

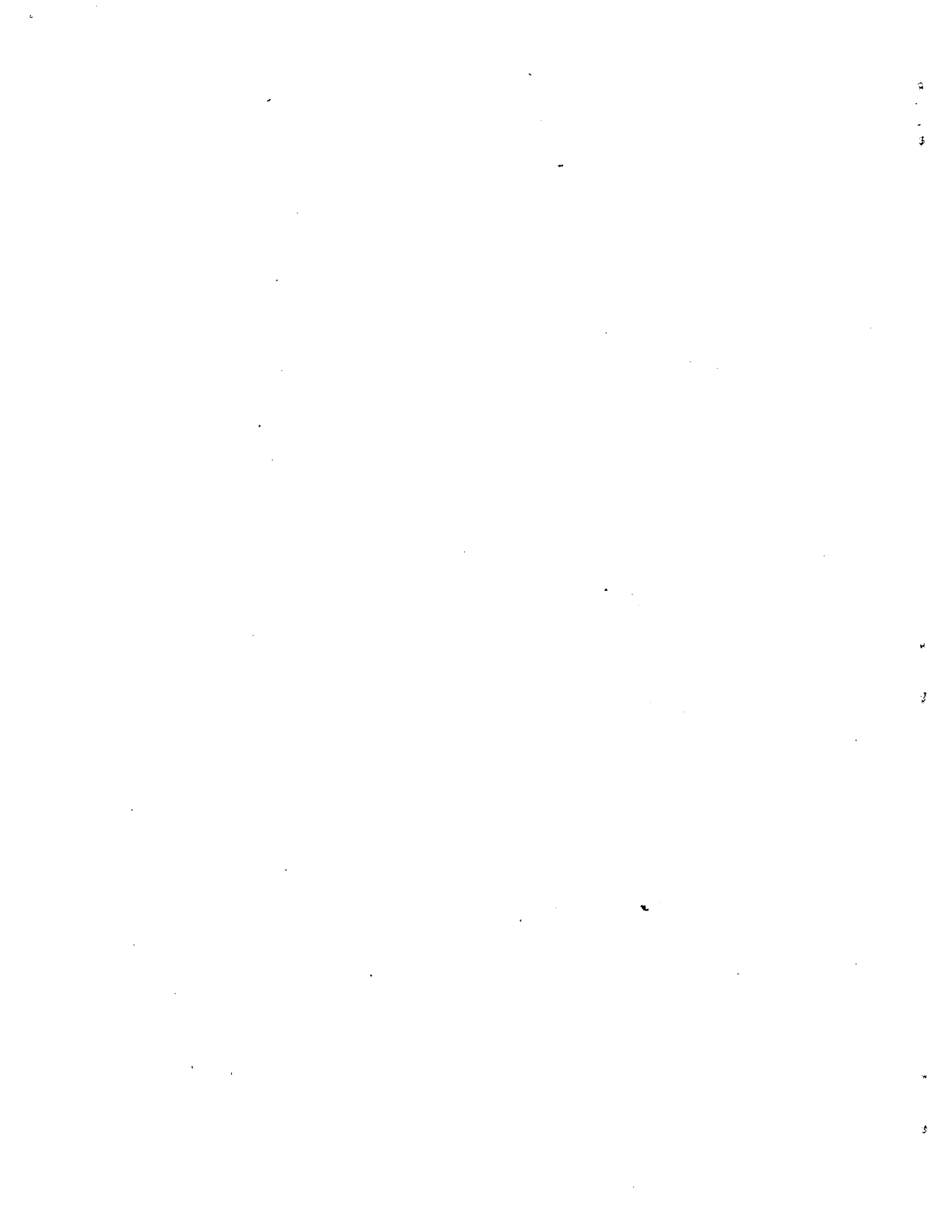
**GUIDE
to**

The Scholarly Resources microfilm edition of

**WAR DIARY
OPERATIONS DIVISION
GERMAN NAVAL STAFF**
Kriegstagebuch der seekriegsleitung

1939-45

SR *Scholarly Resources Inc.*
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FOREWORD

The war diary of the Operations Division, German Naval Staff (Seekriegsleitung), is one of the basic sources for the naval history of World War II.¹ This document was among the large collection of German naval records captured by Allied military forces at Schloss Tambach in the spring of 1945.

Most of the English translations of the Seekriegsleitung war diary that appear in this publication resulted from a related program initiated in these German naval archives by the Office of Naval Intelligence during the immediate post-World War II years. The goal of this project was to translate special-interest documents for internal distribution and use within the Navy and other governmental agencies.

In selecting the Seekriegsleitung diary for translation, the Office of Naval Intelligence concentrated attention on Part A, representing the narrative section of the document. Parts B, C, and D, largely comprising documentary annexes to the narrative in Part A, were not included.

Most of the war diary translations were undertaken by German nationals working under naval contract at Minden and Bremen, Germany, during the period 1946-1949. These groups, however, primarily produced rough translations. Additional editing and the final typing and reproductions of the

1. A comprehensive discussion of this document is contained in Michael Salewski, "Das Kriegstagebuch der Deutschen Seekriegsleitung in Zweiten Weltkrieg," Marine Rundschau, LXIV (June 1967), 137-145.

translations were handled at the Navy Department in Washington by an organization directed by Captain Roland Krause, USN.

At the time this translation program terminated in 1949, only 34 of the 62 monthly volumes of the Seekriegsleitung diary were complete. A number of additional monthly diaries existed in rough translation, however, and at intervals over the next two decades, four of these were further edited and reproduced by the Operational Archives of the Naval History Division. In addition, two diaries (covering February and March 1945) were translated during the 1968-1971 period by a number of inactive-duty Naval Reserve officers who worked under the auspices of the Office of Naval Intelligence.

WAR DIARY, OPERATIONS DIVISION, GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

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