

## **March 4, 1945**

# **British Intelligence Memorandum: Moves of Senior Staffs from Berlin**

### **Citation:**

"British Intelligence Memorandum: Moves of Senior Staffs from Berlin", March 4, 1945, Wilson Center Digital Archive, The National Archives of the UK  
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/209289>

### **Summary:**

The memorandum details the movement of German Military SS officials.

### **Original Language:**

English

### **Contents:**

Original Scan

SPECIAL NOTE.

TOP SECRET is based on the evidence available at War Station (Station X). It does not necessarily represent the views of the Ministries, or any one of them.

SAC *Rich File*  
 Copy No. *22*  
 CX/MSS/S. 167  
 3.4.45

MOVES OF SENIOR STAFFS FROM BERLIN

(Supplement to CX/MSS/S.160)

A. SUMMARY

- 1) The Inter-service communications centre which by the end of February had moved from ZOSSEN to a location in THURINGIA has now vacated THURINGIA and shared out its tasks between ZOSSEN and a communications centre in the SALZBURG area.

Whilst in THURINGIA it served a large number of senior staff departments belonging to all arms of the services except the Navy.

- 2) The area WEIMAR-GOTHA became during early March the rallying point of OKH. Further, G.A.F., which in early March seemed to be migrating towards KURFUERST 3 at VASSERBURG in BAVARIA, meantime put into the WEIMAR area

KURFUERST 2

G.A.F. Ops. Staff

S.S. which seemed on earlier evidence to be gravitating towards PRAGUE in mid-March, moved its central signals organisation to THURINGIA. HIMMLER's other sub-services (ISHA, Abwehr, Police) and the

Ministries of the Interior, of Food, of Railways evidently went to THURINGIA also.

- 3) First candidates for positions in THURINGIA (particularly in WEIMAR, GOTHA) were OKH departments. But OKH seems, in the light of most recent evidence since February to have had skeleton staffs at each of the following:-

OKH/Echelon A: "Zeppelin" at ZOSSEN,

Echelon C: "OLGA" and "GUNTHER" at OHRDRUF and GOTHA respectively,

Echelon B: "CAESAR" in the SALZBURG area at ?

- 4) If the communications centre which, whilst in THURINGIA, served Echelon C has now shared out its tasks between ZOSSEN and a centre in the SALZBURG area, it seems that Echelon B may increase in importance and be the next rallying point.
- 5) OKM as recently as 26/3 moved its 'Y' Service to NEUMUENSTER (between HAMBURG and KIEL): it had previously moved other war staffs to WILHELMSHAFEN. There are, however, since 28/3, indications of a major transfer.

SUMMARY

- 1) The Inter-service communications centre which by the end of February had moved from ZOSSEN to a location in THURINGIA has now vacated THURINGIA and shared out its tasks between ZOSSEN and a communications centre in the SALZBURG area.

Whilst in THURINGIA it served a large number of senior staff departments belonging to all arms of the services except the Navy.

- 2) The area WEIMAR-GOTHA became during early March the rallying point of OKH. Further, G.A.F., which in early March seemed to be migrating towards KURFUERST 3 at WASSERBURG in BAVARIA, meantime put into the WEIMAR area

KURFUERST 2

G.A.F. Ops. Staff

S.S. which seemed on earlier evidence to be gravitating towards PRAGUE in mid-March, moved its central signals organisation to THURINGIA. HIMMLER's other sub-services (RSHA, Abwehr, Police) and the

Ministries of the Interior, of Food, of Railways evidently went to THURINGIA also.

- 3) First candidates for positions in THURINGIA (particularly in WEIMAR, GOTHA) were OKH departments. But OKH seems, in the light of most recent evidence since February to have had skeleton staffs at each of the following:-

OKH/Echelon A: "Zeppelin" at ZOSSEN,

Echelon C: "OLGA" and "GUNTHER" at OHRDRUF and GOTHA respectively,

Echelon B: "CAESAR" in the SALZBURG area at ?

- 4) If the communications centre which, whilst in

B. DETAILSI. OKW

The only specific item is:

23/3: Wehrmachttransporthof at GUNTHER (GOTHA) T500/37

II. Inter-Service communications.

There is little to add to the particulars given in the opening Summary, under I.

The communications centre in THURINGIA from 31/3 handed over various lines to a centre believed to be in the area N.W. of SALZBURG; these were by April 2nd identifiable as:-

G. H. Q. lines to: COPENHAGEN and AARHUS  
OSLO  
(C. in C. WEST ?)  
(Army Group G ?)  
19 Army  
Army Group E  
RHODES

The remaining C s in C. and Army Groups are being served by ZOSEN.

III. Oberkommando des Heeres

From the end of February to the end of March OKH had clearly three separate Echelons, A, B, and C, at T501/18,19 ZOSEN, at an unidentified location in the SALZBURG 25 area, and at OHRDRUF in THURINGIA respectively. Ref. 953

The authorities identified by source at each either stated, in so many words, that they were at "ZEPPELIN" (ZOSEN) etc., or added "Echelon A" etc. to their title, or, thirdly, betrayed their location by the use of compromised telegraphic addresses: HZPH (ZOSEN) HOLG (OLGA), HGUX (GUNTHER), HDVO (Trunk Exchange 'ALPEN', believed to be in the SALZBURG area).

The relationship between Echelons A and C during the past month is perhaps indicated by the arrange- T. 491/42 ments made by Director of Army Signals and by QMG. T. 499/53 Abt. (Roman) I, on 8/3 and 20/3 respectively:

"Only matters of fundamental importance" to ZOSEN (Echelon A), all routine matters to "GUNTHER via OLGA" (GOTHA via OHRDRUF), which is known to have been Echelon C.

How Echelon B (cover-name "CAESAR") stood in relation to A and C was not clarified:

An Austrian staff officer deserter who left the Fuehrerhauptquartier about 21 March stated "not OBER-SALZBURG but OHRDRUF in THURINGIA is alternative H. Q."

STOP PRESS: OHRDRUF as alternative H. Q. for C. in C. WEST.

GAD/PK 426.

T. 507/35

1) OKH in THURINGIA (OKH Echelon C)

26/2 Planning Staff WILMAR

T. 474/4

16/3 Branch Station 2 of Director of Army Legal Matters in OKH WILMAR

(S. 160)  
T. 491/55

a) At OLGA (OHRDRUF)

NOTE: Officer deserter armed with an original document of Chef HNW equates cover-name OLGA with OHRDRUF (WJ 15). (See above further evidence indicating the importance of OHRDRUF). Same source gives GUNTHER as cover name of GOTHA. GUNTHER was probably, more exactly, the T.505/124 cover name of "OKH Communications Station, BORG Barracks, GOTHA" which source first reported on 31/3. OLSU/VM 123

15/3 II/G.H.Q. Sigs. Regt. 601, Major R.494(C)62 POPPE, responsible for signals communications of OLGA.

28/2 OKH/Foreign Armies WEST to be addressed via OLGA. T.490/47  
NOTE: Foreign Armies WEST could also be reached via telephone exchange "GERDA" on 6/3. No further evidence on "GERDA". R.490(A)47

8/3 OKH/Foreign Armies WEST and Foreign Armies EAST both addressed via OLGA R.495(A)2

11/3 OKH Genst. Org. Abt. I P) Used HOLG, R.490(B)6  
9/3 " " " " II ) telegraphic R.490(B)8  
address of  
OLGA

NOTE: Latter at OLGA 12/3 T.491/14

12/3 OKH/Gen. of Engineers and Fortifications, General F.b.V, Echelon C, OLGA R.491(A)43

b) At GUNTHER (GOTHA)

8/3 OKH/Director of Army Signals, "Entire Planning Staff" at GUNTHER via OLGA. T.491/42

NOTE: Examples of use of HGUX (telegraphic address of GUNTHER) by Gruppen II, III and IV of Director of Army Signals in

R.495(A)3

22/3 Director of Army Signals/General of Sigs. Recce used HGUX, telegraphic address of GUNTHER. T.500/65 and Ref.

NOTE: General of Sigs. Recce is the head of the German Army 'Y' Service. See under Echelon B, below: General of Sigs. Recce 2.

20/3 OKH QMG/QM. I and Gruppe Ammunition at GUNTHER T.499/33

11/3 OKH QMG/QM.2 III used telegraphic address HGUX R.493(E)5

13/3 OKH QMG/QM.3, Artificer Staff, address HGUX R.493(A)40

10/3	OKH QMG/QM III/3, Arms and Equipment 4, address HGUX	R.495(A)3
11/3	OKH QMG/QM IVA, address HGUX	R.495(A)3
10/3	OKH Heeresintendant VII/2, address HGUX	R.495(A)3
8/3	OKH QMG, General for M/T, address HGUX	R.486(B)11
12/3	OKH Ordnance Inspectorate 4 E/P QMG 3, address HGUX	R.492(B)12

## c) At "CAPRI"

4/3	GUDERIAN at "CAPRI"	R.491(D)1
7/3	GUDERIAN at COBURG?	T.490/59

2. OKH in the SALZBURG area (OKH Echelon B)

It was noted in late February that telegraphic address HDVO - long known to belong to a landline trunk exchange (Durchgangsvermittlung 'ALPEN') in the SALZBURG area - was being used by OKH authorities as an originating office. It was not until 20/3 however that an OKH authority said he was at Echelon B at "CAESAR", which could be reached via DV ALPEN. OKH Echelon B has evidently taken over HDVO.

19/3	OKH/Genst. Org. Abt. I, Echelon B, addressed via Trunk Exchange ALPEN	T.501/25
20/3	General for Artillery "in OKH Echelon B, via Trunk Exchange ALPEN".	T.501/19
20/3	G.O.C. Volunteer Formations "in OKH Echelon B to be reached via Exchange CAESAR, Trunk Exchange ALPEN".	T.501/18

The following have used telegraphic address HDVO (Trunk Exchange ALPEN).

10/3	OKH/Genst. QMG Abt. III/QU.3, Arms and Equipment 5.	T.501/25
9/3	" " " " IV A	"
25, 27/2	" " " " IV B	"
4/3	" " Heeresarzt	"
7/3	OKH/General of Transportation, Pers. Abt. IIB	"
19/2, 26/2	General of Railway Troops, IA, IIA	"
24/2	General of Supply Troops V	"
23/2	Director of Army Sigs./Gen. of Sigs. Recce 2	"

NOTE: It is not clear what proportion of the total OKH Depts. are involved here, but Org. Abt. I and General of Sigs. Recce are represented both at Echelon C (OLGA) and Echelon B (CAESAR): it is possible that there is a complete OKH skeleton staff at each Echelon.

- 17/3 S.S. Sigs. Regt. 500 at STADTILM (J34 - 22 kms. S. of ERFURT) received draft of 17 teleprinter operators and 72 telephonists. T.459/9  
NOTE: Regt. at KETSCHENDORF, East of BERLIN on 31/1, R. 449 (A) 23
- 21/3 Chief of Telecommunications to be at GEORGENTHAL via GOTHA T.497/8
- 24/3 S.S. Main Personnel Office/I, WEIMAR R. 499(A)73

#### VI. Ciphers and Cryptography

OKW/Ciphers (which we had but recently located in the HINDENBURG Barracks in DRESDEN) seems to have moved to HALLE. An officer deserter, considered particularly reliable, states that OKH Cryptography has also moved to HALLE. There is no news of OKW Cryptography for whose personnel a survey was to be conducted in the WEIMAR area. S.160 T.506/26 S.160

#### VII. Abwehr and RSHA

Scrutiny of Abwehr (now 'Militarisches Amt') documents shows, by 29/3, the following moves from the BERLIN area:

Personnel Section: HOF, BAVARIA Cf. S.160  
Lehrregiment KURFUERST: TRIPTIS, THURINGIA  
Equipment Centre for Field Units:  
STAFFELSTEIN near BAMBERG  
Communications H.Q.: EISENBERG, near JENA  
Section D (sabotage, etc.) ADORF, VOGTLAND  
Control I, East: BAD ELSTER, near ADORF

RSHA AMT VI (Security Service)  
Communications H.Q.: Adv. Det. BURGLENGENFELD,  
North of REGENSBURG.

#### VIII. Miscellaneous

- 21/3 German Ministry of Railways (war transport section) had four representatives in the ERFURT area to only one in ZOSSEN. R.506(A)57

Scrutiny of German Police documents shows:

- 14/2 Ministry of Food, ERFURT  
20/2 LANDBEZIRK GOTHA declared a closed area.  
21/2 PLAUEN reported to SIPO Training School FUERSTENBERG on available accommodation (for an 'alternative H.Q.')
- 28/2 (A reference to) German Ministry of the Interior, ERFURT. (Need not mean that the whole Ministry has moved, however)
- 2/3 Indications that the Head of the Ordnungspolizei plans to move to NUREMBERG.

PPP/VJW/2020Z/3/4/45

#### DISTRIBUTION

Col. Hatton Hall  
G/Capt. Winterbotham  
M. I. 14. Col.  
D. D. I. 3  
A. I. 3. B. and 3e (1 copy)

#### INTERNAL

D. D. 1  
3 U. S.  
G/Capt. Jones  
D. C.  
Watch

3A  
3G (3 copies)  
3L  
3M  
Lt./Col. Gadd  
(2 copies)

Major Owen  
D. D. (N. S.) for Mr. Hins  
Mr. Page for Dr. Palmer  
S. A. C. (2 copies)  
I. E.  
Files