

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

NEWSLETTER

Number 17

May 1977

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MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is open to anyone interested in the Second World War. Annual dues, payable in January for the calendar year, are \$10.00 for individuals and institutions, \$2.00 for students. Those wishing to join or to renew their membership are invited to fill out the lower part of the information form attached as page 15 and return it, with the appropriate remittance, to the secretary.

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Under the chairmanship of Professor Arthur L. Funk, the annual business meeting of the ACHSWW was held from 4:45 to 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, 28 December 1976, in the Assembly Room of the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D. C. The following report of the meeting was compiled by the committee secretary.

1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Because many members had not yet received the ballots mailed to them with the November 1976 newsletter at bulk-mail rate, the tally was postponed. (*The tally was made in January; the directors elected to terms expiring at the end of 1979 are listed in the left-hand column of the first page of the newsletter.*)

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

As committee treasurer, the secretary, Donald S. Detwiler, reported that the ACHSWW's assets, as of one year earlier, had been \$1308.62, well over half of which had been committed to issuing the papers delivered at the meeting of the International Committee on the History of the Second World War held in conjunction with the international congress in San Francisco in 1975. In the course of 1976, \$306.50 had been received, but some \$1969.81 expended, largely for duplication of the 1975 conference proceedings and the two 1976 newsletters, resulting in a deficit of \$354.69. The treasurer's report was accepted. (*To bring this report up to date, it should be added that as of the middle of May, slightly fewer than half those on our membership list have sent in their 1977 dues, though they were payable in January. Had there been no deficit, the amount received would have been sufficient, if only barely, to cover current expenses--including the reproduction and mailing to our members of the May conference program as well as the International Committee's Bulletin, and also extensive international mailings and correspondence concerning the conference. The deficit would be eliminated and operating expenses for the remainder of the year would also be covered if those who have not paid their dues for 1977 would promptly do so, and if, in addition, those who are in arrears for 1976 as well as 1977 would bring their memberships up to date, or, at the very least, reinstate them by remitting 1977 dues only.*)

3. JOINT AHA-ACHSWW SESSIONS

Professor Funk announced the session on *Codebreaking and Intelligence in the European Theater* being held the following morning in the Shoreham-Americana Hotel and introduced Professor Juergen Rohwer, Director of the Library of Contemporary History in Stuttgart, who had just flown from Germany to participate in that session. The chairman also led a discussion of suggestions for a joint session to be held at the 1977 annual meeting, to be held in December in Dallas, Texas. (*Both a summary of the 1976 session and the program of the 1977 session are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.*)

4. CONFERENCE ON AMERICANS AS PROCONSULS

Dr. Robert Wolfe, Chief the Modern Military Branch of the National Archives, reported on plans for the biennial conference, which had been developed by Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research, the committee secretary, Professor Donald S. Detwiler of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and himself, who had been asked by the chairman to serve as a three-man program and local arrangements committee. (See the announcement below concerning the conference, as well as the program, with which this newsletter concludes.)

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Several additional matters were taken up at the business meeting, which adjourned at 6:30 P.M. Among other things, it was announced that henceforth a master copy of the International Committee's bulletin will be airmailed to the ACHSWW Secretariat for duplication and mailing from Carbondale, thereby not only avoiding the slow and costly trans-Atlantic shipment of several hundred copies, but also assuring delivery to all members on the current ACHSWW mailing list.

JOINT SESSION ON CODEBREAKING AND INTELLIGENCE (1976)

At 9:30 A.M. Wednesday, 29 December 1976, in the Regency Ballroom of the Shoreham-Americana Hotel, the joint session of the American Committee on the History of the Second World War and the American Historical Association was held on "Codebreaking and Intelligence in the European Theater, World War II," under the chairmanship of Professor Arthur L. Funk of the University of Florida. The main presentation was made by Professor David Kahn of New York University, with comments by Telford Taylor of the Columbia University Law School, Juergen Rohwer of the Library of Contemporary History in Stuttgart, and Harold C. Deutsch of the Army War College.

The main paper in the session, *The Significance of Codebreaking and Intelligence in Allied Strategy and Tactics*, was delivered by David Kahn, author of *The Codebreakers: The Story of Secret Writing* (New York: Macmillan, 1967; rev. and abr., N.Y.: Signet Paperback, 1973) and of a forthcoming study, also to be published by Macmillan, on German military intelligence.

In the first part of his paper, Dr. Kahn (who earned his degree at Oxford under Hugh Trevor-Roper) reviewed the background of World War II cryptography and went on to explain the impact of codebreaking on several critically important operations. In this context, he noted one case history that has stirred a great deal of interest: Coventry. According to the account of Frederick W. Winterbotham in *The Ultra Secret* (an important but not entirely accurate account of the Allies'

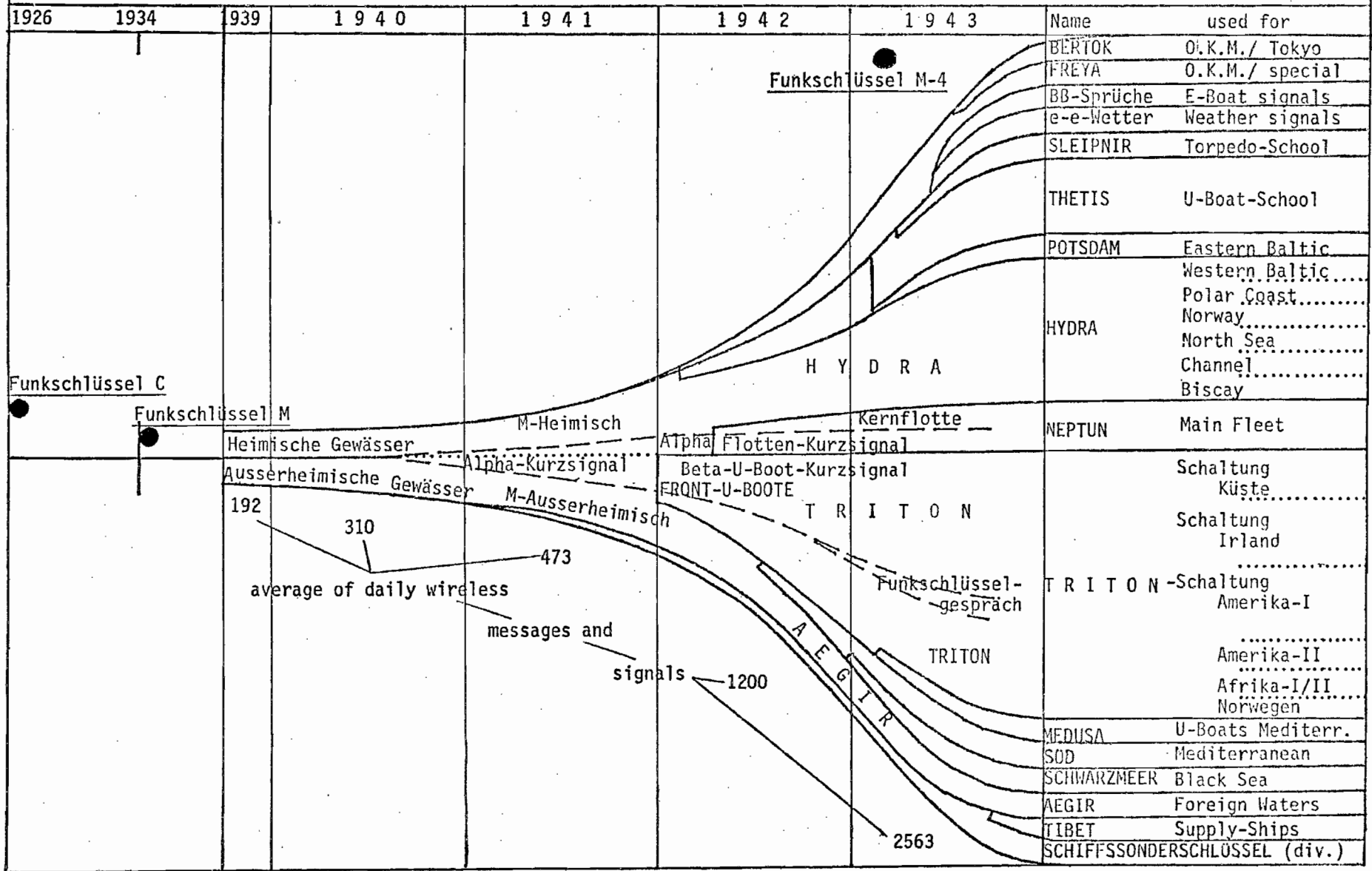
cracking the main high-level German cipher and the consequences), ". . . this industrial city--whose destroyed cathedral became a symbol of the blitz--was deliberately sacrificed by Churchill to preserve the secret of Ultra" (i.e., the code having been broken), said Kahn. "The story goes that the British had intercepted German messages disclosing their intention to bomb this concentration of British air production. But Churchill and his high advisors feared that to take any precautionary measures would alert the Germans to the fact that the British could read their messages. This would lead them to change their ciphers and so would deprive Britain of vital intelligence for future and more important operations. Consequently, they did nothing, and hundreds of British civilians lost their lives." According to Kahn, however, this was *not* the case, for ". . . a recent critical analysis of the documents shows the following: The Ultra information was actually misleading as to the target areas. On the other hand, accurate and detailed intelligence about the forthcoming attack came from a prisoner of war. Energetic defense preparations were made on the basis of this information. They failed for a number of operational reasons, and so the German attack succeeded. But there was no martyring of the population."

According to Kahn, the ability to read intercepted German radio messages enabled the British intelligence service to observe the activities of its opposite number as if it were watching it through a telescope. Before long, the British knew the real names and cover names of the German spies in England and were able to give them carefully prepared intelligence misinformation: "This came to fruition in the greatest deception operation of the war. The British used their tame spies to feed false information to the Germans before and during the Normandy invasion. The information helped lead the Germans to believe that there were some 79 Allied divisions in Britain, whereas in fact there were only 45. The Germans expected that these divisions would be used somewhere, and so they held an entire army, the 15th, to the north in the Pas de Calais while Eisenhower was attacking further south in Normandy. This meant less resistance to the invaders and contributed decisively to the Allied lodgment."

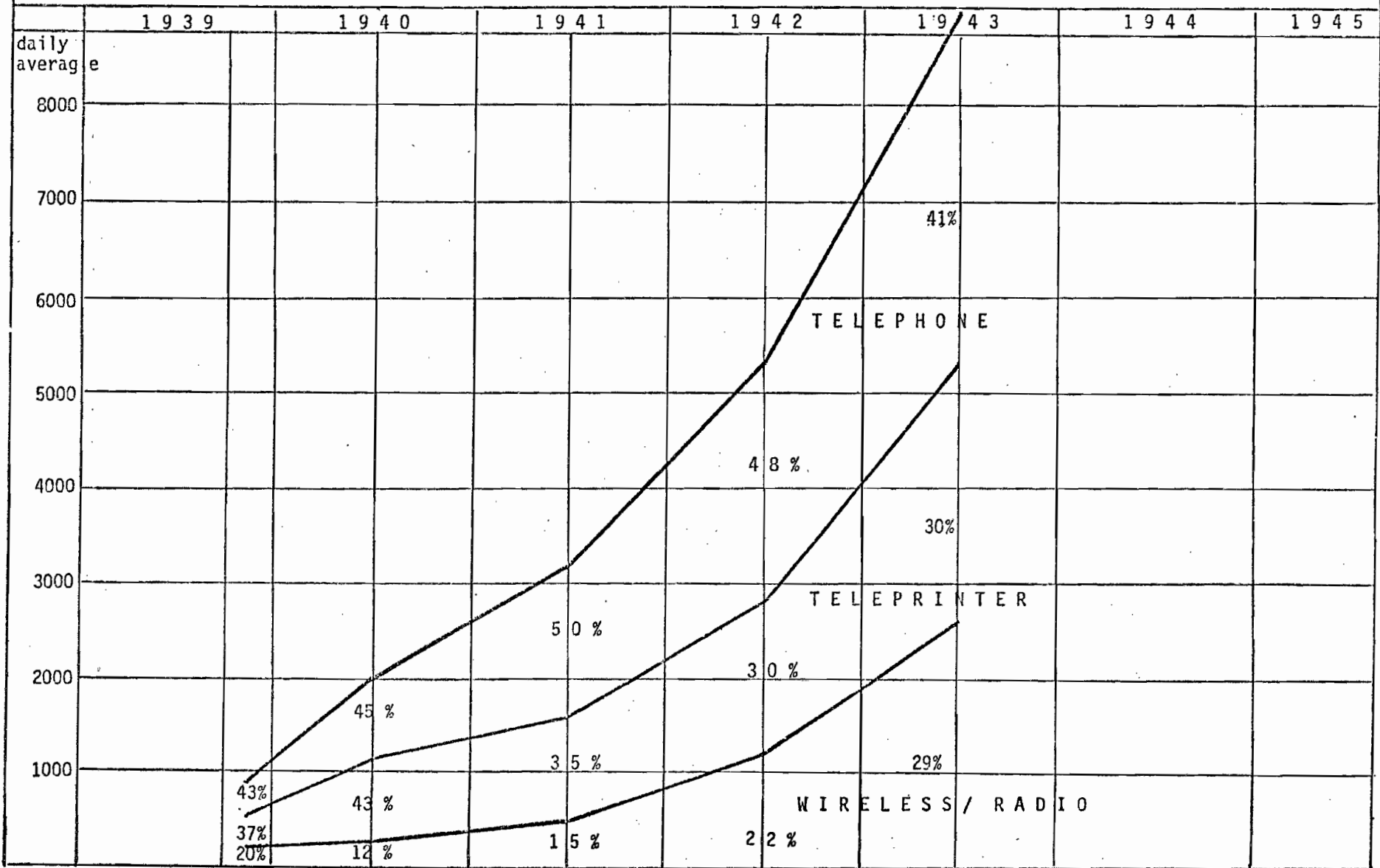
Kahn cited several other important contributions of intelligence achieved through codebreaking, but stressed that codebreaking was in itself not decisive. After all, "the Poles had Ultra in 1939; the French had it in 1940. You can have the best intelligence in the world, but if you don't have a powerful army, it's useless."

In his comments, Professor Rohwer focussed on what Churchill had described as "the dominating factor in the war," the Battle of the Atlantic, illustrating his points with several graphs. The first of the three appended shows the *Development of German Cipher-Circles for "Funkschluesel M,"* i.e., the proliferation of encoding systems for the increasingly sophisticated cipher machines as the average number of radio messages and signals increased from 192 daily in 1939 to 2563 daily in 1943. In terms of the number of radio *Communications to and from the German O.K.M.* (High Command of the Navy), this represented an increase from 20% to 29% of the total from 1939 to 1943, as shown in the second graph. In his third graph, *Codebreaking and the Battle of the Atlantic*, Dr. Rohwer's bar in the top line represents convoy operations. This is immediately followed by an indication of the number of

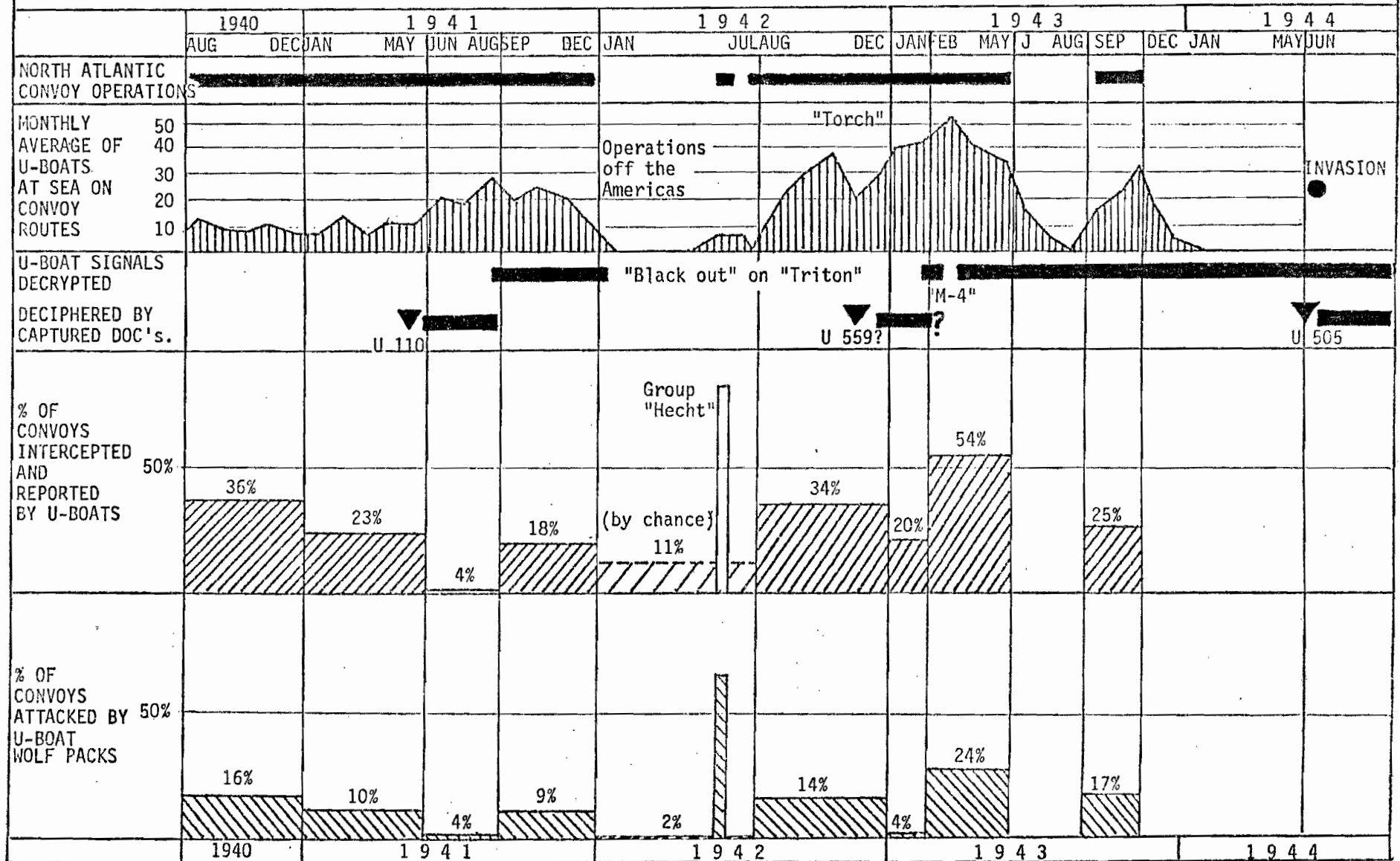
DEVELOPMENT OF GERMAN CIPHER-CIRCLES FOR "FUNKSCHLÜSSEL M"



COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM THE GERMAN O. K. M.



CODEBREAKING AND THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



submarines at battle station, and, in the same time frame, indications of codebreaking, contacts, and attacks, extending into 1944, by which time the Germans had lost the Battle of the Atlantic.

Among the many additional points emerging from David Kahn's paper, the comments of Harold C. Deutsch, Juergen Rohwer, and Telford Taylor, and the ensuing discussion involving several members of the audience, at least one should be mentioned in closing; it pertains to the Battle of the Bulge. Before mounting his December 1944 offensive, Hitler had ordered radio silence, thereby abruptly sealing off the most important source of Allied intelligence---a decisive factor in the degree of surprise achieved in the attack.

JOINT SESSION ON PRISONERS OF WAR (1977)

The Program Committee of the American Historical Association has approved the following joint session for the annual meeting this coming December in Dallas:

POWs since 1939

Joint Session with the American Committee on the
History of the Second World War

CHAIRMAN: Charles B. Burdick, Professor and Chairman,
Department of History, San José State University

*Stalag Luft III: A Case Study in the Humane Treatment
of Prisoners of War in a Hostile Environment*

Arthur A. Durand, Associate Professor of History,
U. S. Air Force Academy

*A Survey of the Increasing Mistreatment of Prisoners of
War since World War II*

Fred Kiley, Director of Research on American POWs
in Vietnam, Office of the Secretary of Defense

The Forgotten People: The Families of Prisoners of War

Edna Jo Hunter, Center for Prisoner of War Studies,
Naval Health Research Center

COMMENT: Stanley L. Falk, Chief Historian, Office of
Air Force History

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS ITEMS

Research Library Expansion in Milan

The following announcement has been received with the request that it be brought to the attention of all members of the ACHSWW:

The *Istituto nazionale per la storia del movimento di liberazione in Italia*, 20122 Milano, Piazza Duomo 14, the leading official institute of research in contemporary history in Italy, is embarking on a large-scale expansion of its library holdings during 1977-78, particularly in the field of published sources on the Second World War. The materials which the Institute is now attempting to acquire can be divided into four categories:

1. Inventories, guides, bibliographies;
2. Official sources of all kinds (including diplomatic documents, official histories, parliamentary debates and investigations, and statistics);
3. Unofficial sources (monographs, memoirs, etc.);
4. Periodicals (leading newspapers and reviews).

The Institute will be grateful to receive indications of material of this type available in other countries, beginning with a list of past and present publications of individual institutions. The library of the *Istituto nazionale* will of course reimburse any expenses incurred, or pay for any material sent. In addition, the *Istituto nazionale* offers to all its correspondents indications of similar material existing in Italy together with guides to its own collections, and to those of its member institutes (a guide to the archives of the member institutes was published in 1974; a guide to the periodical collections of the institutes will shortly appear). General information on the history and historiography of 20th-century Italy is, of course, always available on request.

The Institute will be grateful for any assistance offered in connection with this project.

Naval History Symposium at Annapolis

The History Department of the United States Naval Academy will sponsor a Symposium on "Changing Interpretations and New Sources of Naval History" in Annapolis, Maryland on 27-28 October 1977. The Symposium will include multiple sessions covering many broad aspects of Western and Asian naval history and will deal with current scholarship on historical issues from pre-recorded to more modern periods. For information, write to Dr. Robert William Love, Jr., History Department, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21402.

Public Record Office Microfilm Catalogue

As announced in Newsletters 15 and 16, August and November 1976, the Public Record Office in London has made available a special compilation of six 100-ft. reels of microfilm of key documents on wartime Anglo-American relations from the files of the Premier and the Cabinet. In December 1976, the Public Record Office issued a hundred-page Catalogue of Microfilm, listing most of those records of which the Public Record Office holds master negatives on microfilm. Positive copies from those masters are available at

£20.00 per 100-ft. reel. The catalogue lists the available microfilm by record group in alphabetical order: Admiralty, Air Ministry, Cabinet Office (from which several selections were taken for the special Anglo-American relations set), Chancery, Colonial Office, etc. Many of the listings are cross-referenced to standard guides and hand-books cited in the catalogue. For further information, write directly to the Photo-ordering Section, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Because of the workload and cost involved in issuing over two thousand announcements of the biennial conference and conducting subsequent correspondence, the bibliographical section of this issue of the newsletter has had to be limited to a report on a publication mentioned (but not described) in a previous newsletter, the House Committee on International Relations' eight-volume historical series, prepared under the direction of Dr. Harold L. Hitchens, senior staff associate in the University Center for International Studies of the University of Pittsburgh. The prices originally published in each volume are subject to change without notice. Those interested in ordering directly from the publisher may receive information concerning current prices (and also order numbers, forms, and catalogues, etc.) from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, or from the Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

- U. S., Congress, House, Committee on International Relations. *Problems of World War II and Its Aftermath*, Parts 1 & 2. Selected Executive Session Hearings of the Committee, 1943-50, Historical Series, vols. I & II. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1976; xi & 403 pp., \$3.60; vii & 600 pp., \$4.95. The material in the first two volumes--largely executive-session (i.e., closed) hearings and supporting documentation--covers a wide range of questions relating to U. S. policy and the conduct of the war, concerns arising out of the situation in Europe following the anticipated victory of the U. S. and its allies, and the search for a more effective international organization to prevent another World War. The latter part of vol. I deals with Italy. The first part of vol. II (pp. 1-374) is on the Palestine question, particularly with respect to that territory's becoming a home for Jewish refugees from Europe.
- U. S., Congress, House, Committee on International Relations. *Foreign Economic Assistance Programs*, Parts 1 & 2. Selected Executive Session Hearings of the Committee, 1943-50, Historical Series, vols. III & IV. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1976; vii & 373 pp., \$3.40; vii & 664 pp. \$5.40.

Vol. III is on the Foreign Assistance Act of 1948 (Marshall Plan and related measures). It includes in these executive session hearings (an invaluable supplement to the open hearings published in two volumes in 1948), such testimony as General Lucius Clay's explanation of his having stopped reparation deliveries to Russia when unification in Germany had failed to take place and when Russia refused even to enter into an agreement on recalculation of the reparations amount due, a necessary step toward restoring the German standard of living to the 1936 level. Vol. IV includes hearings on the extension of the Marshall Plan (legislated on a year-by-year basis) conducted during the winter and spring of the Berlin Blockade.

- U. S. Congress, House, Committee on International Relations. *Military Assistance Programs*, Parts 1 & 2. Selected Executive Session Hearings of the Committee, 1943-50, Historical Series, vols. V & VI. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1976; vii & 592 pp., \$4.90; vii & 595 pp., \$5.50. Volume V deals with the mutual defense assistance program of 1949, the first of the large-scale programs of military assistance to nations being organized into NATO; vol. VI deals with the extension of that program, with assistance to Greece and Turkey, and with Latin American military assistance.
- U. S. Congress, House, Committee on International Relations. *United States Policy in the Far East*, Parts 1 & 2. Selected Executive Session Hearings of the Committee, 1943-50, vols. VII & VIII. Washington, D. C.; U. S. Government Printing Office, 1976; vii & 539 pp., \$4.55; vii & 538 pp., \$4.55. The seventh volume includes material on military assistance to the Philippines, and military assistance to China, and concludes with a briefing on the fall of China by Major General David G. Barr, Director of the Joint U. S. Military Advisory Group to the Republic of China. The eighth and final volume in the Historical Series is on the Korean Assistance Acts and the Far Eastern Portion of the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1950.

"AMERICANS AS PROCONSULS"--AN INVITATIONAL CONFERENCE (20-21 May 1977)

The Smithsonian Institution's Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research and the American Committee on the History of the Second World War are conducting, in cooperation with the MacArthur Memorial and the Marshall Research libraries, an invitational conference on "Americans as Proconsuls: U. S. Military Government in Germany and Japan, 1944-52," at the National Museum of History and Technology in Washington, D. C., 20-21 May 1977. Its purpose is to provide a forum at which postwar occupation participants and scholars in the field may join in a systematic review of the history of the topic, as well as consideration of the directions future research may take. The program stresses discussion from the floor by invited participants. This discussion is to be recorded and edited for publication in the conference proceedings along with the panels and formal papers. The conference program follows.

AMERICANS AS PROCONSULS:
U.S. Military Government in Germany and Japan, 1944-52

sponsored by
the Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research,
National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution
and
the American Committee for the History of the Second World War

with the cooperation of
the Douglas MacArthur Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia
and the George C. Marshall Research Library, Lexington, Virginia

on May 20-21, 1977, at

the Leonard Carmichael Auditorium
National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution
1400 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Friday, May 20, 1977

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

REVIEW AND PREVIEW

Welcome

Brooke Hindle, Director of the National Museum of History and
Technology, Smithsonian Institution

*The MacArthur Library and Marshall Foundation U.S. Occupation
Conferences of 1975 and 1976*

Forrest C. Pogue, Director, Eisenhower Institute

*Was Reeducation for Democracy Our Chosen Means and the American
Way of Life our Unconscious Goal for Occupied Germany and Japan?*

Robert Wolfe, National Archives, former Publications Control
Officer, OMG Württemberg-Baden

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PRESUPPOSITIONS, PREJUDICES, AND PLANNING

Chair and Comment: Hugh Borton, Columbia University; former chief,
Division of Japanese Affairs, State Department

Remember Pearl Harbor or Love Thine Enemy?

Marlene J. Mayo, University of Maryland

Unconditional Surrender--Win First and Pastoralize Later

Earl F. Ziemke, University of Georgia

Discussion

Friday, May 20, 1977, cont.

2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

THE REALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Chair and Comment: Willard A. Fletcher, University of Delaware

The MacArthur Shogunate in Allied Guise

Ralph Braibanti, Duke University, former military government officer, Japan

Governing the American Zone amidst the Breakdown of Quadripartite Military Government

John Gimbel, Humboldt State University

Discussion

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

REPARATIONS, ECONOMIC REFORM, AND RECONSTRUCTION

Chair and Comment: Jacques J. Reinstein; former State Department Special Assistant for Economic Affairs and Chief, Division of German Economic Affairs, 1946-1950

From Deconcentration to Reverse-Course

Eleanor Hadley, Government Section, SCAP, 1945-46; George Washington University

From Morgenthau Plan to Marshall Plan

John Backer, former chief, Export Promotion, JEIA, OMG Bavaria

Discussion

Saturday, May 21, 1977

9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

PURGING THE BODY POLITIC: HELP OR HINDRANCE
TO REORIENTATION AND REHABILITATION?

Chair and Introductory Comment: Eli E. Nobleman, Chairman, Executive Committee Civil Affairs Association; former chief, military government courts, OMG Bavaria

The Purge in Japan

Hans H. Baerwald, UCLA; former member, Public Administration Division, SCAP

Denazification in Germany

Elmer Plischke, University of Maryland; former member, Political Affairs Division, OMGUS

War Crimes and Clemency in Germany and Japan

John Mendelsohn, National Archives

Saturday, May 21, 1977, cont.

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

REEDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Chair and Comment: Carl G. Anthon, American University;
former higher education advisor, HICOG, 1949-53

Civil Information and Education in Japan
Jack A. Siggins, University of Maryland

*From Information Control to Information Services:
An Epitome of Reeducation in the U.S. Zone of Germany*
Harold Hurwitz, Free University of Berlin

Discussion

2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

PANEL: SOURCE MATERIALS FOR THE HISTORY
OF AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Chair and Comment: Mabel E. Deutrich, National Archives
State Department, Milton O. Gustafson, National Archives
Presidential Libraries, Benedict K. Zobrist, Truman Library
U.S. Military Records, James J. Hastings, National Archives
MacArthur Library, Robert H. Alexander, MacArthur Library
Marshall Foundation, Fred L. Hadsel, Marshall Library

Panel Discussion

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

PANEL: IMPACT OF THE PROCONSULAR EXPERIENCE
ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, NATIONAL
SECURITY, AND CIVIL AFFAIRS DOCTRINE

Chair, Comment, and Summary: John D. Montgomery, Harvard University

Panelists:

Jacob D. Beam, former political advisor, U.S. Forces in Germany,
1945-47, and chief, Central European Division, State Department,
1947-49

William R. Swarm, director, Civil Affairs Association; former
commandant, Civil Affairs School, and assistant chief of staff,
G 5, VIII Corps, European Theater

Edward N. Petersen, University of Wisconsin, River Falls

Panel and General Discussion

CLOSING REMARKS: Arthur L. Funk, University of Florida; Chairman,
American Committee on the History of the Second World War

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Established in 1968 "to promote historical research in the period of World War II in all its aspects," the American Committee on the History of the Second World War is affiliated with the *Comité International d'Histoire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale*, and with corresponding national committees in many other countries, including Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, East and West Germany, Israel, Italy, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom. With a membership of some 370, the American Committee, among its other activities,

- (1) participates in meetings abroad sponsored by affiliated committees, and also holds its own, such as the conference, co-sponsored with the Smithsonian's Eisenhower Institute, on U. S. Military Government in Occupied Germany and Japan (20-22 May 1977 in Washington, D. C.);
- (2) issues a newsletter noting meetings, research, and recent publications, and distributes the International Committee's news bulletin, as well as bonus items such as special bibliographies and the proceedings of the 1975 San Francisco conference, *Politics and Strategy in the Second World War*; and
- (3) annually co-sponsors joint sessions at AHA meetings (*Strategy for Victory in the Pacific* in 1975 at Atlanta and *Codebreaking and Intelligence in the European Theater* in 1976 in Washington).

II. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is open to anyone interested in the Second World War. Annual dues, payable on a calendar-year basis, are \$10.00 for regular members, \$2.00 for students. Those interested in joining or renewing their membership may do so by providing the information below and sending it, with the appropriate remittance, to the secretary.

Name: _____ Return to: *Prof. D. S. Detwiler*
Secretary, ACHSWW
Address: _____ *Hist. Dept., SIU-C*
Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Specialization; particular interests: _____

Check here if you wish to participate in the invitational conference on military government in postwar Germany and Japan: _____

Please feel free to note below or on the back any colleague or library possibly interested in receiving this sheet or a copy of the newsletter.

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