

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT	Organization and Equipment of Paramilitary Police

DATE DISTR. 7 December 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The paramilitary police (Polizei**er**eitschaften) was established by the German Administration of the Interior, upon orders of the Directorate for Internal Affairs of the SMA, in the early summer of 1948. The exact date of the new organization's formation was not known to source; additional food rations for members of the paramilitary and border police (Grenz und Polizei**er**eitschaften) were authorized by the German Economic Commission (DWK) on 5 July 1948.
2. The paramilitary police are organized on a uniform basis in each of the five Soviet Zone L**ä**nder. The chain of command extends from the German Administration of the Interior in Berlin-Wilhelmsruh through the Chiefs of Police of the states to the Bereitschaften in the field. The Bereitschaft, which has a Table of Organization strength of 250 men, is the basic administrative and operational unit of the paramilitary police.
3. The following diagram illustrates the chain of command of the paramilitary police:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(Deutsche Verwaltung des Inneren)

Department for Border and Paramilitary Police
 (Hauptabteilung Grenz und Polizeibereitschaften)

Land Police Chief *

Department for Border and Paramilitary Police
 (Abteilung "G" der Landespolizei)

Paramilitary Police Units **
 (Polizeibereitschaften)

Hundertschaft
 (Company)

Hundertschaft
 (Company)

Zug
 (Platoon)

ZugZugZug

Gruppe
 (Squad)

GruppeGruppe

* in each of the 5 Länder

** Number of these units varies in each Land

4. The basic paramilitary police unit, as stated before, consists of 250 men. Each of these units is organized on the following basis:

Chief of Bereitschaft Unit	1	
1st Deputy (Political Commissar)	1	
2nd Deputy (Functional 2nd in command)	1	
Chief of Staff	<u>1</u>	4
<u>Administrative Section</u>		
Personnel Clerk	1	
Bookkeeper	1	
Supply Section	3	
Cooks	3	
Ordnance Section	4	
Messenger Squad (motorcycles)	<u>6</u>	18
<u>Operational Personnel</u>		
Company Commanders	2	
Deputy Commanders (Political Commissars)	2	
Platoon Commanders	4	
Deputy Commanders (Political Commissars)	4	
Squad Leaders	12	
Assistant Squad Leaders	12	
Patrolmen	<u>192</u>	<u>228</u>
Authorized T/O Strength of "Bereitschaft" Unit		250

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and the so-called "Teller-Mütze" (similar to the U.S. Army's garrison cap). Rank insignia are worn by all ranks on grass-green shoulder straps. Following are the titles and the corresponding insignia of paramilitary police members:

Non-commissioned ranks

grass-green shoulder straps:

plain	Candidates
with one silver stripe	Wachtmeister
with one silver stripe and one star	Oberwachtmeister
with one silver stripe and two stars	Hauptwachtmeister
filled out with silver stripes interwoven with blue	Polizeimeister

Commissioned ranks

grass-green shoulder straps:

with four flat silver cords	Kommissar
with four flat silver cords and one star	Oberkommissar
with four flat silver cords and two stars	Polizeirat
filled out with interlaced silver cords	Oberpolizeirat

In addition to the shoulder insignia, officers may be recognized by the silver cap piping.

6. The paramilitary police are equipped with machine guns, submachine guns, carbines or rifles, and pistols. The following weapons were issued to a typical Bereitschaft unit in Brandenburg:

Machine guns, 7.9 mm caliber, M "08", water-cooled	5
Submachine guns, 7.9 mm caliber, M "44"	26
Pistols, (various caliber and manufacture)	25
Rifles, German Army standard Mauser "K 98"	192

The following initial issue of ammunition was made, with assurances that additional ammunition would be furnished for training as required:

150 rounds of ammunition per machine gun	
30 " " " " " submachine gun	
16 " " " " " pistol	
15 " " " " " rifle	

7. According to source, there is considerable talk about motorization of paramilitary police units and the issue of heavy weapons, such as tanks and artillery, but no such measures had been taken in Brandenburg by the end of October 1948. The present training program does not include courses on automobile maintenance nor on the use of heavy weapons; it consists mostly of general police training, such as elementary principles of police work, penal code, trade laws, and police laws. There is also extensive political indoctrination and exercises for special police actions in case of riots and civil disturbances. Weapons training is envisaged on a limited scale only: five shots per man per weapon are planned for familiarization yearly plus sharpshooting exercises twice yearly with fifteen shots per man on rifles and pistols and thirty to forty shots on machine and submachine guns.
8. Members of the paramilitary police are paid in accordance with civil service regulations of the state in which they serve. They also receive an additional fifteen per cent. of base pay. (A

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15 per cent.). The biggest inducement for recruits is the food ration, which is approximately twice that received by holders of Ration Card I (heavy workers). Members of the paramilitary police receive the following basic allowance daily in grams:

Bread	750
Cereal	125
Fat	35
Marmalade	30
Meat	85
Potatoes	900
Sugar	30
Vegetables	400
Cigarettes	10 each

9. According to source, standards for recruitment for the paramilitary police are rather strict, which is one explanation for the difficulties the German Administration of the Interior has encountered ~~in increasing~~ the proper number of candidates. In accordance with instructions of the SMA, the Personnel Section (Abteilung "P") of the GAI issued the following requirements for employment in the paramilitary police:

- a. Age: 18 to 45 years
- b. Height: 162 cm. minimum
- c. Good vision and physical condition
- d. Passing of intelligence test
- e. Satisfactory character references
- f. No former member of the NSDAP or its affiliated organizations
- g. No professional soldiers or former members of the Wehrmacht over rank of sergeant, unless recruited through the Free Germany Committee
- h. No former members of the Hitler police
- i. No Eastern refugees or resettled Germans
- j. No recent returnees from Western PW camps
- k. No former members of the SPD, CDU, or LDP

(Source Comment: Governmental pressure and very favorable salary and food allowances will probably bring the paramilitary police to its T/O strength in the near future. Most recruits, however, join for purely materialistic reasons and will not become a politically reliable force by any amount of indoctrination. About 50 per cent. of present strength consists of personnel recruited directly from prisoners of war camps in the U.S.S.R.)

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