendarmerie-Major Erwin Starkl. The Adjutant is Gendarmerie-Oberleutnant Dr. Gunther Sedmak. Chief instructor is Gendarmerie-Rittmeister Foltin (fnu); who instructs infantry tactics. (Foltin reportedly commanded a defense unit during the Allied siege of Monte Cassino, for which he received the Iron Cross, 1st Class.) Approximately 30 officer candidates are now training in the school, all of them young men without war experience; the training program lasts one year.
6. The estimated total number of troops in the various units named above is about 4,500 men. The officer corps (including staff elements in Vienna) totals approximately 130. Of this 130, about 30 are doctors and administrative officials, so that the total number of troop commanders is about 100.<sup>2</sup>
  7. With the exception of Hofrat Emil Liebitzky, who is the head of the Gendarmerie military program, all of the high-ranking officers and all troop commanders in the program are professional military men with at least some experience in World War II. There are a small number of company-grade officers in administration and supply who have no more than Gendarmerie training and experience.
  8. Considering all of those so far trained and making some allowance for losses, there are 5,000 non-coms potentially available to the military program; the ratio of non-coms to troops is about 1:10. Expert opinion holds that the limited number of non-coms is the most serious weakness of the military Gendarmerie program at the present time.<sup>3</sup>
  9. So far, there have been no promotions of officers within the military training program. As a rule, grades in the military Gendarmerie are

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bestowed on candidates at the time of appointment to the program on the basis of former military rank. It is expected that the chief factor in determining promotions, once they begin, will be time in grade. This would include military service in the former Bundesheer, the Wehrmacht and the current program. As the program is organized, it appears that Liebitzky would have to initiate recommendations for promotion and that the final decision of them would be made in Abteilung 4 (General Personnel Administration) of the Bundeskanzleramt.

10. As a result of Linsbauer's appointment as chief of Abteilung 5/Sch, Polizeioberst Ferdinand Linhart (SPOe co-representative with Linsbauer on the so-called "Vienna Committee"), who has been attached to the office of the Sicherheitsdirektion Wien, has been moved up to take over Linsbauer's previous position on the Secretariat of the Minister of Interior.

1. Field Comment: Presumably only officers are meant.
2. Source Comment: The resulting officer to troops ratio is a disappointing 1:45, instead of the usual requirement of 1:20 or even 1:15, a fact which accounts for some of the weaknesses in the program. The one-year training program for officers is considered far from ideal; the organizational chiefs would prefer a minimum of three years' training, which the pressure for fast expansion will not permit.
3. Source Comment: The program has achieved its original goal of a trained reserve of troops, only to an unsatisfactory degree. This is due to the fact that, although Gendarmerie recruits are well paid, at about 1,000 schillings per month, plus board, room and uniforms, there is little future for an aspiring, fully-trained recruit. Such a man may become a squad or platoon leader, at a slight increase in pay, but there his progress inevitably stops. In the absence of a Mittelschule certificate, he cannot hope to become an officer, no matter how conscientious and talented he may be. The result is a steady attrition of trained manpower, most of the trained men either accepting posts with the regular Gendarmerie or returning to civilian life and ceasing all further contact with the military. The total loss in this fashion has been estimated at a minimum of 1,000 men.

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