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early 1945

Source - 2 Season File

THE RSHA IN OCCUPIED OR NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

German Intelligence Service

Within Germany, the central control over the whole field of police activity is secured through the HOHERER SS UND POLIZEIFUEHRER in each Wehrkreis. In occupied territory, the pattern is similar. Each occupied country, or defined area of the military front, has an immediate representative of Himmler, an H SSu.Pf. However, now, his functions and those of his officers are directly executive. He represents the primary police and is the actual administrator of the German police force within the occupied country. He is the delegate of the military governor or the civil administrator on all questions of security. His police functions are performed by the BEFEHLSHABER DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI and BEFEHLSHABER DER ^NORDNUNGSPOLIZEI.

The office of the BdS is of ever-increasing importance. He is directly responsible for the political security of the country, and his activities may include anything from counter-espionage to actual conflict with guerillas. He has the responsibility for the detection and arrest of enemy agents, and for the penetration of underground organization.

In the hierarchy of the RSHA, the BdO is junior to the BdS. His work usually consists of supervising for German interests the activities of the national police force of the occupied country.

Under the BdS is a headquarters office, which contains ABTEILUNGEN corresponding to the first six AMTER in Berlin.

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In Germany itself, the Gestapo, Kripo, and SD, although under a common headquarters, remain almost entirely separate. Abroad, they are much more closely merged. However, while AMT VI officers are subordinate to the BdS and his superior, the H SSu.Pf., nevertheless, they frequently report to Berlin and receive their orders from Berlin. In many ways, the work of AMT VI officials is kept quite separate from that of other RSHA personnel. The AMT VI official is political advisor to the military governor and the German civil administrator. He is responsible for seeing that the administration of the country follows Party doctrine. He is also Himmler's local spy.

In a neutral country, the senior representative of the RSHA, whose position corresponds to that of the BdS in an occupied territory, is the police attache of the German Embassy. There is in each neutral country a complete SD Stelle, whose functions include political surveyance of local German institutions, liaison with local police, political fifth-column activities, political espionage, and CE work directed against other intelligence service operating in the area.

Briefly, the functions of the six AMTS are thought to be as follows:

AMT I and AMT II: Administration.

AMT III: Administration and direction of the SD in Germany.

It watches any manifestations of political activity which might be inimical to the Nazi Party. This AMT is particularly interested in cultural, economic, health, sport, religious, press, propaganda, and legal activities in relation to the Nazi conception and movement.

It is not executive.

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ABTEILUNG III - the representative of AMT III outside Germany - watches over the activities of Germans in its area, and studies the morale and political sympathies of the local populace with regard to Nazi Party conceptions.

AMT IV: The old Gestapo AMT.

Has probably absorbed ABT III. CE-proper was the work of ABT III. Political investigation that of AMT IV.

Today, AMT IV includes investigation of espionage, underground movements, Jews, Communists, etc. It runs infiltration agents.

It is not concerned with trends of ^h thought, but with collection of information and executive action against persons, organizations, parties, and groups.

Some of the sub-sections are thought to be the following:

IV-A: Communists and other Left-Wing groups.

IV-B: Jewish Section.

IV-C: Frontier protection, passports, visas. Possibly has a sub-section concerned with hostages.

IV-E: CE, and penetration of Allied organizations. Is particularly active in occupied or military areas. Has presumably taken over the work of Abwehr III.

AMT V: Entirely concerned with criminal police matters.

However, criminal police matters are differentiated from the activities of the so-called Uniform Police (Ordnungspolizei).

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AMT VI: The original and main task of AMT VI was secret

political intelligence

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As a corollary⁶ to this, AMT VI indulges in fifth-column and subversive activities, and, to a large extent, duplicates or has taken over the work of ABT II of the Abwehr in training and dispatching saboteurs, and fomenting insurrection.

AMT VI is divided into at least the following subdivisions, but these subdivisions are not necessarily carried into the ABT VI abroad:

VI-A: Administration.

VI-B: Western Europe

1. Holland
2. Belgium
3. France
4. Spain
5. Portugal
6. Scandinavia

VI-C: Central Europe and the Near East

- 1 - 9. not known, but includes Bulgaria and Hungary
10. Turkey
11. Iraq
12. Iran

VI-D: United Kingdom and the American Continent (and British Dominions ?)

1. Canada
2. United States
3. Mexico
4. South America
- ? United Kingdom

VI-E: Italy (and Switzerland) (Balkans ?)

VI-F: Training.

VI-G: Documentary. (Falsification of documents, photography, copying, etc.)

VI-H: Greece and Balkans ?

VI-I: (functions unknown.)

VI-S: Special Enterprises. (Prepares and schools agents, T/T operators and saboteurs.)

VI-Z: Russia and Africa. Perhaps also India and China ?

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VI-Wi: Economics. (Wirtschaft)

7: Transportation Section. (Fahrbereitschaft)

Under the Bds are a number of regional or area KOMMANDEUR DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI, with the rank of OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER, in charge of:

- (1) Fixed DIENSTELLEN DER SIPO UND SD in the main centers, with AUSSENSTELLEN in places of lesser importance; and
- (2) EINSATZKOMMANDOS DER SIPO UND SD in operation areas.

When motivated by military necessity, these DIENSTELLEN and AUSSENSTELLEN become transferred into KOMMANDOS. The EINSATZKOMMANDOS, composed of about sixty men, may form part of larger EINSATZGRUPPEN, under the control of the Bds.

The departmental divisions of the RSHA are in the main observed in the DIENSTELLEN or in the EINSATZKOMMANDOS, and the ABTEILLUNGEN are represented in the EINSATZKOMMANDOS for executive action, although the distinction is often blurred.

In zones of military action, the RSHA attaches units to a field army, but they are not in any way subordinate to the OKW, or are they primarily concerned with operational information. The units are attached to ensure the security of conquered territory, to obtain political and economic information, and to direct political subversion. Their liaison is with the appropriate I.c official, but control proceeds from RSHA headquarters in Berlin and they are not at the service of the military formation to which they are attached.

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This field organization is modified to accommodate conditions of advance and retreat. During an advance (or possibly when military operations are static), the RSHA is organized into EINSATZGRUPPEN commanded by an SS BRIGADEFUEHRER or OBERFUEHRER, whose position is similar to that of a BdS. Each GRUPPE is divided into a number of EINSATZKOMMANDOS, which, in turn, are divided into TEILKOMMANDOS.

The functions of the EINSATZGRUPPEN are concerned only with security as interpreted by the RSHA. They round up Jews, Communists, enemy officials in newly occupied areas. They investigate political espionage, are responsible for interrogation, etc. of civilians, and are active against partisans.

Offensive espionage and political subversion, the work of AMT VI, is often kept apart from the activities of an EINSATZGRUPPE. These activities of AMT VI are carried out by SONDERKOMMANDOS of two types:

- (1) HAUPTKOMMANDOS, attached to army groups, and
- (2) AUSSENKOMMANDOS, attached to lower formations.

These KOMMANDOS are linked to GRUPPEN and are theoretically responsible to each commanding officer, but are actually almost completely independent.

During a retreat, this organization is adapted to the needs of a field army. The BdS becomes advisor to the commanding chief of the army, instead of to the military governor or civil administrator. The KdS in charge of district or region continues his normal functions, except that his EINSATZKOMMANDO may be attached to a military formation.

In retreat, the functions of SONDERKOMMANDOS also change. Political subversion is no longer either useful or practical, and therefore, the

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SONDERKOMMANDOS are used for straightforward military intelligence, that is to say, the work of Abwehr I.

AMT VI has also taken over considerable sabotage work. Such operations are directed from the office of the BdS, rather than an EINSATZ-KOMMANDO in the field.

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The evolution of the RSHA in Italy is illustrative of most phases of RSHA activities outside of Germany itself. Prior to the Italian armistice, Italy was a German ally, and therefore, Nazi Party espionage in that country had to function under diplomatic cover however obvious the cover may have been.

At that time, the only SD office in Italy was in Rome, under Obersturabannfuhrer KAPPLER, who was police attache at the German Embassy. KAPPLER's position was thus similar to that of the BdS in an occupied territory.

Standartenfuhrer

The AMT VI man attached to the Embassy was DR. EUGENIO DOLLMANN, who at that time had the rank of Major, but has since been promoted to Standartenfuhrer, or full Colonel. As is usual with most AMT VI men, the work of DR. DOLLMANN was kept almost completely separate from the rest of the work under KAPPLER.

After the armistice, Italy passed rapidly into the position of being a German-occupied country, and the usual RSHA occupation setup came into being.

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The H SSu.Pf. for Italy was GENERAL KARL WOLF. His office was in the PALAZZO SINISCALCHI, Verona.

The Bds was DR. SS BRIGADEFUEHRER UND GENERAL MAJOR DER POLIZEI HARSTER, whose office was in the SCALA BUILDING, Verona.

The Bdo was probably DR. SS UNTERSTURMFUEHRER SEGNA, who was known to have been the immediate assistant and deputy for GENERAL HARSTER, and whose main work consisted of supervising the Italian police force.

It is probable that during this time, the first six AMTS of the RSHA were represented in ABTEILUNGEN on the staff of the BDS in Verona. It is known that ABT II, the administrative section, was in the charge of HAUPSTURMFUEHRER, or STURMBANNFUEHRER RADELHERR.

ABT III was represented on the EINSATZKOMMANDO, Rome, and therefore, probably also existed in Verona.

ABT IV was probably headed by STURMBANN FUEHRER KRANEBITTER, who, until the end of 1943 had been in Bolzano. STURMBANNFUEHRER SCHWINGHAMMER has also been mentioned as being in charge of ABT IV, Verona, as well as serving with ABT VI, Verona.

As the distinctions in the field between Gestapo and Kripo - AMTS IV and V - are not very clear, it is possible that there was no high-ranking official representing AMT V. OBERSCHARFUEHRER LAHR was KRIMINALKOMMISSAR at the PALAZZO ASSICURAZIONE, Verona.

ABT VI-E (the section dealing with Italy) was headed by DR. STURMBANNFUEHRER BEGUS, Regierungsrat.

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Serving under the B&S were at least four EINSATZKOMMANDOS:

1. Rome: under KAPPLER, who, at the time of the armistice abandoned his cover position in the Embassy and became KdS of the EINSATZKOMMADO, Rome.
2. Florence: (KdS DR.) GOEBL.
3. Milan: (KdS OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER) RAUF.
4. Trieste: (KdS OBERSTURMBANNFUEHRER) WEIMANN.

There were also smaller offices in Venice, Turin, Bologna, Genoa, and Bolzano.

Today, Italy is a zone of active military operations. The German armies are retreating through areas that contain hostile population. Therefore, security behind their lines, and post-occupational networks in areas to be evacuated are of ever-increasing importance.

There are indications that, in the late spring or summer, Italy was divided into security districts (SICHERUNGSGEBIET) which may correspond to certain military zones, in the same manner in which security is controlled in each WEHRKREIS within Germany. Thus, instead of having one H SSu.Pf. in Italy, as is usual in most occupied countries, there seems to be at least four such positions in Italy-proper and one in Slovenia, which, for military purposes, seems to have been considered as a part of Italy.

The areas are divided as follows:

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1. Slovenia: Ljubljana, headquarters of (H SSu.Pf. GENERAL LEUTNANT SS GRUPPENFUEHRER) ROSENER / @ ROESSNER.

Serving under him as KdS is (DR. STURMBANNFUEHRER) JOSEF-VOGT.

2. Adriatic Coast: Trieste, headquarters of (H SSu.Pf. GENERAL LEUTNANT SS GRUPPENFUEHRER) ODILO GLOBOCNIK.

The fact that GLOBOCNIK had the rank of GRUPPENFUEHRER substantiates the fact that Trieste was, or is, an H SSu.Pf. headquarters.

STURMBANNFUEHRER WEIMANN, who had been KdS in Trieste, has been more recently reported as serving in the Low Countries.

3. South Tyrol (Alpenvorland): Bolzano, headquarters of the SS POLIZEIFUEHRER.
4. Lombardy, Piedmont, and Leguria, considered as West Italy: Monza, fifteen kilometers northeast of Milan, headquarters of (GENERAL LEUTNANT SS GRUPPENFUEHRER) TENFELD.
5. Tuscany, Emilia, and Venetia: Verona, headquarters of GENERAL OBERGRUPPENFUEHRER WOLF.

As far as is known, GENERAL WOLF was the ranking SS official in Italy. He held the rank of OBERGRUPPENFUEHRER, whereas the other officials in charge of security districts were Lieutenant Generals, with the rank of GRUPPENFUEHRER. The rank of GRUPPENFUEHRER is, however, higher than that usually held by a BdS, and it would seem that these men must be at least

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~~SECRET~~, although it may be that they were all under the orders of, and reported through, GENERAL WOLF, at least for purposes of coordination and supervision. This supposition is borne out by the fact that WOLF's title has twice been reported as HOECHSTER, rather than HOHERER. That is to say, "Highest SSu.Pf." rather than "Higher or Superior SSu.Pf."

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