

May 2, 1945
**British Intelligence Memorandum: Locations of
Senior German HQs**

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Summary:

The memorandum tracks the movement of German Military headquarters.

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S.A.C.

SPECIAL NOTE.

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CX/MSS/S. 174
2/5/45.

LOCATIONS OF SENIOR GERMAN HQs.

(Supplement to S.180, 167, 171)

(Covering information up to T 535 series of 30/4)

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D) Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine.

E) SS .

STOP PRESS

See T536/18 for new HQs. envisaged in the North
" " /20 " " " " " " " " South

I.

GENERAL

A) The division of OKW and OKH into Northern and Southern, or A and B, branches is, in part, an emergency measure. It is also a logical development from the previous tripartite division; the latter was represented (February and March '45) by

OKH Echelon A at ZOSSEN (ZEPPELIN), S. of BERLIN
 " " B at BAD REICHENHALL (ROON), near SALZBURG.
 " " C at OHRDRUF (OLGA) in THURINGIA.

Echelon C (OLGA) disintegrated as a result of Allied penetration into Central Germany; its remnants are believed to have migrated south to Echelon B.

Echelon A (the main Echelon) of OKH had by 24/4 moved out into the relatively open spaces of MECKLENBURG, north of BERLIN. The consequent distribution of OKW/OKH Headquarters on, say 26/4, was
 Echelon A at RHEINSBERG, MENZ, FUERSTENBERG (SSW, S and SSE of NEUSTRELITZ)
 Echelon B at BAD REICHENHALL, BERCHTESGADEN (SALZBURG area).

Note: Echelon B in the Southern redoubt may remain static for some time to come, but Echelon A is again on the move. There is already evidence of ~~Gen~~ Communications centres in the KIEL and SILKEBORG (JUTLAND) areas.

Names of exchanges serving Echelons A and B of OKW/OKH were on 26/4:

(North) A: ADELE, ZEPPELIN.

(South) B: SUSANNE, ALPEN, STEINADLER, HAGEN, BESELER, HOHENSTAUFEN (SS).

B) The A Group in MECKLENBURG had up to the end of April a more impressive nominal roll than B Group. A Group is the successor of the ZOSSEN complex. In the days when OLGA flourished OKH arranged its business as follows: heads of Departments (for fundamental matters of policy) were at ZOSSEN (ZEPPELIN), main body of staffs however (for routine business) were at OLGA; Echelon B was hardly in the picture.

/That

2.

CX/MSS/S. 174

That B Group, however, is potentially more important than A is indicated by the following points:-

- (1) The present dearth of notable names in the South accords ill with the original redoubt theory and the move (of which we have source MSS evidence since February 1945) of OKH Administration to the South.
- (2) The Supreme Commander for the North is already nominated but is "for the time being" not to take over. The inference seems to be that he will take over when HITLER or HIMMLER goes South. T531/3
- (3) The services which have had to split since the Allied link up (Signals, Supply, Propaganda, etc.) are to have their directors in the South. T529/6
T530/26
T529/82
- (4) We had no indications that alternative headquarters for OKW/OKH were prepared in the north. RHEINSBERG, MENZ and FUERSTENBERG seem to have been occupied in a hurry on orders of JODL, before signals arrangements were completed. We had had ample warning that there were alternative Fuehrer, OKW and OKH HQs in the REICHENHALL - BERCHTESGADEN area.

The only possible conclusion seems that, apart from such fortress areas as the Atlantic ports and Norway, only one redoubt was planned. The Germans are trying at the moment to man two. (They may find themselves with three (add CZECHOSLOVAKIA) on their hands).

II. DETAILS

A) Oberkommando der Wehrmacht.

OKW now has separate headquarters in South and North.

1) In the SALZBURG area at FRANKENSTRUB (Z934051) barracks. e.g. T529/84.

Notes: (1) According to P/W, formerly ADC to (Sigs) CSDIC (UK)
General PRAUN, it was at FRANKENSTRUB that SIR 1610
General FELIGIEBEL in May 1944 hatched his 1593
share (signals) in the attempted Putsch of
July.
OKW Ops Staff had earmarked the FRANKENSTRUB SIR 1593
barracks for itself when ZOSSEN was threatened.
In Jan. 1945 it was still unoccupied. T529/84
but by 19/4 already possibly overcrowded.

(2) OKW Ops. Staff FRANKENSTRUB is
served by exchanges SUSANNE and STEINADLER

2) In MECKLENBURG. By 24/4 Commandant of
Fuehrer HQ gave his address as "near FUERSTENBERG"
(U62). The following could be addressed via him:

Chief of Staff OKW ((KEITEL))
Chief of Armed Forces Ops. Staff ((JODL)).

26/4 This address was given more precisely as MENZ. (U51) T532/55

22/4 A move NW into Western Mecklenburg and HOLSTEIN T532/24
seems (though orders dealing with this are 4 days
older than the last item) provided for: Gen.Maj.
KRAUSE at WISMAR to control movements as
Plenipotentiary General of Chief of Staff OKW.

24/4 Gen.Ltn. GIMMLER ((formerly Chief Sigs. Officer C.in T531/38
C. WEST)) addressed as Plenipotentiary Signals Officer
A. PLOENEN.

Note: PLOENEN not located; may be PLOEN (N72) which T529/2
is DOENITZ's HQ. This accords well with the
last item.

Stop Press: PLOEN by 29/4 location of OKH North's T535/61.
Wireless station.

3) Misc. on OKW Headquarters.

18/4 Japanese Naval Attache had left for BAD GASTEIN by SJA 1814
14/4, "German Government and leading members Supreme
Headquarters transferring to this quarter in due course".

8/4 LOISE, Major and Wehrmacht Sigs. Officer at Fuehrer T522/28
HQ asked for reply to an enquiry to be sent to O.C.
Signals HAGEN.

Note: HAGEN mountains are just South of HALLEIN
(South of SALZBURG). The Germans, however, use
a number of cover-names from NIBELUNGEN
legend.

These two items show that some OKW elements may ultimately be discovered at various locations in the general area SALZBURG, BERCHTESGADEN, i.e. outside the localities themselves.

B) Oberkommando des Heeres

1.) In the SALZBURG REICHENHALL area.

CX/MSS 167 assembled the evidence that OKW elements in the SALZBURG area constitute

OKH Echelon B

Up to March Echelon B was principally administrative. The WAFFENGENERALE were the main representatives. See S.167.

At the moment there seems to be a "lack of proper command" amongst the OKH elements in the BERCHTESGADEN REICHENHALL area.

T530/35

Notes: (a) OKH Echelon B goes under cover-name "ROON". T515/39

(b) "ROON" also stands for "REICHENHALL". SIR 1593

(c) A camp, BOESELER LAGER (-prisoner's version of the name, borne out by CX/MSS, though there are also approximations BESELER and BOESELER) accommodates part of the OKH complex, notably Director of OKH signals. T531/64

(d) According to P/W BOESELER LAGER is on the road REICHENHALL to BERCHTESGADEN. P/W pin points it, however, in the general area 8919 (i.e. NE of REICHENHALL), where the road indicated would be the Autobahn, not the direct road between BERCHTESGADEN and REICHENHALL. Source CX/MSS report of 29/4 seems to locate it on the direct road, and nearer to BERCHTESGADEN, near BISCHOFSWIESEN. SIR 1593
T 523/13

(3) This OKH Echelon is served by Exchange ALPEN(* SUSANNE at SURHEIM) and is on extensions CAESAR and BESELER. R528 A 28

(f) The coincidence Freiherr von BOESELAGER at Echelon B (T517/30 and Ref.) and Echelon B at BOESELER LAGER is probably one of the strangest source has yet produced.

31/3 Gen. Major MENNEKING appointed Acting Director of Dept. 1 T509/55
of OKH Personnel branch. He was to report at TRAUNSTEIN
(Z 48 - SALZBURG REICHENHALL area).

Note: the itinerary proposed by MENNEKING for himself and T509/55
his previous organisation (Officer's Reporting Centre (2)
WILDFLECKEN) was to get him to GRAFENWOEDHR (P 03) by T529/82
about 3/4. He was in the B area by 21/4.

14/4 OKH/Genstab des Heeres/Director of Army Signals, BESELER. T521/27

11/4 Echelon B of FOREIGN ARMIES EAST, REICHENHALL. T523/18
Note: Foreign Armies East stated on 23/4 to be in "STRUB". T530/35
"STRUB" may be FRANKENSTRUB.

17/4 Inspector General of Panzer Troops Org. addressed his T529/4
planning staff at POON.

18/4 Sonderfuehrer Pool of OKH at ROSENHEIM (Z 22). R523A/2

27/4 Officer Pool of OKH at TRAUNSTEIN (Z 63). T534/44

2) In MECKLENBURG

24/4 Announcement of new Battle HQ. ZEPPELIN at MENZ (U 51), T530/2
10 kms. east of RHEINSBERG.

Note: ZEPPELIN hitherto cover-name of OKW/OKH Dispersal HQ.
at ZOSSEN, south of BERLIN and of the communications centres
(HZPH and HZPH 2) serving it. ZEPPELIN, the new exchange, T531/22
is at RHEINSBERG, ZEPPELIN, the new HQ served by the exchange
is at MENZ. The new ZEPPELIN and "ADELE" are not identical T530/2
in location and manning personnel. ADELE used to be the
cover-name (captured document) of telegraphic office HOEI
(POTSDAM EICHE)). ZEPPELIN was formerly at ZOSSEN.
ADELE and ZEPPELIN are both distinct from the signals
HQ. at PERLEBERG (Sigs. Cmdr. z.b.V. 700), but all serve
OKH North in some way.

3) Misc. on OKH Headquarters

21/4 (1) OKH elements in the DRESDEN area. T528/117
Note: presumably stragglers from Echelon C (THURINGIA)
or from HALLE (Signals Schools?). As Oberst i.G.
THILO was concerned about their move they were presumably
going south.

14/4 (2) Maps being delivered to BDM (Bund deutscher Maedels) T528/89
School in "STRUB near BERCHTESGADEN".

16/4 (3) (Items which are less important than they seemed)
(a) Reference to exchange "LUDWIG". R527E/7
Note: this is simply HOLU, the telegraphic address
of OKH Personnel Branch. (Compare OLGA for HOLG,
GUNTHER for HGUX: i.e. mnemonic cover-names based
on telegraphic address or vice versa).

22/4 (b) Officer responsible for Sigs. Routine ROLAND addressed
enquiry to OKH WT Exchange. T530/23
Note: ROLAND not known but probably not at OKH level.

13/4 (b) T/P Controller GOLDFISCH (Sigs. Exchange connected T530/24 with OKH) asked by Exchange ALPEN whether BERTA 2 had completed change of location. Report via BERTA 1.
 Note: BERTA 1 and BERTA 2 probably denote a forward and rear Echelon of an OKH Department.

20/4 (d) special trains WUERTEMBERG and SCHWABEN (load T531/71 included OKH Departments) in trouble after leaving REGENSBURG.

C) OKL

C. in C. GAF. has long had ROBINSON 4 HQ. at BERCHTESGADEN.

OKL will probably ultimately be in the general area of the Southern redoubt, even if its units operate from the Protectorate.

5/4 Director General GAF. Signals ordered transfer of RAUBVOGEL 7 ((a Signals train hitherto associated with LN. Abt. z.b.V. 22)) to GOLLING (18 miles S. SALZBURG) taking with it T512/85
 (i) Cipher documents office of OKL.
 (ii) Equipment of wireless HQ. C. in C. GAF.

8/4 OKL Director of Supply 1 Echelon at KURFUERST ((BERLIN)) T515/55
 " " " " 2 " " BAD AIDLING (Z 12).

15/4 AO for fighters at ((STRAUBING, U 54)). T522/36

17/4 AO for G/A transferring to SCHONGAU (Y 31). T522/51

20/4 Director General of GAF. Sigs.: T526/36
 Deputy at KURFUERST 3 ((WASSERBURG))
 1 Abt. at ROBINSON 4 ((BERCHTESGADEN)).
 2 and 3 Abt. at ((WASSERBURG)).

25/4 (Referring to orders of 21/4 and 22/4). The GAF. in the North to come under Luftflotte REICH, which in turn will be under DOENITZ. This subordination to become effective "after the transfer of HQ. of GAF. to the Southern area". T531/23

15/4 Japanese Naval Attache stated Headquarters of OKL gradually being moved to area of WALLERSEE (20 kms. E. of SALZBURG). SJA 1818

D) OKM

26/3 German Navy Y Services transferring to NEUMUENSTER (between HAMBURG and KIEL). T505/11

27/3 Remainder of Naval War Staff leaving WILHELMSHAVEN area. T507/30

18/4 Japanese Naval Attache believes DOENITZ, RAEDER and BUERKNER will stay in North Germany. SJA 1814

22/4 DOENITZ with staff due to transfer to PLOEN area (N 72). T529/2

E) SS

- 2/4 Signals personnel for "Setting up Staff NIBELUNGEN" of SS Ops. HQ. to report to NEUSTADT - BLACK FOREST (W 32). T509/7
Note: area by now overrun or pocketed by French 1st Army.
- 8/4 Volunteer signals personnel to Sigs. School "STROPPE", LOETTERER ALPE via BAD REICHENHALL, T520/7
Note: possibly STRUB near the LOFERER STEINGEBIRGE, 15 kms. SW. of BAD REICHENHALL.
- 14/4 SS HQ. Sigs. Rgt. 502 ROSENHEIM (Z 22). T526/33
SS HQ. Sigs. Rgt. 500 SALZBURG. T513/19
Note: Rgt. 502 formerly at WUENSDORF near ZOSSEN.
- 15/4 Commandant of Staff RFSS (telephone cover-names BERGWALD, ECKEHARD) can be reached via exchange ALPEN ((SURHEIM/"SUSANNE")) or HQ. Wehrkreis XVIII ((SALZBURG)) or at telegraphic addresses HBUX, SKRS on same exchange. T524/41
Note: HBUX is an Army address.
- 17/4 HQ. Staff RFSS GLASENBACH near SALZBURG. R525A/2
T526/51
- 24/4 Reichsruehrer special Train "STEIERMARKE". T531/39
- 27/4 SS. Ogruf. BERGER at JUNKERSCHULE TOELZ. T534/55
Special train HOHENSTAUFEN includes HQ. of SS. Obergruf. BERGER.

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