

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FOR LANDKREIS MEMMINGEN
APO 170 US ARMY

H295

LOMWT/vC
11 April 46

SUBJECT: Military Government Historical Report
for the Month of March 1946.

TO : Office of Military Government for Regie-
rungsbezirk Schwaben, APO 170, US Army.

The following historical report for the month of
March 1946 is submitted for Landkreis Memmingen.

FIRST SECTION

Problems and Events of Outstanding Significance.

During the month of March the conversion from func-
tional control to supervising control has continued. Property
Control has been placed under the control of Sub District 21
with headquarters in Kempten but the complete transfer of re-
sponsibility has not yet been affected.

This Kreis is chiefly agricultural and the people
are engaged in spring planting and have little time for any
activities outside of their own small spare. The coming elec-
tions have awakened little or no interest in the population.

SECOND SECTION

Most important problem of the month.

The most important problem of the past month has been
an internal problem. The personnel available to carry out the
objectives of Military Government is inadequate. The present
strength of this Detachment is 2 officers and 4 enlisted men

and we are attempting to do a large portion of the work that formerly took 9 officers and 17 enlisted men. The greatest portion of functional work has been placed in German hands but soon we will be forced to choose between doing a few things and doing them well or doing many things in a hap-hazard fashion.

We have attempted to solve the personnel problem by the increased use of Germans in supervisory and managerial capacities but this has many disadvantages. It is difficult to find persons with sufficient executive ability to handle the work who have the necessary requirements to work for Military Government (political clearance, excellent knowledge of English, loyalty etc.). If you should be fortunate enough to find someone to fill your need you then have to convince the local paying authorities that a person with such sterling qualities deserves to earn more money than the local dog catcher.

THIRD SECTION.

Public Safety.

An aggressive and alert police force is controlling the criminal activity in the city and vicinity of Memmingen. City Police reported 18 crimes while Rural Police announced 135 crimes and incidents. This figure includes 63 charges for non-return of plundered items and former Wehrmacht-property. This would leave 72 charges of all other kinds and is the same figure as for the month of February. This month only 4 incidents concerning black-market have been reported.

The large areas to be controlled by Rural Police make hiring of more personnel necessary. A special campaign is being made in this Landkreis to increase the rural police personnel.

The following crimes have been committed in the month of March:

Burglary	7
Larceny	34

Theft of bicycles	5
Embezzlement	2
Fraud	1
Black-market	4
Minor	100

This month 121 persons had been arrested and 118 had been released from the Landgerichtsgefängnis of Memmingen.

Traffic police report a good progress as to discipline in the vehicular traffic. Constant controls of stop-points and controls along the streets with stop-watches have been made. The discipline of the pedestrians still needs enforcement, especially on market-days when the farmers of the Landkreis come to town. This month about 150 - 200 fines have been given. The fine for street-discipline offending pedestrian is 3 to 5 RM and for drivers it ranges between 20 RM and 50 RM.

This month the newly equipped voluntary Fire Brigade in the entire Landkreis attended training courses, including lessons and practical work. These courses were held by the Chief of the voluntary fire brigade in the different towns of the Landkreis Memmingen. The courses were necessary to train the returned soldiers and to keep the elder generation in practice.

Until the beginning of March, Border Policemen had been issued carbines and police identification papers. With the 1 March 1946 border policemen went on the French-American zone boundary together with the tactical troops. Now after one month of actual work it can be reported that the existence and work of the German border-police with the American troops has been noticed by the population on both sides of the boundary. It is hard for the people to understand that they cannot do as they have been accustomed to do for several years. Cargos have been closely inspected and many rationed articles have been confiscated and turned over to the local landrat or food-office. One incident of more serious kind was the crossing of the zone boundary by four French occupation soldiers and procurement of cattle in a village on our side. Due to the quick co-operation of Rural and Border Police the French soldiers could be apprehended by the Military Police and they were turned over to the French Liaison officer.

Several inspections, carried out by the Public Safety Officer and the tactical troops officers, proved, that despite some necessary improvements, such as transferring of two posts closer to the border and employment of more personnel, and improvement in the communication set-up, the new organized border-police promises to become of great assistance in controlling the exchange of goods across the border, illegal crossing, controlling and combatting of black-market activities and apprehension of wanted persons.

Special Branch.

During the current month Special Branch has processed 316 Fragebogens. The total number of Fragebogens received to be processed by this detachment to date is: 7138. This Detachment has processed 6826 Fragebogens. The small increase in the number of Fragebogens received and processed during the last month is caused by the fact that all Fragebogens on Reichspost-officials were sent to Detachment E-206 for action. On 15 March 1946 we have forwarded to Detachment E-206 225 Fragebogens on Reichspost-officials. There were no automatic arrest cases during the current period.

During the current month a survey for party-records has again been made by this Detachment. A large number of party records were found in one hotel which was occupied by the American troops since the occupation. At present it looks as if this were the complete party-records for the whole Landkreis of Memmingen. The records are being filed and information from them is being put on the information-cards in the investigators office.

Information-cards have been made on 6500 subjects to date. It is contemplating that we will have an information-card on every person in Landkreis Memmingen, when these records have been tabulated.

The list of delegates for the Appeal Board for Liberation from Nazism and Militarism was received during the last week of the preceding month. The investigators are investigating

these subjects, so that the action sheets and a complete investigation may be sent to the Office of Military Government for Bavaria, Detachment E-201.

Public Health.

The last cases of Diphtheria check spelling, which were obligatory were finished in the month of March.

It has become increasingly difficult to make early diagnosis in many cases because of the lack of X-ray equipment. The stocks of X-ray film, developing fluid, fixing salts, etc. are now depleted.

Insulin is most urgently needed and newly hospitalized diabetic patients as well as the diabetic children in the children's hospital at Grönenbach cannot be treated as no Insulin can be obtained.

Food and Agriculture.

Production of farm machinery has steadily declined and normal replacements for worn out machinery and tools are not available. The result is, that the supply of farm machinery is presently inadequate, and a remedy cannot be expected in the near future.

The fertilizer situation is grave. We have to expect a poor crop this year unless fertilizer is imported from outside Germany within the near future.

Labor.

The Landkreis received up till now 870 expellees and 212 of these were able to work and received jobs. The rest of the expellees were old people, children, and mothers with infants whose husbands are missing.

Construction.

The main task of the overground construction department during the past month was to put up as much living accommodation as possible for the housing of refugees and bombed out persons of this town. For this reason the repair on bomb-damaged houses was given preference. The first barrack for refugees is being put up now.

Road-making and upkeep.

The condition of the roads is getting worse through lack of tar. Holes are now being filled up with gravel. The repair work itself is very much handicapped because of great lack of labor.

Gas-Works.

The missing parts of the gas oven of the gas works arrived by rail to-day, and in approximately six weeks the city of Memmingen will again have gas.

Sewerage.

Due to the fact that there is great lack of suitable personnel the repair, as well as the cleaning of the filter-pond is proceeding very slowly.

Communication.

Post: From 1 - 31 March 46 about 707.310 letters were handled by the local post office, that is about double the number handled last month. The total of parcels handled was 7.220, i.e. about 650 parcels more than during February.

Following are the figures concerning postcheque and postal savings traffic:

	<u>Deposits:</u>	<u>Withdrawals:</u>
Postcheque	RM 887.000.--	RM 462.257.--
Postal savings	" 36.358.--	" 100.105.--

Telephone: In the course of March 89 new telephone connections were installed.

Telegraph: The telegraph service is increasing rapidly. While only about 1200 telegrams were handled in January, this number increased to about 2950 in February and about 6182 in March.

Property Control.

Property Control Questionnaires PC 6 on mandatory removals, whose properties are not taken under formal control, were forwarded to the persons concerned for completion.

Finance.

Assessing of taxes and tax collections continues normal. By order of Military Government Munich the Hauptzollamt Memmingen has to establish a Customs Frontier Guard along the border of the American-French occupation-zones, i.e. between Oberstaufen and Illertissen. The Border Police has to control the passes and Customs Frontier Guardsmen have the task to prevent the export of certain goods into the French occupation zone.

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