THE FLASHING of the signal: BLITZ REPEAT BLITZ ALL STATIONS halted all message traffic on the police teletype net in the combined American and British Zones of occupied Germany. The top priority teletype signal which is used by police only in catastrophies, uprisings, or similar occurrences, was repeated: BLITZ REPEAT BLITZ ALL STATIONS, and all teletype lines were cleared and station operators standing by. Then came the message:

TO ALL POLICE—U.S. ARMY, C-47 PLANE NUMBER 8736 ENROUTE FROM PISA ITALY TO FRANKFURT GERMANY IS MISSING WITH TWENTY-ONE AMERICANS ABOARD. ALL POLICE AGENCIES ARE INSTRUCTED TO SEARCH THEIR AREAS THOROUGHLY. IF PLANE IS LOCATED OR ANY INFORMATION IS OBTAINED NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. GUENTER CHIEF LCB WIESBADEN DATE 30 NOVEMBER 47 TIME 1200 HOURS.

This was opening signal for the German police to join in one of the greatest hunts to be conducted in the European Command for a missing American aircraft. However, the hunt ended without any trace of the plane.

The transmission of such a message by this means to all police agencies in the Bizonal Area is possible as a result of two years' work by MG public safety officers, the Central Bureau of Criminal Identification and Statistics of each state,
and Reichspost telecommunications officials. The state systems of the US Zone had also been linked with similar police communications of the British Zone.

The echo of the last shot of the war had scarcely died before the task of organizing the Hessian German police was begun by the OMGH Public Safety Division. The urgency of establishing the police communication system was reflected in the crime rate and low number of criminal apprehensions by police.

In prewar days the city of Frankfurt had been an industrial center and as such was also a center of communications. The city had been bombed frequently and was heavily damaged. In spite of this damage to the city, which included all public utilities, the central location of this city was one of the determining factors for choosing it as the center of the new communication system.

A survey of the Reichspost Administration Building disclosed that the teletype and telephone switchboards were badly damaged. The plan for placing at least one teletype station in each of 39 counties and two cities of Hesse presented a tremendous job because of the lack of equipment, machines, wire and other necessary equipment.

The urgency of establishing such a communication net was given impetus by reports of many roving bands of criminals which were looting, pillaging and spreading terror in their wake among the populace in the rural districts of the state. The following incident was typical of the many crimes committed:

A gang of five criminals made a forced entry into a farmhouse on the outskirts of a small village, killed four of the five members of the family, stole everything of value, and escaped. Police were at the scene of the crime within a reasonable time, but because of lack of communications were unable to alert other police agencies in the surrounding cities and towns.

The telecommunications services of the Reichspost Administration repaired the damaged switchboards and lines quickly. However, due to the lack of teletype machines, the police were required to furnish their own. So the combined efforts of Military Government and the German police were necessary in locating teletypewriters in the factories and business houses of the state.

Many of the private owners of these machines were cooperative, although some were not, and search methods were then necessary.

Searches led into cellars, coal bins, and even cattle barns. Sufficient teletypewriters were uncovered and obtained to establish a small net. Each machine was taken over by the Hessian German authorities in accordance with the existing German laws.

On Sept. 20, 1946, the first net was officially opened, consisting of nine teletype machines operating in eight stations. As more teletype machines were found they were promptly added to the net. As Bavaria had its system in full of operation, teletype connections were made to Munich via Stuttgart and to Munich via Nuremberg. Bremen was reached through Kassel and Hanover. The police of Hesse finally had clear channel teletype communication with the capitals of the other states in the US Zone.

The line to Kassel had to carry a tremendous load as this line was the only connection between the US and British Zones. Additional lines were made available from Frankfurt to Hanover and from Frankfurt to Düsseldorf. The addition of these two lines relieved the traffic on the Kassel line. The police of the British and American Zone were then linked.

The efficiency of police improved as the communication system was improved and enlarged. Today there are 27 teletype stations in Hesse.
alone and the work of setting them up already is paying off in apprehensions of criminals and in carrying out other police functions.

In 1945 and early 1946, one crime was being committed for every 110 persons in Hesse a month, one apprehension was being made for every eight policemen per month. Today, there is one crime for every 100 persons, but apprehensions by police have increased to the rate of one for every three and one-half police per month.

RECENTLY A desperate criminal escaped from one of the penal institutions of the state. The entire police system was alerted by teletype and the criminal was picked up the next day at a point 300 miles from the institution. This would have been impossible a few months ago.

A "big-time" burglar made a good sized "haul" in a Hessian city and leisurely boarded the train for the British Zone, thinking he was safe. A teletype flash throughout the two zones warned the police, and the thief stepped off the train at Hamburg in the British Zone into the arms of waiting police.

A frantic mother in Darmstadt begged the assistance of the police in recovering her lost child, a little girl who had been missing several hours. A description of the child was flashed out over the teletype and a few hours later an alert parolman picked up the child on a Frankfurt street.

While such illustrations show the more sensational cases which the teletype net has helped materially in closing, the routine uses of the net are fully as important. Daily descriptions of wanted and escaped criminals and descriptions of stolen American and German autos and other police information are sent out to all stations.

Sufficient teletype equipment has been found to complete the net of 41 stations within a short period of time.

Completion of the teletype net is one phase in the reorganization of German police communications. As this system increases its efficiency, plans may be considered for the establishment of a police radio net.

Such a police radio net will include both stationary and mobile radio receivers and transmitters. In accordance with current MG directives, police radio transmitter stations cannot have a range greater than 10 to 15 miles and the mobile transmitters in cars will have a much shorter range of four to five miles. These radios operate in the ultra high frequency band.

The acquiring of equipment for this radio net has been difficult but the day is not far distant when the signal in the air which strikes fear in criminals and reassures the law abiding citizen will be heard in police radio cars: "Achtung, Achtung, alle Autos hören!, more familiarly known to Americans as "Calling All Cars."

Annual Battle Starts Against Potato Pest

THE ANNUAL fight to save the German potato crop was launched with an appeal to the villagers and school children of the Bizonal Area to comb the fields for the colorado beetles. These pests are more threatening than in any previous postwar year.

The present mass infestation of the soil is one of the most serious that has ever occurred in Germany, and is far greater this spring than it was last year. This is attributed by bizonal food and agriculture officials to the exceptionally mild winter and warm spring, which favored the multiplication of the beetles and their early emergence from the ground.

The plague is particularly acute in the potato producing areas of North Rhine/Westphalia, Hesse and Wurttemberg-Baden.

German plant protection offices are carrying on an intensive press and radio campaign outlining methods for combating the insect. Farmers are being advised to refrain from using any of the scarce insecticides available until specifically ordered to, so that maximum results may be obtained from the limited supply on hand. Chemicals used for spraying and dusting the crops are in short supply because indigenous factories have not so far attained their production targets, but every effort is now being made by the responsible German officials to meet established requirements.

At the present time a total of 6,500 tons of chemical insecticide, an amount sufficient to cover 1,901,900 acres of potato area, have been placed at the disposal of the bizonal population. The first spraying took place in North Rhine/Westphalia, and operations were extended to the Oldenburg region.

To help combat the colorado beetle on the international level the German bizonal administration is participating in the international control scheme, with a contribution of RM 1,500,000 for labor.

Press Realizes Freedom

In a discussion broadcast by Radio Frankfurt, two publishers and a freelance journalist of Hesse indicated that German newsmen do not feel that Military Government regulations hamper their efforts to report news; that German newspapers feel free to, and do, criticize Military Government; that there is no censorship of the press in the US-occupied Area of Germany; and that newspapers do not feel any compulsion to take part in Military Government's reorientation program.
Hesse Judge Returns to the US

Among the many trials conducted by Maj. Herbert S. Gawronski (left) during 47 months as Hesse MG summary court judge, was one involving his immediate superior officer, Mr. Franklin J. Potter. Photo shows Potter, who is director of the Legal Division, OMGH, paying a fine for a traffic violation. (PIO OMGH)

Maj. Herbert S. Gawronski, Wiesbaden's MG summary court judge for the past two years, has ended his tour of duty with the occupation forces to return to his home in the United States.

In his 47 months on the bench, he has conducted 11,523 trials, in addition to an unrecorded number of first hearings.

As summary court judge for OMG Hesse, Gawronski was responsible for the trials of American and Allied civilian personnel and Germans charged with breaking MG laws. His decisions were described by OMGH legal division officials as discerning, fair and just.

Besides sitting on several of the most important cases to come before Military Government, Gawronski has heard as many as 300 law violators during a single day, in addition to an average of eight daily trials.

Gawronski, who wears the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, is returning to his home in Watervliet, N.Y.

MG Recognizes UGO Group in Berlin

US Military Government closed the six district offices of the Berlin Free German Trade Union Federation (FDGB) in the US Sector for one day on June 8 when attempts to move property from the offices led to disturbances.

The "provisional management" of the Berlin FDGB established by the Independent Trade Union Opposition (UGO) was requested the following day by Military Government to designate individuals to take charge of the offices, which were accordingly reopened later the same day.

US Military Government recognized, also on June 9, the "provisional management" as the authorized governing body of the Berlin FDGB and announced that it does not recognize the so-called FDGB executive board with headquarters in the Soviet Sector, as the properly elected representative of the Berlin trade unions.

The "provisional management" requested the three other military governments in Berlin on June 10 for official recognition as the provisional managing body of the FDGB.

A mass protest against the allegedly "shameful action" of the UGO leaders in the western sectors was held June 14 in the Soviet Sector. (Note article "Berlin Trade Union Fight" in the Information Bulletin, Issue No. 138 of June 15.)

Elections Indicate SPD-CDU Stalemate

The recent community election results in Hesse indicated a comparative stalemate in the growth of the two major parties, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), a slight defection of voters from the Communist Party (KPD) and a tendency on the part of the rightist parties to attract votes from the ranks of those who previously abstained or were not eligible to vote.

The SPD, though it gained numerically, lost proportionally. Its severest losses were in areas where the officials representing the party were especially vulnerable to attack for misfeasance in office. It was also noted that the party's influence is decreasing in the Protestant rural areas.

As compared with previous elections, the CDU held its own almost everywhere, gaining apparently a proportionate share from the new voters and the citizens who do not normally vote. The party registered a slight loss in the predominantly Catholic counties.

The sharp rise in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) vote is to be attributed primarily to the party's success in attracting those dissatisfied with the local governments, and also to the fact that the Party, in contrast to its policy in the previous local elections, put up candidates in all counties. It is to be noted that in counties where the LDP participated in the administration it suffered slight losses.

Generally, the election results indicate that, while on local issues the electorate in Hesse is dissatisfied with the management of local affairs by the parties in power, the people unequivocally reject the Communist line of opposition.—From Military Governor's Monthly Report No. 34.

Rail Shipments Haltered

Rail shipments of coal from the Bizonal Area to the French Zone were halted June 21 to insure settlement of an outstanding rail car debt owed to the Bizonal Area by the French Zone.