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## GERMAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ORGANIZATION.

## A.—ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS.

German anti-aircraft guns are known as *Flaks*, an abbreviation for *Flug-Abwehr-Kanonen*. They are organized in batteries, or sections, or as single guns mounted on motor lorries.

## I.—Organization in the Field.

(a) **Anti-aircraft sections** (*Flakzüge*) are armed with guns of 7·7-cm., 9-cm. or 10-cm. calibre. There are two series, one numbered from 1 to 188, and the other from 401 to 440, giving a total of about 230 sections. These units were formerly attached to divisions but are now sector troops.

(b) **Sections of automatic anti-aircraft guns** are armed with automatic or Q.F. guns of 2-cm. and 3·7-cm. calibre. They are distinguished by the letter "M" (*Maschinen-Flakzüge*), and form a separate series numbered between 1 and 131.

(c) **Anti-aircraft guns on motor lorries** are usually 7·7-cm. guns employed singly, and are designated *Kraftwagen-Geschütze* or *Kraftwagen-Flugabwehr-Kanonen* (*K-Flaks*). They form a special series numbered between 1 and 155, the number being followed by the letter "K."

(d) **Anti-aircraft batteries** (*Flak-Batterien*) in the field consist of two series, one numbered from 301 to 340, the other from 501 to 570. A new series numbered above 700 is being formed. These batteries, like the *Flakzüge*, are armed with 7·7-cm., 9-cm. or 10-cm. guns. At least 11 of them are mounted on motor lorries (*K-Flak-Batterien*).

(e) **Command.**—In each Army, the anti-aircraft units (including anti-aircraft searchlights) are placed under the control of an officer at Army Headquarters, known as the Commander of the Anti-Aircraft Guns (*Kommandeur der Flugabwehrkanonen*, abbreviated to *Koflak*, or *Stabsoffizier der Flugabwehrkanonen*, abbreviated to *Stoflak*). This officer is subordinate to the Commander of the Air Forces at Army Headquarters.

In each Corps, the anti-aircraft defences are organized in a group (*Flakgruppe*), under an officer known as the Commander of the Anti-Aircraft Group (*Flakgruko*).

(f) **Aeroplane reporting service.**—The anti-aircraft defences in an Army are organized in several lines of observation, connected to the corresponding lines of the Armies on the flanks. These lines consist of aeroplane observation posts (*Fliegerwachen* or *Fliegerwarten*) and aeroplane report centres (*Flugmeldestationen*), which are in telephonic communication.

An officer acting under the orders of the Staff Officer for the Anti-Aircraft Guns (*Stoflak*) is responsible for the supervision of the entire system.

## II.—Organization in Germany.

(a) **Fixed anti-aircraft sections** (*Ortsfeste Flakzüge*) form a separate series, numbered from 1 to 122, with the letter "O" affixed to each number. They are all located in the interior of Germany or in rear of the Zone of the Armies. To each section is attached an anti-aircraft searchlight section (*Flakscheinwerferzug*), consisting of 3 N.C.O.s, 10 men and one 90-cm. naval projector.

(b) **Anti-aircraft batteries.**—In addition to the anti-aircraft batteries (*Flak-Batterien*) allotted to Armies in the field, there is a series numbered between 1 and 70, employed in defending towns, railway junctions and munition factories.

(c) **Schools and depots.**—In Germany there are a number of anti-aircraft depots (*Flak-Ersatz-Abteilungen*) under the Commander of the Anti-Aircraft Depots (*K. d. Flakan*) at Frankfurt a/M. There is a school of instruction at Ostend, and one for searchlights (*Flak-Scheinwerfer-Schule*) at Hannover.

(d) **Command.**—Anti-aircraft defence in Germany is controlled by the Commander of the Home Aerial Defences (*Kommandeur des Heimat-Luftschutzes*, abbreviated to *Kmdr. Heim. Luft.*), whose headquarters are at Frankfurt a/M. This officer is in turn subordinate to the General Officer Commanding the Air Forces (*Kommandierender General der Luftstreitkräfte*). The local command of groups of anti-aircraft units at important places, such as Duisburg, Essen, Friedrichshafen, Mannheim and Rottweil, is centred in *Flak-Gruppen* or *Flak-Kommandos*.

(e) **Aeroplane reporting service.**—The Commander of the Home Aerial Defences has under his orders an Aeroplane Reporting Service (*Flugmeldedienst*) controlled by three *Stabsoffiziere des Flugmeldedienstes* (*Stabsoffz. Melde Heim.*), the principal one being the *Stabsoffizier des Flugmeldedienstes Süd* at Karlsruhe. These officers control a number of Aeroplane Observation Posts (*Fliegerwachen* or *Fliegerwarten*).