

3rd Cavalry Division
Io. No. 867 classified

Essen, April 23, 1920

Subject: Organization of the Red Combat Operations
Reference: Military District VI - Io. No. 3102 pers. dated April 15, 1920
To: Military District Command VI

Münster

The following information has been compiled based on captured documents, etc. Some of the documents were already submitted to the Military District Command on April 5, 1920, under 3.K.D, Io No. 323, classified.

I. "Supreme Army Command of the Ruhr"

Elected by the "Combat Troop Commanders" on March 26, 1920. It was responsible for the entire front between Wesel and Ahsen.

The Supreme Army Command (OHL) consisted of Comrades Weitkamp, Leidner, and Bowensiepen.

Headquarters of the OHL: As of March 30, 1920, Mülheim (Ruhr).

II. Sectors of the Wesel-Ahsen Front (March 30, 1920)

Sector I (Western Sector): Wesel-Schermbeck

Sector Commander: Comrade Veitkamp (?)

Headquarters: Oberhausen (initially, apparently in Holten).

Subsector I, 1: Rhein-Hünxe

Subsector Commander: Comrade Dudo (fallen).

Subsector I, 2: Hünxe-Schermbeck

Subsector Commander: Comrade Salte (alias?).

Sector II (Eastern Sector): Schermbeck-Ahsen

Sector Commander: Comrade Gräf.

Headquarters: Marl.

Courier (elected): Comrade Haumann (Michel).

Subsector II, 1: Schermbeck-Hervest (Ferry)

Subsector Commander: Comrade Karusseit.

Subsector II, 2: Hervest-Ahsen

Subsector Commander: Comrade Plesegen.

(See Appendices 1 and 2 for reference.)

III. Deployed Formations

No clear picture of the deployment at the front can be derived from the available documents.

a) At the Front:

2nd Company Bottrop: Deployed on March 28 between Holsterhausen and Schermbeck, subordinated to Sector II (Appendix 3).

Company Rosa Luxemburg (Hüls): Initially deployed near Holten, later near Lippramsdorf.

Leader: Max Kalle, Hüls, Scharnhorststraße.

Additional Leaders: Stülzer, Schmelser, and Herwig.

Formed: Immediately after the Berlin incidents.

Strength: Over 30 men.

b) Other Formations in Front of the 3rd K.D. Sector

Company Horst I: Personnel from Horst, Horster Mark, mainly from Nordstern I and II mines, Gladbeck, Karnap.

Strength: Approx. 50 men.

Company Leader: Schulz or Barnickel.

Formed: Around March 19–29, 1920.

2nd Company Eisner (Marl):

Strength: Approx. 29 men.

Company Leader: Otto Krumbholz.

Group Leaders: Paul Rauner, Otto Lang, K. Pichol, Gustav Zacher.

Company Haase (Schönebeck near Essen): Mostly Poles.

Strength: Approx. 41 men.

Company Leader: Gustav Kausikat.

Deputy Leader: Josef Solecki.

Group Leaders: Willi Dordt, Haupt, Heinrich Staudinger, Gustav Franzeck.

Formed: March 16, 1920.

Company Trotsky (Hervest-Dorsten, Holsterhausen):

Strength: Approx. 41 men, 4 nurses.

Company Leader: Hans Tarwischen.

Deputy Leader: Otto Fidora.

Group Leaders: Johann Malik, Eugen Drabinski, Ludwig Baderak, Heinrich Stepp.

Company (Name Unknown):

Strength: Approx. 150 men (including "Steiner Kreuz" assault squad, "Drees Hospital" medical personnel, and office staff).

Leader: Unknown.

Formed: By approximately March 20, 1920.

Company Bebel:

Strength: Approx. 157 men (including kitchen staff, craftsmen, orderlies, cyclists, undertakers, confiscation commission).

Company Leader: Karl Döhmen.

Platoon Leader: Friedrich Olgemann.

Formed: By approximately March 29, 1920.

Company H. Bossendorf:

Strength: Approx. 25 men.

Leader: Franz Schmidt (?).

Formed: March 20–29, 1920.

Assault Squad Liebknecht-Bertlich:

Strength: Approx. 29 men.

Leader: Adolf Effenberg.

Deployed as early as March 22, 1920.

1st Company Buer: Strength: Approx. 65 men.

1st Company Herten: Strength: Approx. 36 men.

Company Hain-Haase: Strength: Approx. 31 men.

4th Company Gelsenkirchen: Deputy Company Leader: Somme (Appendix 6).

Company Essen II: Segeroth, deployed in the Marl area on March 21 (Appendix 4).

Company Liebknecht: Strength: At least approx. 40 men (in Buer on March 27) (Appendix 5).

Company Haltern: Strength: Approx. 26 men.

Company Loreley: No further details available.

1st Company Bochum: Strength: Approx. 50 men.

2nd Company Bochum: Strength: Approx. 83 men.

3rd Company Bochum: With machine gun platoon Bochum.

4th Company Bochum: Strength: Approx. 42 men.

7th Company Bochum: Strength: Approx. 24 (?) men.

8th Company Bochum: Strength: Approx. 65 men.

Battery Ibsen: Strength: Approx. 16 men.

In Gelsenkirchen, a special red formation (battalion) appears to have been established.

Leader: Wilhelm Frischak.

Deputy Leader: Paul Bräuner.

The term "Batln." (Battalion) is used here (Appendices 7–9).

IV. Communication Means

Couriers, mounted messengers, and cyclists were demonstrably used for communication. The organization of the cyclist service appears to have received particular attention.

The following were confirmed:

4 cyclist stations with 3–4 cyclists each.

Overall organization leader: Pröpper.

Additionally, a cyclist unit (?) of 27 men was part of Company Bebel.

Carrier pigeon connection: Marl-Mülheim (Ruhr) (Appendix 1).

No special telegraph stations (beyond fixed installations) were identified.

V. Medical Service

Central hub for Sector II: Marl.

Leader: Otto Hartmann.

In Marl medical unit: 29 men.

From Marl, several dressing stations were advanced to the front (e.g., to Haltern, Sickingmühle, and Dorsten).

Wounded transport: From Marl.

VI. Logistics

Rations Office (Intendantur): Duisburg, managed by Supply Commander Kuhlmann.

Weapons and Ammunition: Directed by Comrade Leidner in Mülheim (Ruhr) (Appendices 10 and 11).

Notes:

1. The above information reflects the situation as of approximately March 20, 1920. With the Reichwehr's attack, daily changes occurred due to the disintegration of formations, accelerated relocations of higher headquarters, and other modifications.

2. At the start of the uprising, the red "OKL" was located in Dortmund. Gräf, Sector Commander II, apparently had his headquarters in Haus Sythen (Appendix 12).

3. Appendices have been submitted only to Military District Command VI.

**On behalf of the Division,
Chief of the General Staff
Signed: [Signature], Major.**