

MEMORANDUM

1st April 1947.

FROM: German Military Document Section,
Washington, D.C.

TO: DDMO and I
British Army Staff,
Washington, D.C.

Brigadier K.V. Barker Benfield, DSO, MC.

SUBJECT: Final Report on GMDS.

- 1.) The following report is submitted on the termination of active British participation in the work of GMDS.

Completed work in GMDS.

- 2.) The library under the supervision of Lt. R.O. Bussey, is set up in usable order. In detail the situation is as follows:-

(a) The Army Archives.

This collection is completely on the shelves and arranged in order of German accession numbers filed under units and formations. The catalogue is complete in respect of Army Groups, Armies and I and II Corps, but has not been published.

(b) The High Command Collection.

This is also in order and a new catalogue to supersede the Frankfurt catalogue is in preparation.

(c) The General Library.

These documents are filed in order on shelves by the German system "Einheitsaktenplan" with the exception of SS documents which are being reorganised. No detailed catalogues have been prepared.

- 3.) The first program of GMDS which involved the production of studies on aspects of German military methods and organisation, was completed in July 1946. The following studies have been published:-

The German General Staff Corps
German Operational Intelligence
German Training Methods
German Army Quartermaster & Finance Organi-
German Army Mobilisation /sation
German Military Transportation
The German Operation at Anzio
Armoured Breakthrough.

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In addition a photo-copy of the German text of the study German Administration of Occupied Territories has been made available to War Office and NDHQ, Ottawa. Four more studies have been completed but their publication has been suspended; details of these will be found in para 7.

4.) Considerable progress has been made in implementing the second program of GMDS undertaken in July 1946. War Diaries and papers of all field formations in the Army Archive collection have been examined and items of intelligence interest recorded. About 25% of the documents of the branch Foreign Armies East of the Army High Command have been examined and items of intelligence value incorporated into the index and part of the general library has been similarly examined. The following table will show this work in detail:-

<u>Library Section</u>	<u>Number of Folders on shelves, examined</u>		<u>Per-centage exploi- ted</u>	<u>Number of intelligence items located and carded</u>
<u>Army Archives</u>				
Army Groups	3500	3500	100%	250
Armies	13500	13500	100%	1650
Corps	15000	15000	100%	1800
Divisions	20000	20000	100%	2400
Static & occupational formations *	10000	-	-	-
<u>High Command</u>				
Armed Forces High ** Command	1600	-	-	-
<u>Army High Command</u>				
Commander in Chief of the Army	60	-	-	-
Chief of the Army General Staff	-	-	-	-
Central Branch *	150	-	-	-
Operations Branch	400	-	-	-

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* Contains little intelligence information

** Only two agencies (Feldwirtschaftsamt and Ausland/Abwehr) contain intelligence information.

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<u>Library Section</u>	<u>Number of Folders</u>		<u>Per-</u>	<u>Number of</u>
	<u>on</u>	<u>examined</u>	<u>centage</u>	<u>intelligence</u>
	<u>shelves</u>		<u>exploit-</u>	<u>items located</u>
			<u>ted</u>	<u>and carded</u>
<u>Army High Command</u> (Cont.)				
Organisations* Branch	550	-	-	-
Foreign Armies East Branch	*** 800	200	25%	300
Foreign Armies West Branch	600	-	-	-
Training Branch *	25	-	-	-
Chief Supply and Ad- ministration Officer *	200	-	-	-
Attache Branch	60	-	-	-
Chief Army Signal Officer	50	-	-	-
Chief Army Transpor- tation Officer				
Planning Branch)				
Chief of Rail-)	1700	-	-	-
road troops ****)				
Chief of mapping and survey	300	-	-	-
Chief Infantry Officer *	150	-	-	-
Chief of Armoured trains *	-	-	-	-
Chief Artillery Officer	15	-	-	-
Chief Engineer and Fortifications Officer	250	-	-	-
Chief Chemical Warfare * Officer	-	-	-	-
General of Eastern Troops	-	-	-	-
General for special * employment	10	-	-	-
Chief Army Medical Inspector	50	-	-	-
War Academy *	100	-	-	-
Army Personnel Office*	1500	-	-	-
Chief of Army Equipmt.* and Commander of Re- placement Army	60	-	-	-

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*** Owing to nature of collection a great deal of intelligence information is represented by each card.

**** A very rich source of railway information for Eastern Europe.

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<u>Library Section</u>	<u>Number of Folders on shelves</u>	<u>examined</u>	<u>Per- centage exploit- ted</u>	<u>Number of intelligence items located and carded</u>
<u>Army High Command</u> (Cont.)				
General Army Office *	25	-	-	-
Army Administration * Office	10	-	-	-
Army Ordnance Office	250	-	-	-
Inspector General of Armoured Troops	275	-	-	-
Chief of Training in * the Replacement Army	-	-	-	-
Chief of Army Archives *	300	-	-	-
<u>General Library</u>				
I Political *	400	400	100%	10
II Organisation *	250	250	100%	5
III Personnel *	300	300	100%	-
IV Replacement, Training, Tactics	1400	1400	100%	50
V Specialist Arms *	1100	1100	100%	30
VI Administration, * Finance, Accounts	250	250	100%	-
VII Procurement	2190	1550	70%	50
VIII Section disbanded (see SS Section)	-	-	-	-
IX Miscellaneous	1160	-	-	-
SS Section	4500	-	-	-

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Complete sets of cards produced to date have been distributed as follows:-

- (a) Intelligence Library, Intelligence Division (1 set).
- (b) Air Information Division, A-2 Library Branch, Army Air Forces. (2 sets)
- (c) Central Intelligence Group, Office of Collection, New War Department Building. (1 set)
- (d) 50X1
- (e) British Army Staff, New War Department Bldg. Washington D.C. (2 sets)
- (f) 50X1
- (g) Reading Panel, Intelligence Division, War Department (13 copies of each card for distribution to agencies within War Department).

5.) Distribution of items indexed by subject is as follows:-

Military Intelligence	2530	
Army		1900
Air Military		340
Basic Intelligence	7900	
Military Geography		4330
Mapping & Survey		2460
Terrain		800
Military Geology		150
Meteorology & Climatology		200
Medical Geography		65
Engineering Intelligence		1060
Economic Intelligence		400
Labour Resources		35
Transportation		1260
Telecommunications		165
Ports		100
Cities and Towns		400
Scientific and Technical Int.	570	

6.) Approximately 500 items have been micro-filmed and the microfilms forwarded to requests for micro-film copies in respect of the first 3000 cards of GMDS Intelligence Index have been processed and documents are now being copied by BAD micro-film unit.

50X1

Work still to be completed.

7.) There are still studies from the first program of GMDS outstanding. The situation in respect of these is as follows:-

- (a) The German High Command

This study is complete and has been in part prepared for reproduction.

There is still a great deal of work to be done on preparing fair copy of the charts for this study. No work on this is proceeding at the present time and the study is filed in its existing state in GMDS.

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- (b) German Manpower and
- (c) German Fortifications

These two studies are complete and ready for reproduction. The War Department is not, however, publishing these and at the present time Special Document Section Baltimore is endeavouring to make arrangements for publication. Attempts are also being made to arrange for publication of these two studies by Historical Division, War Department.

- (d) German Administration of Occupied Territories.

The text of this study is still in German. Several copies have been made of which two were sent to War Office.

- (e) German Tactics.

This study exists in a draft German text. It has not been edited or translated. No further action is being taken upon it. It has, however, been used by Major B.A. Pearson in connection with his work on tactics.

- 8.) The following parts of the present program are still incomplete:-

Apart from Foreign Armies East documents, about 200 of which have been examined, the entire Army High Command collection remains to be examined and carded. Of this collection the remaining part of Foreign Armies East and the whole of the documents of the Chief of Transportation and the documents of the Military Geographic Section are specially valuable and are expected to yield a very large number of intelligence items. Approximately 3500 potentially valuable documents remain to be screened in the High Command collection.

About 50% of the documents in the General Library have been screened. Approximately 5250 have been examined and 6300 remain to be screened. The unexamined documents refer to procurement, industry, raw materials, technical questions, weapons, munitions, equipment and research, and the SS and Waffen SS documents also remain to be screened. It is not considered that there will be a high yield of information from these documents for the areas covered by the GMDS Intelligence Index.

- 9.) In the library there is approximately three months work to be done (at present strength) to complete the arrangement and cataloguing of the High Command collection, and a similar amount to bring the General Library into complete order. The preparation of detailed catalogues for the Army Archives (for Corps, Division and static formation documents) and for the General Library, would require a further two years.

- 10.) In addition to documents, GMDS also has custody of a collection of about 700 reels of microfilm of documents photographed elsewhere. About 50% of these remain to be viewed to determine their content and 95% require examination for the purpose of the intelligence index.

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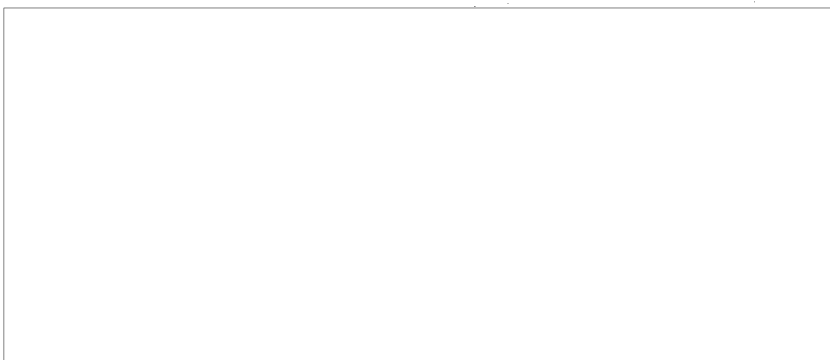
Outstanding British requirements

- 11.) Approximately 550 [] requests already submitted remain to be processed and it is anticipated that requests from [] will continue to be submitted for some time to come. 50X1
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Existing arrangements for completion of work of GMDS.

- 12.) The continuation of the Intelligence Index is to be effected by American Personnel who will remain under present arrangements until 1 June 1947. On this date the maintenance of the library is to be undertaken by the Adjutant General's Branch, War Department, and exploitation will be taken over by Central Intelligence Group. It is not possible to project the future of GMDS beyond June 1947, but it is anticipated that exploitation will be continued on the present lines till the GMDS Intelligence Index is complete.

The filling of British requirements has been arranged for as follows:-



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P. Cutler,
Major, GS.

Copies to:

Chief GMDS ✓

Chief Exploitation Section GMDS

Chief Archive Section GMDS



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