

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. []

TOPIC Strength, Armament and Fighting Qualities of the Soviet Zone German Police

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PAGES []
REMARKS []

1. Development

- a. The "alert police" units and the "border police" units were the only militarily organized and kaserne'd police units up to the spring of 1949.
- b. The concentration into kasernes of the Soviet Zone "safety police" was observed in the subsequent period.
- c. It can be inferred that the "alert police" units, being a police force which may be committed in case of emergency, had to fill the vacuum between the initial phase of the activation of a military police force and the completion of the concentration into kasernes of large police units.
- d. The trends in the future development of the police seem to indicate that the "alert police" units and the kaserne'd "safety police" units may be blended into some sort of a "police army".
- e. The "border police", contingents of which were, and are still being, reassigned to the "alert police" and the kaserne'd "safety police" units, has remained a self-sustaining police force, independent of the "alert police" and the kaserne'd "safety police".
- f. The duty of the "municipal police" and "traffic police" is by now performed mostly by women police.

2. Strengths

a. Kaserne'd Police

The "alert police" consisted of 40 "alert police" units of 250 men each, i.e. a total of 10,000 police, in December 1948. The "safety police" which was not yet kaserne'd but was obviously scheduled to be kaserne'd and militarily trained, numbered about 58,000 men.

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[] the kasermed "alert police" and "safety police" units totaled 88,000 men on 1 August 1949. Since the reporting agents failed to supply detailed information on police in some parts of the Soviet zone of Germany, the total of kasermed "alert police" and "safety police" personnel is estimated to be at least 100,000. This estimate indicates that the kasermed "alert police" and "safety police" has been doubled in strength since the end of 1948.

b. "Border Police"

According to careful calculation, the "border police" personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany numbered about 14,000 in the spring of 1949. The continual observation in the meantime of the known "border police" posts indicated that the "border police" personnel in the Soviet zone of Germany had increased by 100 to 150 percent. New "border police" posts and sector headquarters were also established in numerous towns. It is assumed that the "border police" personnel was not only reinforced in the observed border sectors, but in all other border sectors of the Soviet Zone of Germany. According to careful calculation the present strength of the "border police", including the border police area headquarters (Grenzpolizei-Bereitschaften), is estimated at about 40,000. This estimate indicates that the "border police" personnel has been tripled since the spring of 1949.

c. Other Police

Pertinent data on the strengths of the criminal, political, railroad, etc, police are lacking. It does not appear premature to infer that the mentioned police categories were increased by about 100 percent, analogous to the increase of the kasermed "alert police" and "safety police". As the personnel of the mentioned police categories totaled about 20,000 in December 1948, the present strength is estimated at about 40,000/

d. The strength of the entire Soviet Zone police is estimated in the following minimum figures:

(1) Kasermed "alert police" and "safety police":	100,000
(2) "Border police":	40,000
(3) Other police categories:	40,000
Total:	<u>180,000</u>

3. Armament

a. On the whole, the kasermed "alert police" and "safety police" units have so far been equipped only with light infantry weapons. Only a very few agents reported that some units were issued 76.2-mm antitank guns of Soviet origin.

b. Police units equipped with infantry guns and mortars are said to be located in EUDIGHEUSEN (H 54/F 53) and BRANLSPOFF (H 54/P 15).

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c. No artillery pieces and tanks have been observed with police units.

d. The following information on ammunition issued to police units:

The CIA, KARLSHORST, ordered the following ammunition to be shipped to the KRANZFELTZ (W 55/ 64) ammunition dump up to 15 August 1949, and to be placed at the disposal of the police in the Province of Brandenburg:

- 88-mm antiaircraft ammunition: 153 tons (i.e. 15,300 shells, if one shell weighs 10 kg)
- Hand grenades: 19,300 ea
- Antitank mines: 30 tons
- Engineer explosives: 107 tons
- Infantry ammunition: 1,000 tons
- 88 and 120 mm mortar ammunition: 1,000 tons

More shipments of ammunition are to arrive.

e. It is said that artillery ammunition for the Brandenburg police is being stockpiled in the JUMPERBOG (52/E 69) ammunition depot.

f. It is planned to equip the police with infantry guns up to 31 December 1949. *

4. Training

a. The mass of the kaserned "alert police" and "safety police" has been trained with infantry weapons, such as carbines, pistols, submachine guns, light machine guns, heavy machine guns and mortars.

b. Some police units were trained in antitank defense.

c. The GROSSELEITER (W 52/A 01) "Shaelman Brigade" is said to be trained with all modern Soviet weapons, including tanks.

d. Next to military training, political indoctrination on Marxist lines is emphasized for the kaserned "alert police" and "safety police". Technical police subjects are dealt with only superficially.

5. Fighting qualities

a. The fighting qualities of the kaserned "alert police" and "safety police" depend on the composition of personnel.

b. The police personnel may be classified into the following categories:

(1) Young (18 to 25-year-old) Socialist Unity Party members, fanatic Marxists, thoroughly indoctrinated (the majority).

(2) Returned P's, older men up to 35 years of age, some of whom are graduates of "intifu" courses, others opportunists only, all of them experienced in military matters.

(3) Soviet Zone residents, 18 to 25 years of age, who evaded the compulsory draft for industrial work (especially in the uranium mines near AUE) by joining the police.

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(4) High-ranking officers, fanatic Communists, some of whom are outstanding experts in the military field.

c. If these categories are taken into consideration as to their numerical strength and potentialities, the pro-Soviet element prevails in the Soviet Zone police. In view of both the almost complete net of eavesdroppers and informants and the increasing success of the political indoctrination within the police, it can be stated that the hardened "alert police" and "safety police" is growing into a military instrument of high striking power in the hands of a Soviet-submissive Soviet Zone German Government.

Comment:

* It is assumed that the police in each of the other Soviet Zone provinces were issued as much ammunition as the police in the Province of Brandenburg.

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