

THE GENERAL BOARD

United States Forces, European Theater

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT NUMBER 19-55.

MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

MISSION: Prepare a Report and Recommendations as to the Need for a Military Police Battalion Organized under Table of Organization and Equipment Number 19-55 in a Theater of Operations.

The General Board was established by General Orders 128, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, US Army, dated 17 June 1945, as amended by General Orders 182, dated 7 August 1945 and General Orders 312 dated 20 November 1945, Headquarters United States Forces, European Theater, to prepare a factual analysis of the strategy, tactics, and administration employed by the United States Forces in the European Theater.

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## Appendix:

- Appendix #1 - Report of Conference of Provost Marshals, conducted by the Provost Marshal Section, Theater General Board, 3, 4 and 5 December 1945.  
(Only Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13, which pertain to this study, are included.)

THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER  
AFO 408

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT NUMBER 19 - 55,  
MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

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TABLE OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT NUMBER 19-55,  
MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

SECTION 1

TYPE OF BATTALION NEEDED

1. General. A study and analysis of the missions assigned to and duties performed by military police battalions in the European Theater of Operations was made at a conference, hereafter referred to as the Conference, composed of members who represented all types of military police activities in the European Theater during operations. This study revealed that generally the missions of military police battalions were identical, whether the battalions were operating in the communications zone, army areas or liberated and occupied territories. It was considered desirable to select one type of battalion capable of fulfilling all the functions of military police that would normally be assigned to the battalion in army and communications zone areas. This would facilitate the interchange of battalions between command echelons and insure uniformity in military police operations. Such a battalion could move forward with an army, move forward with an advance section communications zone, or remain static in any area regardless of change in area command.

2. Evaluation. With this in mind an evaluation was made of the relative merits of the Military Police Battalion, Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-55, 19-56 and 19-57<sup>2</sup> and the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army), Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-35, 19-36 and 19-37<sup>3</sup>, as provided in a letter of Headquarters 12th Army Group, 320.3 (1M) to Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Proposed New T/O & E for the Military Police Battalion (Army)", dated 20 May 1945. In this evaluation the amendments to the tables of organization and equipment for the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army), as outlined in first indorsement from the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater, to the Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater (Main)<sup>6</sup> were considered as included in the proposed tables. The study considered the relative ability of the two battalions to perform efficiently the three categories of duties which have been assigned the military police battalions in the European Theater, namely, road traffic control, policing and security duties.

a. Road traffic control presents varying problems in different parts of any area, whether it be in the combat or communications zone. Control of road traffic within a city or small town involves two classes of traffic, namely, pedestrian and motorized. The traffic posts are normally fixed and are in close proximity to one another. In the rural or suburban areas, traffic posts are not as numerous and in many instances are miles apart. Under these latter conditions the traffic control system may be one of two kinds, organizational control or area control, which require either that organizations using the roads be escorted or that roads through areas be manned by traffic patrols and by traffic posts at road intersections. These are dependent for effectiveness on proper communication facilities and mobility of the patrols and escorts.

- (1) Nothing is more important to successful traffic control than good communication facilities, because personnel are widely distributed and yet must function as a coordinated unit, and because a constant flow of information and orders is necessary to keep control activities constantly adjusted to changing control needs. Communications must be available between the central control headquarters of an area and all key control points, and between this headquarters and traffic patrols. The communication facilities are available in the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup> in a number and of a type which, based on operating experience, is believed to be sufficient for normal needs. In the Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55<sup>2</sup>, there is an insufficient number of radios and operating personnel. Furthermore the radios provided are of three different types which make it impossible to set up a proper communications network.
- (2) Motorized traffic patrols are of special value and should be employed as far as possible in traffic control. Patrols should be established along all important routes in such a manner as to connect key control points, give close supervision to traffic between such points, and provide frequent checking of critical points on the roadnets where road or traffic blocks are most likely to develop. They should be mounted in small highly maneuverable trucks or on motorcycles. Light trucks are preferable in many cases due to their ability to carry more personnel and equipment and to operate on inferior roadnets or across country. In some cases, however, as on heavily travelled good roads, motorcycles are preferable, due to their maneuverability in traffic. In the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup> there are provided 80  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, 4 x 4, and 62 motorcycles, which would be adequate to meet the requirements of practically all traffic control problems which may arise; whereas, in the Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55<sup>2</sup>, there are allocated only 19  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, 4 x 4, and no motorcycles.

b. Policing of cities, villages and rural areas includes such problems as preserving order among personnel of the military forces and enforcement of military law and regulations; protection of military personnel and civilians from violence and excesses; apprehension of absentees as defined in Army Regulation 615-300; investigation and prevention of crime among members of the military forces; recovery of lost, stolen and abandoned military property; furnishing authorized persons with information relative to the location of units, headquarters, offices, and other establishments; enforcement of prescribed uniform and other regulations, such as those pertaining to blackout, curfew, price control and "off limits".<sup>1</sup> To accomplish these duties a military police battalion must of necessity have not only a sufficient number of patrol teams, both mounted and on foot, but also a number of specialized units and teams. There must be clerks and typists to operate the desk and records section and accomplish the numerous report forms which have to be processed; an investigation detachment of trained criminal investigation division personnel to conduct the investigation of crime and the

apprehension of criminals, including the collection of evidence and the care and disposition of confidential records pertaining to crimes; and a trained communications detachment sufficiently large to maintain a radio network with the roving patrols and to furnish immediate information concerning incidents. Experience<sup>9</sup> has also shown that in practically every area a successful coverage can be obtained only by the liberal use of motorized patrols and that the most efficient type of vehicle is the light truck. Further, experience has shown that the pistol is the weapon which is most desirable for all types of military police duties. All of these requisites are available in the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army).<sup>3</sup> In the Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55<sup>6</sup>, there is an insufficiency of clerk-typists and typewriters; no provision is made for an investigation detachment; communication facilities are inadequate; light trucks for mounted patrols are insufficient; and only two pistols are provided.

c. Security of life and property is one of the duties of the military policeman in all command echelons and includes such responsibilities as assisting in the security of headquarters; preventing pilferage and looting; guarding captured materiel and installations until properly taken over by the interested agencies; assisting in the enforcement of gas defense, passive anti-aircraft measures, blackouts and other general measures for security; handling stragglers and controlling the circulation of civilians, including refugees, local inhabitants and camp followers. In the performance of this type of duty the Proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup> offers the advantages of having better communications facilities, more mobility of patrols because of the large number of light trucks, an investigation detachment and more personnel in the battalion. The Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55<sup>6</sup>, however, provides for rifles or carbines as the individual weapon, which are more adaptable to general security work, and scout cars which are effective in this type of duty.

3. Selection of Battalion. As a result of this study it was the consensus of opinion<sup>7</sup> that the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup> because of its greater mobility, communications facilities, type of weapons authorized and inclusion of certain types of much needed personnel, was much superior to and more acceptable than the Military Police Battalion, Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-55, 19-56 and 19-57<sup>2</sup>. The Conference<sup>9</sup> went on record as favoring the elimination of the Military Police Battalion, Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-55, 19-56, and 19-57<sup>2</sup> in a theater of operations and adopting the Military Police Battalion (Army), Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-35, 19-36 and 19-37<sup>3</sup>, as proposed in a letter of Headquarters 12th Army Group, 320.3(FM) to Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Proposed New T/O & I for The Military Police Battalion, Army", dated 20 May 1945. Further the Conference<sup>9</sup> recommended that the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army) be designated by a title which will distinguish it from any other military police battalion.

## SECTION 2

### RECOMMENDED CHANGES

4. General. While it was the unanimous opinion of the Conference<sup>9</sup> in its study of this subject that the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army) can, in its present form, be utilized as an all purpose battalion, it was also the unanimous opinion of the members that further changes in the proposed Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-35, 19-36 and 19-37<sup>3</sup> are indicated and desirable in order to insure more efficient operation

in either army or communications zone areas. An analysis of the principal changes which were recommended is given in the following paragraphs.

#### 5. Grades and Ratings.

a. Due to the fact that the squads of battalions are habitually broken up into small detachments operating as traffic control points, information posts, mounted or foot patrols, or desk and records sections, it was believed by the Conference<sup>9</sup> that additional grades and ratings are necessary to provide better supervisory control of these dispersed units which perform vital and difficult duties. Accordingly the Conference proposed that a staff sergeant be provided as squad leader in lieu of a sergeant; a sergeant be designated as assistant squad leader in lieu of a corporal; and two corporals be substituted for two privates first class. The remaining eight men would be divided equally as privates first class and privates.

b. The General Board is in accord with the recommendation to make the squad leader a staff sergeant in lieu of a sergeant and the assistant squad leader a sergeant in lieu of a corporal. It is believed, however, that the dispersion of the units would not be sufficient to justify the two additional corporals as proposed.

c. The recommendations of the Conference<sup>9</sup> covering the platoon headquarters provided that a technical sergeant be substituted for a staff sergeant as second in command. This was based on the fact that under practically all operating conditions the platoon is isolated from company headquarters and it was believed imperative to have this rating to support the platoon commander. One technician fifth grade, clerk-typist, in addition to the private first class, clerk-typist, already provided in the platoon headquarters was recommended because of the heavy load of reports and forms that must be continuously processed by the platoon when operating as a unit separated from its parent headquarters. A transport sergeant was added to insure proper first echelon maintenance of the considerable number of vehicles which would be assigned to the platoon. Further, the recommendations called for the addition to platoon headquarters of criminal investigators and radio operators and a reduction in the number of motorcyclists. These will be discussed in the following subparagraphs.

d. It is believed there is a definite need for a technical sergeant as second in command of a platoon because experience has demonstrated that the platoon must be self-sufficient, with proper leadership to insure efficiency of operations. The additional clerk-typist might be desirable under certain peak conditions but it is felt that the normal load of paper work can be carried by the one clerk provided for the platoon in the proposed table of organization. It is not believed that the number of vehicles assigned to the platoon is sufficient to justify a transport sergeant to supervise the maintenance.

#### 6. Investigation Section.

a. The Conference<sup>9</sup> recommended the assignment to each platoon of two criminal investigators on the basis that it was desirable to have trained investigators available to handle immediately serious crimes when the platoon was operating at some point far removed from company and battalion headquarters. These were to be in addition to an investigation section consisting of one officer and seven enlisted men which is already provided for in the tables of organization of the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army).<sup>3</sup>

b. Criminal investigation work is primarily the responsibility of the provost marshal of a command echelon and as such should be closely controlled by him. The investigation section provided for in the proposed table of organization<sup>3</sup> offers ample highly trained personnel to meet all normal requirements where there is need for immediate action. These may be supplemented by selected military policemen in the platoons who are given special instruction and training to handle routine matters requiring investigation. Therefore additional personnel for this purpose are not needed.

#### 7. Communication Section.

a. The Conference<sup>9</sup> listed as a deficiency in the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup> the shortage of radio equipment and the centralization of this equipment and its operating personnel in the communications platoon of headquarters company, on the basis that operational experience has shown that companies and platoons are generally distributed over wide areas and a communications platoon would not be sufficiently flexible to handle this wide dispersion of operating units. It was recommended that each platoon be provided with nine trucks,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 4 x 4, radio equipped. These were to be in addition to two similar units recommended for each company headquarters, making a total of 87 radio units for the battalion.

b. It is possible that under stress of emergency conditions such an allotment of radios might be put to use, but under anything less than peak demands a distribution of radio units on such a basis would be extravagant and uneconomical. The 26 units set up in the proposed table of organization<sup>3</sup> would provide eight per company, if an even distribution was desired, with two for use in battalion headquarters, which should meet all normal needs. However, the fact that no two areas which may be policed by a company or platoon offer the same problems, with the consequent need for radios, argues against the dispersal of radio equipment and personnel down to the platoon or even company level. Centralization in a communications section of battalion headquarters has proven operationally sound in many battalions. Should the assigned mission of a battalion present a real need for additional radio equipment and personnel this could be provided by attaching to the battalion a number of radio detachments or motor patrol detachments, with the proper proportion of radio detachments for maintenance purposes, as may be authorized by proper authority under Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-500<sup>4</sup>.

#### 8. Motor Equipment.

a. Another deficiency listed by the Conference<sup>9</sup> was a shortage of organic motor equipment, both from the standpoint of sufficiency of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks, 4 x 4, to be used for mounted patrols, and personnel carriers to provide maximum mobility in moving either platoons or companies. Also, the Conference<sup>9</sup> report indicated that the allocation of trailers was not sufficient and maximum use of all vehicles, especially in troop movements, was not provided for by maximum assignment of trailers for cargo movement. It was proposed that the trucks,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 4 x 4, be increased from seven to nine in each platoon and that each platoon be provided with one truck  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, 6 x 6, in addition to providing all trucks with an appropriate trailer.

b. It is believed that the same argument which applies to the recommended increase in radio equipment also applies to the proposed increase in trucks,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -ton, 4 x 4, to an even greater degree. Under the tables of equipment for the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army)<sup>3</sup>



there are provided 80 of these trucks and operational experience proved that this number was sufficient under all normal circumstances. It would be definitely wasteful and uneconomical to provide for the maximum or peak requirements. There is a basis for the recommendation that each platoon be provided with one truck, 2½-ton, 6 x 6, because experience has shown that platoons are usually scattered over widely dispersed areas and there is a definite need for a vehicle, larger than a 1¼-ton truck, to handle the movement of personnel. A 3/4 ton truck is already provided but normal requirements have proven this to be insufficient. As to providing an appropriate trailer for each truck this would be desirable since experience has shown that such an allocation is necessary under normal conditions.

#### 9. Motorcycles.

a. The consensus of opinion of the Conference<sup>9</sup> was that the number of motorcycles as set up in the proposed Military Police Battalion(Army)<sup>3</sup> was in excess of normal requirements of any battalion in an operational status, and that the experience in the European Theater could not justify such an allocation. The recommendation called for a reduction of two motorcycles per platoon, effecting an overall decrease of 18 for the battalion and leaving a total of 44 instead of 62 as provided in the proposed table of equipment.

b. Opinion is divided as to whether 62 motorcycles, as recommended in the proposed army battalion<sup>3</sup> are required. During operations there were many requests for an increase over the number then in use which was in the neighborhood of 40 per battalion. The Theater Provost Marshal, 12th Army Group Headquarters and all the armies of the 12th Army Group, except one, concurred with the figure of 62. The one exception indicates that this number could be reduced. It is believed that the maximum efficiency of traffic control under all conditions warrants 62 motorcycles for the battalion.

#### 10. Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

a. The only recommendation made by the Conference<sup>9</sup> with reference to battalion headquarters and headquarters company provided for substituting a second lieutenant for a warrant officer as personnel officer and increasing the rating of the headquarters company clerk from corporal to sergeant. It was felt that the second lieutenant would be equally as well qualified to function as a personnel officer and there would be the incentive of a possibility of promotion without unusual administrative procedure. Further a second lieutenant could be utilized for many additional purposes which are precluded for a warrant officer under existing regulations. The company clerks of the companies are set up in the proposed table of organization<sup>3</sup> as sergeants and it was believed that since the same responsibilities would devolve on the clerk of headquarters company he should have the same rating.

b. The General Board does not concur in the recommendation<sup>9</sup> to substitute a second lieutenant for a warrant officer as personnel officer due to the fact that there is too frequently a tendency to place the personnel officer on some other duty when he holds a commissioned rank. This works to the detriment of the personnel section and has been a contributing factor to many of the instances of unsatisfactory personnel records. It is believed, however, that the responsibilities of and the qualifications for a company clerk are such that in no instance should he have a grade and rating less than that of a sergeant.

ALLOCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

11. General. Experience in the European Theater proved that throughout the operations there generally was an insufficient number of military police battalions available. As a result it was necessary throughout all command echelons to supplement military police battalions with troops from other sources and in many instances the conversion of entire units from another arm or service was made in order to accomplish military police functions. This brought about a condition where unqualified and untrained men were given a job to do and the results in many instances were far from satisfactory.

12. Allocation. Based on experience in the European Theater it is believed that for the field forces, military police battalions should be made available for assignment to armies at the rate of one per type corps. These battalions would be under the control of the army commander for use in the area of the army where needed and would be in addition to the division and corps military police units. Allocation for the communications zone sections is not so clearly indicated by experience. The size of such sections; the density, attitude and proximity of the civil population to combat areas; the nature of installations requiring protection, and other factors affecting the need for military police battalions vary with sections of the communications zone. Operational experience shows that at no time did a section of the communications zone have less than two battalions of military police and usually the sections had more than two battalions. It is believed that the allocation should be at least two battalions per section and as many more per section as the character of each particular section may require.

13. Employment. The general purpose military police battalion in a theater of operations may be required to perform some or all of the following duties: the execution of policies, plans and procedure for road traffic control; apprehension and disposition of stragglers, absentees and deserters; enforcement of military laws and regulations and the protection of property important to the pursuit of warfare; cooperation with civil authorities for police protection, blackouts, passive air defense, antisabotage activities, and the like; control of civil population, circulation of individuals and mass movements of refugees and displaced persons, when so assigned; prevention of crime, criminal investigation activities and custody and disposition of offenders.

14. Improper Employment. Experience<sup>9</sup> shows that there were many cases in the European Theater where military police battalions have been required to perform duties which should have been done by other troops. Military police battalions were detailed in considerable number to the military railway service for continuous duty as train guards. In some instances they were required to maintain guards on captured dumps and warehouses for a considerable length of time after the interested agencies were in a position to provide their own guard details. The use of military police as guards at headquarters and miscellaneous duties in excessive numbers was very common. All such uses dissipated specially selected and trained military police with the attendant result that the shortage which already existed was made even more acute.

15. Conclusions.

a. That there is no need for the Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55, in a theater of operations,

in addition to the Military Police Battalion (Army), Table of Organization and Equipment 19-35, proposed in letter of Headquarters, 12th Army Group, 320.3 (FM), to Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Proposed New Table of Organization and Equipment for the Military Police Battalion, Army", dated 20 May 1945.<sup>3,7</sup>

b. That the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army), mentioned in a above, should be adopted as the only military police battalion for a theater of operations and that it should be designated by a title which will distinguish it from any other military police battalion.

c. That the proposed Table of Organization and Equipment 19-35, The Military Police Battalion (Army),<sup>3</sup> mentioned in a above, and its supporting tables, would be better suited to the performance of the duties of a military police battalion both in the army areas and the communications zone if the following additional changes are made:

- (1) Increase the grade of squad leader in military police platoons from that of sergeant to that of staff sergeant.
- (2) Increase the grade of assistant squad leaders in military police platoons from that of corporal to that of sergeant.
- (3) Increase the grade of the platoon sergeant (second in command) of a military police platoon from that of a staff sergeant to that of a technical sergeant.
- (4) Provide a 2 1/2 ton truck, cargo, per military police platoon.
- (5) Provide the appropriate trailer, cargo, for each truck assigned to the military police battalion.
- (6) Increase the grade of the company clerk of the headquarters company from that of corporal to that of sergeant.

d. That experience in the European Theater proved that there were an insufficient number of military police battalions available to accomplish all of the military police functions and that the shortage did require the use of other troops for military police duties.

e. That the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army), mentioned in a above, should be made available for assignment to armies at the rate of one per corps and that it should be made available for assignment to sections of the communications zone at the rate of two per section plus the additional number determined as necessary for each section because of its particular character.

f. That experience in the European Theater shows that military police were often employed on duties which should have been performed by other troops and that the resulting dissipation of military police made more acute the military police shortage.

#### 16. Recommendations.

a. That the Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55, be not allocated for use in a theater of operations.

b. That the Military Police Battalion (Army), Table of Organization and Equipment 19-35, proposed in a letter of Headquarters 12th Army Group, 320.3 (FM), to Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Proposed New T/O & E for the Military Police Battalion, Army", dated 20 May 1945,<sup>3,7</sup> be adopted as the only military police battalion for a theater of operations and that it be designated by a title which will distinguish it from any other military police battalion.

c. That in the proposed Table of Organization and Equipment 19-35, The Military Police Battalion (Army),<sup>3</sup> and its supporting tables, mentioned in b, above, the following additional changes be made,

- (1) To increase the grade of squad leaders in military police platoons from that of sergeant to that of staff sergeant.
- (2) To increase the grade of assistant squad leaders in military police platoons from that of corporal to that of sergeant.
- (3) To increase the grade of the platoon sergeant (second in command) of a military police platoon from that of staff sergeant to that of technical sergeant.
- (4) To provide a 2 1/2 ton truck, cargo, per military police platoon.
- (5) To provide the appropriate trailer, cargo, for each truck assigned to the military police battalion.
- (6) To increase the grade of the company clerk of the headquarters company from that of corporal to that of sergeant.

d. That the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army), mentioned in b, above, be made available for assignment to armies at the rate of one per corps, and that it be made available for assignment to sections of the communications zone at the rate of two per section plus the additional number determined as necessary for each section because of its particular character.

# ~~Bibliography~~

1. Field Manual 19-5, 14 June 1945.
2. Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-55, 19-56 and 19-57.
3. Proposed Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-35, 19-36 and 19-37. (see Appendix 1, Exhibits 7, 8 and 9)
4. Table of Organization and Equipment 19-500.
5. 12th Army Group After Action Report.
6. First indorsement from the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater, dated 1 December 1945, to the Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater (Main) AG 322 Fo GC. (See Appendix 1, Exhibit 10)
7. Letter from Headquarters 12th Army Group to Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, Subject: "Proposed New T/O & E for the Military Police Battalion (Army)", dated 20 May 1945.
8. Semi-Monthly Status Report, Office of the Theater Provost Marshal, Headquarters European Theater of Operations, United States Army, dated 15 April 1945.
9. Report of provost marshals conference representing five military police battalions communications zone, five military police battalions army, and the provost marshal sections of the European Theater, one port, the air force, two armies, three corps, and eight divisions. (See Appendix 1)

THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER  
Office of the Provost Marshal  
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CONFERENCE OF PROVOST MARSHALS CONDUCTED BY THE  
PROVOST MARSHAL SECTION, THE GENERAL BOARD,  
DECEMBER 3, 4 AND 5, 1945.

1. Purpose. The conference was called as the most rapid method of obtaining a wide scope of opinion on military police activities in the European Theater of Operations from officers with operational experience. This was necessitated by the decision to complete all Board studies by 31 December 1945.

2. Representation. Attending the conference were provost marshals or military police officers from the provost marshal sections of the European Theater, two armies, three corps, eight divisions, the air force, two base sections of the communications zone; and from five military police battalions of the communications zone, five military police battalions (army) and one harbor company. See exhibit 1.

3. Procedure.

a. General.

(1) Members of the conference were divided into committees, see exhibit 2, for study of specific subjects on which the General Board was to render reports and recommendations, but which were not yet prepared.

(2) Committee reports were discussed in open conference and conclusions arrived at.

(3) Other military police subjects related to Board activities were discussed in open conference and conclusions arrived at.

b. December 3, 1945.

(1) The conference was called to order by Colonel Claud F. Stadtman, Chief Provost Marshal Section, Theater General Board, at 0830 hours. The purpose and scope of the conference was outlined, and the members assigned to committees as follows:

(a) One committee to Directive Study Number 104, Subject: "Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55."

(b) One committee to Directive Study Number 105, Subject: "Stragglers and Absentees Without Leave".

(c) One committee to Directive Study Number 106, Subject: "Table of Organization and Equipment Number 19-500". See exhibit 3

(2) Questionnaires on the above subjects were furnished all conference members. These questionnaires were read and discussed to give more completely to each committee the details of work expected of each committee. See exhibits 4, 5 and 6.

(3) For information and use by conference members, a copy of a proposed table of organization and equipment for Military Police Battalion (Army) was furnished all conference members. This proposed table was discussed in conference. See exhibits 7, 8, 9 and 10.

(4) The conference recessed at 1100 hours to continue work under committee supervision.

c. December 4, 1945.

(1) The conference was called to order at 0830 hours. For the purpose of gaining the reaction of the conference, Colonel Stadtman discussed answers prepared by the Provost Marshal Section to questionnaires submitted by the War Department and relating to provost marshal activities.

(2) Lt. Col. Lewis presented to the conference for open discussion the conclusions and recommendations of the Board contained in Study Number 103, Chapter 1, Prisoners of War. See exhibit 11. These conclusions and recommendations were concurred in by the conference with some dissenting opinion favoring the policy for the evacuation of prisoners of war as set forth in field manuals.

(3) Lt. Col. Lewis presented for open discussion to the conference, the conclusions and recommendations of the Board contained in Study Number 102, Criminal Investigation. See exhibit 12. These conclusions and recommendations were concurred in by the conference with the exception that division representatives believe that there should be a criminal investigation detachment as part of the provost marshal section of each division.

(4) The conference recessed at 1200 hours to continue work under committee supervision.

d. December 5, 1945.

(1) The conference was called to order by Colonel Stadtman at 0830. Reports were received from the committees assigned Study 104, Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-55 and Study 105, Stragglers and Absentees Without Leave. Committee conclusions and recommendations were discussed in open conference and the conclusions of the conference were arrived at.

(2) The conference recessed for lunch at 1200 hours and reassembled at 1330 hours.

(3) Report was received from the committee assigned Study 106, Table of Organization and Equipment 19-500. Committee conclusions and recommendations were discussed in open conference, and the conclusions of the conference were arrived at.

(4) The conference adjourned at 1500 hours.

4. Conclusions. Conference conclusions arrived at on each of the above studies 104, 105 and 106 are as follows:

a. Study 104 - Military Police Battalion, Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55 See exhibit 13.

(1) That the Military Police Battalion, Tables of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55, 19-56, and 19-57 should be replaced in a theater of operations by the proposed Military Police Battalion, Tables of Organization and Equipment No. 19-35, 19-36 and 19-37, and that it should be designated by a title which will distinguish it from any other military police battalion.

(2) That there was minority opinion in the conference that all radios, accessories and personnel be organized in a communications platoon of headquarters company. That the conference unanimously concluded in the event the number of radios, 87, recommended by the committee were appreciably reduced that all radio equipment and the personnel should be organized in a communications platoon of the headquarters company, in order to permit greater flexibility in distribution.

(3) That the committee report, exhibit 13, except as noted above, is generally concurred in, but that further study is necessary before preparing recommendations.

b. Study 105, Stragglers and Absentees Without Leave. See Exhibit 14.

(1) That the term "straggler" be defined as a soldier who is absent without leave from his unit without authority, but through no fault of his own.

(2) That the term "absentee without leave" be defined as a soldier who is absent without leave from his unit without authority and through his own fault.

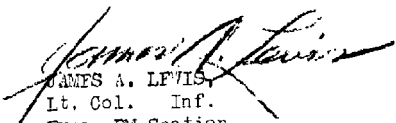
(3) That stragglers should be returned to their units, using the most expeditious means available, including military police channels, and, where necessary, the reinforcement system or other available means.

(4) That the committee report, exhibit 14, except as noted above, is generally concurred in, but that further study is necessary before preparing recommendations.

c. Study 106, Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-500.

(1) That there is a need for a cellular type table of organization and equipment for military police units in the European Theater of Operations.

(2) That Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-500 should be amended in some instances better to provide personnel, equipment, grades and ratings in the various headquarters cells, investigation detachments, patrol and guard cells.

  
JAMES A. LEWIS,  
Lt. Col. Inf.  
Exec. PM Section.  
Recorder.



THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER  
Office of the Provost Marshal  
A10 406

Rooster of Officers Attending Provost Marshals Conference, 3, 4 and 5 December in the Office of the Provost Marshal, Theater General Board.

Theater Provost Marshal Office

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DUTIES</u>
Area M Eaton	Lt Col	Military Police Div Office of The Provost Marshal	Military Police Division Office of The Provost Marshal

Base Sections, Communications Zone

Philip W Dennis	Capt	398 MI Bn (Oise Sect)	
Cecil N Hughes	Capt	707 MI Bn (Oise Sect)	
Charles Telligo	1st Lt	352 Harbor Craft Co. (Chanor Base Sect)	
W D Fowler	Capt	787 MI Bn (Seine Sect)	Executive Officer
L B Lipkind	Capt	1M Sect (Seine Sect)	Legal Section

United States Straterical Air Forces

William Dribbon	Lt Col	USSAF	Provost Marshal
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Military Police Battalion - (Army)

Harold K Reynolds	Capt	504th MI Bn	Commanding Officer
George McEachern	Capt	508th MI Bn	
Chester Devincent	Capt	505th MI Bn	
Joseph McGovern	1st Lt	518th MI Bn	S-3
Huston W Blackledge	1st Lt	503rd MI Bn	

Military Police Battalion, T/O & E 19 - 55

George B Morse	Lt Col	382nd MI Bn	Commanding Officer
Forrest I Rettgers	Capt	384th MI Bn	

Armies

Elmer Schudierer	Lt Col	Third Army	Provost Marshal Section
Eugene McAuliffe	Capt	Third Army	Provost Marshal Section
John A Alley	Capt	Seventh Army	Assistant Provost Marsha

Corps

Edwin Lee Clark	Lt Col	XX Corps	Provost Marshal
John Solberg	1st Lt	VI Corps	Assistant Provost Marsha
Kenneth W Knell	1st Lt	XV Corps	Provost Marshal Section

Divisions

Bert Terrin	Major	84th Inf Div	Provost Marshal
Stanley McHugh	Major	42nd Inf Div	Provost Marshal
George Ogilvie	Major	83rd Inf Div	Provost Marshal
George A Sold	Capt	1st Armd Div	Provost Marshal
Elmer J Reis	Capt	4th Armd Div	Assistant Provost Marsha
Daniel B Klawansky	2nd Lt	3rd Armd Div	Assistant Provost Marsha
Marvin C Jacobs	2nd Lt	9th Inf Div	

THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER  
Office of the Provost Marshal  
APO 408

3 December 1945

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT : Provost Marshal Conference Committees.

For the Provost Marshal Conference, 3, 4, and 5 December 1945, officers are assigned to committees as follows:

COMMITTEE: MP Bn, T/O & F 19-55

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
Eaton, Arch M. -Chairman	Lt Col	MP Div OTFM
Schmierer, Elmer	Lt Col	3rd Army
Alley, John A.	Capt	7th Army
Knell, Kenneth W.	1st Lt	XV Corps
Kunkle, Robert C.	1st Lt	2nd Armd Div
Klawansky, Daniel B.	2nd Lt	3rd Armd Div
Dennis, Philip W.	Capt	398th MP Bn (Oise Base)
Dribbon, William	Lt Col	USSAF
McGovern, Joseph	1st Lt	518th MP Bn
Morse, George B.	Lt Col	382nd MP Bn
Fowler, W. D.	Capt	787th MP Bn (Serv)

COMMITTEE: STRAGGLERS

Clark, Edwin Lee-Chairman	Lt Col	XX Corps
Eaton, Arch M.	Lt Col	MP Div OTFM
Ferrin, Bert	Major	84th Inf Div
McHugh, Stanley	Major	42nd Inf Div
Ogilvie, George	Major	83rd Inf Div
Sold, George A.	Capt	1st Armd Div
Reis, Elmer J.	Capt	4th Armd Div
Bradley	Lt Col	MP Div OTFM
Hughes, Cecil N.	Capt	707th MP Bn (Oise Base)
Reynolds, Harold K.	Capt	504th MP Bn
Devincent, Chester	Capt	505th MP Bn
Rettgers, Forrest I.	Capt	384th MP Bn
McAuliffe, Eugene	Capt	3rd Army
Lipkind, L. B.	Capt	FM Sect (Seine Base)

COMMITTEE: T/O 19-500

McFachern, George-Chair.	Capt	508th MP Bn
Dribbon, William	Lt Col	USSAF
Solberg, John	1st Lt	VI Corps
Jacobs, Marvin C.	2nd Lt	9th Inf Div
Tilliho, Charles	1st Lt	352 Harbor Craft Co (Chanor Base)
Blackledge, Huston W.	1st Lt	503rd MP Bn
Fowler, W. D.	Capt	787th MP Bn (Serv)

THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER  
APO 408

R 320.2/42 TGBSY

18 December 1945

STUDY DIRECTIVE NUMBER 109 - Revised Copy. (New No. 104)

TO : Chief, Provost Marshal Section.

Subject: Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55, Military Police Battalion.

1. Mission.--Prepare report and recommendations as to the need for a Military Police Battalion organized under Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55 in a theater of operations.

2. Scope.--Report and recommendations will include consideration of the following:

a. Is there a need for the Military Police Battalion organized under Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55 in addition to the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army) in a theater of operations?

b. If there be a need for the Military Police Battalion organized under Table of Organization and Equipment No. 19-55

- (1) What principal changes, if any, should be made in present authorized Table of Organization and Equipment for this battalion?
- (2) How should it be allocated to and employed by command echelons?

3. Instructions.--See Plan of Operation, The General Board.

FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD:

/s/J. W. Keating  
/t/J. W. KEATING,  
Colonel, GSC.,  
Secretary.

THE GENERAL BOARD  
UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER  
Office of the Provost Marshal  
AFO 408

DIRECTIVE: Committee Number 104

SUBJECT : Military Police Battalion T/O & F's 19-55, 56, and 57,  
Conference, 3, 4 and 5 December 1945.

1. Is there a need for the Military Police Battalion (T/O & F 19-55) in addition to the proposed MP Battalion (Army) (T/O & F 19-35), in a theater of operations?

a. Can the traffic, police and security duties in the Com Z be performed as efficiently by the proposed MP Battalion (Army) (T/O & F 19-35) as by present MP Battalion (T/O & F 19-55)?

b. If the proposed MP Battalion (Army) (T/O & F 19-35) can perform the traffic, police and security duties in the Com Z as efficiently as the present MP Battalion (T/O & F 19-55), should it be substituted for the latter? If the former should be substituted for the latter, what should be the latter's allocation to command echelons of a communications zone?

2. If there be a need for the Military Police Battalion (T/O & F 19-55) in a communications zone -

a. What principal changes, if any, should be made in the present authorized T/O & F for this battalion?

- (1) What should be the functions and assignment of the battalion in the theater of operations during operations? (Consider traffic control, enforcement of law and order and security of areas and large cities; port duty; motor rail, water and air transportation guards; installations guards (headquarters, railway yards, factories, etc.), evacuating, guarding and processing of military prisoners of war and civilian internees and administration of their inclosures, camps or other places of custody.
- (2) Should there be a self-sufficient headquarters and headquarters company instead of a headquarters and headquarters detachment? If so, why? How should such a company be generally organized?
- (3) If a self-sufficient headquarters and headquarters company is not needed, what principal changes, if any, should be made in the organization of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (T/O & F 19-55)?
- (4) What principal changes, if any, should be made in the organization of the Military Police Company (T/O & F 19-57)? What number of companies should the battalion have? What number and type of platoons in each company? How many squads in each platoon? How many men in each squad?
- (5) What principal changes, if any, should be made in the organization of the attached medical detachment?

- (6) Is there a need for an organic criminal investigation section in the battalion? What should be its organization?
- (7) What principal changes, if any, should be made in the weapons of the battalion? What should be the basic individual weapon? What should be the auxiliary weapon or weapons and at what rate should they be authorized? Is there a real need for the scout car?
- (8) What principal changes, if any, should be made in the transportation of the battalion? Should all transportation in the company be assigned to a transportation section of company headquarters or should it be distributed to platoons? Should the battalion have motorcycles? If so, in what numbers and distribution?
- (9) What should be the over-all communications and liaison requirements of the battalion? If required, what number, type and distribution of radio and telephone equipment should be provided? If radio vehicles are required, what should be the type? Should one enlisted man be provided to operate both the vehicle and radio or should one man be provided to operate each?
- (10) Should the military police companies have additional mess equipment for each platoon when it is located far from company headquarters?
- (11) What other types of equipment should be changed (such as typewriters)?

PROPOSED T/O 19-35 MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, ARMY

A. Military Police Battalion

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Unit	Battalion headquarters (T/O & E 19-36)	Headquarters company (T/O & E 19-36)	3 Military police companies (each) (T/O & E 19-37)	Total battalion	Attached medical (for details see B)	Aggregate	Enlisted cadre (Military police)
2 Lieutenant colonel	1			1		1	
3 Major	1			1		1	
4 Captain	2	1	1	6	2	8	
5 First lieutenant	3	2	4	17		17	
6 Second lieutenant							
7 Total commissioned	7	3	5	25	2	27	
8 Warrant officer		1		1		1	
9 Master sergeant		1		1		1	
10 First sergeant		1	1	4		4	
11 Technical sergeant		6		6		6	
12 Staff sergeant		7	7	28	1	29	
13 Sergeant		1	10	31	4	35	
14 Corporal		1	9	28		28	
15 Technician, grade 4		28	4	40		40	
16 Technician, grade 5		45	18	99	2	101	
17 Private, first class		18	36	126	4	130	
18 Private, or private, first class		2	108	326		328	
19 Private, including		9	9	36		36	
20 Basic (521)		(6)	(6)	(24)		(24)	
21 Total enlisted		119	202	725	11	736	
22 Aggregate	7	123	207	751	13	764	
23 O <sup>a</sup> Carbine, cal .30	7	123	207	751		751	
24 O <sup>b</sup> Pistol, cal .45, M1911A1	7	31	50	188		188	
25 O Gun, sub-machine, cal .45, Thompson		6	10	36		36	
26 O Motorcycle, solo		2	20	62		62	
27 O Ambulance, 3/4 ton					1	1	
28 O Truck, 1/4 ton, 4x4, 6 volt		11	23	80		80	
29 O Truck, 3/4 ton, 4x4, weapons carrier		19	4	31	1	32	
30 O Truck, 2 1/2 ton		5	12	11		11	
31 O Trailer, 1/4 ton, 2 wheel, cargo		23	23	92		92	
32 O Trailer, 1 ton, 2 wheel, cargo		5	2	11		11	

- REMARKS:
- 1 per individual except medical.
  - 1 per officer and warrant officer except medical; 1 per motorcyclist 100 reserves.
  - 15 trucks, 12 volts, equipped with SCR 193; 4 trucks 6 volts.
  - 1 truck, each, with winch.

B. Medical Letachment - Military Police Battalion

1	2	3	4
Unit	Specifi- cation Serial No.	Techni- cian grade	Total
1 Captain			2
2 Dental	3170		(1)
3 Medical	3100		(1)
4			
5 Total commissioned			2
6 Staff sergeant			1
7 Medical	673		(1)
8 Sergeant			4
9 Medical supply			(1)
10 Medical	673		(3)
11 Technician, grade 5, including			2
12 Private, first class			4
13 Dental technician	855	5	(1)
14 Truckdriver, light	345		(1)
15 Clerk records	055	5	(1)
16 Medical technician	409		(3)
17 Total enlisted			11
18 Aggregate			13
19			
20 O Ambulance, 3/4 ton			1
O Truck, 3/4 ton, 4x4, weapons carrier			1

PROPOSED T/O 19-36, HQ & Hq CO.  
MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, ARMY

Section 1 - Organization

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Unit	Specification serial no.	Technician grade	HEADQUARTERS COMPANY						Total
			Battalion headquarters	Company headquarters	Battalion headquarters section	Supply, maintenance & transportation section	Communications platoon	Investigation Section	
2 Lieutenant colonel			1						1
3 Military police	9110		(1)						(1)
4 Major			1						1
5 Executive	9110		(1)						(1)
6 Captain			2	1					3
7 Operations and training, S-3	2162		(1)						(1)
8 Supply, S-4	4010		(1)						(1)
9 Headquarters company commander	2900			(1)					(1)
10 First lieutenant			3				1	1	5
11 Adjutant and S-1	2100		(1)						(1)
12 Intelligence, S-2	5301		(1)						(1)
13 Maintenance	0600		(1)						(1)
14 Communication	0200						(1)		(1)
15 Investigation	9320							(1)	(1)
16 Total commissioned			7	1			1	1	10
17 Warrant officer					1				1
18 Personnel	2200				(1)				(1)
19 Master sergeant					1				1
20 Sergeant major	502				(1)				(1)
21 First sergeant	584			1					1
22 Technical sergeant					2	2	1	1	6
23 Communication	542						(1)		(1)
24 Investigation	301							(1)	(1)
25 Motor	813					(1)			(1)
26 Operations	814				(1)				(1)
27 Personnel	502				(1)				(1)
28 Supply	821					(1)			(1)
29 Staff sergeant				2		1	2	2	7
30 Investigation	301							(2)	(2)
31 Mess	824			(1)					(1)
32 Radio section chief	766						(1)		(1)
33 Supply	821			(1)		(1)			(2)
34 Wire section chief							(1)		(1)
35 Sergeant					1				1
36 Message center chief	674				(1)				(1)
37 Corporal				1					1
38 Company clerk	405			(1)					(1)
39 Technician, grade 4				3					3
40 Technician, grade 5 including				3		4	3	3	45
41 Private, first class				5		4	1	6	18
42 Private				13				3	11



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43 Armorer-artificer	511	5			(1)					(1)
44 Clerk, general	055	4					(1)		(1)	(2)
45 Clerk, general	055	5				(1)	(1)			(2)
46 Clerk, general	055	6				(1)				(1)
47 Clerk, headquarters	405	5				(1)				(1)
48 Clerk, operations	055	5				(1)				(1)
49 Clerk, personnel	405	4				(1)				(1)
50 Cook	060	4			(2)					(2)
51 Cook	060	5			(1)					(1)
52 Cook's helper	062				d(2)					(2)
53 Draftsman	070	4				(1)				(1)
54 Investigator	301	5							(3)	(3)
55 Lineman	641	6						4(4)		(4)
56 Mechanic, motor	014	4			(1)		(2)			(3)
57 Mechanic, motor	014	5					i(2)			(2)
58 Messenger	055	6				g(1)				(1)
59 Motorcyclist	378	5				(1)				(1)
60 Motorcyclist	378	6				(1)				(1)
61 Operator, radio	766	4						(15)		(15)
62 Operator, radio	766	5						k(30)		(30)
63 Operator, switchboard	650	6						(3)		(3)
64 Orderly	590	6			(1)					(1)
65 Repairman, radio	648	4						j(4)		(4)
66 Truckdriver, light	345	5			e(1)		h(2)			(3)
67 Truckdriver, light	345	6			f(4)		h(1)	g(1)		(7)
68 Truckdriver, light	345							g(3)		(3)
69 Private, basic	521				(6)					(6)
70 Total enlisted					23	14	12	63	7	119
71 Aggregate			7	24	15	12	64	8	130	
72 O Carbine, cal .30			7	23	16	12	64	8	130	
73 O Pistol, automatic, cal .45			7	28	1		1	1	38	
74 O Gun, sub-machine, cal .45, Thompson				6					6	
75 O Motorcycle, solo, (SNL G-523)					2				2	
76 O Truck, 1/4 ton, 4x4, 6 volt				4	1	2			11	
77 O Truck, 3/4 ton, wc 4x4, (SNL 6-507)								n19	19	
78 O Truck, 2 1/2 ton, (SNL 6-508)				01	1	p3			5	
79 O Trailer, 1/4 ton, 2 wheel, cargo				3	1	2	16	1	23	
80 O Trailer, 1 ton, 2 wheel, cargo				1	1	3			5	

## Remarks:

- Also intelligence, S-2
- Also assists S-3
- Includes two privates or privates first class
- Private or private first class; mess team #2.
- Also mail orderly.
- Three drivers 1/4 ton; one driver 2 1/2 ton;
- Drive 1/4 ton truck
- Drive 2 1/2 ton truck.
- Drive 1/4 ton truck and 2 1/2 ton truck.
- Also radio team, chief (766)
- Includes fifteen drivers, 3/4 ton truck.
- Includes one driver 3/4 ton truck.
- With reel unit.
- Fifteen trucks, 12 volts with SCR 193; four trucks 6 volts.
- Kitchen and baggage truck.
- One with winch.

PROPOSED T/O 19-37, MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, ARMY

Section 1 - Organization

1	Unit	2	3 M. P. platoons ( each )				
			Technician grade	Co headquarters	Plat headquarters	3 squads (each)	Total platoon
1	Captain			1			1
2	First lieutenant			1	a 1		4
3	Total commissioned			2	1		5
4	First sergeant			1			1
5	Staff sergeant, including			4	1		7
6	Mess (824)			(1)			(1)
7	Motor (813)			(1)			(1)
8	Operations			(1)			(1)
9	Supply (821)			(1)			(1)
10	Military police (677)				(1)		(3)
11	Sergeant, including			1		1	10
12	Clerk, company (405)			(1)			(1)
13	Military police (677)					(1)	(9)
14	Corporal, including					1	9
15	Military police (677)					(1)	(9)
16	Technician, grade 4			4			4
17	Technician, grade 5 including			9	3		18
18	Private, first class			3	5	2	36
19	Private			9		b 12	117
20	Armorer-artificer (511)	5		c (1)			(1)
21	Clerk, general (055)			(1)			(1)
22	Clerk, typist (405)				d (1)		(3)
23	Cook (060)	4		(3)			(3)
24	Cook (060)	5		(3)			(3)
25	Cook's helper (062)			(3)			(3)
26	Mechanic, automobile (014)	4		(1)			(1)
27	Mechanic, automobile (014)	5		e (1)			(1)
28	Mechanic, motorcycle (138)	5		(1)			(1)
29	Military police (677)				d (1)	b (2)	(7)
30	Military police (677)					b (12)	(36)
31	Motorcyclist (378)	5		(1)	(3)		(3)
32	Motorcyclist (378)			(1)	(3)		(3)
33	Truckdriver, light (345)	5		f (2)			(2)
34	Truckdriver, light (345)			d (1)			(1)
35	Private, basic (521)			(6)			(6)
36	Total enlisted			31	9	16	57
37	Aggregate			33	10	16	58

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	0 Carbine, cal .30 (SNL B-28)		33	10	16	58	207
39	0 Pistol, cal .45, M1911A1 (SNL B-26)		29	7		7	50
40	0 Gun, sub-machine, cal .45, Thompson		10				10
41	0 Motorcycle, solo (SNL G-523)		2	6		6	20
42	0 Truck, 1/4 ton, 4x4		2	1	2	7	23
43	0 Truck, 3/4 ton, weapons carrier, 4x4, 6 volt		1	1		1	4
44	0 Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6x6 (SNL G-508)		1				1
45	0 Truck, 2 1/2 ton, 6x6 w/winch		1				1
46	0 Trailer, 1/4 ton, 2 wheel, cargo		2	1	2	7	29
47	0 Trailer, 1 ton, 2 wheel, cargo		2				2

Remarks:

- a. Executive officer.
- b. Private or private first class.
- c. Drive 2 1/2 ton truck.
- d. Drive 1/4 ton truck.
- e. Drive 3/4 ton truck.
- f. Drive 2 1/2 ton truck; one IM also acts as mail orderly
- g. 1 per individual.
- h. 1 per officer, 1 per motorcyclist, 25 reserve.
- i. Supply truck.
- j. Drive 1 1/2 ton truck, 4x4, 6 volt.
- k. K & B truck.

THE GENERAL BOARD, UNITED STATES FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER, APO 408,  
U. S. Army, 1 December 1945.

TO: The Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater (Main)  
APO 757, U. S. Army.

1. The following comments and recommendations are submitted after  
study of this question.

a. Reference paragraph 1. a., basic communication.

- (1) Operation of the battalion during the European campaign demonstrated the need for a self-sufficient Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Military Police Battalion. Under the present organization, where the headquarters detachment is not administratively self-sufficient, it must be located at all times with one of the companies. This has proven inefficient and awkward and prevents the battalion commander from giving full consideration to the disposition of troops in the plan of operation and locating his command post at the approximate center of his area of responsibility. At times it is advantageous for the battalion commander to locate his headquarters in proximity to army headquarters where it will be possible to keep in close touch with the tactical situation. It is important that a headquarters company containing maintenance and supply personnel, communications personnel, and criminal investigation personnel, be located in such a position where it can best administer to the needs of the various companies. This cannot logically be effected when the battalion headquarters is dependent upon one of its companies for administration. The need for a self-sufficient headquarters is further substantiated by the fact that during the campaign all military police battalions (army) operating in this theater made the battalion headquarters self-sufficient in order to meet operational demands. This was accomplished by securing additional equipment and drawing in additional personnel from the companies. Army commanders who operated under 12th Army Group have advocated this change. The Provost Marshal, Seventh US Army has voiced his concurrence.
- (2) The additional personnel and equipment required for such a company are shown in the proposed T/O & F's 19-36 marked Incl. #1 to letter, Headquarters 12th Army Group, subject as above, 20 May 1945. These tables are concurred in except as noted in this indorsement.
  - (a) Each military police battalion has found it essential to establish an operations section with an S-3 to operate same, in order that there will be a central clearing office for receipt of information and orders and their regular transmission thereof to the police companies. In addition to these duties, the S-3 should be charged with the preparation of training programs, schedules, and requirements for training inspections.

- (b) The S-2 is required for normal intelligence purposes and particularly as it pertains to security in the army service area. In addition he is needed in the team with S-3 to furnish twenty-four hour a day service.
- (c) The communications officer is needed to command the communications platoon which would be charged with the responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of the communication system for the battalion. For signal equipment see paragraph b below.
- (d) A dental officer is required for a battalion composed of some seven hundred and sixty-four officers and men, who are scattered over a large area.

b. Reference paragraph b., basic communication.

- (1) The overall communications and liaison requirements for this battalion is twenty-four hours daily constant contact with each of its operating military police companies, with army headquarters, with traffic regulating posts in its area, and with any particular point or points vital to proper traffic, police or security control. Everything can and did happen to disrupt traffic, create a serious police problem, and produce a security threat in the corps and army areas. The military police scattered throughout the area most often receive the information first. This information is useless if it cannot be delivered to the proper authority in time for adequate action, whether it pertains to a destroyed bridge or an impassable road, a changed destination of a unit already enroute, a raid by displaced personnel, a mail robbery, or the dropping of hostile parachutists. Communication facilities must be adequate to transmit information quickly and permit coordination of military police units over a large area. Only in this way can mobility and flexibility necessary to tactical success, police and security control be assured. The need for providing a network to facilitate this control is paramount. Radio furnishes a valuable means of signal communications especially applicable to motor movements. Radios should have a minimum range of fifty miles and be easily mounted in vehicles. It is believed the SCR 193 is the most practicable. It is light with a voice range of twenty miles and CW of sixty miles. Although SCR 188 may give greater range, the set is entirely too heavy for military police purposes. The twenty-four hour "open" net will require trained operators and radio mechanics to ensure uninterrupted communications. Future dependence cannot be placed upon any one means; alternate means must be provided. To supplement communications with the companies and army headquarters, wire, switchboards and telephones should be authorized. Wire should generally be laid at distances of twenty to twenty-five miles and additional personnel should be authorized to lay, repair and maintain wire lines and operate switchboards. Wire is necessary also because radio is often silenced.

- (2) Battalion and company commanders feel that the signal equipment recommended in the proposed T/O & F is inadequate. Operational experience in this theater indicates that the following telephones and radios should be authorized military police battalions:

	<u>Hq Co</u>	<u>Co</u>	<u>Total Bn.</u>
Telephone, Field, FP-8	10	8	34
Radio, SCR 193	26	0	26

- (3) Public address system proved immensely valuable in handling crowds and in solving traffic jams. They may also be used advantageously in controlling the army light line and the issuance of proclamations to civilian population.
- (4) The proposal for organizing all communications personnel and equipment, except wire equipment for companies, into a communications platoon as part of headquarters company is concurred in. The two basic reasons for this concurrence are training of personnel and maintenance of equipment and the varying needs of companies for radio communications. Each military police company needs wire communication to maintain contact with scattered platoons, and to control traffic bottlenecks. These demands are constant and the equipment should be organic with the company.
- (5) The proposed tables of organization and equipment provide 3/4-ton trucks, 12 volts, for radios SCR 193 to be issued to the battalion. Practically every operational experience in the European Theater has established the 3/4-ton truck as unsatisfactory for traffic control purposes. This vehicle is too large and cumbersome. It should be replaced in the proposed table with the 1/4-ton truck even though it may be necessary to convert the 1/4-ton truck, 6 volt, to a 1/4-ton truck, 12 volts.

c. Reference paragraph 1. c., basic communication:

- (1) All military police should be armed with the pistol, caliber .45 M1911 A-1, as the basic arm, other weapons to be auxiliary. Experience in this theater has proven that the pistol is the most practicable weapon for military police in accomplishing their overall mission. Information of a mission requiring an arm other than the pistol is almost always received sufficiently in advance to arm the military police with the proper weapon. Such missions may be a hunt for enemy parachutists, suppression of a riot, guarding of some important installation such as a railway yard, guarding prisoners or displaced persons, rounding up gangs of displaced persons or a special manhunt. By being armed with the pistol and auxiliary weapons, the battalion will be able to perform its routine mission as well as recurring special incident missions. Reserve weapons over and above those assigned to each individual are necessary to take care of separate situations. Experience has shown that a certain number of sub-machine guns should be authorized for

guard and riot duty. The recommended allowance of sub-machine guns is felt adequate for military police needs. This weapon is light, extremely portable, and produces considerable fire-power. It is accurate and can be fired from the hip or shoulder. Its compactness makes it an excellent weapon for use in vehicles where other weapons are too large and bulky. It is especially useful at night or in fog where its burst of fire will usually secure hits. The use of sub-machine guns does not coincide with the report of Army Ground Forces Equipment Review Board which proposes that carbines will be substituted for the sub-machine gun. This difference is not too important. If the modified automatic carbine is issued, the advantage then favors the carbine. The need for an auxiliary weapon is recognized and inasmuch as the sub-machine gun uses the same type ammunition as the pistol, it is believed that this weapon would be the most practicable auxiliary arm. It is estimated that one sub-machine gun should be authorized for each 20 pistols.

d. Reference paragraph 1. d., basic communication.

- (1) Personnel of military police battalions should be trained to handle traffic, police and security duties. All platoons within the company should be identically organized, equipped and trained. Military police throughout an area function in small units. Battalions assign areas to companies, companies assign areas to platoons. Often the platoons are quartered and rationed many miles from the company headquarters. Each element has area responsibility, including traffic, police, and security. At times, a battalion may be one hundred percent engaged in traffic, example on the "red ball" main supply route through France, again it may be one hundred percent police and security, example a battalion in a large city (Paris), where most traffic is handled by civilians. For military police companies and aviation military police companies perform all three duties in relatively small areas. Training for military policemen must be more general than that contemplated for men assigned to a specific task in organized tactical units. Although traffic and town patrols are primary missions of the battalion, the mission of military police is such that personnel must also be trained in the handling of prisoners of war and stragglers, operating stockades and inclosures, preventing and investigating crime and enforcing law and regulations.
- (2) The basic organization of the company should be three (3) platoons of four (4) squads each, and a company headquarters. The proposed organization of the company headquarters is felt to be adequate. The platoon should contain a platoon headquarters and four twelve man squads. With the change from three sixteen man squads to four twelve man squads, the proposed table of organization is adequate. The addition of one squad to each platoon without increasing the overall strength but adding two non-commissioned officers gives more flexibility in control and distribution of small elements.

e. Reference paragraph 1. e., basic communication;

- (1) The organization of the transportation facilities as shown in the respective proposed tables of organization and equipment, 19-35, 19-36, and 19-37, is sound and meets the need for operational mobility. Sufficient transportation, except radio vehicles, should be assigned to each squad, platoon headquarters, company headquarters, and to sections of the headquarters and headquarters company for normal operational purposes.

2. From the foregoing discussion the following conclusions were drawn:

a. That there is a requirement for an administratively self-sufficient headquarters and headquarters company military police battalion in lieu of the current headquarters and headquarters detachment, and that the additional personnel and equipment for such company should be as shown in the proposed Tables of Organization and Equipment No. 19-35 and 19-36 marked Incl. No. 1 herewith to letter Headquarters 12th Army Group, subject: Proposed New Table of Organization and Equipment for Military Police Battalion (Army), dated 20 May 1945, except as indicated in paragraph 1. b. (2) and (5), c. and d (2), above,

b. That the overall communications and liaison requirements for the subject battalion are twenty-four hour daily contact with its companies, with army headquarters, with traffic regulating posts, and with any particular point or points vital to proper traffic, police, or security control. That for this purpose, both telephone and radio means of communication and the personnel to operate these means are required. That this signal equipment and operating personnel can best be organized as provided in the proposed Tables of Organization and Equipment except that the additional equipment indicated in paragraph 1.b. (2) and the necessary personnel to operate same should be included.

c. That the basic individual arms for this battalion should be the pistol, caliber .45. That the auxiliary weapon should be the Thompson sub-machine gun caliber .45 which should be provided on the basis of one per 20 pistols.

d. That the platoon be composed of a platoon headquarters and four twelve-man squads instead of three sixteen-man squads as provided in the proposed table of organization and equipment. That the platoons within the military police company should be identically organized and trained to function in traffic, police and security duties.

e. That to provide the necessary mobility the transportation facilities can best be organized within the battalion as indicated in the proposed tables of organization and equipment, except that the 3/4-ton truck is unsatisfactory for traffic control purposes and should be replaced by the 1/4-ton truck, 12 volt, and that a trailer 1/4-ton, two wheel cargo, should be provided for each 1/4-ton truck shown on the proposed table of organization and equipment.

3. It is recommended that:

a. That the proposed tables of organization and equipment Nos. 19-35, 19-36, and 19-37, marked inclosure No.1 to letter, Headquarters 12th Army Group, dated 20 May 1945, as amended by this indorsement, be approved and adopted.



b. That all communications personnel and equipment, except telephones and accessories for companies, be organized into a communications platoon of the headquarters company and that radios and telephones be provided on the following basis:

	<u>Hq Co</u>	<u>Co</u>	<u>Total</u>
Telephones, EE 8	10	8	34
Radios, SCR 193	26	0	26

c. That the basic individual arm for this battalion be the pistol, caliber .45 and that the Thompson sub-machine gun, caliber .45, be provided for each twenty pistols as an auxiliary weapon.

d. That the military police platoon be organized into four (4) twelve-man squads instead of three (3) sixteen-man squads, and that platoons within the military police company be identically organized and trained to function in traffic, police, and security duties.

e. That the fifteen (15) 3/4-ton trucks, 12 volt, be replaced with fifteen (15) 1/4-ton trucks, 12 volt; and that a trailer, 1/4-ton, two wheel, cargo, be provided for each 1/4-ton truck, shown on the proposed table.

FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD:

/s/ C. R. Landon  
 /t/ C. R. LANDON  
 Colonel, AGD  
 Secretary

2 Incls.: n/c.

PROVOST MARSHAL CONFERENCE  
3, 4, 5 DECEMBER 1945

REPORT : Committee Number #104

SUBJECT: Military Police Battalion, T/O & E 19-55, 19-56, and 19-57.

1. It is the unanimous opinion of this committee that there is no need for two types of battalions in a theater of operations and that the proposed Military Police Battalion (Army) could in its present form, fulfill all the missions which have been assigned to military police battalions in the European Theater of Operations. Also, it is the opinion of this committee that in the proposed Tables of Organization and Equipment 19-35, 19-36, and 19-37, Military Police Battalion (Army) certain deficiencies exist which, if corrected, would enable this battalion to perform the military police duties more efficiently.

2. The principle deficiencies of the suggested Army Battalion T/O & E 19-35, 19-36, and 19-37 are that:

a. Shortage of radio equipment and its centralization in the communication platoon of the Headquarters Company, when operational experience shows that companies and platoons are generally distributed over wide areas and not grouped with the Battalion Headquarters.

b. Trucks equipped with radios are not in sufficient quantity to permit 24 hour patrols with constant access to a central control station and supply the normal number of patrols required as compared with operational demands.

c. Trucks, 1/4-ton provided as required by operational demands are not sufficient to provide the maximum number of patrols on a 24 hour basis when normal percentage of deadlined vehicles are considered.

d. Motorcycles have been provided for far over normal requirements and maximum useful usage.

e. Squads of sixteen (16) men each and platoons of three (3) squads each for practical purposes do not provide maximum usage with minimum loss of man power.

f. That platoons as set up are not self-sufficient for operational purposes when used separate from the company as is the normal operational experience rather than the exceptional.

g. Organic motor equipment is not sufficient to provide maximum mobility in moving either platoons or companies.

h. That an insufficient number of clerks are provided for and that the distribution of clerks is not equitable as compared with operational requirements.

i. As set up the communications section of the headquarters company contains all radio operators of the battalion when operators normally are used in the platoon and company units; that an insufficient number of Radio Repair Mechanics have been provided, considering radios and per cent normally out of use for repairs caused in constantly patrolling all types of roads; that no provision has been made for surplus issue of radios to be substituted for those non-operational which means that a

non-operating radio also eliminates one truck normally assumed to be operationally available.

j. In the allocation of motor sergeants no provision has been made for one in the platoon overhead to insure maximum use; proper and constant care of platoon vehicles.

k. Allocation of trailers is not sufficient and maximum use of all vehicles, especially in moves has not been provided for by maximum assignment of trailers for cargo moving.

l. The basic weapon of all Military Police personnel should be the pistol with other weapons issued as organic equipment for special usage.

m. With these delinquencies in mind it is recommended that the basic units around which the battalion should be built ~~485~~ the squad and platoon.

n. Each squad should consist of twelve (12) men and have assigned two (2) trucks, 1/4-ton, 4x4, (radio equipped).

o. Such a squad would provide:

- (1) Two, 2-man 1/4-ton truck patrols on a 24 hour basis.
- (2) Two, 2-man motor patrols and four 2-man foot patrols on a 24 hour basis.
- (3) Two, 2-man motor patrols and two 4-man traffic control squads per squad.
- (4) A traffic control point information center and 1/4-ton convoy guides when used as a Traffic Control Regulating Point.
- (5) Two, 2-man motor patrols on a 24 hour basis when assigned for town patrol work or road patrolling in small cities, towns, and villages. Many more useful operations could be enumerated but these in the opinion of the committee show the flexible and multiple use of the suggested squad

p. By using a 12-man squad with a Staff Sergeant as Squad Leader, Sergeant as Assistant Squad Leader, two Corporals, four Privates First Class and four Privates, regardless of the breakdown in usage the squad of 12, a squad section of 6, 4, or 2 would always have an NCO in charge.

q. Each platoon should be composed of four squads, 12 men each, and have a platoon headquarters section constructed as follows:

- 1 - First Lieutenant - Commanding
- 1 - Technical Sergeant - Second in Command
- 1 - Technician Fourth Grade } - Investigators
- 1 - Technician Fifth Grade }
- 1 - Technician Fifth Grade } - Clerk-Typists
- 1 - Private First Class }
- 1 - Technician Fifth Grade - Radio Operator (776)
- 1 - Private First Class - Telephone Operator (704)
- 4 - Motor Cyclists (871)
- 1 - Transportation Sergeant (813)
- 5 - Technician Fifth Grade - Driver, truck, light (341)
- 6 - Driver, truck, light (341)

making the platoon total one (1) officer and seventy-one (71) enlisted men. Summed up the vehicles within the platoon would be as follows:

- 9 - Truck, 1/4-ton, 4x4, radio equipped
- 1 - Truck, 3/4-ton, 4x4
- 1 - Truck, 1 1/2-ton, 6x6
- 4 - Motorcycles, solo
- 9 - Trailers, 1/4-ton
- 2 - Trailers, 1-ton

- (1) It is the unanimous opinion of the undersigned committee, representing and having operationally used platoons in Division, Corps, Army, Advance Section, Communications Zone, Ports and other assignments during the active period of operations; that such a platoon could fulfill efficiently all operational requirements and demands of any command.

r. Companies should be composed of three such platoons plus a company headquarters detachment as follows:

- 1 - Captain - Company Commander
- 1 - First Lieutenant - Administrative Officer
- 1 - First Sergeant (585)
- 1 - Technical Sergeant - Radio Operator (776)
- 1 - Technician Fourth Grade - Radio Operator (776)
- 1 - Sergeant - Company Clerk (405)
- 1 - Technician Fourth Grade - Clerk Typist (405)
- 1 - Technician Fifth Grade - Telephone Operator (704)
- 1 - Bugler (803)
- 1 - Staff Sergeant - Mess Sergeant (824)
- 3 - Technician Fourth Grade - Cook (060)
- 3 - Technician Fifth Grade - Cook (060)
- 3 - Privates First Class - Cook's Helpers (521)
- 1 - Technical Sergeant - Supply Sergeant (821)
- 1 - Technician Fifth Grade - Armorer and Artificer (511)
- 1 - Staff Sergeant - Motor Sergeant (821)
- 1 - Technician Fourth Grade - Mechanic (014)
- 2 - Technician Fifth Grade - Truck Driver (345)
- 2 - Privates First Class - Truck Driver (345)

It is recommended that the motor vehicles for the Company headquarters be changed to:

- 2 - Truck, 2 1/2-ton, 6x6, Cargo
- 2 - Truck, 1/4-ton, 4x4
- 2 - Trailers, 1/4-ton
- 2 - Trailers, 1-ton

s. Battalions should consist of three letter companies as recommended above plus battalion headquarters and headquarters company, as follows:

- (1) The battalion headquarters with the present Officer personnel is accepted as written with the exception of the Warrant Officer, who should be a 2nd Lieutenant. The reason for this is that the 2nd Lieutenant would be equally as well qualified to function as a personnel officer and there would be an added incentive of a possibility of promotion without unusual administrative procedure. Another reason is that a Warrant Officer cannot be used in as many positions according to existing regulations as an Officer.

- (2) The Company Clerk is recommended to be a Sergeant rather than a Corporal due to the responsibility of administration pertaining to a Battalion Headquarters Company being equal to a letter company.
- (3) It is recommended that all radio operators be eliminated with the exception of three (3) Technicians Fourth Grade and three (3) Technicians Fifth Grade, retained for the purpose of operating the battalion net control station. Those eliminated are eliminated because the radios are transferred to companies rather than the battalion communications sections. Military police on duty with radio cars will be trained in reception and sending.
- (4) Increase Communications Section, five (5) Technicians Fourth Grade - Radio Mechanics, and five (5) Technicians Fifth Grade - Radio Mechanics, for, adequate provisions have not been made for the continuous maintenance of proposed radio allotment.
- (5) Add to Investigation Section two (2) Technicians Fourth Grade and two (2) Technicians Fifth Grade.
- (6) Eliminate the fifteen (15) 3/4-ton Trucks because the radios will be mounted in the 1/4-ton Trucks assigned to companies, and substitute four (4) 1/4-ton trucks making a total of five (5) 1/4-ton trucks for this section. Eliminate eleven (11) 1/4-ton trailers.
- (7) Add to CI Section two (2) 1/4-ton Trucks and four (4) 1/4-ton trailers. This will give a 1/4-ton Truck to each team of 2 operating in CI plus a 1/4-ton truck for transportation on investigation work.
- (8) The total for the entire battalion is twenty-five (25) Officers and 804 enlisted men. This battalion total does not include the Medical Detachment of the battalion which is acceptable as shown and consists of one (1) Dental Officer, one (1) Medical Officer and eleven (11) enlisted men.

3. Reasons for assigning two CID men to each platoon is in order to provide each platoon operating singly with experienced investigators for immediate handling of all crimes in the major crime category. If operating as a company or a battalion these two man platoon teams can be consolidated for current demands.

4. The Clerk Typists assigned to the platoon are assigned in order to enable platoons to operate in the field as a self-sufficient administrative unit.

5. No attempt has been made to specify in detail all equipment but it is the unanimous opinion that the basic weapon of all military police should be the pistol, with other weapons issued as auxiliary weapons. The reasons for recommending pistols as a basic weapon are that military police ordinarily are not concerned in fire fights. This weapon is most desirable because it is a close up protective weapon. The pistol is also desirable because it is best for use by military police on traffic points because of the hazard existing when attempting to direct traffic with another type weapon slung over or across the shoulders. The pistol is again

desirable for all town patrol duties because military police are specifically charged with not drawing a weapon except when their own lives are in jeopardy and it makes the task of handling delinquents easier. In addition, if the military police on town patrol carries the carbine or the rifle, either slung over the shoulder or across, and in some cases actually in his hand, it is more easily grabbed in wrestling with delinquents. Another reason is that one of the basic items of equipment for military police, especially on town patrol, is the night stick and it would be rather difficult to handle a night stick and carbine or sub-machine gun at the same time.

6. This particular committee was composed of representatives from Army Battalions, Port Battalion, Communications Zone Battalion (including those used in large city patrols), and Advance Section Battalions, and it is the unanimous opinion of all concerned that a battalion set up in accordance with the ideas as expressed in this study would be the most perfect organization to complete all missions which up to this time have been assigned to the military police of these varied type organizations, either as platoon units, companies, or battalions.