

Permethrin, HCH, DDT

Permethrin, HCH, DDT

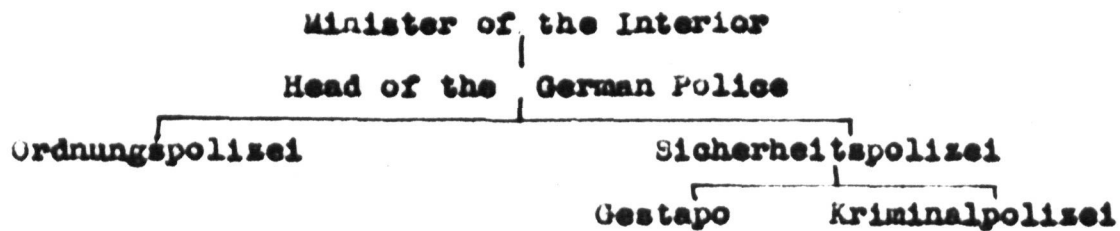
- (c) the S.S. (Schutz Staffel = Guard Section).

(a) The Gestapo

- Himmler did the like for the other States (Länder) and, in June 1936, it was Himmler, not Göring, who was appointed Head of the German Police under the Minister of the Interior. The police had, in fact, been 'nationalised' and the Reich had replaced the States (Länder) as the supreme controlling authority.

On June 26, 1936, Himmler issued a decree dividing control of the entire police force of the Reich between two Head Offices, both subordinate to himself. These two branches were the Ordnungspolizei (Order Police, or Orpo) and the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police, or Sipo). The latter was again subdivided into two branches, the Kriminalpolizei (Criminal Police, or Kripo) and the Gestapo (see above).

(11) Organisation. Organisationally, therefore, the Gestapo forms a branch of the Reich Ministry of the Interior, as thus:



The Head Office of the Gestapo is Amt IV (Office IV) of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Head Office for security of the Reich). It has regional and local offices under its Head Office.

(111) Function. The Gestapo deals by way of prevention or punishment with all political offences against the security of the Reich. Since all human activities were regarded as political by the Nazis any kind of opposition, even though we should describe it as economic, cultural or religious fell within the Gestapo's orbit. It should be added that a decision of the Supreme Administrative Court decided that a Prussian Law of Feb. 10, 1936, exempting the actions of the Gestapo from review by the Courts, was valid for the whole Reich. There was therefore no legal redress against any action taken by the Gestapo.

(iv) Methods. The method of procedure adopted by the Gestapo was to arrest any person suspected of hostility to the Nazis and, after "examination" in a local Gestapo H. . . to commit him to "protective custody" (under a decree of 2 March, 1933, in a concentration camp.

These camps were not organised and staffed directly by the Gestapo but by the S.S. Wirtschafts und Verwaltungsamt (S.S. Economic and Administrative Office) the fourth department of which was entitled Führung und Verwaltung der Konzentrationslager (Command and administration of Concentration Camps). The head of this last office appointed the Camp Commandants and the staffs were drawn from the S.S. volunteers to the S.S. Totenkopfverbände (Death's Head units), formed originally for this purpose in 1933.

But, though not on the surface directly responsible organisationally for the routine administration of the camps, there was one (or more) Political Commissar drawn from the political section of the Gestapo in each camp. Little is known directly about these officials. But they were better paid than the Camp Commandants themselves and it seems safe to guess that they were directly responsible for seeing that Gestapo H.Q. policy was executed and, therefore, for deciding the individual fate of the inmates.

(b) S.D. or Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers S.S. und der Partei

(i) History. This organisation seems to have been created in 1933 out of the S.S. Press and information service. In 1934 Hitler made it the exclusive information and security service of the Party.

(ii) Functions. The S.D. is an intelligence service. Its function is to collect information about all activities of individuals or groups which, in the Nazi sense, are 'subversive' i.e. hostile in any degree to Nazi policy. This includes surveillance of persons and groups within the Party itself.

(iii) Organisation. The S.D. has a staff of full-time paid officers and officials, assisted by voluntary helpers (ehrenamtliche Mitglieder) drawn from the ranks of the Allgemeine (General) S.S. It has regional and local offices [12 Leitabschnitte (Main Sections), 17 Absehnitte (Sections), 20 Hauptaussenstellen (20 Head Outposts),].

It is important to observe that the S.D., though formally and by its title a Party formation under the S.S., is very closely connected with the Gestapo. Himmler combined the offices and functions of Head of the German Police with those of Reichsführer S.S. and, at a lower level, the regional Inspectors of the Security Police are also Inspectors of the S.D.

Despite, therefore, physically and organisationally distinct Head Offices in Berlin the Gestapo and S.D., both manned by S.S. members, are very intimately connected and,

functionally, the S.S. provides the Gestapo with much of the information upon which it acts.

(c) The S.S.

(1) History. The S.S. was created, in 1925, out of the earlier small formations.

In January 1929 Himmler was appointed its Chief by Hitler. It expanded from 270 members to 52,000 between 1929-33, all specially selected as an élite bodyguard of fanatical Nazis, sworn to unquestioning obedience to Hitler. It was only made a special formation of the Party after the purge of June 30, 1934, when its members had struck down many of their old comrades of the P.A. Thereafter, though always remaining an élite specially selected and privileged, it has greatly expanded. By 1935 it contained some 250,000 men.

(11) Organisation. (a) The S.S., as a whole, is known as the Allgemeine (General) S.S. Its chief was Himmler, Reichsführer S.S., and it had a central office in Berlin, divided into 10 departments. It was also organised regionally on the basis of the Heimkreise (military districts) with subordinate local sections (Abschnitte).

(b) The Sicherheitsdienst. (See above (b).)

(c) The Waffen S.S. Military formations which, before the war, were divided into S.S. Verfügungstruppe i.e. units unattached for particular duties and available for special duties (e.g. crushing an internal revolt).

S.S. ^{Kopf} Stoßkorpsverbände (see (a), (iv)).

During the war Waffen S.S. divisions to the number of about 50 have been created and have served on all fronts.

(d) In addition to these police and military bodies the S.S. developed an educational and training organisation with its own houses as centres in large towns and at some universities, and its own officers' training schools. It had, too, special social service schemes for its members and its own internal system of disciplinary punishment through its special Courts.

(iii) Function. The S.S. was intended to be the chosen Order of German Men (and Women) to guard and perpetuate the Nazi idea. There is no doubt that upon it and its members, who include the great majority of officers and officials of the Gestapo and S.D., must fall the most immediate and personal responsibility for German atrocities.

2. The other 'para-military' organisations of the Nazis may deserve brief consideration.

They are the following:

(a) The S.A. (Storm Abteilung) usually known in English as Storm Troopers

(b) The N.S.K.K. (Motor Corps)

(c) The N.S.F.K. (Flying Corps)

(a)

Of these the S.A. is the oldest and much the largest, its estimated membership being from 1½-2 million men. But though in its early days the S.A., under Röhm, was a powerful body with considerable influence on party policy, and though it then contained some of the worst 'thugs' of the Party, it has never recovered its importance since the purge of June 30, 1934 when its leaders were killed. Some of its most fanatical members were also absorbed into the S.S. between 1933-9. As an organisation the S.A. now performs mainly routine and auxiliary duties. Its main influence in war crimes has probably been through the behaviour of its individual members when incorporated into the Wehrmacht. It has, however, one separate military unit, the S.A. Standarte Feldhernhalle which, when incorporated into the 60th motorised infantry division in June 1943, gave its name to the division (Panzer-Grenadier Division Feldhernhalle).

(b)

The N.S.K.K. (Motor Corps) is of much more recent origin (1931) but neither it nor the N.S.F.K. (Flying Corps - founded 1937) has had any policy-making influence, nor any special

reputation for brutality. They have rather been training grounds and auxiliary formations for the regular motorised and flying formations.

3. To the mind of a layman certain difficulties arise in indicting the Gestapo, S.S. and S.G. which are submitted for consideration.

(i) The Gestapo appears to be, in law, a sub-department of the Reich Ministry of the Interior. Can a sub-department, or a ministry, of a sovereign state be indicted as such?

(ii) Successful indictment of the S.S. as a whole would certainly cover the majority of the worst war criminals. But it would omit a number of political military and industrial leaders of importance. These would require to be dealt with by a separate process.

(iii) The S.S. leaders would seek to transfer responsibility to higher party or state authority, and there would be considerable force in their plea. The ultimate responsibility does seem to fall upon the party as such. It was dominant even over the state. The first article of the law of 1 December, 1933, "to safeguard the unity of party and state" expresses the intimacy of the union between the two in its first paragraph.

§1. (1) After the victory of the National Socialist revolution the National Socialist Workers' Party is the bearer (Trägerin) of the German State idea (Staatsgedanken) and is indissolubly bound up with the state (mit dem Staat unlöslich verbunden).

The nature of that union was defined by Hitler himself at the Party Rally at Nuremberg in 1934. "It is not the State which gives its orders to us, but we who give orders to the state. It is not the state which has created us; we fashioned for ourselves ^{our} state." The dynamic creator of policy, responsible therefore for its results, has been the Nazi Party. Its agent, the state, has been filled with Party officials who, as officers of the state, have carried out the purposes of the party. It is for consideration whether,

- 7 -

to obviate the plea of orders from higher authority, the Party as such, including its subordinate organisations, should not be indicted.

24th May, 1945.

E. P. Lunn.
Research Department,
Foreign Office.