

1956

Criminal Investigation Bureau of Land Lower Saxony, The

Georg Schulz

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georg Schulz, Criminal Investigation Bureau of Land Lower Saxony, The, 46 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 722 (1955-1956)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF LAND LOWER SAXONY

GEORG SCHULZ

Dr. iur. Georg Schulz is Director of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the State of Lower Saxony, Hannover, Germany, a post he assumed in May, 1953. A graduate in law from the University of Leipzig, he has since 1928 held various governmental appointments, including that of prosecuting attorney in Brunswick from 1947-53. Among his published works are the following books: *The Right of the Defendant in Criminal Proceedings*, *The Handbook for Jurymen*, and others.—EDITOR.

In the Federal Republic of Germany the police, including the Criminal Police (Kriminalpolizei), is a responsibility of the various Länder (States) which make up the Federation. In order to facilitate the co-operation between the Federation and the Länder in Criminal Police matters the Federal Government, by virtue of a law issued on the 8th of March, 1951, pursuant to Article 73, No. 10 of the Basic Law (Federal Gazette on Laws and Ordinances I, page 165) established a Federal Criminal Records Bureau in Wiesbaden. It is the main task of this Bureau to trace the habitual and travelling criminals whose activities spread or are likely to spread beyond the boundaries of one Land (Section 1 of the Law of 8/3/51).

In order to safeguard the co-operation between the Federation and the Länder the latter are bound by Section 3 of the a/m law to maintain central criminal police authorities in their areas (Land Criminal Investigation Bureaus, Landeskriminalpolizeiämter); these have to supply such information and material as the Federal Criminal Records Bureau requires. Such a Land Criminal Investigation Bureau already existed in each Land of the Federation before the a/m law was promulgated. Section 4 of this law establishes that the prevention as well as the investigation and detection of punishable offences shall remain a responsibility of the Länder, and that the Federal Criminal Records Bureau shall not itself investigate and detect them unless the competent Land authority submits a request or, for important reasons, the Federal Minister of the Interior issues instructions to this effect. Such cases are, however, exceptional, and in fact all criminal police matters, and the investigation and detection of punishable offences in the Federal Territory rest almost exclusively with the Criminal Police of the Länder.

There are no uniform regulations for the Federal Territory in respect to the structure and organization of the police, and therefore police organization differs in part in the various Länder. Some Länder (e.g. Lower Saxony and Hesse) have a State Police. In other Länder (e.g. Bavaria) there is a Communal Police besides the State Police. However, this difference in organization does not detrimentally affect the co-operation among the criminal police of the various Länder. In each Land co-operation is in the first place guaranteed by the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau which maintains close liaison with the Federal Criminal Records Bureau. At regular meetings of the Heads of the Land Criminal Investigation Bureaus with the Federal

Criminal Records Bureau, police experience is exchanged, and terms of reference are laid down and conjointly enacted afterwards in every Land so that far-reaching agreement is attained in the field of investigating and detecting offences and crimes.

Accordingly, the following description of the structure and organization of the Criminal Police in Land Lower Saxony and the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau in Hannover basically applies to the other Länder of the Federal Republic even though there are differences in some of the details.

Some *geographical information about Land Lower Saxony* seems appropriate. With its area of 47,278 square kilometres, Land Lower Saxony (Land Niedersachsen) occupies about one fifth of the whole territory of the Federal Republic of Germany (245,386 square kilometres). It has 6,795,128 inhabitants according to the census of 13/9/1950 (Federal Republic: 47,720,300). The largest towns are Hannover with a population of over 500,000, Brunswick with 223,263 inhabitants, and Oldenburg with a population of 121,643. The Land is divided into eight Governmental Districts.

In Lower Saxony there is one Land Criminal Police Branch Office in each of the eight Governmental Districts. It is incumbent upon these Land Criminal Police Branch Offices to deal, above all, with medium and serious offences and crimes, whereas in the country the Uniformed Police deal with petty offences. This distribution of duties has been necessary because it has been impossible to distribute the Criminal Police over the countryside in the same way as the Uniformed Police. Through this also more members of the Criminal Police are available to deal with serious crime and, above all, with the professional and habitual criminals. Each of the eight Land Criminal Police Branch Offices is competent for its local area (e.g. the Governmental District of Hannover, or Brunswick, or Oldenburg).

The Land Criminal Police Branch Offices investigate and detect all punishable offences committed in their own districts, and they are equipped with all they require for efficient working (identification service, vehicles, etc.), even when dealing with serious crimes (murder, arson).

For the whole territory of Land Lower Saxony there has been established the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau in Hannover. This Bureau is organized as follows:

Department A: Organization of the Criminal Police of Land Lower Saxony. Policy.

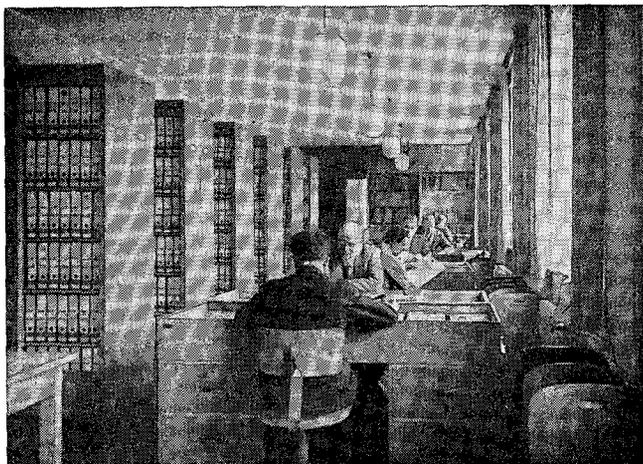
Statistics. Press. Training. Registry. Library. Archives. Protection of juveniles. Prevention of crimes.

Department B: Scientific Investigation of Crime. Identification Service. General criminal investigation. Chemical and physical examinations. Medical and biological examinations. Examination of handwriting. Photographic department. Drawing office. Finger-print collection. Card indices of criminals and wanted and missing persons. Search for wanted and missing persons.

Department C: Evaluation and Investigation Department. Investigations into deaths. Fires. Robbery. Extortion. Theft. Economic crimes. False coinage. Games of chance and swindles. Drug offences. Sexual offences.

Administration: Administrative matters. Personnel and disciplinary matters.

The total number of Criminal Police officials in Lower Saxony is 850 plus 112



File Room in New Hannover Headquarters

women Criminal Police. Of these officials about 80 are employed at the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau together with 40 civilian employees.

Primarily the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau has to perform general directive duties (organization, etc.) for the whole area of Lower Saxony. The Bureau keeps the necessary card indices of criminals and the files on persons who have become known to the Criminal Police, and it carries out scientific and technical examinations for the whole Land. In cases of punishable offenses which are of special importance or extend beyond the sphere of one Land Criminal Police Branch Office, the *investigations can be taken over by the Bureau itself*, or the Bureau can direct the investigations of several Land Criminal Police Branch Offices by giving instructions to them. In conclusion, the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau maintains close liaison with the Federal Criminal Records Bureau in Wiesbaden thus safeguarding the basis for successful prevention, investigation, and detection of crime in the territory of Land Lower Saxony and throughout the Federal Territory.

Training and Adult Education of Criminal Police officials is also one of the responsibilities of the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau, and therefore the Bureau continuously runs courses in the various fields of prevention, investigation, and detection of crime. Last year, 1954, for instance, there were two courses for specialists in matters concerning juveniles, and others on drug offences and economic crimes, for fire investigators and for officials of the Identification Service at which the students were mainly instructed in color photography. Further courses are being arranged in 1955 for fire investigators, for specialists in matters concerning juveniles, and also poaching, etc. These courses are attended by Criminal Police officers from all parts of the Land. Generally, each course runs for two to three weeks, and in exceptional cases for a longer period. The instructors are members of the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau and of other authorities, and lectures are given by

experts in economics (from banks, fire insurance firms, etc.) and by lecturers from Göttingen University and the Technical College in Hannover.

It was not until the 1st of August, 1952, that the Bureau started its ten finger-print collection. Like the single finger-print collection, this collection contains only finger-prints of persons who have made an appearance in the territory of Land Lower Saxony. Finger-prints of criminals who have also been active in other Länder are kept at the next higher authority, the Federal Criminal Records Bureau in Wiesbaden, whose collections, like all the other records kept there, cover the whole of the Federal Territory.

The Forensic Laboratory of the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau carries out all the essential technical examinations, tests, and analyses necessary in the scientific investigation of crime. Besides the Criminal Police officials specially trained in the various fields of scientific investigation of crime a certificated analytical chemist and an expert in forensic medicine are permanently employed with the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau. These experts carry out examinations for the Criminal Police and the Courts of Justice, and, if possible, the Land Criminal Police Branch Offices call them in on investigations right at the beginning at the scene of a crime. The Forensic Laboratory is equipped with modern scientific apparatus and appliances including a Leitz comparison microscope, an Ortholux working microscope, and several other types of microscope, a Leitz micro-camera, a quartz-lamp, and a spectrograph.

The Photographic Department has, since July 1953, also been using color photography. The results achieved have clearly established its value in this field. In many cases much better results can be achieved by this method than by using black-and-white photography, but the latter method has not been dispensed with. On the contrary, frequently black-and-white and color photographs are taken of one and the same object. The Photographic Department uses several Plaubel Makina, Leica, and Minox cameras, one Rolleiflex, one Pathex 16 mm film camera, a Homrich reproduction apparatus, and others.

As mentioned before, the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau can, if necessary, intervene in investigations or take them over. As in previous years, the Bureau last year dealt with a number of important and difficult individual cases itself. In addition, *Department C*, particularly, worked very closely with the Land Criminal Police Branch Offices in the various districts over offences which concerned it.

Since the Land Criminal Investigation Bureau moved into the new building in No 4 Welfenplatz, Hannover (completed in 1954), the one impediment which had existed until then, namely the shortage of rooms, has disappeared. Fine and adequate working rooms are now available to all departments. There is also a large class and conference room where courses and lectures can take place, and, of course, provision has also been made for films and lantern-slides to be shown there.