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TOPIC Volkspolizei Dienststelle 2942 in Gotha 25X1A *July 1951*

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

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REMARKS

SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to 28 April 1951, Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) 2942 in Gotha was located in the Flak Kaserne and in the barracks installation in the Buergerau. All officers of the Bereitschaft without assignment, especially Unterkommissare, were billeted in the installation in the Buergerau where they received special training.
2. The VPD was organized into 3 infantry Kommandos of 300 to 350 police each, 1 artillery Kommando of about 300 police and 7 Sonderabteilungen of 60 to 80 police each. From January to April 1951, the unit received about 100 new police recruits.
3. The 1st of the seven Sonderabteilungen was an AAA unit, the 2d an AT artillery unit, the 3d an armored unit, the 4th a radio unit, the 5th a bicycle unit, the 6th a motorcycle unit, and the 7th an engineer unit. [REDACTED]
4. The artillery Kommando was organized into 4 Abteilungen and 1 headquarters Zug, the 1st and 2d Zug of each Abteilung composed of gun crews and the 3d Zug a headquarters unit. Each Abteilung was to be equipped with four guns.
5. The officers of the VPD included VP Inspekteur Vogel, (fnu), commanding officer, a veteran of the Spanish Civil War; VP Oberrat Just, (fnu), PK officer; VP Oberrat Schober, (fnu), director of training; VP Oberkommissar Krueger, (fnu), commanding officer of 4th Kommando and instructor of artillery training; and VP Kommissar Josef Hussmann, PK officer of 4th Kommando.
6. The VPD was equipped with infantry arms of all types, 1 Soviet 76.2-mm gun, 1 Soviet 122-mm gun, 1 German 88-mm AT gun; 1 T-34 tank, 1 German SP gun and 1 Soviet armored reconnaissance car. The heavy weapons were used only for training purposes. It was said that the unit would immediately be issued all weapons required in case of emergency. It was also said that the VPD would be allotted Soviet items of equipment upon completion of the Soviet maneuvers at Ohrdruf.
7. The artillery Kommando was scheduled to move to a tent camp near Altendambach (M 51/J 12) in late May 1951 for three or four weeks in order to receive field training there. Upon completion of this training the infantry Kommandos and the Sonderabteilungen were to move to the tent camp. **

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8. New personnel for the VPDs were processed in the Henne Kaserne in Erfurt, where they have been arriving at a rate of about 50 per day since late December 1950. The new VP recruits were subsequently reassigned to the various VPDs.

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~~_____~~ Comment. The information on location, equipment and officers of VPD in Gotha agrees with previous information. ~~_____~~

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However, the organization of the seven Sonderabteilungen mentioned in the present report deviates from that of other VPDs. It is believed that, although the VPD had only three Sonderabteilungen at first, it now has attained the standard organization. ~~_____~~ Bicycle Abteilung and motorcycle Abteilung probably now constitute two Zuege of the reconnaissance Sonderabteilung. It is believed that one of the Sonderabteilungen is a mortar unit.

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~~_____~~ Comment. The method of moving the VPD elements to a tent camp for training cycles has been previously observed with other VPDs, such as the VPDs in Weissenfels and Gera. This method is an adaption of the Soviet practice of conducting summer training at camps.

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~~_____~~ Comment. The arrival of about 50 recruits per day for the six VPDs in Land Thuringia would constitute a total of 6,000 recruits, i.e. an increase by 1,000 police for each VPD, from January to April 1951. This figure therefore appears grossly exaggerated.

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