

M2088

SELECTED GERMAN DOCUMENTS FROM THE RECORDS OF
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS,
UNITED STATES ARMY, 1942–1945

Timothy Mulligan prepared the Introduction and arranged these records
for microfilming.

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INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, M2088, are reproduced over 900 pages of selected World War II-era German military records that were captured by U.S. Army forces and incorporated within the Records of Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, 1942–1945, Record Group (RG) 498. The materials reproduced here constitute a part of those original German documents approved for restitution to the Bundesarchiv following the latter's request and subsequent negotiations with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For these German documents, microfilm publication M2088 represents the record copy retained by NARA.

BACKGROUND

Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, United States Army (HQ ETOUSA), was established in London by General Order 3 issued by HQ ETOUSA on June 8, 1942, succeeding Headquarters, U.S. Army in the British Isles (HQ USABI), which had been established in January 1942. ETOUSA exercised operational and administrative control of U.S. forces in Great Britain and coordinated the buildup of American forces and supplies there for the eventual cross-Channel invasion, and participated in operational planning. Until February 1943, ETOUSA also exercised administrative control of U.S. Army units that participated in the North African campaign. In January 1944, ETOUSA was consolidated with its former subordinate command, the Services of Supply (SOS), to facilitate the smooth operation of logistical functions. With the creation of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) in February 1944, ETOUSA yielded its operational and planning roles and thereafter provided administrative and service support functions to U.S. forces in Europe for the remainder of the war. HQ ETOUSA was successively located at London, June 1942–August 1944; Valognes, France, September 1–13, 1944; and Paris, France, September 1944–June 1945. Serving as commanding generals for HQ ETOUSA were: Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney, June 8–21, 1942; Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, June 21–24, 1942; Lt. Gen. (later Gen.) Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 1942–February 1943 and January 1944–July 1945; Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, February–May 1943; Maj. Gen. William S. Key, May 4–7, 1943; and Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, May 1943–January 1944. HQ ETOUSA was redesignated Headquarters, United States Forces, European Theater (HQ USFET) on July 1, 1945, by General Order 130, HQ ETOUSA (issued June 20, 1945).

HQ ETOUSA included the usual organization of general and special staff sections typical for a major command headquarters. Serving as the initial Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Section, was Col. Homer Case, who had previously served in the same post as part of HQ USAFBI; his successors included Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure, August 1942–April 1943; Col. Percy G. Black, April–May 1943; Brig. Gen. James C. Crockett, May–October 1943; Brig. Gen. Edwin L. Sibert, October 1943–March 1944; and Col. G. B. Conrad, March 1944–May 1945. The precise functions and scope of activities of the G-2 Section, however, were never fully resolved, particularly with respect to those functions and activities performed by the G-2

Section of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF). Although ETOUSA G-2 eventually came to function in an administrative and support capacity to its SHAEF counterpart, some of its component organizations operated directly in a combat intelligence role.

One such component was the Military Intelligence Service (M.I.S.), activated within the HQ ETOUSA G-2 Section in August 1943. The stated responsibilities of M.I.S. included all instructional, operational, and equipment matters for precapture training for U.S. personnel; all matters pertaining to plans, operations, training, and records for the interrogation of captured enemy personnel; and the submission of all intelligence information from all sources under M.I.S. control to G-2, ETOUSA. M.I.S. activities included the operation of various field teams to perform several intelligence tasks, including the interrogation of captured German prisoners of war and examination of captured German documents. Following the end of the war and the redesignation of HQ ETOUSA as HQ USFET, M.I.S. continued to function in a much reduced capacity in the collation and intelligence exploitation of captured materials. The captured documents filmed and described here constitute seized records that remained in the custody of the M.I.S. Administrative Section.

During the 1965–68 period the National Archives accessioned the records of HQ ETOUSA as part of the Records of U.S. Theaters of War, World War II, RG 332. That record group was subsequently abolished and its contents transferred to the Records of U.S. Army Commands, 1942–, RG 338. In 2001–2 the records of many operational commands in RG 338 were reallocated to new record groups, including those of HQ ETOUSA, which were redesignated as RG 498.

A 2002 review of original German documents included among American-provenance record groups revealed a small collection of World War II-era materials located among the records of the M.I.S. Administrative Section in HQ ETOUSA records. In 2003 the Bundesarchiv approached NARA regarding the possible return of these and a number of other original German documents incorporated within American-provenance record groups. NARA reviewed the materials and in 2004 approved the return of these documents and others located in Records of the American Expeditionary Forces (World War I), 1917–1923, RG 120, and Records of the Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, 1897–1917, RG 45.

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

The original German documents were apparently prepared or collected by an SS (*Schutzstaffel*, elite guard) medical headquarters in Berlin during the period 1940–1945, and in part pertain directly to a hospital facility for *Waffen-SS* personnel in Berlin-Lichterfelde. The medical headquarters' original designation, *Der Standortarzt SS-Verfügungstruppe Berlin* (the Station Surgeon for SS Militarized Troops, Berlin), later redesignated *SS-Standortarzt Berlin der Waffen-SS* (SS Station Surgeon Berlin for the Armed SS), was most commonly shortened simply to *SS-Standortarzt Berlin*. The records were arranged in subject-matter binders or folders.

The great majority of the documents represent three categories of material. The first consists of correspondence, reports, handwritten summaries of biographical data and military service, furlough passes, forms, and other materials relating to personnel and administrative matters affecting the medical headquarters' staff, including disciplinary action, the granting of leave, permission to marry, and training authorizations. These materials are for the most part dated March 1940–July 1941, and include many half-sized sheets (approximately 6 by 8 inches or less). The second category comprises printed or mimeographed copies of administrative orders and bulletins issued by various SS authorities in Berlin and received by the *SS-Standortarzt Berlin* during the general period April 1940–January 1945. The third category includes correspondence, reports, memoranda, and drawings (several of which are oversized) pertaining to planned modifications to, and expansion of, a *Waffen-SS* hospital facility in the Lichterfelde district of Berlin. The materials in this final category are dated April 1941–February 1943.

The contents of the first folder reproduced here, in contrast to the above categories, consists only of fragmentary excerpts of the published table of contents for Volume 59 (1939) of a periodical, *Zeitschrift für Bauwesen* (Journal of Architecture).

No American-originated documentation accompanies these original German records to account for their incorporation among the records of the M.I.S. Administrative Section. The identification of the original German documents with Berlin suggests that these materials came into the possession of M.I.S. during the occupation of the German capital, and for some reason were not incorporated with the principal collections of seized German records. Given the SS provenance of these documents, it is also possible that M.I.S. intended to transfer custody of them to the Berlin Document Center (then under U.S. Army control), which maintained records relating to the Nazi Party, SS, and other affiliated organizations, but for some reason the transfer was not completed.

In addition to the captured documents microfilmed and described here, copies of various administrative issuances and bulletins disseminated by SS authorities in Berlin during the period 1937–41 were also located among the holdings of the M.I.S. Administrative Section of HQ ETOUSA. These were also requested and approved for return to the Bundesarchiv, but as they were already filmed on Microfilm Publication T611, *Captured German Documents Filmed at Berlin* (University of Nebraska), rolls 3–5, and described in the accompanying finding aid for that microfilm publication, they are not filmed here.

RELATED RECORDS

NATIONAL ARCHIVES COLLECTION OF FOREIGN RECORDS SEIZED,
RECORD GROUP 242

Many records originated by the SS and its component organizations are reproduced on microfilm at the National Archives. Descriptions of most of these records may be found among the published *Guides to German Records Microfilmed at Alexandria, VA*. (Nos. 1–99; Washington, DC, 1956–present), particularly in the following:

Guide Nos. 32–33, 39, and 81, Records of the Reich Leader of the SS and Chief of the German Police (Reichsführer SS und Chef der Deutschen Polizei), Parts I–IV (Microfilm Publication T175)

Guide No. 27, Miscellaneous SS Records. Einwandererzentralstelle, Waffen-SS, and SS-Oberabschnitte (T354)

Guide Nos. 75 and 79, Records of the Waffen-SS, Parts I and II. (T354).

Additional SS records, including many published administrative orders and bulletins, are reproduced on National Archives Microfilm Publications T580, *Captured German Records Filmed at Berlin (American Historical Association)*, and T611, *Captured German Documents Filmed at Berlin (University of Nebraska)*. Finding aids for these microfilm publications provide descriptions and listings of these materials.

Personnel records for SS military personnel are reproduced on accessioned microfilm publication A3343 received from the former Berlin Document Center (BDC) under the following series designations: SS Officer Personnel Files, series SSO; SS Enlisted Men Personnel Files, series SM; SS Women Personnel Files, series SF; and SS Lists, series SS. Descriptions of the contents and arrangement of the records in these series are available in the Microfilm Research Room at the National Archives at College Park, MD.; a general finding aid to these and other microfilmed series accessioned from the former BDC is *The Holdings of the Berlin Document Center: A Guide to the Collections* (Berlin: Berlin Document Center, 1994).

CONTENTS

Folder, “Zentralblatt der Bauverwaltung vereinigt mit Zeitschrift für
Bauwesen mit Nachrichten des Reichs- und Staatsbehörden” (1939)

Untitled binder with labeled subdividers, March 1940–July 1941:

- Personalsachen
- Heeres-Verordnungsblatt
- Kdo Waffen-SS/ San. Inspektion
- Standortarzt

Binder “SS-Standortarzt der Waffen-SS Berlin: SS-St.O.Kdtr.-Befehle,”
March 1942–January 1945

Binder “Bau-Akten 56a” with labeled subdividers, April 1941–February 1943:

- Luftschutzeinrichtung im SS-Lazarett-Berlin
- Umbau Mutterhaus: Be- und Entwässerungsanlage
- Instandsetzungsarbeiten: Unterkunftsbarracke SS-Lazarett Berlin,
Fabeck-Strasse