

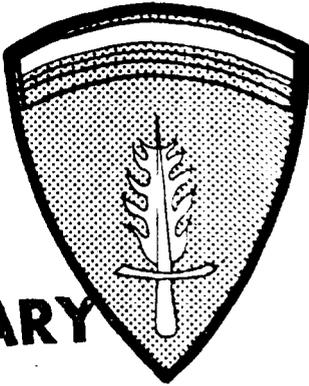
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# the united states ARMY in europe, 1953-1963 (U)



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THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN EUROPE  
1953 - 1963 (U)

by  
D. J. HICKMAN

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FOREWORD (U)

The purpose of this historical study is to record the significant activities of the U.S. ground forces in Europe. The American Military Occupation of Germany, 1945 - 1953--published by the Historical Division, Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, in 1953--described the major aspects of the Army's early postwar operations in Europe. This study, therefore, begins generally where the previous monograph left off, although in some instances events have been traced back to the end of World War II to provide essential background information.

Throughout the entire study, a concerted effort has been made to point out both the successes and the shortcomings of the U.S. Army in Europe, and special emphasis has been placed on the problems encountered and the lessons learned. It was not within the scope of the project to present the activities of either the U.S. Air Force or the U.S. Navy, though of course both these services played an important role in carrying out American policy in Europe.

Source material was drawn almost entirely from a series of historical reports, summaries, and special studies prepared as part of the Army historical program in Europe.

The study was prepared by Donald J. Hickman during his assignment to the 9th Military History Detachment. He was guided and assisted by George E. Blau, Chief Historian, and David A. Lane, Susan Smith, Don Ruyle, and Herbert Hinkle.

November 1964

*Stanley R. Larsen*

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Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

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## Chapter 3

## U.S. Ground Forces in Other European Nations (U)

(U) In addition to the troops in Germany, U.S. Army forces were stationed in several other European countries. Trieste U.S. Troops (TRUST) was part of a joint occupation command that until October 1954 guaranteed the integrity of the Free Territory of Trieste. Until October 1955 the U.S. Forces, Austria (USFA), occupied a zone of that country and a sector of Vienna; and following the withdrawal of these forces, the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) was created in Italy. (See Map 3.) The U.S. Army Communications Zone (COMZ) had been operating in France since the buildup of U.S. forces in Europe in 1951, the 32d Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade provided antiaircraft protection for U.S. airfields in the United Kingdom, and there were several small U.S. Army elements in various other nations.

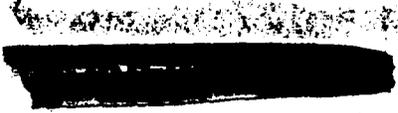
(U) Stationing forces in foreign countries for an indefinite period during peacetime was an entirely new experience for the U.S. Army. Within the territories of friendly nations, these forces were preparing to execute defensive wartime missions. Their presence, activities, and relationship with the local population were governed by international agreements concluded between the United States and the host country.

## (U) TRUST

At the conclusion of the Italian peace treaty in 1947, the Free Territory of Trieste had been carved out of the Italian province of Venezia Giulia. Its independence was guaranteed by the United Nations, but until the U.N. appointed a governor, the territory continued to be governed by the powers that occupied it. The United States and the United Kingdom, therefore, established a joint military government in "Zone A" of the area, which included the valuable port city of Trieste and a narrow land strip leading from the city up the Adriatic coast to

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the Italian mainland. The Yugoslavs administered the remainder of the territory, known as "Zone B." Neither the Italians nor the Yugoslavs liked this arrangement, however, and the occupation continued for several years while further negotiations for a permanent settlement were conducted.

Thus, the TRUST garrison and its British counterpart, whose strength had been limited by treaty to 5,000 troops each and usually numbered about 4,000, had a primary mission of supporting the military government in Zone A. This proved to be no small task, since a determined minority of Yugoslav Communists in Trieste continually agitated and created unrest with the ultimate aim of annexing the entire territory to Yugoslavia. Demonstrations were frequent, and at times dangerous incidents occurred along the line separating the two zones.

The 351st Infantry Regiment made up the bulk of the TRUST garrison, but there were also a field artillery battalion, an armored reconnaissance company, a military government detachment, and several support units. The infantrymen occupied three casernes in the hills and on the outskirts of Trieste, while personnel of the smaller units lived in requisitioned buildings in the city. TRUST headquarters was located in the Miramare Castle just outside Trieste.

The U.S. troops were supplied directly from the United States, but USAREUR was responsible for certain support functions, such as the rehabilitation of unserviceable vehicles. For this purpose USAREUR placed, funded, and administered contracts with Italian enterprises responsible for rehabilitating vehicles delivered to Leghorn. Moreover, since the occupied zone was small and predominantly rocky and barren, the infantry units stationed there frequently used training areas in West Germany. Small-scale maneuvers were conducted in the hills around Trieste, on the beaches of Venezia Giulia, and in Austria, but large-scale training was accomplished through participation in Seventh Army exercises.

Eventually, after several years of futile negotiations to establish a free administration in the territory and after some serious incidents, all parties agreed that Trieste's independence probably never could be guaranteed. In October 1954, therefore, an agreement was signed nullifying the applicable portions of the Italian Treaty, returning Zone A to Italy, and ceding Zone B to Yugoslavia. A few weeks later, TRUST was inactivated and its personnel either reassigned to USFA and

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## (C) THE U.S. FORCES IN AUSTRIA

(U) Meanwhile, negotiations were still being conducted to end the Four-Power occupation of Austria. It had not been expected that American troops would still be stationed in Austria more than a decade after the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union had agreed in 1943 to its liberation. At the time of its organization in 1945, USFA was expected to be a temporary command that would function only until the Austrians could resume responsibility for their government. But as in Germany and Trieste, the wartime agreements had proved to be of little value, and at the beginning of 1953, USFA's mission "to support [military government in] the reestablishment of a free, independent, and democratic Austria..." had been fulfilled only in the western parts of the country.<sup>2</sup>

(U) The intricacies of the Austrian occupation were similar to those of Germany. The nation was divided into four zones, each under a separate Allied Commissioner. The Allied Commission was the supreme military government authority and consisted of the four commissioners, an executive committee, and staffs appointed by the Allied Governments. Each power occupied a sector of Vienna, which lay deep in the Soviet zone. Unlike Berlin, however, the center of Vienna constituted the International Zone, a fifth sector administered jointly by all four powers. Vienna was linked to the West by an air corridor, a railroad, and a highway through the Soviet zone.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>(1) Army-Air Force Troop I&E Bul, v. 4, no. 9, 27 Feb 49, subj: Trieste, p. 5. (2) Conrad, Allison A., "In TRUST We Guard," Army Information Digest, Mar 51, p. 3. Both UNCLAS. (3) EUCOM Comd Rept, 1951, p. 243. SECRET (info used UNCLAS). (4) State Dept Press Release 547, 8 Oct 53. (5) "Trieste Settlement," Commonweal, 30 Jul 54, p. 406. (6) "Comment on Foreign Affairs," Army-Navy-Air Force Journal, 9 Oct 54, p. 159. (7) "Four Power Agreement on Trieste," Department of State Bulletin, 18 Oct 54, pp. 555 - 61. (8) "TRUST: Mission Accomplished," Army Combat Forces Journal, Dec 54, pp. 28 - 29. (9) "Trieste-Allied Military Government Makes Final Report," Department of State Bulletin, 7 Mar 55, p. 403. All UNCLAS.

<sup>2</sup>Stars and Stripes (Eur ed), 27 Nov 54, pp. 11 - 12. UNCLAS.

<sup>3</sup>Army-Air Force Troop I&E Bul, v. 3, no. 26, 27 Jun 48, subj: Austria, p. 13. UNCLAS.

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