

*Guide to the Microfilm Edition of*

Essays by German  
Officers and Officials  
on World War II

*A Microfilm Publication by*

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**A**T THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, a joint American and British naval intelligence party seized the Marinearchiv (German Naval Archives) at Tambach Castle, near Coburg, Germany. This discovery, which included records from as far back as 1850, prompted one of the most massive microfilming projects of military records in history, undertaken mostly by the United States Navy and supplemented by the universities of Cambridge and Michigan. The microfilm is now held by the National Archives as Microcopy T1022, *Records of the German Navy, 1850-1945, Received from the United States Naval History Division* (4,383 rolls). The finding aids to the collection are on the first two rolls.

Directed by Commodore Dudley Knox of the Office of Naval Records and administered in Germany by Captain Roland Krause, a former assistant naval attaché in Berlin from 1938 to 1940, microfilming of the records began in London during the summer of 1945 and continued for two years. Although it was a selective project, thousands of rolls of microfilm wound up in the Naval History Division for analysis and research.

Parallel to this microfilming project, both the translation of important naval documents (including the translation of the Seekriegsleitung diaries and the Führer Conferences on Naval Matters, also available from Scholarly Resources) and an essay project took place. These essays were commissioned from former German officers and officials on the aspects of the Second World War with which they were most familiar. The essayists were provided access to the captured archives in order to facilitate their research or enhance their own recollections. This collection is a combination of essays written after the war as well as relevant essays written during the war and added later, including transcripts of speeches, personal accounts of wartime experiences, and research and development reports.

Three officers hired by Captain Krause were crucial to the study: Vice Admiral Eberhard Weichold, Colonel Walter Gaul, and Commander Günter Hessler. Weichold authored seven essays, among them an essay on why Germany lost the war. Gaul wrote six essays, mostly about German air operations, and Hessler wrote a massive study on German submarine operations. These men were employed by the Office of Naval Intelligence, although Commander Hessler's study of German submarine operations in World War II was paid for both by the British and American navies. Their essays were commissioned for both intelligence and historical purposes and are now housed at the Operational Archives Branch of the Naval Historical Center in Washington, DC.

The majority of these essays concern naval aspects of the war, including operational, tactical, and developmental aspects of German

## INTRODUCTION

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strategy and equipment. As might be expected, a great deal of attention is devoted to submarine warfare, the one aspect of the conflict in which the German Navy was the most successful. Also, the essayists were tasked with providing their British and American employers with an intimate knowledge of the Soviet Navy as an adversary. This topic is addressed with great detail in Vice Admiral Friedrich Ruge's essay, "The Soviet-Russians as Opponents at Sea."

During the microfilming of these essays, duplicates of individual essays were removed. However, the collection at the Operational Archives also contains the original German versions of some of the essays as well as their English translations; furthermore, some intermediate drafts of translations also appear. Whenever possible, both the original German essay and its English translation were filmed, as well as any intermediate drafts of the essay. In most cases only the English translation was available. The collection is appended with Naval Intelligence Division reports relating to the German Navy on roll 7.

A complete list of essays, arranged alphabetically by author, immediately follows this introduction. Each essay is prefaced on the microfilm by a target containing that essay's number, which was placed in the film to facilitate easier scanning. The roll notes list the roll number, the frame number, the author, and the title of the essay. The author's rank in the German armed forces at the end of World War II, where applicable, is also listed; if the author wrote more than one essay, his rank or title does not appear after the first listing. The one exception to this system appears on roll 7, where two of Commander Günter Hessler's essays on the submarine war appear. These essays were located during the filming of the documents.

1/ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
1	0004	1. ALLEWELDT, Captain. "Brief Sketch of My Activity in the Capacity of Chief of the Enemy Situation Branch, Naval Staff, Naval Intelligence Division."
	0017	2. ASSMANN, Kurt, Vice Admiral, and GLADISCH, Walter, Admiral. "Aspects of the German Naval War."
	0052	3. ASSMANN, Kurt. "The German Conduct of War Against the Anglo-Russian Convoy Traffic in Northern Waters, 1941-1945."
	0183	4. ASSMANN, Kurt. "German Naval Preparations for Attacking U.S.S.R."
	0193	5. ASSMANN, Kurt. Headline Diary, "Report on the German Naval War Effort."
	0426	6. ASSMANN, Kurt. Headline Diary, "Report on the German Naval War Effort."
	0636	7. ASSMANN, Kurt. "Plans for the Invasion of England, 1940: The German Navy's Part."
	0686	8. ASSMANN, Kurt. "Relations between the Supreme Command of Armed Forces and the Naval War Staff, World War II."
	0732	9. ASSMANN, Kurt. "Relations between the Supreme Command of Armed Forces and the Naval War Staff, World War II." (German text)
	0866	10. BLUMENTRITT, Günther, General of the Infantry, and ZERBEL, Alfred, Oberst a.D. "Top Level Agencies of the Army General Staff: The Chiefs of Operations, Training, and Organization."
	0890	11. BOEHM, Hermann, Generaladmiral. "The War at Sea."
	0904	12. BUERKNER, Leopold, Vice Admiral. "German Navy."
	0926	13. BUERKNER, Leopold. "Landings of the Russians in the Area of the Black Sea."
	0942	14. BUERKNER, Leopold. "Top Structure of the Former German Armed Forces."
	0973	15. BUSCH, Fritz Otto, Lieutenant Commander. "Narvik: The Story of the Heroic Battle of the German Destroyers."
2	0003	16. CHRISOMALI. "The Yugoslavian Navy from December 1918 to April 1941. The Croatian Navy."
	0125	17. DOENITZ, Karl, Grand Admiral. "The Conduct of the War at Sea."
	0148	18. DOENITZ, Karl. "Capitulation." Address by Admiral Doenitz.
	0160	19. FREIWALD, Kurt, Captain. "German U-Boat Activity in the Indian Ocean."

ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II/2

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
2	0186	20. FREIWALD, Kurt. "Character Sketch of Ex-Admiral Canaris."
	0195	21. FUERBRINGER, Wagner, Admiral. "The U-47's Scapa Flow Undertaking."
	0203	22. GAUL, Walter, Colonel. "The Development of the Naval Air Force Up to the Outbreak of the 1939-1945 War and Its Activity during the First Seven Months of the War."
	0254	23. GAUL, Walter. "The Part Played by the German Air Force and the Naval Air Force in the Invasion of Norway."
	0373	24. GAUL, Walter. "The Part Played by the German Air Force and the Naval Air Force in the Invasion of Norway." (Completed version)
	0439	25. GAUL, Walter. "German Air Force Successes in Operations Against Enemy Shipping in the Channel, off the East Coast of Britain and in the North Sea between April and December 1940." (An essay based on German text, not an exact translation)
	0605	26. GAUL, Walter. "The German Air Force and the Invasion of Normandy, 1944."
	0730	27. GAUL, Walter. "The German Occupation of Crete (Operation Merkur)."
	0828	28. GAUL, Walter. "Navy-Air Force Planning and Build-up of the Naval Air Forces; Their Disbandment, and the Transfer of Naval Air Commitments to the Operational Air Force."
	1087	29. GLADISCH, Walter, Admiral. "Luftwaffenprobleme im Seekrieg." (German text)
	1117	30. GLADISCH, Walter. "Working Plans for the Commission of the Further Development of the Rules of Warfare."
	1134	31. GODT, Rear Admiral. "Critical Review of 'Submarine Defense in World War II' by Korv. Kapt. a.D. Karl-Heinz Mochle."
	1157	32. GODT, Rear Admiral. "The War at Sea."
	1175	33. GREINER, Helmuth. "The Operation 'Sea Lion' and the Intensified Air War against Great Britain, Down to 30 October 1940."
3	0004	34. HALDER, Franz, General. "The German Army High Command (OKH) Within the Framework of the Armed Forces." (Synopsis)
	0130	35. HALL, I., Vice Admiral. "Training of Officers in the Experience of War."
	0134	36. HESSLER, Günter, Commander. "Plans, Charts, and Diagrams of Vol. I of the German History of the U-Boat War, 1939-1945." [See roll 7, 0524, for essay]

3/ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
3	0168	37. HEYE, Helmut, Vice Admiral. "German Naval War Strategy." (German text)
	0205	38. HEYE, Helmut. "The Naval Aspects of the War."
	0237	39. HOLTORF, Captain, and BEHR, Commander. "Defensive Measures against Enemy Type XXI and Walter-Type XXVI U-Boats."
	0253	40. HOLTORF and BEHR. "Operational Employment of Modern Submarines in a Future Naval War."
	0269	41. HOLTORF and BEHR. "The Destroyer-Submarine in a Future War (Offensive and Defensive)."
	0280	42. HOLTORF and BEHR. "LUT-Torpedo Firing Method from Depth."
	0300	43. HOLTORF and BEHR. "German Wartime Experience with Development of Torpedo Fire-Control Systems on Submarines and Ideas for Further Development."
	0319	44. HOLTORF and BEHR. "Fighting Enemy Submarines with Three-Dimensional Torpedoes."
	0355	45. KRAUL, Otto, Captain. "Ice Conditions in Antarctic Waters."
	0377	46. KUPFER, Captain. "The War at Sea."
	0383	47. LIETZMANN, Joachim, Vice Admiral. "German Navy."
	0441	48. LUETH, Lieutenant Commander. "Problems of Leadership in a Submarine." (Completed publication and German text)
	0470	49. MEJER, Otto, Lieutenant Commander. "German Naval Personnel Losses during the War."
	0474	50. MESSERSCHMITT, Willy, Professor. "The German Jet Fighter Me-262 (Development, Success, and Prospects)." (Master copy and German text)
	0494	51. MEYER, Hans, Rear Admiral. "The War at Sea."
	0510	52. MOMMSEN, Hans G., Captain. "The Navy and the Rüstungs-Inspektionen (Armament Inspectorates)."
	0518	53. MOMMSEN, Hans G. "Control of Raw Materials for Naval Production."
	0526	54. MOMMSEN, Hans G. "Transfer of Control of Naval Armament to Minister Speer."
	0533	55. MOOTZ, Hermann, Admiral. "German Navy Organization and Training."
	0601	56. NIELSEN, Andreas, Lieutenant General. "The German Air Force General Staff." USAF Historical Studies, No. 173.
	0740	57. OCHSNER, Hermann, Lieutenant General. "History of German Chemical Warfare in World War II: Part I: The Military Aspect." Army Chemical Corps Historical Studies, No. 2.

ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II/4

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
3	0791	58. PETERS, Rudolf, Captain. "Submarine War in the Arctic Ocean."
	0844	59. PRENTZEL, V., Admiral. "The Men of the Torpedoboot Weapon."
	0855	60. ROMMEL, Erwin, Field Marshal. "Ship Gun Effect at Normandy."
	0858	61. ROSINSKI, Herbert, Doctor. "German Military Studies, German Industrial Mobilization."
	0907	62. RUGE, Friedrich, Vice Admiral. "Critique on Mines, Minelayers, and Minelaying, a Book Written by Captain Cowie, R.N."
	0914	63. RUGE, Friedrich. "German Supreme Command (OKW)."
	0941	64. RUGE, Friedrich. "Coast Defense and the Normandy Invasion."
	0989	65. RUGE, Friedrich. "The Evacuation of Sicily."
	1048	66. RUGE, Friedrich. "Sea Power and Security: A Fateful Problem for All Germans."
	1085	67. RUGE, Friedrich. "The Soviet-Russians as Opponents at Sea."
4	0003	67. RUGE, Friedrich. "The Soviet-Russians as Opponents at Sea." (continued)
	0537	68. RUGE, Friedrich. "Notes Made in the Office for Naval Shipbuilding in Berlin from August 1944 to April 1945."
	0597	69. RUGE, Friedrich. "The Soviet Russians as Opponents at Sea." (German text)
5	0002	69. RUGE, Friedrich. "The Soviet-Russians as Opponents at Sea." (German text, continued)
	0624	70. SCHLICKE, Doctor Engineer, Commander. "Electronics Research in the German Navy."
	0787	71. SCHREIBER, Walter Paul, Major General of the Medical Corps. "The Last Days of Hitler."
	0792	72. SCHOBER, Commander. "The Ships Engine Supervisory Board of the German Navy."
	0819	73. SCHUESSLER, Captain. "The Navy's Battle against the Treaty of Versailles, 1919-1935."
	0872	74. SCHULZ, Otto, Rear Admiral. "The War at Sea."
	0892	75. SCHUSTER and SCHNIEWIND, Admirals. "The War at Sea."
	1102	76. SCHIL, Professor. "German Domestic Opinion and Morale, 1943-1944."
6	0002	76. SCHIL, Professor. "German Domestic Opinion and Morale, 1943-1944." (continued)
	0059	77. SPIESS, Johannes, Lieutenant. "Six Years of Submarine Cruising."



5/ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
6	0148	78. SPINDLER, Arno, Rear Admiral. "History of German Submarine Warfare."
	0255	79. STIEGEL, Heinrich, Vice Admiral. "Capital Ships."
	0263	80. STIEGEL, Heinrich. "Watertight Integrity."
	0268	81. STIEGEL, Heinrich. "Reflections Attending the End of the Last Four German Battleships."
	0281	82. STIEGEL, Heinrich. "The German Shipyard Industry."
	0294	83. STRAETER, Günther, Matrose-Gefreiter. "The Sinking of the <i>Scharnhorst</i> : Survivor's Account."
	0300	84. SUCHENWIRTH, Richard, Professor. "Historical Turning Points in the German Air Force War Effort." USAF Historical Studies: No. 189.
	0453	85. UNGER, Arno, Lieutenant Commander. "Conduct of the War in the Baltic and Northern Waters — Experiences and Conclusions."
	0458	86. UNGER, Arno. "The German Conduct of the Naval War against Soviet Russia in the Baltic (from June 1941 until Capitulation in May 1945)."
	0475	87. VON LIEVENSTEIN, Freiherr, Commander. "Final Report of the Transport Commander, Messina Strait."
	0526	88. WAGNER, Gerhard, Rear Admiral. "Critique on Vice Admiral Eberhard Weichhold's Essay on 'German Surface Ships.' "
	0548	89. WEGER, Kurt, Rear Admiral. "The German Navy in the Southeastern Area of Europe from the Summer of 1941 to the Autumn of 1944 Under the Orders of the Southern Naval Command."
	0800	90. WEICHOLD, Eberhard, Vice Admiral. "The German Naval Defense against the Allied Invasion of Normandy." (German text and completed copy)
	0844	91. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "German Surface Ships: Policy and Operations in World War II."
	0985	92. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "The Importance of the Aircraft Carrier in the War at Sea, 1939-1945, Based on the Experiences of the German and Italian Navies."
	1020	93. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "A Survey from the Naval Point of View of the Organization of the German Air Force for Operations over the Sea, 1939-1945."
	1047	94. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "The War at Sea in the Mediterranean."
	1123	95. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "The War at Sea in the Mediterranean." (German text)
7	0003	96. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "Axis Naval Policy and Operations in the Mediterranean, 1939 to May 1943."

ESSAYS BY GERMAN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS ON WORLD WAR II/6

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Author, Title</i>
7	0092	97. WEICHOLD, Eberhard. "Why Germany Lost the Second World War."
	0155	98. WEYHER, Kurt, Rear Admiral. "The German Navy in the Southeastern Area of Europe from the Summer of 1941 to the Autumn of 1944." (Excerpts from completed publications)
	0224	99. WURMBACH, Admiral. "My Activities in Denmark as Flag Officer in Charge and Admiral Skagerrak from 29 March 1943 to 4 August 1945."

**APPENDIX: NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
REPORTS RELATING TO THE GERMAN NAVY**

0234	100. U-188 Report on Experiences in the Indian Ocean
0267	101. German U-Boats from Which Prisoners Were Taken During Hostilities by British and American Forces
0287	102. German E-Boats, S-199, Interrogation of Survivors
0304	103. German E-Boats, S-167 and S-220, Interrogation of Survivors
0329	104. German E-Boats, S-167 and S-220, Interrogation of Survivors
0354	105. German-Japanese Interchange of Technical Information
0361	106. Extract of Information on Spain
0367	107. Details of Shipyards, Drydocks and Harbors in Japan and French Indochina
0377	108. Operation Carried Out by <i>Scharnhorst</i> , <i>Gneisenau</i> , and U-Boats Against British Convoy Escorted by HMS <i>Malaya</i> , March 1941
0393	109. Report on Account of Action in which HMS <i>Charybdis</i> and HMS <i>Limbourne</i> Were Sunk by German Torpedo Boats the Night of 22-23 October 1943
0399	110. Sink at Sight Policy
0429	111. The Sinking of the S.S. <i>Athenia</i>
0434	112. The Sinking of the S.S. <i>Athenia</i>
0443	113. State of the German Fleet

**ADDENDUM: THESE ESSAYS WERE LOCATED  
DURING THE FILMING PROCESS**

0524	114. HESSLER, Günter, Commander. "A Contribution to the German History of the U-Boat War, 1939-1945."
0827	115. HESSLER, Günter. "The Submarine War from 1939 to 1945." (Outline in German and English)



