

Police Gazette

In a modern police force, most of the communication flow takes place via computer. As a matter of course, police officers receive information about operations, instructions and tactical and technical innovations by e-mail or via the police intranet. Up-to-date information is disseminated, while inaccurate information is quickly deleted.

Police officers in the imperial era could only dream of this.

Apart from the verbal information received from colleagues on the previous shift at the time of a shift change and the reports filed in binders, there was only one standardised source of information: the police bulletins.

These were information sheets of a few pages in length that were printed daily to inform the officers of a city or district about all important official news, serious accidents, crimes, wanted persons, dead bodies found or persons to be subjected to controls. The police bulletins were delivered daily by messengers to all guards and commissariats of a city so that all police officers could be brought up to date. Mind you, this information dispersion was limited to the respective municipality. Neighbouring towns usually did not hear about the news, although certain events could have an impact beyond the city limits. Even the fact that certain information was no longer up to date by the time the police bulletins were distributed and read could not be countered. Those were different times (Photo: Kawelovski)