

Germany (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT NO

25X1

INTELLIGENCE

Reorganization of the German Volkspolizei

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REMARKS

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1. The reorganization of Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) 2915 in Halle began on 10 January 1952. The previously existing 2nd, 3rd and 6th Sonderabteilungen were integrated into infantry Kommandos. The following organizational structure resulted; 1st through 3rd Abteilungen were rifle units, with each having 45 carbines, 18 submachine guns and 18 light machine guns; 4th Abteilung was a heavy machine gun unit with 3 model 08/15 heavy machine guns and 1 model Maxim heavy machine gun; 5th Abteilung was a mortar unit with 3 medium mortars of German and Soviet origin; 1 communication Zug; 1 engineer Zug; and 1 heavy mortar Zug with 3 Soviet 122-mm mortars. 25X1 nothing about the integration into other units of the remaining Sonderabteilungen, namely: the 1st, a reconnaissance unit; the 4th, an AT artillery unit; the 5th, an AAA unit; and the 7th, a tank unit. The 4th Kommando (Arty) consisted of a headquarters Zug and five Abteilungen. *

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2. There were plans to raise the previous VPDs to the status of Soviet brigades or divisions by increasing their authorized strengths. The existing Kommando (battalion) was to have regimental strength; the Abteilung (company) was to be increased to battalion strength; and the Zug (platoon) to company strength. **

3. The following key officers of VPD 2915 were identified:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| VP Kommandeur Kiep (fnu) | Commanding officer |
| VP Kommandeur Mehle (fnu) | Deputy commanding officer and PK chief |
| VP Oberrat Mueller (fnu) | Head of the party control commission |
| VP Kommandeur Schwarz (fnu) | Chief of staff |
| VP Kommandeur Danschke (fnu) | Director of training and instruction |
| VP Kommandeur Larisch (fnu) | Administrative officer |
| VP Rat Herrmann (fnu) | Party secretary |
| VP Rat Liedtke (fnu) | Liaison officer to the Ministry of State Security |

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VP Rat Andres (fnu)	Commanding officer of the 1st Kommando
VP Rat Meisel (fnu)	Commanding officer of the 2d Kommando
VP Rat Kuetzeler (fnu)	Commanding officer of the 3d Kommando
VP Rat Ast (fnu)	Commanding officer of the 4th Kommando
VP Kommandeur Kollitsch (fnu)	Previously chief instructor of armored training, disappeared some time ago and was not heard of again.

25X1 * Comment. The special components of the infantry Kommandos, such as the communication, engineer and mortar Zuege, have been reinforced by personnel detached from Sonderabteilungen of the respective branches of service. The 18 light machine guns constitute the total equipment of this type for three infantry Abteilungen. The artillery Kommando previously had only four Abteilungen.

25X1 ** Comment. It appears improbable that the hitherto existing VPDs should be reorganized into brigades or divisions. The personnel and materiel on hand at present are inadequate for activating as many as 24 divisions from the 24 VPDs existing today. However, other information indicates that groups of four VPDs each might be combined into a total of six divisions at a politically advantageous moment.

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