German Ammunition/Ordinance Organization in WWII and Earlier

This document is currently the bare bones of an effort to create a document worthy of the name above. The core of effort is "Handbook of German Military Forces 15 March 1945"; TM-E 30-451 produced by the US War Department. The printed document is two inches thick and is organized into ten chapters, though only Chapters I, III and VI are relevant to this effort. Throughout this document we have preserved the page numbers so that the reader can reference back to the original. Some charts have been placed in an Annex.

The biggest void in this material is that, apart from a small paragraph at the beginning of Chapter VI, it generally ignores the Reichsministerium für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion (Ministry of Armament and War Production), initially headed by Gen Fritz Todt and from Feb 42 - Apr 45 by Albert Speer and their function was to the supply of the Wehrmacht (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wehrmacht) with the necessary supplies of weapons and ammunition. In this role they had a good deal of control of over the Army and Air Force ammunition logistics systems. It is unclear to me what their control was over the Navy but I suspect they also controlled the Navy activity in this area. Todt, and later Speer, reportedly directly to Hitler. I will try to add material on this section from Speer's book "Inside the Third Reich" I read it some years ago and believe it has very little information relative to this effort but I will scan it again. If anyone has an organizational chart, and/or description of this ministry please let me know. I am particularly interested in the ammunition related functions of this Ministry.

In addition, l there is amplification of the duties of the organizations described below, They will be noted and perhaps have documentation included by a an attachment.

And on and on!!!!!

This is just a rough idea of the introduction.

Lew

The overall structure of the Ordnance function of Germany during WWII is illustrated below.

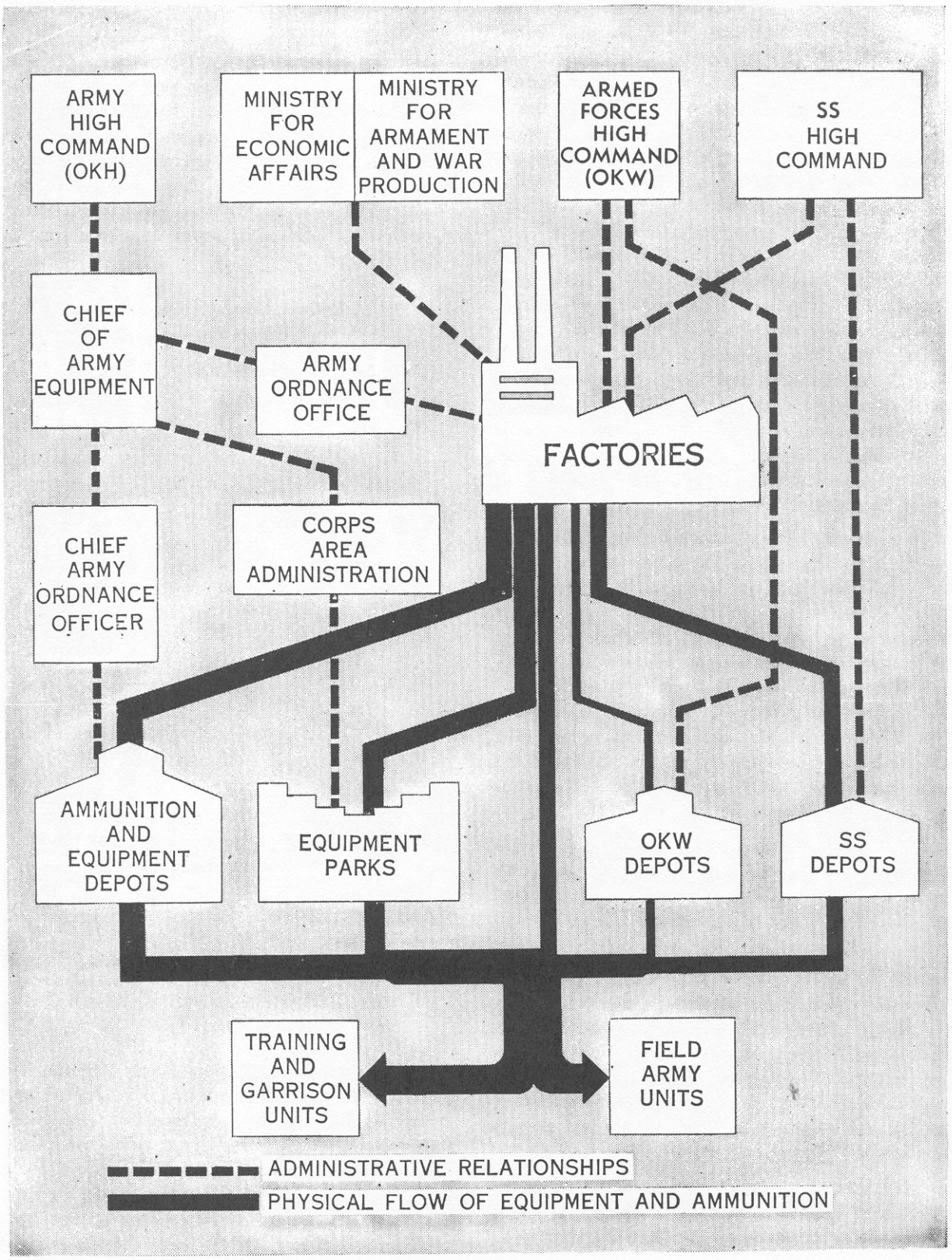


Figure 1.—Supply of equipment and ammunition.

CHAPTER I The German Military System

3. The Army High Command *(OKH)* (see Chart 1)

a. GENERAL. Since the Army is by far the largest and most important of the three branches of the German Armed Forces, it was, from the outbreak of the war, the branch which Hitler was most anxious to control directly. Its headquarters in the field always has been located in the immediate vicinity of the *Führerhauptquartier.* In December 1941, after the failure of the Moscow offensive, Hitler removed Brauchitsch as Commander-in-Chief of the Army *(Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres* (70a)) and took over personal command himself. He has exercised this command ever since, and the result has been a partial merging or overlapping of the functions of the *OKW* and of the *OKH.* Keitel, while still Chief of the *OKW,* nevertheless also acts as Hitler's executive officer in matters pertaining to the Army alone. Similarly, it is often difficult to draw the line between the de facto authority and functions of the Army General Staff and those of the Armed Forces Operations Staff.

ARMED FORCES ECONOMIC OFFICE *(Wehrwirtschaftsamt--Wi A)* (55). This office is responsible for long-range military-economic planning, the economic exploitation of occupied areas, and representing the interests of the Armed Forces with other government departments concerned with production, raw materials, labor, agriculture; and foreign trade. It contains:

Raw Materials Branch (Rohstoffabteilung --Ro) (57). This agency has been transferred to the control of the Ministry of Armament and War Production for the duration of the war. It included or cooperated with the Central Raw Materials Branch (*Ro St A)* (58), the Armed Forces Tire Center *(W R St)* (59) (still under the Armed Forces Economic Office), the Central Petroleum Branch *(Min St A)* (60), and the Economic Experts Personnel Section *(Stab W Each)* (61) (still under the Armed Forces Economic Office).

Contracts and Price Control Branch (Vertrags- und Preisprufwesen--Preispr) (62). The fixing of prices for Armed Forces Contracts is supervised by this branch. It is now under the Ministry of Armament and War Production.

3. The Army High Command *(OKH)* (See Chart 2)

a. GENERAL. Since the Army is by far the largest and most important of the three branches of the German Armed Forces, it was, from the outbreak of the war, the branch which Hitler was most anxious to control directly. Its headquarters in the field always has been located in the immediate vicinity of the *Führerhauptquartier.* In December 1941, after the failure of the Moscow offensive, Hitler removed Brauchitsch as Commander-in-Chief of the Army *(Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres* (70a)) and took over personal command himself. He has exercised this command ever since, and the result has been a partial merging or overlapping of the functions of the *OKW* and of the *OKH.* Keitel, while still Chief of the *OKW,* nevertheless also acts as Hitler's executive officer in matters pertaining to the Army alone. Similarly, it is often difficult to draw the line between the de facto authority and functions of the Army General Staff and those of the Armed Forces Operations Staff.

The accompanying chart (Chart 2) shows the principal branches of the *OKH* and their subordination. Their functions are discussed in the following paragraphs.

f. CHIEF OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND COMMANDER OF THE REPLACEMENT ARMY *(Chef der Heeresrustung und Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres--Chef H Rüst u BdE)* (154). This officer is the wartime deputy of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army charged with all the functions of the Zone of the Interior. These are primarily the conscription, training, and replacement of personnel; the procurement, storage, and issue of equipment; and territorial administration. He controls all the principal offices of the High Command which are left behind as the rear echelon on mobilization, with the exception of the Personnel Office. These are discussed in the following six lettered paragraphs.

ARMY ORDNANCE OFFICE *(Heereswaffenamt--Wa A)* (211). This office is responsible for the design, testing, development, and acceptance of all ordnance equipment. It works in very close collaboration with the Ministry of Armament and War Production *(Reichsministerium für Bewaffnung und Kriegsproduktion)* some of whose branches are even located at the Army Ordnance Office. It is organized as follows:

(1) *Central Group (Zentral-Amtsgruppe des Heereswaffenamts--Wa Z)* (212). This group has no special ordnance functions but is only an administrative agency. It includes:

(a) *Organization Branch (Organisationsabteilung--Wa Z 1)* (213). Issues general directives on organization to subordinate ordnance agencies.

(b) *Administrative Section (Gruppe für Allgemeine Verwaltungsangelegenheiten--Wa Z 2)* (214). Responsible for general administrative matters.

(c) *Branch for Plant Efficiency (Betriebswirtschaftliche Abteilung--Wa Z 3)* (215).

(d) *Regulations Branch (Vorschriftenabteilung--Wa Z 4)* (216). Publishes all orders, manuals and directives originating in the Army Ordnance Office.

(e) *Branch for Housing, Construction, and Guard Matters (Allgemeine Unterbringungs-, Ban- und Überwachungsangelegenheiten--Wa Z 6)* (217). Responsible for the acquisition of premises and the construction and patrolling of Army Ordnance Office buildings.

(2) *Development and Testing Group (Amtsgruppe für Entwicklung und Prüfung--Wa Prüf)* (218). This group is responsible for the development and testing of ordnance equipment for all arms and services. Besides certain subdivisions which have special fields, there are those dealing with ordnance equipment of each combat arm; the numbers assigned to these branches correspond mostly to those of the inspectorates of the same arm in the General Army Office. This group is composed of:

(a) *Ballistic and Ammunition Branch (Ballistische und Munitionsabteilung--Wa Prüf 1)* (219). Responsible for the development and testing of all types of ammunition. Divided into various sections dealing with ammunition of the different arms, special types of ammunition, firing tables, explosives, and other special technical matters connected with projectiles.

(b) *Infantry Branch (Infanterieabteilung--Wa Prüf 2)* (220).

(c) *Artillery Branch (Artillerieabteilung--Wa Prüf 4)* (221).

(d) *Engineer and Railway Engineer Branch (Pionier- und Eisenbahnpionier-Abteilung--Wa Prüf 5)* (222). Composed of sections dealing with engineer combat equipment, bridging and other river-crossing materials, engineering machines, water supply equipment, work tools, engineer transport vehicles, special construction equipment, and equipment for railway and waterway operation.

(e) *Fortress Engineer Branch (Festungspionierabteilung--Prüf Fest)* (223).

(f) *Panzer and Motorized Equipment Branch (Panzer- und Motorisierungsabteilung--Wa Prüf 6)* (224). Divided into a separate section for the development and testing of tanks and motorized equipment.

(g) *Signal Branch (Nachrichtenabteilung--Wa Prüf 7)* (225).

(h) *Branch for Optical, Survey, Meteorological, Artillery Fire Control, and Map-Printing Equipment (Abteilung für Optik, Messwesen, Heereswetterdienst, Feuerleitung und Kartendruck--Wa Prüf 8)* (226).

(i) *Gas Protection Branch (Gasschutzabteilung--Wa Prüf 9).* Controls the Army Gas Protection laboratories at Spandau (*Heeres-Gasschutzlaboratorien Spandau)* (227).

(j) *Special Equipment Branch (Abteilung für Sondergerut--Wa Prüf 11)* (228). Possibly the branch responsible for the development of some of the V weapons.

(k) *Branch for Proving Grounds (Abteilung für Versuchsplatze--Wa Prüf 12)* (229). Controls the experimental stations which are located at most maneuver areas *(Truppenübungsplätze).*

(3) *Group for Weapons and Equipment Manufacture (Amtsgruppe für Industrielle Rustling--Waffen und Gerat--Wa J Rü--W u G)*

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(230). This group is responsible for the procurement of all ordnance materiel except ammunition. Its main function is the placing of orders with industry. Here too the numbers of the branches mostly correspond to those of inspectorates of the same branch of service in the General Army Office. It includes:

(a) *Branch for General Army Equipment (Allgemeines Heeresgerat--Wa J Rü--W u G 1)* (231). Handles all types of equipment, including medical and veterinary.

(b) *Weapons Branch (Waffenabteilung--Wa J Rü--W u G 2)* (232). Divided into sections responsible for weapons of the various arms.

(c) E*ngineer, Railway Engineer, and Fortress Equipment Branch (Pionier-, Eisenbahnpionier-, und Festungs-Geräteabteilung--Wa J Rü--W u G 5)* (233).

(d) *Tanks and Tractors Branch (Panzerkampfwagen- und Zugkraftwagen-Abteilung*--Wa J Rü--W u G 6) (234)

(e) *Signal Equipment Branch (Nachrichtengerätabteilung--Wa J Rü--W u G 7)* (235).

(f) *Optical and Precision Instruments Branch (Abteilung für optisches und feinmechanisches Gerdt--Wa J Rü--W u G 8/ZO)* (236). Composed of various sections responsible for general optical instruments for all three services, special army optical instruments, precision antiaircraft artillery parts, artillery fire control parts, and the like.

(g) *Motor Vehicle Equipment Branch (Kraftwagengeratäbteilung--Wa J Rü--W u G 12)* (237).

(4) *Group for Ammunition Manufacture (Amtsgruppe für Industrielle Rüstung (Munition)--Wa J Rü Mun)* (238). This group is responsible for all ordnance equipment. It includes:

(a) Ammunition Branch 1 *(Munitionsabteilung 1--Wa J Rü Mun 1)* (239).

(b) Ammunition Branch 2 *(Munitionsabteilung 2--Wa J Rü Mun 2)* (240).

(c) Ammunition Branch 3 *(Munitionsabteilung 3--Wa J Rü Mun 3 uzbV)* (241). Probably manufactures special types of munitions.
Appendix 1-2: : Instruction from OKH how the reporting from ammunition must be done after October 1st 1939.

(d) Ammunition Branch 4 (Munitionsabteilung 4--Wa J Rü Mun 4) (242).
Appendix 1-2a: documentation that shows this office monitored the production for all three services. Note top right hand corner of the forms which indicate whether the ammunition was for Heer, Marine or Luft.

(e) Ammunition Branch 5 *(Munitionsabteilung 5--Wa J Rü Mun 5)* (243).

(5) *Acceptance Group (Amstgruppe für Abnahme--Wa Abn)* (244). This group is responsible for seeing that all ordnance materiel is manufactured according to specifications and for accepting it on behalf of the Army. It controls the Acceptance Inspectors *(Abnahmeinspizienten)* (245) located in each *Wehrkreis.* It is composed of a Central Branch and Branches 1 and 2.

(6) *Chief Ordnance Engineer Group (Amtsgruppe Chefingenieur--Wa Chef Ing)* (246). This group contains various technical branches which design and supervise the manufacture of certain ordnance parts. It includes:

(a) The Chief Designer's Branch *(Chefkonstrukteur--Wa Chef Ing 1)* (247) contains a section which maintains liaison with the Reich Patent Office (Reichspatentamt).

(b) Pig Iron Branch *(Halbzeugstelle--Wa Chef Ing 3/Hz)* (248).

(c) The Manufacture Branch *(Fabrikalionsabteilung--Wa Chef Ing 4)* (249) contains various sections for studying methods of manufacture of weapons, vehicles, and other equipment.

(d) The Machine Recording Branch *(Maschinelles Berichtwesen--Wa Chef Ing 5 M B)* (250) is responsible for punch-card machines and other mechanical office aids.

(e) Section for the Manufacture of Machine Tools, Gauges, and Tools *(Fabrikationsgruppe Werkzeugmaschinen, Lehren und Werkzeuge--Wa Chef Ing 6)* (251).

(f) Section for the Manufacture of Ammunition *(Fabrikationsgruppe Munition--Wa Chef Ing 7)* (252).

(7) *Group for Antiaircraft Artillery Development (Amtsgruppe für Flakentwicklung--GL/ Flak-E)* (253). Includes:

(a) Branch for Ballistics and Development of Antiaircraft Ammunition *(Abteilung für Ballistik und Entwicklung der Flakmunition--GL/ Flak-E/1)* (254).

(b) Branch for the Development of Antiaircraft Equipment *(Abteilung für Gerätentwicklung--GL/Flak-E/2)* (255).

(c) Branch for Technical and General Matters *(Abteilung für technische und allgemeine Angelegenheiten--GL/Flak-E/3)* (256).

(d) Branch for Weapons Development *(Abteilung für Waffenentwicklung--GL/Flak-E/4)* (257).

(e) Antiaircraft Armament Branch *(Abteilung Flakrustung--GL/Flak-Rü)* (258).

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(8) *Ordnance Research Branch (Forschungsabteilung--Wa F).*

There was also:

m. NATIONAL-SOCIALIST GUIDANCE STAFF OF THE ARMY *(Nationalsozialistischer Führungsstab des Heeres--NSF St d H)* (297). Established in March 1944 to control the uniform National-Socialist indoctrination and guidance in the Army. Directly subordinate to Hitler but attached to the Army High Command. Issues directives to the National-Socialist Guidance Officers *(NSFO)* in the field.

Glossary and Index of German Terms and Abbreviations for Army Ordnance Office

Wa A--Heereswaftenamt (Army Ordnance Office) 211

Wa Abn--Amtsgruppe für Abnahme (Acceptance group) 244

Wa Chef Ing--Amtsgruppe Chefingenieur (Chief Ordnance Engineer Group) 246

Wa Chef Ing 1--Chefkonstrukteur (Chief Designer's Branch) 247

Wa Chef Ing 2/Wa Ro--Rohstoffstelle OKH (Army Raw Materials Center) 293

Wa Chef Ing 3/Hz--Halbzeugstelle (Pig Iron Branch) 248

Wa Chef Ing 4--Fabrikationsabteilung (Wa Chef Ing 4) 249

Wa Chef Ing 5 M B--Maschinelles Berichtwesen (Machine Recording Branch) 250

Wa Chef Ing 6--Fabrikationsgruppe Werkzeugmaschinen, Lehren und Werkzeuge (Section for the Manufacture of Machine Tools, Patterns, and Tools) 251

Wa Chef Ing 7--Fabrikationsgruppe Munition (Section for the Manufacture of Munition) 252
Appendix 1-1: List of the factory codes used by manufacturers of steel case from 1935 until 1942 for Patronen-Hülse S (Stahl)

Wa F--Forschungsabteilung (Ordnance Research Branch) 258

Waffengenerale--(Chiefs of arms and services) 110

Waffeninspekteure--(Inspectors of arms and services) 200

Wa J Rü-Mun--Amtsgruppe für Industrielle Rüstung (Munition) (Group for Ammunition Manufacture) 238

Wa J Rü-Mun 1--Munitionsabteilung 1 (Ammunition Branch 1) 239

Wa J Rü-Mun 2--Munitionsabteilung 2 (Ammunition Branch 2) 240

Wa J Rü-Mun 3 u zbV--Munitionsabteilung 3 u zbV (Special Purpose Ammunition Branch) 241

Wa J Rü-Mun 4--Munitionsabteilung 4 (Ammunition Branch 4) 242

Wa J Rü-Mun 5--Munitionsabteilung 5 (Ammunition Branch 5) 243

Wa J Rü-WuG--Amtsgruppe für Industrielle Rüstung--Waffen und Gerat (Group for Weapons and Equipment Manufacture) 230

Wa J Rü-WuG 1--Allgemeines Heeresgerat (Branch for General Army Equipment) 231

Wa J Rü-WuG 2--Waffenabteilung (Weapons Branch) 232

Wa J Rü-WuG 5--Pionier-, Eisenbahnpionier- und Festungs-Geräteabteilung (Engineer, Railway Engineer, and Fortress Equipment Branch) 233

Wa J Rü-WuG 6--Panzerkraftwagen und Zugkraftwagenabteilung (Tanks and Tractors Branch) 234

Wa J Rü-WuG 7--Nachrichtengerätabteilung (Signal Equipment Branch) 235

Wa J Rü-WuG 8/ZO--Abteilung für optisches und feinmechanisches Gerat (Optical and Precision Instruments Branch) 236

W Allg--Allgemeine Abteilung (General Armed Forces Branch) 42

Wa Prüf--Amtsgruppe für Entwicklung und Prüfung (Development and Testing Group) 218

Wa Prüf 1--Ballistische und Munitionsabteilung (Ballistical and Ammunition Branch) 219

Wa Prüf 2--Infanterieabteilung (Infantry Branch) 200

Wa Prüf 4--Artillerieabteilung (Artillery Branch) 221

Wa Prüf 5--Pionier- und Eisenbahnpionier-Abteilung (Engineer and Railway Engineer Branch) 222

Wa Prüf 6--Panzer- und Motorisierungs-Abteilung (Panzer and Motorized Equipment Branch) 224

Wa Prüf 7--Nachrichtenabteilung (Signal Branch) 22S

Wa Prüf 8--Abteilung für Optik, Messwesen, Heereswetterdienst, Feuerleitung und Kartendruck (Branch for Optical, Survey, Meteorological, Artillery Fire Control and Map Printing Equipment) 226

Wa Prüf 9--Gasschutzabteilung (Gas Protection Branch) 227

Wa Prüf 11--Abteilung für Sondergerat (Special Equipment Branch) 228

We Prüf 12--Abteilung für Versuchsplatze (Branch for Proving Grounds) 229

Wa Prüf Fest (See Prüf Fest)

Wa Z--Zentral-Amtsgruppe des Heereswaffenamts (Central Group of Army Ordnance Office) 212

Wa Z 1--Organisationsabteilung (Organization Branch) 213

Wa Z 2--Gruppe für Allgemeine Verwaltungsangelegenheiten (Administrative Section) 214

Wa Z 3--Betriebswirtschaftliche Abteilung (Branch for internal office management) 215

Wa Z 4--Vorschriftenabteilung (Directive Branch) 216

Wa Z 6--Allgemeine Unterbringungs-, Bau- und Oberwachungsangelegenheiten (Branch for Housing, Construction and Guard Matters) 217

CHAPTER II Organization of the Field Forces

MILITIA (*Volkssturm*) UNITS.

In October, 1944 a decree was issued by Hitler calling up all able-bodied German men between the ages of 16 and 60 for the defense of the Fatherland. That decree calls for the creation of a people's militia (*Volkssturm*) under the leadership of Himmler in his function as Commander-in-Chief of the Replacement Training Army.

It is believed that the Party in general, and the Storm Troop Organization (*SA*) and the National Socialist Motor Corps (*NSKK*) in particular, have been charged with the part time training of these men who are to remain on their jobs until a direct threat endangers their area. In such an emergency they will be called to the ranks, come under the command of the army, and be issued weapons, brassards with the inscription "*Deutscher Volkssturm Wehrmacht*" and identification papers as members of the German Armed Forces. Their employment probably is limited to defensive fighting in trenches, woods, and streets, since their units are equipped with small automatic weapons, machine guns, and bazookas only, but it is possible that light and medium mortars will be added later.

It is difficult to determine definitely the tables of organization for militia units as these will vary greatly in accordance with local conditions and the manpower and weapons available, but indications from the front lines point toward the following average tables of organization for the basic militia unit, the Militia Battalion. (See Figures 164 to 167.)

In some cases several militia battalions may be combined in a militia regiment.

CHAPTER III Other Military and Auxiliary Organizations

1. Introduction

Any description of organization, mission, and structure of the SS cannot be understood unless one tries to conceive it inwardly with one's blood and heart. It cannot be explained why we contain so much strength though we number so few.

Heinrich Himmler.

The *SS*, or *Schutzstaffel*, is the Protective Guard of the National-Socialist [German Worders'] Party (*NSDAP*). Officially an independent *Gliederung* (Branch) of the Party, led by Heinrich Himmler, it actually has a status and importance far exceeding those of the other branches and even those of the Party itself. From its original function of guarding the person of Party leaders and speakers, the *SS* developed even before the war, into a far-flung organization to protect the entire Nazi movement against all internal enemies. More recently, it has extended its influence and power into every conceivable aspect of German national life and has finally acquired a large measure of control over the Army itself. It is more than a state within a state; it is superior to both the Party and the government.

The rise of the *SS* has been gradual but unceasing. Because of its origin and its own experience as an underground organization, it has always understood how to combat systematically and unrelentingly any subversive activities in the Reich and in all occupied areas. It was by extension of its responsibility for internal political security that the *SS* first acquired control of the Secret State Police and later (in 1936) of the entire police forces of Germany. Quite naturally therefore, it was given the policing powers in most of the countries occupied by Germany during the war. It was also logical that the *SS*, as the elite corps of the Party, should take part in the march into Austria and Czechoslovakia along with the troops of the Army, and that it should furnish small contingents of trained men to fight in the Polish campaign in 1939. This led to the building up of the *Waffen-SS*, at first consisting of the equivalent of two or three divisions and finally growing to a substantial and favored branch of the armed forces of the nation. In 1943 the *SS* gained control of the powerful Ministry of the Interior, in which it had already constituted the most important group in the form of the police. During 1943 and 1944 the *SS* gained more and more influence in the Army itself, taking over successively control of political indoctrination, of the intelligence services, and of the whole replacement, training, and material procurement system.

Apart from these obvious acquisitions of power and authority, the *SS* has steadily extended its influence into many branches of German life which would seem, on the surface, to have little or nothing to do with its original or derived mission. High-ranking officers of the now occupy controlling positions in most of the central departments of the government, in regional and local administration, in heavy industry, finance, and commerce, and in cultural and charitable activities. Directly or indirectly the *SS* controls the training of youth in the Hitler Youth organization, the storm troops (*SA*), and most of the other Party organizations and activities.

The character and purposes of the *SS* would not be clear without reference to its mystical worship of the German "race". This is exemplified not only by the physical requirements for becoming an *SS* man, but also by a vast program of procreation propaganda, resettlement of populations, eradication of elements considered racially undesirable, genealogical research, and welfare. Typical of the *SS* is its insistence that the abbreviation of its title always be printed or typed as the runic symbol of victory and arbitrariness:



The development of *SS* power is intimately linked to the career of Heinrich Himmler. This seemingly unassuming and quiet-mannered man has obtained one important post after another until today more power is concentrated in his person than in any other man except Hitler. Indeed, his power is much more absolute than that of Hitler, since the latter's actions and decisions are necessarily influenced by various pressure groups within the Party, by consideration of public opinion, and by other outside forces.

Wherever Himmler has secured a position, he has taken the with him. His plurality ofoffices represents not merely a personal union of powers but the acquisition of successive fields for the extension and infiltration of *SS* influence. It is significant in this connection that in all his various capacities Himmler always uses his original title of *Reichsführer-SS* (abbreviated *RF-SS*). The *SS* is at once the basis and the instrument of Himmler's strength.

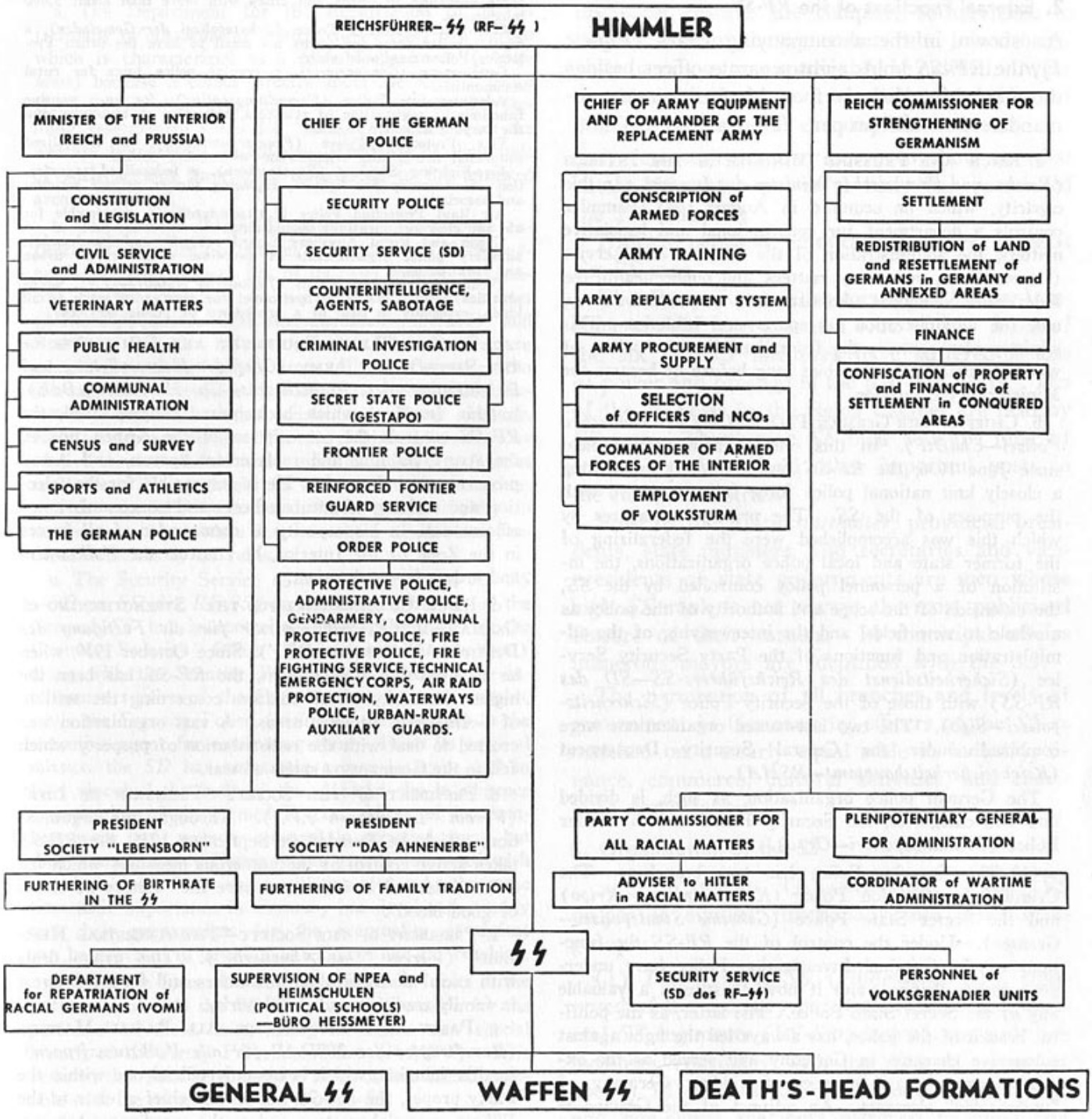
For this reason a description of the functions of the RF-*SS* is the most effective way of indicating the present position of the *SS* in Germany.

2. External Functions of the *RF-SS*

As shown in the accompanying chart (Figure 1), the *RF-SS* holds eight separate offices besides those resulting directly from his position as commander of the *SS* proper. They are:

a. REICH AND PRUSSIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (*Reichs- und Preussischer Minister des Innern*). In this capacity, which he acquired in August 1943, Himmler controls a department for constitutional and legislative matters, the administration of the German civil service (*Beamentum*) , veterinary matters, and public health, the federalized communal administration, census and survey, and the administration of sports and athletics. This ministry also controls the federalized German police, of which Himmler was the chief long before he became the Minister of the Interior.

b. CHIEF OF THE GERMAN POLICE (*Chef der Deutschen Polizei--ChdDtP*). In this office, which he has held since June 1936, the *RF-SS* has succeeded in creating a closely knit national police force fully in accord with the purposes of the *SS*. The principal measures by which this was accomplished were the federalizing of the former state and local police organizations, the institution of a personnel policy controlled by the *SS*, the extension of the scope and authority of the police as a whole to new fields, and the interweaving of the administration and functions of the Party Security Service (*Sicherhcitsdienst des Reichsführers-SS--SD des RF-SS*) with those of the Security Police (*Sicherheitspolizei--Sipo*). The two last-named organizations were combined under the Central Security Department (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt--RSHA*).


REICHSFÜHRER–SS (RF–SS)
HIMMLER
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (REICH and PRUSSIA)
CONSTITUTION and LEGISLATION
CIVIL SERVICE and ADMINISTRATION
VETERINARY MATTERS
PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATION
CENSUS and SURVEY
SPORTS and ATHLETICS
THE GERMAN POLICE
CHIEF OF THE GERMAN POLICE
SECURITY POLICE
SECURITY SERVICE (SD)
COUNTERINTELLIGENCE, AGENTS, SABOTAGE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION POLICE
SECRET STATE POLICE (GESTAPO)
FRONTIER POLICE
REINFORCED FONTIER GUARD SERVICE
ORDER POLICE
PROTECTIVE POLICE, ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE, GENDARMERY, COMMUNAL PROTECTIVE POLICE, FIRE PROTECTIVE POLICE, FIRE FIGHTING SERVICE, TECHNICAL EMERGENCY CORPS, AIR RAID PROTECTION, WATERWAYS POLICE, URBAN-RURAL AUXILIARY GUARDS.
CHIEF OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND COMMANDER OF THE REPLACEMENT ARMY
CONSCRIPTION of ARMED FORCES
ARMY TRAINING
ARMY REPLACEMENT SYSTEM
ARMY PROCUREMENT and SUPPLY
SELECTION of OFFICERS and NCOs
COMMANDER OF ARMED FORCES OF THE INTERIOR
EMPLOYMENT OF VOLKSSTURM
REICH COMMISSIONER FOR STRENGTHENING OF GERMANISM
SETTLEMENT
REDISTRIBUTION of LAND and RESETTLEMENT of GERMANS in GERMANY and ANNEXED AREAS
FINANCE
CONFISCATION of PROPERTY and FINANCING of SETTLEMENT in CONQUERED AREAS
PRESIDENT SOCIETY "LEBENSBORN"
FURTHERING OF BIRTHRATE IN THE SS
PRESIDENT SOCIETY "DAS AHNENERBE"
FURTHERING OF FAMILY TRADITION
PARTY COMMISSIONER FOR ALL RACIAL MATTERS
ADVISER to HITLER in RACIAL MATTERS
PLENIPOTENTIARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION
CORDINATOR of WARTIME ADMINISTRATION
SS
DEPARTMENT for REPATRIATION of RACIAL GERMANS (VOMI)
SUPERVISION OF NPEA and HEIMSCHULEN (POLITICAL SCHOOLS) —BÜRO HEISSMEYER)
SECURITY SERVICE (SD des RF–SS)
PERSONNEL of VOLKSGRENADIER UNITS
GENERAL SS
WAFFEN SS
DEATH'S-HEAD FORMATIONS

The German police organization, as such, is divided into two categories, the Security Police and the Order Police (*Ordnungspolizei--Orpo*).

(1) The Security Police has two branches: The Criminal Investigation Police (*Kriminalpolizei--Kripo*) and the Secret State Police (*Geheime Staatspolizei-- Gestapo*). Under the control of the *RF-SS* the functions of the Criminal Investigation Police have undergone many changes, and it now constitutes a valuable ally of the Secret State Police. The latter, as the political branch of the police, has always led the fight against subversive elements in Germany and served as the executive arm in the process of ridding Germany of "undesirable" elements. An adjunct of the Gestapo is the Frontier Police (*Grenzpolizei*), which was greatly strengthened in 1944 by attaching to it the Reinforced Frontier Guard Service (*Verstärkte Grenzaufsichtsdienst*). The latter is properly a branch of the Reich Ministry of Finance and now serves the combined purposes of this ministry and of the political police. Together, these organizations have the new and important mission of preventing the desertion of military personnel, as well as the escape of foreign civilian workers across the borders of the Reich.

(2) The Order Police includes the regular uniformed police and has acquired control of a number of auxiliary organizations which are not always concerned with strictly police functions.

Components of the Order Police are:

Protective Police (*Schutzpolizei--Schupo*), a regular police force operating in towns and cities with more than about 5,000 inhabitants.

Communal Protective Police (*Schutzpolizei der Gemeinden*), a regular police force for towns too small to have the urban Protective Police mentioned above.

Gendarmery (*Gendarmerie*), a regular police force for rural communities.

Administrative Police (*Verwaltungspolizei*), for such routine functions as registration of residents, inspection of buildings, and the keeping of police records.

Fire Protection Police *(Feuerschutzpolizei),* a federalized communal fire-fighting organization with police status.

Fire-Fighting Services (*Feuerwehren*), a federalized organization of voluntary fire fighters, replacing former private societies and associations.

Air Raid Protection Police *(Luftschutzpolizei),* responsible for aid and clearance measures during air raids.

Urban and Rural Auxiliary Guards *(Stadt- und Landwacht),* auxiliary police organizations of part-time volunteers in urban and rural areas.

Technical Emergency Corps (*Technische Nothilfe--TN*), which provides technically trained personnel for emergency work of all kinds, especially in case of a breakdown of public services.

c. CHIEF OF ARMY EQUIPMENT AND COMMANDER OF THE REPLACEMENT ARMY (*Chef der Heeresrüstung und Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres--Ch H Rüst u.BdE*). In this function, which he acquired in July 1944, the *RF-SS* controls the conscription of the Armed Forces, the Army training and replacement system, and Army procurement and supply. He is responsible for the selection and training of future officers and noncommissioned officers and, in his capacity as commander of all forces in the Zone of the Interior, he controls the *Volkssturm* and orders its employment.

d. REICH COMMISSIONER FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF GERMANISM (*Reichskommissar fü die Festigung des Deutschen Volkstums--RKV*). Since October 1939, when he received this appointment, the *RF-SS* has been the highest authority on all matters concerning the settling of Germans in annexed areas. A vast organization was created to deal with the redistribution of property which fell to the Germans as spoils of war.

e. PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY "FOUNTAIN OF LIFE" (*Verein "Lebensborn e. V"*). Through this organization, which he founded in September 1936, the *RF-SS* takes active control of the numerous measures which the *SS* has devised in order to insure the "victory of births of good blood".

f. PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY "THE ANCESTRAL HERITAGE" (*Verein "Das Ahnenerbe"*). This group deals with racial and genealogical matters and fosters interest in family tradition and racial purity.

g. PARTY COMMISSIONER FOR ALL RACIAL MATTERS (*Beauftragter der NSDAP fü alle Volkstumsfragen*). In this function, which is his only official one within the Party proper, the *RF-SS* acts as the chief adviser to the *Führer* on racial matters, and as the coordinator between the Party and his own function as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism.

h. PLENIPOTENTIARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION (*Generalbevollmachtigter fü die Verwaltung*). This appointment went with that of Minister of the Interior, the previous incumbent (Frick) having received it at the beginning of the war, to coordinate all wartime national administration problems.

3. Internal Special Functions of the *RF-SS*

In his capacity as commander of the *SS* proper, Himmler has four special functions not directly connected with the organization and administration of the *SS*. They are:

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a. THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE REPATRIATION OF RACIAL GERMANS (*Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle--Vomi*) is a bureau which is characterized as a Main Department (*Hemptamt*) because it comes directly under the *RF-SS*. Since October 1939 this department has carried out the far-flung resettlement plans for "racial" Germans from the western borderlands of Russia. Hundreds of thousands of such persons have been transferred to the annexed areas of Poland.

b. THE BUREAU MAIN DEPARTMENT *SS-Obergruppenführer Heissmeyer (Dienststelle Hauptamt SS-Obergruppenführer Heissmeyer*) has as its chief mission the control of the National Political Educational Institutes (*Nationalpotitische Erziehungsanstalten -- NPEA*) and Boarding Schools (*Heimschulen*). The former are schools for selected pupils from all over Germany who are supposed to attain a high scholastic record while subjected to most severe indoctrination in Party ideology. Heimschulen are designed for the children of soldiers or of civil service officials who cannot maintain a permanent residence. These schools, in which political indoctrination is especially accentuated, have grown rapidly in number to accommodate large numbers of children rendered homeless by air raids.

c. THE SECURITY SERVICE (*Sicherheitsdienst des RF-SS--SD* or *SD des RF-SS*) is nominally a branch of the General *SS* but is controlled, under Himmler, by the Central Security Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*) along with the Security Police. It is officially the intelligence service of the Party against internal enemies, while the Security Police (including the Gestapo) is the executive agent for combatting them. From its original mission the SD has constantly grown in scope and in 1944 absorbed the bulk of the *Abwehr*, the intelligence organization of the Armed Forces. Many of its members were until recently engaged in occupied areas, but their number inside Germany has greatly increased with the shrinking of the areas still occupied. At the same time their importance in Germany has developed steadily and their preparations for the eventuality of defeat can be expected to be the most efficient and far reaching.

d. With the formation of *Volks Grenadier* units in the latter part of 1944 the *RF-SS* became responsible for the personnel of these units, acting through a new special branch of the Army Personnel Office (*PA/P 7*). It is believed that such personnel are more or less interchangeable with the members of the *Waffen-SS*.

4. *SS* Control of Public Life

As impressive as the list of the functions of the *RF-SS* must appear, it is by no means more than an indication of the power of the *SS*, which has enlarged its position and range of influence steadily by an unobtrusive but thorough policy of infiltration. Dominating almost every branch of official and semi-official German life, the *SS* has become a super-government composed of a racially conscious "order" of men (and women) bound by a rigid set of rules, the foremost of these being unswerving loyalty to one's immediate chief and unquestioning obedience. This strictdiscipline ensures the complete subservience to the *SS*, even of those members who joined originally merely as an expedient to be entitled to wear the black uniform and to climb the ladder of political, economic, or even artistic success.

A few statistics may serve to show to what extent this most powerful body has permeated the Third Reich:

Hitler's personal entourage includes at least six *SS* men.

The Party Reich Directors (*Reichsleiter*) include ten *SS* men out of a total of 16. Most of the six non-*SS* members have suffered a loss of power and prestige in the past two years. Ten of the 26 posts in the Reich Cabinet are held by *SS* men. Thirty-nine *SS* men with the rank of colonel or above hold other important posts in the Reich Ministries.

Most of the *Reichsstatthalter*, provincial presidents, state ministers, and secretaries and vice-presidents of state governments are men whose high *SS* rank is not always the most publicized feature of their careers. In municipal affairs numerous mayors are identified with the *SS*.

The permeation of all branches and levels of government in Germany by officers of the *SS* is matched on a nearly equal scale in industry, finance, commerce, cultural activities, and charitable organizations.

5. Organization of the *SS*

a. FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION. The *SS* proper is divided functionally into three main groups:

(1) *The General SS (Allgemeine SS*), composed of the ordinary part-time members of General *SS* regiments (*SS-Standarten*), the full-time members (normally with the rank of major or above) of General *SS* units and headquarters, and non-active members attached to units and headquarters of the General *SS*. The General *SS* is not maintained by the state; its expenditures are borne by the Party and ultimately controlled by the Party Treasurer, who himself holds the rank of a full general of the *SS*.

In certain occupied countries (e.g. Norway, Holland) organizations have been set up which are modeled on the General *SS* These are known as Germanic *SS* (*Germanische SS*) and have their own central organization, ultimately subordinate to the *RF-SS* in Germany.

(2) *The Armed SS (Waffen-SS).* This category comprises the full-time military organization of the *SS* together with their training and replacement units, schools, and installations. It is a specially regulated public instrument of the Reich on the model of the Army and is now considered a component part of the Armed Forces. Its expenses are borne by the State.

(3) *The Death's-Head Formations (SS-Totenkopfverbände).* These consist mainly of the guard units of concentration camps. Their development from the General *SS* is closely identified with the work of the Gestapo. Their expenses are a responsibility of the State.

b. HIGH COMMAND ORGANIZATION. The *SS* High Command is known as the *Reichsführung-SS* and consists of the *RF-SS*, his staffs, and the chiefs of the Main Departments (*Hauptämter*) described below. These Main Departments administer the internal affairs of the three functional subdivisions of the *SS*.

(1) The Headquarters Staff of the *RF-SS* (*Kommandostab RF-SS*) is located at the Field Command Post of the *RF-SS* (*Feldkommandostelle RF-SS*) which is usually near Hitler's headquarters in the field (*Führerhauptguartier*).

(2) The Main Department Personal Staff (*Hauptamt Personlicher Stab--HA Pers. Stab*) is a permanent installation at Himmler's rear headquarters to assist him in the execution of his manifold tasks.

(3) The *SS* Central Department (*SS-Hauptamt--SS-HA*) is responsible for miscellaneous over-all administrative and personnel matters. It is divided into the following five groups (*Amtsgpuppen--Ag*) :

Group A handles general administration matter.

Group B takes care of recruiting and registration of all categories of *SS* personnel.

Group C is responsible for propaganda, education, and physical training.

Group D controls the Germanic *SS* (*Germanische SS*) including recruitment in cooperation with Group B.

The Executive Staff of the German *Volkssturm* (*Stabsführung des Deutschen Volkssturms*) has been identified in the *SS* Central Department and presumably handles the responsibilities of the *RF-SS* connected with this national militia.

(4) The *SS* Main Operational Department (*SS-Fuhrungshauptamt--SS-FHA*) concerns itself largely with the *Waffen-SS*. It grew out of the former Operational Office in the *SS* Central Department in 1940. Its long-time chief, Hans Juttner, is now the deputy of the *RF-SS* in his capacity as Chief of Army Equipment and Commander of the Replacement Army. This Main Department contains the following four groups:

Group A controls operations, personnel, and supply. It includes the Headquarters Offices (*Kommandoämter*) of the General *SS* and of the *Waffen-SS*. Group B is responsible for the selection and training of officers and noncommissioned officers.

Group C consists of the inspectorates of the various branches of service.

Group D is in charge of medical matters for the entire *SS*.

(5) The *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department (*SS-Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt--SS-WVHA*) is responsible for fiscal matters, administration of *SS* property and concentration camps, and control of supply installations. It is divided into five groups as follows:

Group A includes finance, law, and certain general administration matters.

Group B is responsible for supply installations and procurement and delivery of certain types of supplies for *SS* units and headquarters. Group C administers the works and buildings of the *SS*, including the construction of buildings.

Group D administers all concentration camps.

Group W manages the economic enterprises of the *SS*.

(6) The *SS* Main Race and Settlement Department (*SS-Rasse- und -Siedlungshauptamt--SS-RuSHA*) contains the following four offices *(Ämter)*:

Administration Office (*Verwaltungsamt*).

Marriage Office *(Heiratsamt)* which rigidly controls the selection of suitable wives by *SS* men.

Racial Office *(Rassenamt),* which selects future *SS* men and handles the tasks of racial selection connected with the function of the *RF-SS* as Reich Commissioner for the Strengthening of Germanism.

Settlement Office (*Siedlungsamt*), which deals with the settlement of discharged *SS* men, especially in the annexed eastern areas.

The above offices of the Main Race and Settlement Department are further divided into Main Branches (*Hauptabteilungen*). One of these is the Main Welfare Branch, which handles the problems of welfare and pensions in close cooperation with the *SS* Main Welfare and Pension Department (*SS-Hauptfürsorge- und- Versorgungsamt*) in the Reich Ministry of the Interior.

(7) The *SS* Main Department for Personnel (*SS-Personalhauptamt--SS-Pers.HA*) is the central recording office for all *SS* officers and potential officers, including those of the Security Service (*SD*). It is not itself responsible for promotions and appointments. It is divided into two offices (*Ämter*):

The Office of Officer Personnel Records (*Amt für Führerpersonalien*).

The Office for Potential Officers *(Amt für Führernachwuchs*).

(8) The *SS* Main Legal Department (*Hauptamt SS-Gericht--HA SS-Gericht*) is concerned with the special jurisprudence which operates within the *SS* and police organization. It is divided into four offices (*Ämter*):

Office I is the Legal Affairs Office.

Office II is the Office for Organization, Personnel, and Disciplinary Matters.

Office III is the Office for Pardons, Reprieves, and the Execution of Sentences.

Office IV is a Liaison Office (*Verbindungsamt*).

c. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. (1) *General.*The basis of the regional organization of the *SS* is the district (*Oberabschnitt--Oa.*). There are seventeen of these districts in Germany proper and each coincides exactly with a *Wehrkreis* (Army corps area). The *SS* districts are known by geographical names, but it has become a convenient and growing custom to add to the name the Roman numeral of the corresponding *Wehrkreis*. With two exceptions, the headquarters of the district is in the same city as that of the *Wehrkreis*. In addition six districts have been organized in occupied countries and are known by names according to their geographical location. One of these, named "Ukraine" was dissolved early in 1944.

The control of a district is entrusted to a Higher *SS* and Police Commander (*Höherer SS und Polizeiführer--HSSPf*), who normally commands both the *SS* and police units and installations in the district.

Occupied areas which have not been organized into *SS* districts are also commanded by an *HSSPf*, whose functions are analogous to those of the *HSSPf* of a district.

In certain areas a regional organization of the *Waffen-SS* exists side by side with the general regional organization of the *SS* and police. These areas are controlled, for special purposes of the *Waffen-SS* only, by territorial Commanders of the *Waffen-SS* (*Befehlshaber der Waffen-SS--Bfh. d. W-SS*).

(2) *Authority of the HSSPf.* (a) *General functions.* The *HSSPf* is the representative of the *RF-SS* at any given military territorial headquarters, or, where they exist, at the headquarters of the Reich commissioners (*Reichskommissare*) for occupied areas. As such he is the official adviser in all *SS* and police matters to the regionalrepresentatives of the Reich government administering any part of such an area.

He is the commander of the *SS* district if the area under his jurisdiction is constituted as such.

The *HSSPf* commands the *SS* and police units and installations in his area except those which have been subordinated to the *OKH* for operations and those which are commanded by a territorial commander of the *Waffen-SS*.

Operational commands have been assigned to an *HSSPf* under different circumstances and in varying degrees. Such commands have consisted of special staffs for combating partisans (*SS und Polizei-Fuhrungsstab für Bandenbekampfung*) and battle groups which were formed hastily from the forces normally commanded by the *HSSPf* when his area was invaded or threatened. A number of personalities have in this way graduated from assignment as *HSSPf* to that of the commander of an *SS* corps.

Various special offices are sometimes combined with that of the *HSSPf* in certain areas. For example, the *HSSPf* in Prague holds the position of Minister of State for Bohemia and Moravia (*Staatsminister für Böhmen und Mähren*) and acts as the deputy to the Reich Protector of this area. The *HSSPf* in the Government General holds the position of State Secretary for Security Matters (*Staatssekretär des Sicherheitswesens*).

With the increasing danger to Germany proper new responsibilities have been thrust upon the *HSSPf*, especially in the border areas. In some cases he has assumed active command of all units of the auxiliary organizations of the Reich and of the Party, except those of the Todt Organization (*OT*), so far as they have been organized for defensive combat tasks. In case of an invasion of his area he has been ordered to attach himself and all the units under him, including those of the *SS* and police, to the commander of the *Wehrkreis* and to act as his deputy for the latter if necessary.

The full title of an *HSSPf* may indicate the *Wehrkreis* (e.g. *HSSPf Wehrkreis X*), the geographical name of the *Oberabschnitt* (*HSSPf Nordsee*), or its headquarters city (*HSSPf Hamburg*). In occupied or annexed areas the title varies. The following examples are given as illustrations: *HSSPf beim Reichskommissar für die besetzten niederländischen Gebiets* is also encountered as *HSSPf Nordwest* or as *HSSPf den Haag*. The *HSSPf* in Greece was normally designated *HSSPf Griechenland*.

Each *HSSPf* is assisted by a Chief of Staff (*Stabsführer*) in the execution of all his duties. The latter is also the Chief of Staff of the *SS* district in those areas where the *HSSPf* is also the commander of such a district.

(b) *Organization of SS districts.* In Greater Germany (excluding Bohemia-Moravia and the Government General), the *HSSPf* has two separate staffs for his two main functions. One staff assists him in the command and administration of the *SS*, another in that of the police.

The staff of the *SS* within the *SS* district consists of the following officers under the Chief of Staff:

Administrative Officer.
Chief Medical Officer.
Director of Training.
Chief Personnel Officer.
Chief Signal Officer.

The Administrative Officer heads the Administrative Office (*Verwaltungsamt*), which operates under the control of the *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department and handles all matters of finance and supply within the district.

Each district is divided into two or more sub-districts (*Abschnitte*), each having its own headquarters. These sub-districts are distinguished by Roman numerals. Their commanders are known as *Führer des SS-Abschnitts*. The headquarters of the *SS* sub-districts are organized on the same general lines as those of the district; both are closely parallel to the standard German staff organization for any military unit or headquarters, including the numbers and letters used for the sections and sub-sections.

Each of the districts inside Germany has a *Waffen-SS* recruiting center (*Ergänzungsstelle*) administered directly by the *SS* Central Department. It also has a section for racial and settlement matters (*Rasse- und Siedlungswesen*), which is under the supervision of the *SS* Main Race and Settlement Department.

The staff of the *HSSPf* for the command and administration of the police includes the following two leading police officers under the Chief of Staff:

Inspector of the Security Police and of the Security Service (*Inspekteur der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes--IdSuSD,* sometimes also given as *IdS*.)

Inspector of the Order Police (*Inspekteur der Ordnungspolizei--IdO*). This officer controls the commander of the Barrack Police (those elements of the Protective Police who live in barracks), who has the title of Commander of the Protective Police (*Kommandeur der Schutzpolizei*).

These inspectors have complete administrative departments covering all aspects of police activities which are assigned to their respective branches.

Certain areas adjacent to Germany, particularly Alsace, Lorraine, and Luxemburg, have been incorporated into *Wehrkreise* while their civil administration has remained separate. For these areas a dual nomenclature exists for the leading members of the police staff of the *HSSPf.* They are referred to as Inspectors in the old part of the district and as Senior Commanders (*Befehlshaber*) of their respective branches for the annexed areas. The latter nomenclature coincides with that of the corresponding officers in areas outside the Reich proper as described below.

The organization of *SS* districts outside Greater Germany (namely Ost, Nordwest, Nord, Ostland, and formerly Ukraine) is identical to that inside Germany with the following exceptions:

There is an economic section directly subordinate to the *HSSPf*. This is headed by an officer known as *SS-Wirtschafter* and replaces the administrative office in the *SS* district.

The sub-districts of *SS* districts do not exist. Instead, one or more *SS* and Police Commanders (*SS und Polizeiführer--SSPf*) may exist. These are representatives of the *HSSPf* in all his functions for the sub-area which is assigned to them.

A *Waffen-SS* Recruiting Inspectorate (*Ersatzinspektion der Waffen-SS*) replaces the *Waffen-SS* Recruiting Center.

The leading officers on the staff of the *HSSPf* for the command and administration of the police have the following titles and functions:

Senior Commander of the Security Police and of the Security Service (*Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes--BdSuSD or BdS*). He may control subordinate area commanders (*Kommandeure--KdSuSD or KdS*).

Senior Commander of the Order Police (*Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei--BdO*). He may control subordinate Commanders (*KdO*).

These Senior Commanders have complete administrative departments covering all aspects of police activities which are assigned to their respective branches.

The above deviations in the organization of

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the police, but not those relating to the *SS*, also apply to the district *Böhmen-Mähren*.

(c) *Organization of areas which are not SS districts*. In occupied areas which are not constituted as *SS* districts, the *HSSPf* retains his dual function as commander of all *SS* and police forces. There is considerably less emphasis on *SS* matters and normally no special staff for the latter exists. The police functions take on added significance because the *HSSPf* not only concerns himself with the German police forces but also controls, in varying degrees, the native police in the area. The nomenclature of the police officers coincides with that in *SS* districts outside Greater Germany.

In Italy several *HSSPf*'s have been installed. They are subordinated to one Supreme *SS* and Police Commander (*Höchster SS und Polizeiführer--Hochst. SSPf*). It is believed that the general organization of the areas controlled by these officers differs little from that of the *HSSPf* and subordinate SSPf's in other occupied areas.

(3) *Territorial commanders of the Waffen-SS*. In certain selected areas the *SS* High Command has installed territorial commanders of the *Waffen-SS* (*Befehlshaber der Waffen-SS--Bfh. d. W-SS*). These represent the regional echelon of the *SS* High Command for the *Waffen-SS* only. They execute its directives and are in complete command of all units of the *Waffen-SS* in their areas. The commander of the *Waffen-SS* shares with the *HSSPf* control of the static installations of the *Waffen-SS*, but is otherwise completely independent of him. Such commanders have been identified in the Netherlands, in Bohemia and Moravia, in the area of the *SS* district "Ostland", and in Hungary.

The commander of the *Waffen-SS* may take on operational assignments under the command of the *OKH*.

The staff organization of these commanders is comparable to that of a corps. The various members of his staff represent the different offices of the High Command and the Inspectorates of the branches of service.

(4) *List of SS districts.* The following is a list of the *SS* districts together with their headquarters and the corresponding *Wehrkreise*.

Oa.	**Headquarters**	***Wehrkreis***
Nordost	Konigsberg	I
Ostsee	Stettin	II
Spree	Berlin	III
Elbe	Dresden	IV
Sudwest	Stuttgart	V
West	Dusseldorf	VI
Sud	Munchen	VII
Sudost	Breslau	VIII
Fulda-Werra	Arolsen	IX
Nordsee	Hamburg	X
Mitte	Braunschweig	XI
Rhein-Westmark	Wiesbaden	XII
Main	Nurnberg	XIII
Donau	Wein	XVII
Alpenland	Salzburg	XVIII
Weichsel	Danzig	XX
Warthe	Posen	XXI
Nordwest	Den Haag	(Netherlands)
Nord	Oslo	(Norway)
Ost	Krakau	Generalgouvernement
Böhmen-Mähren	Prague	Böhmen und Mähren
Ostland	Riga	(Ostland)

(5) *List of SS sub-districts.* Each district comprises an average of two or three sub-districts (*Abschnitte*) distinguished by Roman numerals. The sub-districts are also colloquially referred to by the names of the regions which they comprise or by the location of their headquarters.

Number	**Oa.**	**Headquarters**
I	Sud	Munchen
II	Elbe	Dresden
III	Spree	Berlin
IV	Mitte	Hannover
V	West	Duisburg
VI	Sudost	Breslau
VII	Nordost	Konigsberg
VIII	Donau	Linz
IX	Main	Wurzburg
X	Sudwest	Stuttgart
XI	Rhein-Westmark	Koblenz
XII	Spree	Frankfurt/Oder
XIII	Ostsee	Stettin
XIV	Nordsee	Oldenburg
XV	Nordsee	Hamburg-Altona

XVI	Mitte	Dessau
XVII	West	Munster
XVIII	Elbe	Halle/Saale
XIX	Sudwest	Karlsruhe
XX	Nordsee	Kiel
XXI	Sudost	Hirschberg
XXII	Nordost	Allenstein

XXIII	Spree	Berlin
XXIV	Sudost	Oppeln
XXV	West	Dortmund
XXVI	Weichsel	Zoppot
XXVII	Fulda-Werra	Weimar
XXVIII	Main	Bayreuth
XXIX	Sudwest	Konstanz
XXX	Rhein-Westmark	Frankfurt/Main
XXXI	Donau	Wien
XXXII	Sud	Augsburg
XXXIII	Ostsee	Schwerin
XXXIV	Rhein-Westmark	Saarbrucken
XXXV	Alpenland	Graz
XXXVI	Alpenland	Salzburg
XXXVII	*Böhmen-Mähren*	Reichenberg
XXXVIII	*Böhmen-Mähren*	Karlsbad
XXXIX	*Böhmen-Mähren*	Brunn
XXXX	Weichsel	Bromberg
XXXXI	Weichsel	Thorn
XXXXII	Warthe	Gnesen
XXXXIII	Warthe	Litzmannstadt
XXXXIV	Nordost	Gumbinnen
XXXXV	Sudwest	Strassburg

(6) *SS regiments.* The organization of the *SS* in the echelons below the sub-districts is on a unit rather than a territorial basis, although each unit controls a definite territory. Each sub-district headquarters controls two to four *SS* infantry regiments (*SS-Fuss-Standarten*). After 5 years of war these regiments are now no more than skeleton cadres carrying on the tradition and, to a limited extent, the functions of the organization until their members in the Armed Forces and *Waffen-SS* are demobilized. Regiments are numbered consecutively from 1 to 125.

Each regiment is normally composed of three active battalions (*Sturmbanne*) and one reserve battalion (*Reserve-Sturmbann*). The active battalions bear Roman numerals.

Each active battalion consists of four companies (*Sturme*) and a medical detachment (*Sanitätsstaffel*). One of the four companies may serve locally as a guard company (*Wachkompanie*) and one as an emergency company (Alarm-Kompanie), while the remaining two are assigned to general duties.

A reserve battalion has two reserve companies and a reserve medical detachment.

Recruiting battalions (*Ergänzungs-Sturmbanne*) are reserve battalions which undergo 3 months drilling prior to summary transfer to the *Waffen-SS*.

Each company is divided into three or four platoons (*Trupps*), each composed of three sections (*Scharen*). The file (*Rotte*) is the smallest unit of the *SS*.

There are a number of specialist and technical units (*Sondereinheiten*) in the *SS*. Among them are: cavalry regiments (*SS-Reiterstandarten (R)*); signal battalions (*SS-Nachrichten-Sturmbanne (N)*); engineer battalions (*SS-Pionier-Sturmbanne (Pi)*); medical companies (*SS-Sanitäts-Sturme (San. St.)*); motor transport companies (*SS-Kraftfahr-Sturme (K)*); motorcycle companies (*SS-Kradsturme*).

Within each district there is also a supplementary reserve formation (*Stammabteilung*), which is organized into territorial sub-units (*Bezirke*).

6. The *Waffen-SS*

a. ORIGIN AND GROWTH. Ever since 1933 a portion of the *SS* has been armed and trained along military lines and served on a full-time basis, living in special barracks. These troops were originally known as the *SS-Verfügungstruppen (SS-VT*), the name indicating that they were held at the disposition of Hitler for any purpose whatever. By 1939 four regiments (*Standarten*) of these troops had been organized.

The *Verfügungstruppen* took part in the occupation of Austria and Czechoslovakia side by side with the troops of the Army. During the months preceding the outbreak of the war they were given intensive military training and were formed into regular military units which then took an active part in the Polish campaign. Elements of the Death's Head Formations (*Totenkopfverbände*) also took the field as military units.

During the following winter and spring the regiments which had fought in Poland were expanded into brigades and later into full divisions. This purely military branch of the *SS* was at first known as the *Bewaffnete SS* (literally "Armed *SS*") and later as the *Waffen-SS*. The *Leibstandarte SS "Adolf Hitler"* became the *SS* division of the same name; the *Standarte "Deutschland"*, together with the Austrian *Standarte "Der Führer"*, formed the *Verfügungs Division*, to which a third regiment *"Langemarck"* was presently added to form the division *"Das Reich"*; and the *Totenkopf* units were formed into the *"Totenkopf" Division*. These three divisions were to be

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the nucleus of the *Waffen-SS* in its rapid expansion which followed.

The *Waffen-SS* is based on the tradition of the General *SS*. It retained the strict racial selection and the emphasis on political indoctrination of the *SS*. The reasons for its formation were as much political as they were a welcome opportunity to acquire for the *SS* the officer material which was to prove so valuable later on.

With the intensification of the war the *Waffen-SS* became the proponent of the recruiting of "Nordic" peoples for military service in the interest of Germany. In 1940 the Standarten "Nordland" and "Westland" were created in order to incorporate such "Germanic" volunteers into the *Waffen-SS*. They were combined with the existing Standarte "Germania" to form the "Wiking" Division.

In the subsequent years the *Waffen-SS* proceeded to form native "Legions" in most occupied areas. These, in turn, were later converted into *Waffen-SS* brigades and divisions.

A slackening in the principles of racial selection occurred only after the war took on much less favorable aspects. During 1943 and 1944 the *SS* turned more and more toward frantic recruiting of all available manpower in occupied areas. While its major effort was directed toward the incorporation of the "racial" Germans (Volksdeutsche), a method was devised which permitted the recruiting of foreigners of all nationalities on a grand scale, while retaining at least some semblance of the original principles of "Nordic" superiority. Spreading foreigners thinly throughout trustworthy established units soon proved insufficient to digest the mass

of recruits. Consequently divisions of foreigners were formed which received a sprinkling of regular *Waffen-SS* cadres. Finally the necessity arose to complement the officer corps of the *Waffen-SS* with foreigners.

Still very much concerned with the racial aspects of its units, the *Waffen-SS* developed a system of nomenclature which dubs the unit as foreign by an addition to its name.

Units containing a high percentage of "racial" Germans and "Germanic" volunteers (i.e. Scandinavians, Dutch, Flemings, Walloons, and Frenchmen), carry the designation "Freiwilligen-" as part of their names, e.g. *11. SS-Freiwilligen-Panzergrenadier-Division "Nordland"*. Units containing a preponderance of "non-Germanic" personnel, especially members of the Slavic and Baltic peoples, carry the designation *"Waffen-"* as part of their names, e.g. *15. Waffen-Grenadier-Division-SS (Lett. Nr. 1).* Officers of "non-Germanic" origin cannot become full-fledged members of the *SS* officer corps. They are designated as *Waffen-Führer der SS*, and the individual rank is always given in the same manner, e.g. *Waffen-Untersturmführer*.

There is no doubt that this rapid expansion has somewhat modified the character of the *Waffen-SS* as a political elite formation. Nevertheless, the crack divisions of this organization may still be expected to fight to the very end, especially since the individual soldier and especially the individual officer have been made to feel personally involved in the endless series of war crimes, and strong propaganda has convinced most that their treatment, either in captivity or after defeat, will compare very unfavorably with that accorded other members of the armed forces.

The *Waffen-SS* at present consists of at least 31 divisions and three brigades, as well as a number of independent smaller units. Of the divisions seven are *Panzer* divisions. They form the strongest and politically most reliable portion of the *Waffen-SS*. The balance consists of five *Panzer Grenadier* divisions, five mountain divisions (of which at least one is believed to have been disbanded), seven infantry divisions, and two cavalry divisions. Three other divisions have been identified, but their type is not certain. About a third of the divisions are classified as "non-Germanic". Of the brigades at least one is of the *Panzer Grenadier* type and its strength is little less than that of a division.

Of the 13 identified *SS* Corps five are *Panzer* corps, two mountain corps, four infantry corps and two of uncertain type. At least one *SS Panzer* Army exists. It played a prominent part in the Ardennes counteroffensive in December 1944.

Among the divisions of the *Waffen-SS* one is designated as the *SS-Polizei* Division. This is the only unit made up of members of the police which has been fully incorporated into the *Waffen-SS*. It is not to be confused with the *SS-Polizei-Regimenter,* which have remained part of the police and are described in a separate section below.

b. RECRUITING, TRAINING, AND REPLACEMENT IN THE *Waffen-SS*. (1) *Recruiting.* (a) *General.* In principle, no new members were accepted for the *SS* after 1933 except from selected graduates of the Hitler Youth. The creation of

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Control of SS recruiting, training, and replacement. See Chart 4

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the *Waffen-SS* and its rapid growth have caused the partial suspension of this rule, although service in the *Waffen-SS* does not necessarily entail membership in the General *SS*.

(b) *Pre-war recruitment.* Suitable *SS* candidates were singled out while still in the Hitler Youth. In particular boys who had proved themselves, often under *SS* leadership, in the HJ patrol service (*HJ-Streifendienst*) were welcomed as future *SS* men. If the candidate satisfied *SS* requirements with respect to political reliability, racial purity, and physique, he was accepted at the age of 18 as a candidate (*Bewerber*). On the occasion of the annual Party Congress (*Reichspartei*) in September of the same year, he was accepted as an aspirant (*Anwärter*), received an *SS* certificate (*SS-Ausweis*), and was enrolled in the ranks of the *SS*.

(c) *Wartime recruitment.* Recruitment and enrollment of new members for the *SS* have become of particular importance in view of the great expansion of the *Waffen-SS* during the war. The *SS* Central Department (*SS-Hauptamt*) is responsible for recruiting and registration of Germans and of "Germanic" and "non-Germanic" foreigners for the *Waffen-SS*. It exercises such functions for German and "Germanic" personnel through the Recruiting and Registration Group (*Amtsgruppe B*), and for "non-Germanic" foreigners through Group D--Germanic *SS* (*Amtsgruppe D*).

The *SS* Main Operational Department (*SS-Fuhrungshauptamt--SS-FHA*), which is responsible for the operational control of the *Waffen-SS*, lays down the general policy on recruiting and notifies its special requirements from time to time. The *SS* Central Department, however, remains responsible for the whole recruiting system of both the General *SS* and the *Waffen-SS*. Recruiting for the General *SS*, now almost at a standstill as a result of the war, is carried out through its own local units.

Service in the *Waffen-SS* is, at least officially, voluntary. The *Waffen-SS* claims priority over all other branches of the Armed Forces in the selection of recruits. To meet the high rate of casualties and the expansion of *Waffen-SS* field divisions, service in the *Waffen-SS* was made compulsory for all members of the General *SS* and voluntary transfer of personnel after being inducted into any of the other branches of the Armed Forces was permitted. Since 1943 a great amount of pressure has been exerted on members of the Hitler Youth to "volunteer" for the *Waffen-SS*. Still more recently, complete Army, Navy, and Air Force units were taken over by the *Waffen-SS*, given *SS* training, and incorporated into its field units.

(d) *Recruitment machinery within Germany.* The enlistment drives of the *Waffen-SS* within Germany, at first occurring at irregular intervals, are now practically continuous, indicating the great need for replacements. The *SS-Standarte "Kurt Eggers"*, through its various agencies is the most successful propaganda machinery for the *Waffen-SS*. Through its war reporter battalion (*Kriegsberichter Abteilung*) it publicizes the important role of the *Waffen-SS* in the German press. Recruitment for the *Waffen-SS* is regionally organized and controlled by the recruiting office (*Ergänzungsamt--Amt I*), which is subordinate to the Recruiting and Registration Group. The regional organization consists of recruiting centers (*Ergänzungsstellen*), which are named in accordance with the *SS* districts (*SS-Oberabschnitte*) in which they are located. They also carry the Roman numeral of the *Wehrkreis* and are always located at the *Wehrkreis* headquarters city, except in *SS* district *"Mitte"*, where the recruiting center is at Braunschweig instead of Hannover, and *SS* district *"Weichsel"*, where it is at Gotenhafen instead of Danzig. Some of these recruiting centers also maintain branch offices outside Germany for the recruitment of racial Germans (*Volksdeutsche*). The recruiting centers, in cooperation with various State and military authorities effect the release of the examined and accepted applicants by the Reich Labor Service and by the recruiting sub-area headquarters (*Wehrbezirkskommando*). The recruits are then sent to a specific training and replacement unit or maneuver area of the *Waffen-SS*.

In January 1945, the recruiting centers for the *Waffen-SS* were combined with those of the Army for its volunteers for the officer and noncommissioned officer careers and for *Volks Grenadier* divisions. Under Himmler's orders "combined recruiting centers of the Army and *Waffen-SS*" (*Ergänzungsstellen des Heeres und der Waffen-SS*) were set up in each *Wehrkreis*, with branch offices in all major cities.

(e) *Recruitment machinery outside Germany.* The original decision to enlist "Germanic" and "non-Germanic" foreigners to serve with the *Waffen-SS* was based on the propaganda rather

than on the fighting value of these volunteers. No doubt for this reason the men were mostly organized in small independent national legions.

In Scandinavia and the occupied countries of the West, the recruiting was undertaken largely by the local Nazi and Quisling parties; in the Baltic states by the German controlled governments; and in the Balkans by the German authorities in agreement with the governments concerned. With the growing need for reinforcements, a large element of compulsion entered into the recruiting campaigns. At the same time the small uneconomic legions were reorganized into regiments and battalions, either to be incorporated into existing *Waffen-SS* divisions or to form the basis for new divisions and brigades. Early in 1943 the German government, in exchange for promises to deliver certain quantities of war equipment, obtained from the governments of Rumania, Hungary, and Slovakia their consent to an all-out recruiting drive for the *Waffen-SS* among the "racial" Germans domiciled in those countries. In effect, all able-bodied men who could be considered to be of German origin, including some who could scarcely speak the language, were induced by various forms of social and economic pressure to volunteer, and many men already serving in the Armies of these three countries were transferred to the Germans. Well over 100,000 men were obtained in this manner and were distributed among all the divisions of the *Waffen-SS*.

The whole of this foreign recruiting organization is controlled by the Germanic recruiting office (*Germanisches Ergänzungsamt--Amt II*) in the Germanic *SS* group (*Amtsgruppe D--Ag D*). Originally this recruiting organization consisted of a number of recruiting commands (*Ersatzkommandos*) established in the principal cities of the occupied countries. Subsequently these were reorganized as *SS* recruiting inspectorates (*SS-Ersatzinspektionen*) responsible for recruiting over a wide area, e.g. *SS* recruiting inspectorate *Südostraum* at Vienna for the whole of the Balkans. Such inspectorates control a number of recruiting commands covering smaller areas, which again are subdivided into branch offices (*Nebenstellen*); finally, there are various enlistment centers (*Werbestellen*) under each branch office.

(2) *Training.* (a) *General.* Propaganda on behalf of the *SS*,political education, physical training, pre-military and technical training, aswell as training within the *SS*, are the responsibility of the *SS* Central Department. However, the responsibility for the military training of *Waffen-SS* units devolves entirely on the *SS* Main Operational Department.

Before the war the *SS* aspirant in his first year of service trained for the *SA* Defense Training Badge (*SA-Wehrabzeichen*) and the Reich Sports Badge in bronze (*bronzenes Reichssportabzeichen*). He was then called up first for six months of service in the Reich Labor Service, and then for his term of duty in the German Army. After two and a half years, he returned to the *SS* to receive further intensive training and indoctrination. Finally, on the ninth of November following his return to civil life, he was inducted into the *SS* as a full *SS* man. The outbreak of the war and the creation of the *Waffen-SS* interrupted this training schedule.

(b) *Propaganda and political education.* The Office for Political Education (*Amt Weltanschauliche Erziehung--Amt I*) in the Education and Physical Training Group (*Amtsgruppe C--Ag C*) is responsible for propaganda and the political education of German personnel. This is carried out mainly in two ways. In the first place this office supervises the issuance of a number of propaganda publications, such as the *Waffen-SS* recruiting handbook *"Dich ruft die Waffen-SS*", the series of *SS* educational booklets (*SS-Schuhingshefte*), a news magazine for *SS* and Police (*SS-Informationsdienst*), and an illustrated magazine with stories and articles for more general consumption (*SS-Leitheft*). Secondly, this office holds political education courses for *SS* officers and enlisted personnel in *SS* training camps (*SS-Ausbildungslager*) and in addition is responsible for the appointment of education officers (*Schulungsoffiziere*) to the staffs of the *SS* training schools. Political and propaganda directives for the *Waffen-SS* also emanate from this office.

The foreign recruits often require special indoctrination before they can be handed over to the *Waffen-SS* as fit for its military training. To meet this need special training camps (*Ausbildungslager*) were established. Such camps and the whole political education of foreign volunteers are under the control and supervision of the Office for Germanic Training (*Germanische Erziehung--Amt III*) in the Germanic *SS* group. This office issues a number of propaganda publications for foreign volunteers, including a magazine

for each nationality in its own language and also a number of newspapers.

(c) *Physical and preliminary training.* The Office for Physical Training (*Amt für Leibeserziehung--Amt II*) in the Education and Physical Training Group is charged with the responsibility for physical training of all branches of the *SS*. The *SS* instructors in athletics and physical culture are trained at the *SS* Central School for Physical Training (*SS-Reichsschule für Leibesulbungen*), and special *SS* manuals on the subject are issued. In addition the Office for Physical Training has set up special physical training camps for the Germanic *SS* outside the Reich. The *SS* has for some time taken a very active interest in the pre-military training programs of the Hitler Youth and other Party organizations.

(d) *Technical training.* As part of the general program of training and preparation for the *Waffen-SS*, special *SS* Higher Vocational Schools (*SS-Berufsoberschulen*) have been set up under the control and direction of the Education and Physical Training Group for giving higher technical training to candidates for the *Waffen-SS*. All German boys who are apprentices or students in business, trade, or agriculture, and are attending a trade or technical school may apply for entry into such a school as officer applicants of the *Waffen-SS*. The wartime course is limited to $1^1/2$ years and is free to the selected candidates.

The Vocational Schools of the *Waffen-SS* (*Berufsschulen der Waffen-SS*) give similar training, though of a lower standard.

(e) *Military training.* The military training of the *Waffen-SS* is controlled entirely by the *SS* Main Operational Department, which exercises this function through three main agencies:

The Training Branch (*Abt 1 d*) in the Headquarters Office of the *Waffen-SS* (*Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS--Amt II*) supervises and coordinates the whole sphere of training in the *Waffen-SS*. This branch is divided into a number of sections, each of which is responsible for a certain type of training. Its mission includes close cooperation with all other offices and inspectorates concerned with military training, liaison with the training agencies of the German Army, and issuance and control of all instructional material. It also registers and controls the training of future *SS* staff officers, providing courses for supply officers (*1 b-Lehrgänge*) and for intelligence officers (*1 c-Lehrgänge*).

The *SS* inspectorates (*SS-Inspektionen*), which are combined into an inspectorate group (*Amtsgruppe C--Ag C*), are responsible for the technical and unit training within the various branches of service. There are ten such inspectorates, numbered in a broken series from one to 13. Each one is headed by an Inspector (*Inspekteur*), who is directly responsible to the Chief of the *SS* Main Operational Department. It may control experimental and demonstration units and staffs, and it usually works in close liaison with the corresponding inspectorate in the *OKH*.

The Training Group (*Amtsgruppe B--Ag B*) is responsible for individual officer and noncommissioned officer training. It exercises these functions through the Office for Officer Training (*Amt Führerausbildung--Amt XI*), which controls all officer candidate schools (*SS-Junkerschulen*) and courses, and the Office for Noncommissioned Officer Training (*Amt Unterführerausbildung*), which controls all noncommissioned officer schools and courses.

(f) *Schools and courses.* During 1943 and 1944 the *Waffen-SS* established schools and courses for almost all branches of military affairs needed by a complete and well balanced military organization. As a result, it is now thoroughly equipped with schooling facilities of its own, although certain highly specialized types of personnel are still trained in special *SS* courses at regular Army schools.

The *SS* schools may be divided into four categories: special service schools, officer candidate schools, noncommissioned officer schools, and specialist training establishments.

Almost all the schools of the *Waffen-SS* have certain basic elements of organization in common, which are analogous to those of Army schools. They are headed by a commander who is assisted by a headquarters staff (*Kommandostab*). Under this they have instruction groups (*Lehrgruppen*) of battalion status and inspectorates (*Inspektionen*) of company status.

Special-service schools (*Waffenschulen*) have the function of providing specialized and advanced training for officers and enlisted personnel in their particular branch of service (*Waffengattung*). The *Waffen-SS* has special-service schools for mountain infantry, cavalry, *Panzer Grenadiers*, and Panzer troops, but not for ordinary infantry; this is explained by the fact that all *Waffen-SS* field divisions except some of those which are composed principally of non-

German personnel are either *Panzer*, *Panzer-Grenadier*, cavalry, or mountain divisions.

The courses at the special-service schools may be divided into three main categories: reserve officer candidate courses (*Reserve-Junker-Lehrgänge--RJL*); preparatory courses (*Vorbereitungs-Lehrgänge*) for officer applicants (*Führer-Bewerber--FB*) and reserve officer applicants (*Reserve-Führer-Bewerber--RPB*); and courses for technicians, which are found mainly at the special-service schools of the signal troops and artillery and which use special technical equipment peculiar to their respective arms.

Most of the *Waffen-SS* special-service schools have demonstration regiments (*Lehrregimenter*) attached to them for demonstrating and instructing and also for experimenting with new weapons and tactics.

Officer candidate schools are discussed in the separate section on the officer corps below.

The two basic types of establishments for the training of noncommissioned officers for the *Waffen-SS* are the noncommissioned officer schools and separate noncommissioned officer courses. The former are for professional noncommissioned officers and the latter for reserve noncommissioned officers.

The *SS* noncommissioned officer schools (*SS-Unterführer-Schulen*), which train German and "Germanic" personnel, and the *SS* and foreign personnel noncommissioned officer schools (*SS-und Waffen-Unterführer-Schulen*), which train German and "non-Germanic" personnel, are organized into either one or two battalions, a battalion consisting of a headquarters and four companies. Each company usually trains noncommissioned officers for a different branch of service. On completing the course an *SS* noncommissioned officer applicant (*SS-Unterführer-Bewerber*) is appointed *SS* noncommissioned officer candidate (*SS-Unterführer-Anwarter*); he may become a sergeant (*SS-Unterscharführer*) only after demonstrating his abilities in a troop unit.

Besides the courses for professional noncommissioned officers held at the noncommissioned officer schools, the *Waffen-SS* conducts short-term noncommissioned officer courses (*Unterführer-Lehrgänge*) for reserve noncommissioned officers. These are usually held in the field divisions during quiet periods.

Specialist training establishments have the mission of training of officer technicians (*Technische Führer der Sonderlaufbahnen*) and particularly noncommissioned officer technicians (*Unterführer der Sonderlaufbahnen*).

Specialist training establishments include the Motor Technical School of the *Waffen-SS* (*Kraftfahrtechnische Lehranstalt der Waffen-SS* at Vienna, the Ordnance Technical School of the *Waffen-SS* (*Waffentechnische Lehranstalt der Waffen-SS*) at Dachau, riding and driving schools, motor transport supply-troop schools, and a number of other types.

(3) *Replacement.* Unlike the Army, the *Waffen-SS* does not decentralize the control of its replacement system to its regional headquarters in Germany. The entire replacement system of the *Waffen-SS* is administered centrally by the *SS* Main Operational Department. Replacement requisitions from field units for ordinary personnel are sent through this department direct to the replacement units concerned. Those for officers go to the *SS* Main Department for Personnel (*SS-Personnel Hauptamt*), except that for all officers in the economic administrative service the *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department (*SS-Wirtschaft-Verwaltungs-Hauptamt*) is the responsible replacement agency.

The entire system of transferring and assigning *Waffen-SS* personnel to training and replacement units, field units, schools, and headquarters is controlled by the reinforcement branch (*Abt I e*) in the Headquarters Office of the *Waffen-SS* (*Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS--Amt II*). This branch works in close cooperation with various other agencies regarding the transfer and assignment of specialist personnel. For example, the veterinary troops of the *Waffen-SS* are supervised by the Veterinary Branch (*Abt IV*) in the Riding and Driving Office (*Amt Reit- und -Fahrwesen--Amt VI*), which also conducts their training and courses, while all ordnance troops are controlled by the Ordnance Branch (*Abt II*) in the office for supply (*Nachschubamt--Amt VII*). Both these branches maintain personnel assignment sections for their respective specialist personnel. Medical personnel comes under the control of the Administration Office (*Amt XIII*) in the Medical Group (*Sanitätswesen der Waffen-SS-Amtsgruppe D--Ag D*).

c. OFFICER CORPS OF THE *Waffen-SS*. (1) *General.* The *SS* Main Department for Personnel (*SS-Personal-Hauptamt--SS-Pers HA*) keeps a central card file on all officers of the *SS*. The original officer corps of the *SS* comprised a number of different categories, mainly dependent

upon the nature of their employment. The creation of the *Waffen-SS* and its employment as a powerful military force necessitated the formation of a separate officer corps for the *Waffen-SS*. An officer may, and often does, have different ranks in the two corps.

(2) *Selection of prospective officers.* The selection, registration, and training of prospective officers for the *Waffen-SS* is the responsibility of the *SS* Main Operational Department, which exercises this function through the Office for Officer Training (*Amt Führerausbildung--Amt XI*) in the Training Group (*Amtsgruppe B*). At the time of induction the recruiting center reports officer material to this office. Every volunteer has the opportunity to enter the officer career of the *Waffen-SS*, depending upon three qualifications, namely, his character as a German, his performance as a National Socialist and a member of the *SS*, and his qualifications as a soldier and leader.

Men selected as prospective officer candidates proceed to a training and replacement unit or training camp of the *Waffen-SS*. The unit commander concerned decides whether a candidate is fit or unfit for the officer career of the *Waffen-SS* after he has completed his basic training. The branch of service to which an approved candidate is to be allotted is then determined by the Office for Officer Training in consultation with the various offices and inspectorates of the *SS* Main Operational Department.

The officer corps of the *Waffen-SS* comprises three categories:

(a) *Active officers of the Waffen-SS (Aktive Führer der Waffen-SS*), those who adopt the career of *SS* officer. The elite of this category includes all pre-war graduates of the *SS* officer candidate schools.

(b) *Reserve officers of the Waffen-SS (Reserve-Führer der Waffen-SS*).

(c) *Foreign officers of the SS (Waffen-Führer der SS*). This category includes all active and reserve officers of "non-Germanic" nationalities. Those eligible include men who previously held a commission in their own armies and those who show leadership qualifications in the ranks of the *Waffen-SS*. This category, however, does not include officers coming from "Germanic" countries, who may become full-fledged officers (*SS-Führer*) of either the active or reserve category

(3) *Officer candidate schools. Waffen-SS* schools designed to train and provide officer material are of two basic types: *SS* officer candidate schools (*SS-Junkerschulen*), which train German and "Germanic" officers; and *SS* and foreign personnel officer candidate schools (*SS- und Waffen-Junkerschulen*), which train both German personnel and "non-Germanic" foreigners. The courses last about 6 months and are differentiated as either war-officer-candidate courses (*Kriegsjunker-Lehrgänge*) or war-officer-candidate courses for foreign personnel (*Kriegs-Wafenjunker-Lehrgänge*).

(a) *Active officers.* The active officer candidates of the *Waffen-SS* attend the war-officer-candidate courses (*Kriegjunker-Lehrgänge*) held at the officer candidate schools. These candidates must have previously completed a preparatory course (*Vorbereitungs-Lehrgang*) held either at a special-service school or at a training and replacement unit of the *Waffen-SS*. They start this course as active officer applicants (*Führer-Bewerber--FB*) and subsequently receive the title of *SS-Junker* and the equivalent rank of the lowest grade of sergeant (*Unterscharführer*). After the mid-term examinations at the officer candidate school they become *Standartenjunke*r with the equivalent rank of *Scharführer*, and after the final examination *Standardtenoberjunker* (equivalent to *Hauptscharführer*). Candidates then return to their units and, after a minimum of two months, are appointed 2d Lieutenant (*Untersturmführer*) by the *RF-SS* upon the recommendation of their regimental commanders.

(b) *Reserve officers.* Reserve officer candidates of the *Waffen-SS*, after taking a preparatory course as *Reserve-Führer-Bewerber--RPB*, become *SS-Junker der Reserve* and then attend a reserve officer candidate course (*Reserve-Junker-Lehrgang*), held at a special-service school of the *Waffen-SS* and lasting about 4 months. After the mid-term examinations they become *Standartenjunker der Reserve*, and after the final examinations *Standartenoberjunker der Reserve*. Foreign officers of the reserve (*Waffen-Führer der Reserve*) also attend the reserve officer candidate courses.

Like active officer candidates, the graduates become officers only after at least 2 months of service with a unit.

(c) *Foreign officers of the SS*. "Non-Germanic" officer candidates attend a war officer candidate course for foreign personnel (*Kriegs-Waffenjunker-Lehrgang*) held at the *SS* and foreign personnel officer-candidate schools (*SS- und*

Waffenjunker-Schulen). After its completion they return to their units and after a period of 2 months are appointed *Waffen-Untersturmführer* by the *RF-SS* upon the recommendation of their regimental commander.

(4) *Officer candidate courses.* Apart from the regular courses at the officer-candidate schools described above, the *Waffen-SS* conducts the following special officer-candidate courses:

Courses for partly disabled *SS* officer candidates (*Lehrgänge für versehrte SS-Junker*) held at the officer-candidate schools.

Special course for *Panzer* officer candidates (*Panzer-Junker-Sonderlehrgang*).

(5) *Other officer training establishments.* The *Waffen-SS* maintains medical and economic administrative officer training establishments with the function of providing for and supervising the military education of prospective active medical and economic administrative officers of the *Waffen-SS* during the period of their studies at universities and other institutions.

(6) *Specialist careers.* All officer candidates choosing a specialist career (*Sonderlaufbahn*) must have certain basic qualifications. They must have spent half a year with a field unit and successfully graduated from an officer candidate school of the *Waffen-SS*.

The following are the various specialist careers of the *Waffen-SS*:

(a) *Medical career.* This includes:

Physician (*SS-Führer und Arzt*)
Medical technician (*SS-Führer im Sanitätstechn. Dienst*)
Dentist (*SS-Fehrer und Zahnarzt*)
Pharmacist (*SS-Führer und Apotheker*)

The Medical Academy of the *Waffen-SS* provides for the training of all officers in the medical career. Besides their formal training students attend lectures and practical demonstrations at various universities.

(b) *Veterinary career.* This includes:

Veterinary (*SS-Führer und Veterinär*)
Veterinary technician (*SS-Führer im Veterinärtechn. Dienst*)

Officers in the veterinary career receive their specialist training in the Blacksmith School as well as in the veterinary training and replacement unit of the *Waffen-SS*.

(c) *Administrative career.* The Officer School of the Economic Administrative Service of the *SS* gives lectures and provides practical application for officers in the administrative career. Besides lectures at universities, the training includes practical experience and instruction at an administrative office of the *Waffen-SS*.

(d) *Ordnance technician career.* This includes:

Ordnance supply officer (*SS-Führer im Waffen- und Munitionsdienst*)
Ordnance officer technician (*Techn. SS-Führer W*)
Engineering officer (*Techn. SS-Führer W Ing.*)

The Ordnance Technical School and the engineering schools of the *Waffen-SS* provide for the specialized training of these officers. They also attend lectures and receive practical application at technical institutions.

(e) *Motor technical career.* This includes:

Motor officers (*Technische SS-Führer (K) I*)
Motor officers (*Technische SS-Führer (K) II*)

The Motor Technical School of the *Waffen-SS* provides for and supervises the training of these officers.

(f) Other specialist careers of the *Waffen-SS* include:

Officer technician (sig) (*Technische SS-Führer (N)*)
Judge advocate (*SS-Führer und Richter*)
Notary (*SS-Führer und Beurkundungsführer*)
Water supply officer (*SS-Führer und Wehrgeologe*)
Bandmaster (*SS-Führer und Musikführer*)

The officers in these specialist careers, besides their instruction at technical schools and other establishments of the *Waffen-SS*, receive specialized training at the special-service schools or specialist training schools of the *Waffen-SS*.

d. SUPPLY SYSTEM OF THE *Waffen-SS*. (1) *General.* Units of the *Waffen-SS* operating under the tactical control of the Army utilize the regular Army supply channels for supplies of rations, fuel, heavy equipment, and ammunition. In addition, however, the *SS* maintains its own system of supply distinct from that of the Armed Forces and not subject to control or supervision by the latter. For this purpose a large network of depots and stores has been built up in Germany and in occupied territory.

(2) *Control.* Operationally these depots and stores come under the control of the *SS* Main Operational Department, which is responsible for the equipment and supply of *SS* units and establishments when not under the tactical control of

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the Army. The *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department, on the other hand, is responsible for the detailed administration of these depots, or for the general supervision of administration where there is decentralization of its authority, e.g. to the economic official (*SS-Wirtschafter*) with a Higher *SS* and police commander in occupied territory. The actual responsibility for supply is divided between the *SS* Main Operational Department, which is responsible for initial equipment and the supply and maintenance of arms, ammunition, technical equipment, and transport vehicles, and the *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department, which is responsible for rations, clothing, personal equipment, coal, wood, and fodder.
For certain types of heavy equipment which are obtainable only from Army depots, agreement is reached between the *OKH* and the *SS* Main Operational Department, which becomes responsible for the general supervision of stocks, maintenance, and repair once such equipment has been handed over to an *SS* unit.

Although the *SS* and Police supply and administration system in wartime operates primarily for the *Waffen-SS* and *SS* police units, its organization and installations are also at the disposal of the General *SS* and the *SS* Death's-Head Formations.

(3) *Regional organization of supply.* The *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department controls all regional supply depots. There is a marked tendency for *SS* depots and administrative services to be grouped around concentration camps, notably Dachau and Oranienburg. This arrangement centralized administrative matters, as the concentration camps come under the control of the *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department, and the inmates of such camps provide a cheap source of labor.

At each *SS* district headquarters in Germany proper there is an administrative office (*Verwaltungsamt*) which controls and supervises all supply depots and installations within its area. Similarly at the *SS* sub-district headquarters there is an administrative branch (*Verwaltungsabteilung*) with the same functions. At the headquarters of an *SS* garrison command (*SS-Standortbereich*) there is an *SS* garrison administration

headquarters (*SS-Standortverwaltung*) dealing with supply and finance in its area and directly subordinate to the respective *SS* district and sub-district.

In occupied territory, there is an economic section controlled by an official (*SS-Wirtschafter*) on the staff of an *HSSPf*. He is responsible for the administration of all depots and supplies in his region. Where field units of the *Waffen-SS* are likely to operate in a particular area for a considerable period, special supply bases (*Stützpunkte*) are usually established at convenient points. These are small and temporary in character.

(4) *Channels of supply.* All *Waffen-SS* units requisition their supplies from the *SS* Main Operational Department, which either makes the issue itself or instructs the *SS* Main Economic Administrative Department to do so. The latter then either dispatches the material direct to the unit from one of the central depots or from the factory, or arranges for it to be made available to the unit at the nearest convenient sub-depot.

The main stocks of supply are held in central *SS* depots. These are of two kinds:

Main supply depots (*SS-Hauptwirtschaftslager--HWL*), containing miscellaneous types of supplies. Special depots, including *SS* ordnance depots, motor transport supply depots and parks, signal equipment depots, medical equipment depots, and clothing depots.

From these central depots, outlying sub-depots are supplied. These may be either *SS* supply depots (*SS-Nachschublager*), mainly found near the borders of Germany and in occupied territory, or *SS* troop supply depots (*SS-Truppenwirtschaftslager--TWL*), which hold stocks of clothing, light equipment, fuel, and other goods.

At the time, when the supply lines on the Eastern Front were too far extended, *SS* supply service headquarters (*SS-Nachsehubkommandanturen*) were established. Each of these was in itself an important group of depots and administrative offices. Although subordinate for administrative purposes to the *SS* economic official with the local *HSSPf*, it was the primary link between the *SS* main departments and main depots in Germany and the *SS* units and sub-depots in its own area. It served both as a distribution center and a supply base, and in its depots were held arms, ammunition, motor transport equipment, captured material, clothing, fuel, coal, wood, building material, and other goods. It was also empowered, subject to the approval of the *SS* economic official with the *HSSPf*, to make contracts with or purchases from private firms in its area.

(5) *Veterinary supply service.* The *Waffen-SS*

maintains its own channel of supply for its cavalry and non-motorized units. Horses for the *Waffen-SS* are procured through *SS* remount depots (*SS-Remonteämter*), which were mainly found until recently in occupied territory. These depots forward the horses to the *SS* riding and driving schools (*SS-Reit-und-Fahrschulen*), from where they either go to a unit direct or to an *SS* base veterinary depot (*SS-Heimatpferdepark*), which in turn forwards them to an *SS* veterinary depot (*SS-Pferdepark*) in a forward area, usually attached to an *SS* corps. These corps will then make distribution among their divisions which have veterinary companies. Wounded horses, after treatment in the field, go to an *SS* veterinary hospital (*SS-Pferdelazarett*) in a forward area and then to an *SS* base veterinary hospital (*SS-Heimatpferdelazarett*) in Germany. Veterinary equipment for *Waffen-SS* units can be obtained from the *SS* Central Veterinary Park (*SS-Hauptveterinärpark*) by way of one of the veterinary parks in forward areas.

(6) *Movement of supplies.* The transportation of *SS* supplies is coordinated by the transportation officer (*Transportoffizier--TO*) in the *SS* Main Operational Department. He maintains liaison both with other *SS* main departments where necessary and also with the German railway authorities and the transportation authorities of

the German Army. Subordinate to him are a number of regional transportation officers, found mainly in those districts close to the German border. Other transportation officers are stationed at principal railway stations in Germany and in occupied territory. At railway junctions particularly important for *SS* movement, *SS* reloading stations (*SS-Umschlagstellen*) are established.

(7) *Repair and maintenance of vehicles and equipment.* In forward areas, besides the repair and recovery sections at divisions, independent sections may operate at supply depots or at supply service headquarters. In Germany facilities for repair exist at the appropriate *SS* central depots and also at the *SS* Ordnance Testing Workshop (*SS-Waffenamt-Prufungswerkstätte*) and the *SS* Ordnance Works (*SS-Ausrüstungswerke*). Extensive use is also made of Army repair facilities.

(8) *Medical services.* General supervision over the medical services of the *SS* is exercised by two officers, the Chief *SS* and Police Medical Officer (*Reichsarzt SS und Polizei*), who is attached to the Personal Staff *RF-SS* (*Personlicher Stab RF-SS*), and the Head of the *SS* Medical Group, who acts as Inspector General of *SS* Medical Services.

Actual administration is carried out by the Medical Group (*Sanitätswesen der Waffen-SS--Amtsgruppe D*) in the *SS* Main Operational Department, which controls *SS* hospitals and medical services in Germany and in occupied territory as well as the medical units attached to *SS* units in the field. It does not, however, automatically follow that all *SS* casualties are evacuated through *SS* medical channels. Local circumstances may make it difficult or inexpedient to use *SS* medical facilities, and it frequently happens that *SS* wounded are evacuated as far as base hospitals in Germany entirely through regular Army medical channels.

A great number of *SS* medical institutions, *SS* hospitals (*SS-Lazarette*), and *SS* convalescent homes (*SS-Genesungsheime*) have been identified both in Germany and in occupied areas.

e. EMPLOYMENT OF THE *Waffen-SS* IN THE FIELD. Hitler is nominally the Supreme Commander of the *Waffen-SS*. This command is exercised only through the *RF-SS*, and it has become very doubtful of late whether Hitler has retained any power to direct Himmler in this or any other capacity.

The field headquarters of the *RF-SS* (*Feldkommandostelle RF-SS*) represents nominally the highest echelon in the direction of the employment of the *Waffen-SS*. Since Himmler is not always present at this headquarters, proper allowance should be made for the fact that the *RF-SS* will decide in person about such employment, regardless of his whereabouts at the time. No unit, of the *Waffen-SS* may be dissolved, under any circumstances, by anybody but the *RF-SS*.

For military operations, units of the *Waffen-SS* are placed under command of the *OKH*. In the beginning individual units were assigned to army groups and armies as needed, although an effort was made to give them independent tasks wherever possible. Special emphasis was placed on the propaganda value of their employment, and many spectacular missions were assigned to them, although their military importance and difficulty were often exaggerated. With the progress of the Russian campaign these units became involved in tougher combat assignments. Due to the strict selection of their personnel, not only from a political point of view but also from that of health,

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stamina, and stature, these units were in a position to take full advantage of the strong propaganda efforts which the *SS* made in their behalf. Gaining a reputation as an elite force, divisions of the *Waffen-SS* began to control regular Army units engaged in the immediate vicinity. The next step was the formation of *SS* corps which, under *OKH* command, controlled *SS* divisions and brigades. Soon certain *SS* corps held command over a small group of *SS* units and a much larger proportion of regular Army units. Eventually, certain *SS* corps commanded

Army units only. For a brief period, in 1943, an *SS* Army existed which held mainly administrative functions in northern Italy. But in the autumn of 1944, when the Sixth *Panzer* Army was formed, a large unit of the German Army was for the first time designated as an *SS* unit. Previous to that event, *SS* generals had held Army commands under the *OKH* in a few instances during the defense of Normandy and the withdrawal from France.

The territorial commanders of the *Waffen-SS* (*Befehlshaber der Waffen-SS*), who have been installed in certain occupied and annexed areas, take charge of operations only in certain special cases. For example, a coast defense sector (*Küstenverteidigungsabschnitt*) in the Netherlands was commanded by such an officer under the Commanding General in the Netherlands (LXXXVIII Army Corps). His command included training and replacement units of the *Waffen-SS*, of the *SS* Police, and of the Air Force.

In theory, the influence of the *RF-SS* ceases with the subordination of *Waffen-SS* units to the Army. In effect, however, much evidence points to the fact that he retains the right to pass on the type of employment which the Army may prescribe.

The temporary relief of Rundstedt as commander of the Western Front in 1944 is attributed, at least in part, to a conflict between him and the *RF-SS* resulting from discrepancies of opinion as to the employment of the *Waffen-SS* in that theater.

Units of the *Waffen-SS* have been employed in all theatres of the war, except in North Africa and in the original campaign in Norway. From the small beginning of regimental units participating in the Polish campaign, active employment of *Waffen-SS* units grew to at least two divisions in the Western and Balkan drives of 1940 and 1941. One division was engaged in Finland from the beginning of the Russian campaign. In Russia itself the number of *Waffen-SS* units engaged grew from five divisions in 1942 to at least four corps and 13 divisions for the better part of 1944.An *SS* brigade participated in the defense of Corsica and was later committed as a division in the Italian theater, while another appeared there to assist in the internal tasks resulting from the Italian collapse. To this were added a new division and a new brigade in 1944. Two corps and at least seven divisions fought at various times against the partisans in Yugoslavia, and one division formed an important component of the occupation forces in Greece. Two *Waffen-SS* corps and six divisions were employed in Normandy and participated in the withdrawal from France. On the Western Front one Army, at least six corps, and a minimum of nine divisions were opposing Allied forces at the beginning of 1945. Two or three corps, nine divisions, and two brigades formed the strength of the *Waffen-SS* in Hungary at that time.

Corps units of the *Waffen-SS*, such as *Panzer*, heavy artillery, observation, projector, signal, reconnaissance, and antiaircraft battalions and smaller units of the same and other types, may be used as tactical support for both *Waffen-SS* and Army units.

Ever since the *SS* increased its power over the Army so suddenly in July 1944, rumors have persisted that individual members of the *Waffen-SS* became attached to regular Army units, especially in the low echelons, in order to increase the reliability of these troops. The fact that units of the *Waffen-SS* were used to prevent mass desertions or withdrawals contrary to orders is established. *Waffen-SS* personnel forms the nucleus of the *Volks Grenadier* and probably also the *Volkssturm* units. To some extent personnel of the *Waffen-SS* was exchanged with Army personnel, while whole contingents of Air Corps and Navy personnel were repeatedly pressed into the service of the *Waffen-SS* when it became urgently necessary to reform badly mauled *Waffen-SS* units.

Another recent trend is the assumption of command functions in the *Waffen-SS* by high-ranking Army officers. They appear with *SS* ranks equivalent to their former Army ranks. Although this procedure may be caused merely by military expediency, it is not likely that a high-ranking German officer would assume an *SS* rank without coming under the special disciplinary rules of the *SS* and without having reconciled himself to its program, ideals, and plans for the future.

7. *SS* Police Units

a. INTRODUCTION. Parts of the German Order Police (*Ordnungspolizei--Orpo*) have maintained a strict military organization patterned after that of the regular Army. Known as the Barrack Police (*Kasernierte Polizei*), a branch of the Protective Police (*Schutzpolizei--Schupo*), they are quartered in large towns in Germany, usually in company strength. These units are commanded in each locality by a Commander of the Protective Police (*Kommandeur der Schutzpolizei*), who receives his orders from the Inspector of the Order Police (*Inspekteur der Ordnungspolizei*), a member of the staff of the *HSSPf* in each district. Their function is to act as a mobile reserve for the ordinary municipal police. They may be described as the lineal descendants of the old "green" police (*Landespolizei*), a quasi-military body of men permitted to Germany by the Treaty of Versailles.

For service abroad during the war these Barrack Police have been formed into *SS* police regiments (*SS-Polizei-Regimenter*) and *SS*-Police Battalions (*SS-Polizei-Bataillone*), most of them motorized, which are organized and equipped on a military basis but usually lack heavy weapons.

The development of these units started with the formation of centuries (*Hundertschaften*) in 1939, which soon developed into independent battalions. A battalion consists of about 550 men, organized into a headquarters and four companies, and equipped with rifles, machine guns, antitank guns, and armored cars. Battalions were originally numbered in the series 1 to 325. Most of them were reorganized into regiments in 1943 and numbered in one consecutive series running up to about 37. Most of these regiments appear simply as *SS-Polizei-regiment* (followed by its number), but at least one regiment is an *SS-Polizei-Gebirgsjäger-Regiment* (*SS* Police Mountain Infantry Regiment).

The ideology and general bearing of these units are similar to those of the *Waffen-SS*. They have gained a very similar reputation for their conduct, especially as occupation troops. These units are not part of the *Waffen-SS*, and they should not be confused with the *SS-Polizei-Division*, a *Waffen-SS* division composed of police personnel.

b. RECRUITING, TRAINING, AND REPLACEMENT. (1) *Recruiting.* Before the war candidates for the Protective Police had to meet very high standards of health and physique, to be members of the *SS* or some other Party organization, and to pass a special aptitude test. The expansion of the *SS* police units during the war made it necessary to relax these requirements. At the same time an effort was made to recruit men who had been discharged from the regular Armed Forces for one reason or another, and special privileges were offered them in the form of advanced noncommissioned officer ratings depending on the number of years of previous service.

Later on the recruiting authorities for the *SS* police units, just like those for the *Waffen-SS*, resorted more and more to the manpower of occupied countries, especially in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. These men were first used in separate units known as *Schutzmannschaften* or militia, chiefly for guard duties and small-scale counter-partisan activities; such units were then incorporated into the *SS* police organization, sometimes forming entire regiments which were called police volunteer regiments (*Polizei-Freiwilligen-Regimenter*).

(2) *Training.* The police organization maintains its own school system but frequently has to use the school facilities of either the Army or the *Waffen-SS*. All training activities are controlled and supervised by the Headquarters Office (*Kommandant*) of the Order Police in the Main Department of the Order Police (*Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei*). Personnel after induction receive basic training in the special-service schools of the police (*Polizei-Waffenschulen*) and specialized training either at the specialist training establishments of the police or the specialist training schools of the Army or *Waffen-SS*.

Noncommissioned officer and officer candidate schools of the Police provide for the training of noncommissioned officer and officer material. In addition special noncommissioned officer and officer candidate courses are held at the special-service schools of the police.

(3) *Replacement.* The replacement system of the police is likewise the responsibility of the Headquarters Office in the Main Department of the Order Police. This office includes a personnel office, a reinforcement branch, and an administration and law office which performs the functions of replacement and assignment of personnel in a manner very similar to that of the corresponding offices of the *SS* High Command.

The actual replacement units of the *SS* police regiments are the special-service schools, which were formerly called instruction battalions (Lehr-Bataillione). These units receive their personnel from the recruit assembly centers (Erfassungsdienststellen) of the Protective Police. For officers and specialist personnel, the responsible replacement units are the officer candidate schools and specialist training schools.

c. OFFICER CORPS. All officers of the Protective Police are recruited in wartime from graduates of the *SS* officer candidate schools (*SS-Junkerschulen*). They are then given special police training at police officer schools. All officers now have dual rank in the *SS* and the Protective Police.

d. SUPPLY. The *SS* police regiments have their own supply depots and their own channels of supply. They receive such supplies from the Main Ordnance Depot of the Order Police (*Hauptzeugamt der Ordnungspolizei*) and from the police procurement depots (*Polizei-Beschaffungsämter*) as well as from the clothing distribution centers of the police (*Bekleidungslieferstellen der Polizei*). For certain types of supply, however, they depend upon the supply depots and installations of the *Waffen-SS* or those of the Army.

e. EMPLOYMENT OF *SS* POLICE UNITS IN THE FIELD. The employment of police units for military purposes dates back to 1939, when a *Räumungshundertschaft der Polizei* was engaged in directing refugees who were evacuated from the western border areas. Their main mission was to keep the roads clear for the columns of the Armed Forces. The expansion into battalions was brought about in order to cope with the type of guerrilla warfare which originated in Russia behind the lines of the swiftly advancing German forces. Numerous units employed here gained valuable experience which they put to good use in their later missions in Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy, and France. *SS* police units were also stationed wherever large-scale construction of defense works was in progress, e.g. at the Atlantic Wall and in the Mediterranean defense zone. At times *SS* police units joined with combat troops in the front lines, especially where defensive operations became urgent. In most cases only elements of *SS* police regiments have been identified in one place. Battalions of the same regiment have been found in different sectors and even on different fronts.

Normally these units come under the regional command of the *HSSPf* represented by the commander of the Order Police. In certain areas special headquarters have been formed under the *HSSPf* to carry out such tasks as the combating of partisans. Sometimes *SS* police units have been placed under Army command for military operations, or they may be directly subordinate to a commander of the *Waffen-SS* who in turn comes under the Army.

Section II. AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1.Introduction

Certain militarized organizations have developed from independent or Party formations to full-fledged partners of the Armed Forces. In the field, when they operate directly for the Armed Forces, they are described as attached to them (*Wehrmachtgefolge*); but they also perform many supply, construction, policing, and training tasks of military importance when not actually associated with military units.

2. Labor Service

The German Labor Service (*Reichsarbeitsdienst--RAD*) arose from a Party organization set up in 1931 and known as the NS-Arbeitsdienst for the purpose of easing unemployment. It grew in importance with the rearmament of Germany, and a law in 1935 made service in the *RAD*, now separated from the Party and made into a State organization, compulsory for all young Germans. The strength of the *RAD* in 1939 is estimated at 360,000 men; it is now considerably less. The *RAD* is a Supreme Reich Authority with the same status as the Ministries. It has nevertheless maintained its strong ties to the Party, documented by the position of its chief, the *Reichsarbeitsführer*, as a member of the High Command (Reichsleitung) of the Party.

The mission of the *RAD* in peacetime consisted in the creation of jobs, the performance of public works, the revival of interest in the dignity of manual labor, and above all the physical hardening, disciplining, and political indoctrination of its members.

The *RAD* has its own regional organization based on 40 *Arbeitsgaue* which contain numerous groups (*Gruppen*) and detachments (*Abteilungen*). A detachment normally consists of about 200 men.

Army	SS	Police	TN (and other auxiliary police)	RAD	OT	NSKK	Party-Officials#	SA and NSFK	HJ
Gren.	*SS-Mann*	Anwarter	Anwarter	Arbeitsmann	Arbeiter	Sturmmann	Heifer	Sturmmann ##	Hitlerjunge
Ob. Gren.	Sturmmann			Vormann	Vormann	Obersturmmann	Oberhelfer	Obersturmmann##	Rottenführer
Gefr.	Rottenführer	Unterwachtmeister	Unterwachtmeister	Obervormann	Meister	Rottenführer	Arbeitsleiter	Rottenführer	Oberrottenführer
Ob. Gefr.		Rottwachtmeister	Rottwachtmeister	Hauptvormann	Obermeister		Oberarbeitsleiter		
Stabsgefr.				Untertruppführer			Hauptarbeitsleiter		
Unt. Offz.	Unterscharführer	Wachtmeister	Wachtmeister	Truppführer	Truppführer	Scharführer		Scharführer	Kameradschaftsführer
Unt. Feldw.	Scharführer	Oberwachtmeister	Oberwachtmeister			Oberscharführer		Oberscharführer	Oberkameradschaftsführer
Feldw.	Oberscharführer	Zugwachtmeister	Zugwachtmeister	Obertruppführer	Obertruppführer	Truppführer	Bereitschaftsleiter	Truppführer	Scharführer
Ob. Feldw.	Hauptscharführer	Hauptwachtmeister	Hauptwachtmeister		Haupttruppführer	Obertruppführer	Oberbereitschaftsleiter	Obertruppführer	Oberscharführer

Stabsfeldw.	Sturmscharführer		Bereitschaftswachtmeister			Haupttruppführer	Hauptbereitschaftsleiter	Haupttruppführer	
		Meister	Meister	Unterfeldmeister					
		Obermeister							
Lt.	Untersturmführer	Leutnan	Zugführer	Feldmeister	Frontführer	Sturmführer	Einsatzleiter	Sturmführer	Gefolgschaftsführer
Ob. Lt.	Obersturmführer	Oberleutnant	Oberzugführer	Oberfeldmeister	Oberfrontführer	Obersturmführer	Obereinsatzleiter	Obersturmführer	Obergefolgschaftsführer
Hauptmann	Hauptsturmführer	Hauptmann	Bereitschaftsführer	Oberstfeldmeister	Hauptfrontführer	Hauptsturmführer	Haupteinsatzleiter	Hauptsturmführer	Hauptgefolgschaftsführer
Major	Sturmbannführer	Major	Abteilungsführer	Arbeitsführer	Stabsfrontführer	Staffelführer	Gemeinschaftsleiter	Sturmbannführer	Stammführer
Obst. Lt.	Ohersturmbannführer	Oberstleutnant	Oberabteilungsführer	Oberarbeitsführer	Oberstabsfrontführer	Oberstaffelführer	Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter	Obersturmbannführer	Oberstammführer
Oberst	Standartenführer	Oberst	Landesführer	Oberstarbeitsführer	Oberstfrontführer	Standartenführer	Hauptabschnittsführer	Standartenführer	Bannführer
	Oberführer					Oberführer	Hauptbereichsleiter	Oberführer	Hauptbannführer
Gen. Maj.	Brigadeführer	Generalmajor		Generalarbeitsführer	Einsatzleiter	Brigadeführer	Hauptdienstleiter	Brigadeführer	Gebeitsführer
Gen. Lt.	Gruppenführer	Generalleutnant	(Chef der TN)	Obergeneralarbeitsführer	Einsatzgruppenleiter II	Gruppenführer	Hauptbefehlsleiter	Gruppenführer	Obergebeitsführer
General	Obergruppenführer	General			Einsatzgruppenleiter I	Obergruppenführer	Gauleiter	Obergruppenführer	Stabsführer
Gen. Obst.	Oberstgruppenführer	Generaloberst		Reichsarbeitsführer	Chef der OT	Korpsführer	Reichsleiter	Stabschef der *SA*	Reichsjugendführer
Gen. Feldm.	*Reichsführer-SS*								

# This is only a selection of the many Party ranks.	## SA-Sturmmann equals NSFK-Mann. SA-Obersturmmann equals NSFK-Sturmmann.

Figure 5.--Table of equivalent ranks.

[III-25]

The work done by the *RAD* was of substantial military value even in peacetime. It helped to build fortifications and formed the nucleus of the construction battalions of the Army and Air Force at the outbreak of war. Such battalions, which were originally formed by the outright conversion of *RAD* groups, had an average strength of 2,000 men and consisted of four construction companies and three construction columns. These units prepared the way for the work of the engineers and did the pick and shovel work under them. During the Polish campaign the work consisted of road and railway repair work and of construction of airfields. In addition they brought up supplies, collected and sorted captured equipment, and helped with the harvest. In December 1939 the *RAD* reverted to its original form and continued to carry out its wartime duties under its own commanders and under *RAD* rules and administration. By 1943 the *RAD* men were completely militarized. In addition to the shovel work, they were employed to lay minefields and man fortifications and were taught antitank and antiaircraft defense. In 1944 such employment became more general while conditions inside Germany necessitated the use of the *RAD* to operate antiaircraft batteries, fight fires, clear bomb damage, and build temporary quarters for the bombed-out.

Units remaining in the field or finding themselves in German areas which became parts of the fighting front were often incorporated into the Wehrmacht without further ado,

3. Todt Organization

The Organisation Todt (*OT*) was first formed by the late Dr. Todt in 1938 to build the western defenses known in Germany as the Westwall. In wartime its *Einsatzgruppen* (Work Groups) were employed as construction units in almost all defensive construction works, especially those in France, Italy, and the Lowlands. The *OT* cooperates closely with private firms in its missions for the *Wehrmacht* and employs increasing numbers of foreign laborers. Its liaison with the Army is maintained through the fortress engineer staffs (*Festungspionierstäbe*). The transport system of the *OT* is maintained by the *NSKK* (see below). The German personnel of the *OT* is armed in order to be prepared for any surprise attack while working on the building site. Most of the men belong to age groups which are expected to have received military training during the last war. Refresher courses are held.

4. Nazi Party Motor Transport Corps

The *Nationalsozialistisches Kraftfahrkorps (NSKK)* was organized under its present title in 1931 to increase the mobility of the *SA* (Brown-shirts). After 1933 the *NSKK* turned to the training of drivers for the eventual use of the Armed Forces.

As a branch (Gliederung) of the Party, the *NSKK* has its own regional organization which is divided into *Motorobergruppen* and further into *Motorgruppen*. Membership is on a voluntary basis.

Since the outbreak of war the *NSKK* has fulfilled three important functions. It has organized pre-military training in the motorized branch of the Hitler Youth, it has provided an auxiliary transportation service in the communications zone in support of the Armed Forces, and it has trained tank crews for the Army. For the transport function *NSKK* units were organized as four separate brigades (Brigaden).

With the forming of the *Volkssturm* in October 1944 the *NSKK* became responsible for its automotive training.

5. Technical Emergency Corps

The *Technische Nothilfe (TN),* often referred to as the *Teno,* is a branch of the Order Police (*Ordnungspolizei*). It is a corps of engineers, technicians, and skilled and semi-skilled specialists in construction work, public utilities operation, communications, metal salvage, and other related fields.

Most of its members are men over military age. General requirements are those of the *SS* and Police.

Founded in 1919 as a strike-breaking organization the *TN* was retained after 1933 as a force of the state to cope with emergencies and dangers to the public. Incorporated into the police in 1937, the *TN* continued to perform its original mission in wartime. In addition, units of the *TN* were employed in construction and repair work and in many other technical tasks with the Armed Forces. Portions of these units have been incorporated into the Army as technical troops (*Technische Truppen*), which have since lost their identity as *TN* units entirely. *TN* units are known to have performed engineer functions for *SS-Polizei* units which were employed in defensive tasks in forward echelons.

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6. *Volkssturm*

Founded by Hitler in October 1944, this national militia organization represents an ultimate effort to mobilize all available manpower for employment in total war. It includes all German men between the ages of sixteen and sixty who are not in the Armed Forces and who are able to bear arms. The members of the *Volkssturm* are described as soldiers for the duration of their employment, which is to take place locally wherever a given area is threatened. The *Volkssturm* has the mission of reinforcing the active strength of the Armed Forces and defending German soil to the last. It is recruited under the auspices of the Party, whose formations join in providing its cadres and officers. The leadership in the Party regions is assigned to the Gauleiter, the rifle training to the *SA*, and the automotive training to the *NSKK*. Beyond that all installations and institutions of the Party serve to form and train the new units. Himmler, as Commander of the Replacement Army, is responsible for the organization of the *Volkssturm* and for ordering its mobilization and employment in any particular area.

Section III. OTHER PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

Certain uniformed organizations of the Party in addition to those described above may also be regarded as potential auxiliary units to the German military forces. They have been encountered performing important functions of a quasi-military nature in the occupied countries and will all, without exception, be called upon for either combat or supporting duties in the defense of any part of Germany proper under immediate military threat.

The National-Socialist Party itself (*Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei--NSDAP*) has an elaborate hierarchy of central, regional, and local headquarters with departments for all its manifold interests at all levels. Through this apparatus it is able to keep a close watch on all aspects of German life and all the activities of the citizens. Its High Command (*Reichsleitung*) at Munich includes bureaus (*Ämter*) which more or less parallel the Ministries of the national government in Berlin. The heads of the principal activities are called *Reichsleiter*, of whom some 16 now exist. These, together with the *Gauleiter* who head the 43 Party regions (*Gaue*), constitute the top leadership of the Party. Under them are vast numbers of Party functionaries known as political leaders (*Politische Leiter*), who have their own complicated system of ranks and uniforms and are well suited to organizing and guiding resistance within Germany.

To train the corps of political leaders in Nazi ideology and methods the Party has established a system of special schools, including four "castles of the order" (*Ordensburgen*) for highly select students and a large number of regional and district training "castles" (*Gau-* and *Kreis-Schulungsburgen*).

When the *Volkssturm* was created in October 1944, responsibility for recruiting and organizing it locally was vested in the *Gauleiter*. This is the first occasion on which the Party authorities as such have been entrusted with a function which is primarily military in nature.

Besides its regular regional and functional subdivisions the Party includes four special branches (*Gliederungen*) --the *SA*, *SS*, *NSKK*, and *HJ*--and a number of affiliated formations (*angeschlossene Verbande*), each of which is a self-contained organization with its own particular mission, regional structure, ranks, uniforms, and significance to the war effort of the nation. Since these have not been discussed in the previous sections they are dealt with briefly below.

1. Storm Troops (*Sturmabteilungen SA*)

These are organized on a pattern similar to that of the *SS*. The highest regional subdivision is the *Gruppe*, which is divided into *Standarten*, or regiments. As the oldest semi-military organization of the Party, the *SA* is designed as the Party's instrument for the training and indoctrination of its members and for supporting its domestic political aims in public. Membership in the *SA* is voluntary. Leading *SA* personalities for a time entertained hopes of an eventual merging of their organization with the Armed Forces, so as to create a "Brown Army" under their personal leadership. At the same time these leaders hoped to demand stronger revolutionary

action by the Party in keeping with the anti-capitalistic tendencies inherent in the *SA*, which has always drawn its members chiefly from the lower middle-class and the lower bureaucracy. These tendencies were forcibly destroyed in the purge of 1934, in which Himmler played a leading part. From then on the *SS*, previously an organization within the *SA*, grew steadily in power and the *SA* sank into relative political unimportance. Since 1943 a rejuvenation of the *SA* has taken place, largely under the auspices of the *SS*.

Since 1939 the *SA* has made a substantial contribution to the German war effort through its assigned responsibility for military training preceding or following the period of regular military service. It also trains those who were rejected by the Armed Forces for physical reasons. In 1944 the *SA* was entrusted with the task of teaching every German marksmanship, and with the forming of the *Volkssturm* in October 1944 the *SA* became responsible for its rifle training.

The bulk of the pre-war members of the *SA* were drawn into the Army, whose 60th *Panzer Grenadier* Division is composed mainly of *SA* men and carries the name *"Feldherrnhalle"* in honor of the most elite peacetime regiment of the *SA*.

2. National-Socialist Aviation Corps (*Nationalsozialistisches Fliegerkorps--NSFK*)

This organization incorporated the existing associations for aviation into one Party-controlled organization in April 1937. The mission of the *NSFK* consists in pre-military training of prospective members of the Air Force, post-military training of its reservists, and general furthering of air-mindedness among the German people. Particularly outstanding have been its efforts in the development of the use of gliders. Its regional organization, like that of the *SA*, is based on Gruppen and Standarten. Membership is voluntary and excludes simultaneous membership in the *SS*, *SA*, or *NSKK*.

3. Hitler Youth (*Hitler-Jugend--HJ*)

All German youths between the ages of 10 and 18 belong to this organization of the Party, which is charged with their thorough pre-military training and political indoctrination. Pre-military training has been greatly expanded in the course of this war. For this purpose about 300 *Wehrertuchtigungslager* (military fitness camps) were installed, beginning in 1943. Participants in these training courses were subsequently incorporated into the Armed Forces and especially into the *Waffen-SS*, whose 12th *Panzer* Division bears the name *"Hitler-Jugend"*. Graduates of the *HJ* become eligible for Party membership. They may either choose a career as Party functionaries (*Politische Letter*) or may join the *SS*, *SA*, *NSKK*, or *NSFK*.

Girls belong to a branch of the *HJ* known as the League of German Girls (*Bund Deutscher Madel--BDM*) and join the Party Women's Organization (*NS-Frauenschaft*) upon reaching the age of 21.

The *HJ* for boys is divided into the Hitler-Jugend proper (for boys from 14 to 18) and the Deutsches Jungvolk--DJ, for boys from 10 to 14. Its regional organization is based on *Gebiete*, which are further divided into *Banne, Stamme, Gefolgschaften, Scharen,* and *Kameradschaften*.

Units of the *HJ* have been committed to "war employment" (*Kriegsenisatz*), discharging such duties as fire fighting and air raid protection. They have also been widely employed to help with the harvest and as conductors, mail clerks, postmen, and street cleaners as well as for salvage activities and collections for war charities. Since 1943 most members of the *HJ* have had to serve as antiaircraft auxiliaries (*HJ-Luftwaffenhelfer* and *HJ-Marinehelfer*), performing many functions in the antiaircraft batteries, which relieve older men for combat duty.

Bazooka battalions (*Panzerschreckabteilungen*) have recently been formed from *HJ* personnel. Close liaison between the *HJ* and both the Armed Forces and the *Waffen-SS* is maintained by means of specially appointed liaison officers. The elite of the *HJ* is used in its special Patrol Service (*Streifendienst*), which combines all the tasks of a junior *SS* and police force. The members of this group are most unscrupulous and are used as raiding squads and informers. In Poland they formed pursuit detachments (*Rollkommandos*) serving under officers of the *SS* Death's-Head Formations.

Section IV. EMERGENCY DEFENSE OF GERMAN SOIL

Detailed plans exist for the rapid mobilization of all the auxiliary organizations described in the above paragraphs in case of the actual invasion of, or immediate military threat to, any part of Germany proper. Elaborate administrative preparations have been made for their operational control and chain of command in such an emergency.

The commander of each corps area (*Wehrkreis*) has always been responsible for organizing the emergency defense of his territory. Since, however, he normally controls only the static military forces and installations of the Armed Forces proper, the Higher *SS* and Police Commander (*HSSPf*) has been designated to join him in case of invasion and to take control of all the other available manpower in the area which is organized in a form suitable to aid in its defense. He is not to be subordinated to the *Wehrkreis* commander but must cooperate with him and will deputize for him if necessary. The only exception to this is the Todt Organization, whose units and installations pass directly to the control of the *Wehrkreis* commander in such an emergency.

Under the *HSSPf* the *Wehrkreis* is divided, for emergency defense, into security zones (*Sicherungsbereiche*), each headed by a commander of the Protective Police (*Schupo*). In case of invasion each such commander joins the Armed Forces commander (*Wehrmachtkommandant*) in the major garrison area which most nearly coincides with the security zone. The Armed Forces commander then acts, in collaboration with the security zone commander, as "combat commander" (*Kampfkommandant*) of the area, a concept introduced in 1944 for commanders who take full charge of areas which are expected to become cut off and which must be defended to the "last cartridge". The commander of the security zone will take the place of the combat commander in case he should become a casualty, unless there is another officer senior to him in the area.

The organizations which come under the control of the Higher *SS* and Police Commander in emergency include the *Waffen-SS*, Security Police, Protective Police, Rural Police, special employment units of the General *SS* (*SS-z.b. V.*), special employment units of the *SA* (*SA-z.b. V.*), Urban and Rural Auxiliary Guards, Fire-fighting Police and Fire-fighting Services, Technical Emergency Corps, German Labor Service, Postal and Railway Security Forces, Industrial Emergency Units (*Industrie-Alarmeinheiten*), Plant Protection Service (*Werkschutz*), the German Red Cross, and the *Volkssturm*.

This arrangement for the emergency defense of German soil is in sharp contrast to the established prerogatives of the Army in military matters in that responsibility as well as actual control of the defending forces is to be shared between the proper territorial military authority and the representative of its principal rival, the *SS*.

CHAPTER VI
Supply, Evacuation, and Movements

Section I. HIGHER ORGANIZATION OF SUPPLY

1. Government Direction of Production

Economic production in Germany is highly centralized and under complete governmental control. The Ministry for Armament and War Production (*Reichsminsterium für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion*) under Albert Speer controls production of war material and ammunition; the Ministry for Economic Affairs (*Reichswirtschaftsministerium*) controls all other industrial production; the Ministry for Food and Agriculture (*Reichsministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft*) controls food production. Among them these three ministries control production of the supplies for the German Armed Forces and, within the limitations imposed upon Germany by the insufficiency of her natural resources and the effects of the Allied advances and bombings, they are able to gear the production to the needs of the war machine.

2. Estimate of Needs and Placing of Orders.

These are essentially General Staff functions, since they involve present and future operations and capabilities. On the basis of High Command directives, the detailed estimates of the number or quantity of each article of supply are worked out by the technical branches concerned; they must be adjusted to the industrial, labor, and raw material potentialities of the nation.

The three branches of the Armed Forces and the *Waffen-SS* establish their procurement policies on an interservice basis and coordinate the use of railways, canals, and roads for military traffic. In addition, for a number of particularly critical items, the Armed Forces High Command has created special depots which are at its exclusive disposal (*Verfügungsdepots*).

Within the Armed Forces the lines of distinction between the Armed Forces High Command and the Army High Command are not always clearly drawn as far as procurement is concerned. The Army being by far the largest branch, of service, the Army High Command (*OKH*) may in certain cases act for the Armed Forces High Command (*OKW*). In addition, the Army procures a proportion of the materiel used by the *Waffen-SS*. The bulk of this materiel is transferred to the *Waffen-SS* through Army channels of supply and not through the system of depots maintained by the High Command.

3. The Army

The Army High Command (*OKH*) has the direct responsibility for a well functioning army supply system. Its wartime supply functions are divided into two distinct phases. The first phase, centering in the Zone of the Interior, is supervised by the Chief of Army Equipment and Commander of the Replacement Army (*Chef der Heeresrüstung and Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres*) who organizes the procurement of supplies, their storage in suitably placed depots, and their distribution to home and field units. It is his duty to interpret high command directives on an over-all nationwide basis. He determines what proportion of supplies is essential for use by garrison and training units, what amount can be sent to the front, and which areas are in the best position to issue supplies. The second phase, the Field Army (*Feldheer*) supply system, is controlled by the Chief of Field Army Supply and Administration (*Generalquartiermeister* or *Gen. Qu*) who administers the sending of requisitions to depots established by the Chief of Army Equipment and the receipt, storage, and distribution of supplies in the field.

Section II. SYSTEM OF SUPPLY-WITHIN GERMANY

1. Production, Acceptance, and Distribution of Equipment[1] and Ammunition

a. DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT. This is primarily the responsibility of the Army Ordnance Office (*Heereswaffenamt*). In particular, its Weapons and Equipment Manufacture Group (*Amtsgruppe für Industrielle Rüstung*) includes ten sections dealing with the main categories of equipment and known as armament sections one to ten (*Waffenrüstungsabteilungen 1-10*). The Ordnance Office also has a Research Branch (*Forschungsabteilung*) and a Development and Testing Branch (*Amtsgruppe für Entwicklung und*

Prüfung). In addition, the Ordnance officer coordinates the activities of numerous army-owned and semi-private research institutes and experimental stations throughout the country. Suggestions for design and development are also received from all the technical branches of the Army.

b. PRODUCTION. On the production side the Ministry for Armament and War Production has, through its regional Armament Inspectorates, a decisive influence on the selection of firms, coordination of armament orders with other orders, labor questions, and scheduling and supervision of production.

c. ACCEPTANCE. The testing of weapons, equipment, and ammunition, and their acceptance at the armament factory is the responsibility of the Army Acceptance Organization (*Heeresabnahmewesen*), which is a branch of the Army High Command/Army Ordnance Office (*OKH/ Heereswaffenamt*). There is one Acceptance Inspector (*Abnahmeinspizient*) in each corps area who acts through acceptance commissions located at the factories.

d. DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION TO ARMY UNITS. After acceptance at the factories, the flow of equipment and ammunition to field and home units may take a number of routes:

By way of equipment and ammunition depots.
By way of equipment parks.
Direct from the factory.
Through *SS* depots.
Through special Armed Forces High Command (*OKW*) depots.

2. Main Army Equipment and Ammunition Depot Organization

a. ORGANIZATION. The agencies responsible for most of the storage, issue, and repair of equipment and for the storage, issue, and salvaging of ammunition belong to a separate branch of the Army, the Ordnance Branch (*Feldzeugwesen*). The branch is headed by the Chief Army Ordnance Officer (*Feldseugmeister*), who works through his staff, the Ordnance Inspectorate (*Feldzeuginspektion*) in the General Army Office (*Allgemeines Heeresamt*). From the Ordnance Inspectorate the chain of command leads through three regional commands, called Ordnance / Groups (*Feldzeuggruppen*), with headquarters in Berlin, Kassel, and Munich, to the Ordnance Headquarters (*Feldzeugkommandos*) which are at the level of the corps areas but not affiliated with the latter. There is one Ordnance Headquarters in each corps area, where it controls a varying number of equipment and ammunition depots. The Ordnance Headquarters is the lowest controlling agency for the storage and issue of equipment and ammunition, and it is important to note that below this level equipment and ammunition are handled by two separate types of depots. The Ordnance Headquarters is designated by the number of the corps area. It and the depots it controls are not, however, part of the corps area organization, although the auditing of their books is done by the Corps Area Administration.
Appendix 1-1a: Designations of Munitions Depots.

In addition to the Ordnance Headquarters designated by the corps area numbers, there exist an Ordnance Headquarters XXX, which is in charge of a great number of subterranean ammunition depots in central Germany, and a special Tank Ordnance Headquarters (*Panzer-Feldzeugkommando*), created in 1943 in order to centralize the supply of all types of armored fighting vehicles and their spare parts throughout Germany.

b. EQUIPMENT DEPOTS. Army Equipment Depots (*Heereszeugämter* or *HZa*) and Army Branch Equipment Depots (*Heeresnebenzeugämter* or *HNZa*), controlled by the Ordnance Headquarters, handle weapons, tanks, tank spare parts, motor transport, assault boats, radio apparatus, anti-gas equipment, bridge materials, special clothing, concrete mixers, and manuals, as well as many other articles. They do not furnish ammunition, fuel, rations, clothing (other than special types), medical and veterinary equipment, horses, or most types of individual equipment.

c. AMMUNITION DEPOTS. Army Ammunition Depots (*Heeresmunitionsanstalten* or *HMa*) and Army Ammunition Branch Depots (*Heeresmunitionsnebenanstalten* or *HMNa*) are the main German centers for the storage and issue of ammunition. Frequently they concentrate upon particular types of ammunition; for example, the *HMa* at Münsterlager, Celle, Dessau, Augsburg, and Neu Ulm. are probably principal centers for the storage of chemical warfare ammunition. In addition to storing and issuing ammunition, the *HMa* and *HMNa* participate in its production by assembling and filling shells and by manufacturing fuzes and other accessories.

Like the equipment depots, the ammunition depots are staffed by personnel of the Ordnance Branch. Employees include civilians, soldiers, prisoners of war, and large numbers of foreign laborers. An *HMa* usually has the following departments:

Administration
Manufacture (filling and packing of shells)
Shipping
Personnel administration
Motor pool

Because of the large number of well distributed ammunition depots, many of them underground, Allied air attacks have not interfered materially with their functioning. But the increased number of foreign laborers employed by these depots undoubtedly has lowered their productivity.

d. AREA OF DISTRIBUTION. Generally a depot is allocated a definite geographical distribution area. The depot may be the exclusive German distributor of a particular item, or it may be merely the exclusive distributor within an allotted area. Thus the Ulm *HZa* distributes types of engineer equipment to all areas, while it issues Czech small arms to less than half of the corps areas. In addition, a depot may be assigned to a particular army for the supply of materiel replacements and the repair of its damaged materiel.

7. *Waffen-SS* Supply Organization

a. RELATION TO ARMY SUPPLY. While the *Waffen-SS* is generally self-sufficient in its Zone of the Interior supply, it depends upon the Chief of Army Equipment for most of its tanks, self-propelled guns, and other heavy equipment and for the repair of many of its vehicles. Indeed, *Waffen-SS* units have a higher priority on heavy equipment than do army units. To what extent the reciprocates by supplying army units has not been determined.

b. *SS* DEPOTS. Of the depot centers, Oranienburg is the most important as it contains the Main *SS* Equipment Depot (*SS-Zeugamt*), the Central Distribution Center (*SS-Zentralzulassungstelle*), the *SS* Signal Equipment Depot (*SS-Nachrichtenzeugamt*), and an *SS* Motor Transport Depot (*SS-Kraftfahrzeugdepot*). Other important *SS* depot centers are Berlin, Dachau, and Prague. Since the *SS* depots supply the other branches of the *SS* as well as the *Waffen-SS* with rations, clothing, and certain types of equipment, they cannot be considered as purely military depots.

Section III. SYSTEM OF SUPPLY OF THE FIELD ARMY

1. General

The supply system of the Field Army is simple and flexible. Its main objective during combat is to replace all supplies used during one day of combat by the beginning of the next day. Rules and regulations are not mandatory; much discretion therefore remains with the supply officers who are encouraged to move supplies as far forward as possible without reloading, to salvage all usable materiel, and to limit expenditure of supplies as far as possible.

2. Staff Control

a. SUPPLY DIRECTIVES. The commanders of Field Army units conduct supply within their commands in accordance with directives laid down by the Army High Command. For this purpose their general staffs are provided with staff officers, analogous to our G-4's, who are called *Ib* and

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who are responsible for all matters of transport and supply. When the *Ib*, acting in the name of his commander, issues supply directives, their execution usually falls to the following:
(1) Arms and Equipment Section (*W* and *WuG*).

3. Requisitioning and Procurement

a. REQUISITIONING. (1) The normal channel of requisitioning is from troop units through regiment, division, and corps to army.

(2) An army generally sends requisitions for ammunition, fuel, motor transport, horses, weapons, spare parts, and most other types of equipment to the Field Army, while requisitions for rations, clothing, medical equipment, and veterinary equipment go direct to home

depots assigned to the army. While these are the usual channels, many variations are known to occur. For instance, an army may send a requisition for certain special weapons and chemical warfare equipment directly to the Chief of Army Equipment, or an army may send a rations requisition to the Field Army in addition to forwarding the requisition to a home depot.

(3) Requisitions arriving at the Field Army usually are forwarded to the Chief of Army Equipment, who passes them down to a designated home depot. In some cases, however, the Field Army may send requisitions directly to a home depot without routing them through the Chief of Army Equipment.

(4) A requisition may be filled at any level by the echelon which has the necessary supplies available in its storage centers.

b. PROCUREMENT. Requisitioning is supplemented by two methods of field procurement: living off the land and the use of captured materiel.

(1) Living off the land may be accomplished either by local purchase or by outright confiscation of local supplies. Such procedure seldom is sufficient to supply all the requirements of units. In some areas, nevertheless, it has considerably lessened the German supply problem, as in Italy where much food, clothing, ammunition, and equipment is locally procured.

(2) The employment of captured materiel has always been a favored practice in the German Army. In the offensive beginning in December

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c. DISTRIBUTION OF AMMUNITION. The home ammunition depots forward supplies to the Army Ammunition Dumps (*Armeemunitionslager*) which usually store from 3,000 to 6,000 tons. Any forward army dumps taken over by corps arc-called Corps Ammunition Dumps (*Korpsmunitionslager*). From these dumps, the ammunition is taken to Division Ammunition Distributing Points (*Divisionsausgabestellen*). One or more well camouflaged distributing points are established, located out of the effective range of Allied artillery and, if possible, on terrain protected from tank attacks. Ordinarily artillery ammunition and infantry ammunition are handled by different distributing points so as to facilitate the loading and unloading of supplies. In some cases Division Ammunition Dumps (*Divisionsmunitionslager*) are set up in the division area, especially if the front lines have been stabilized. From the divisions, ammunition is sent to infantry and artillery ammunition supply points maintained by regiments, battalions, and companies. As German regulations permit the setting up of temporary ammunition dumps at these points, small reserves may be present only a few miles behind the front lines.

Unused ammunition, empty shell cases, packing cases, and faulty ammunition must be returned by the troops to army dumps from where they are sent to the home areas. The rapid return of this material is considered as important as ammunition supply.

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6. Supply Movement

a. RAILROAD SUPPLY TRAINS. (1) *Standard supply trains.* German logistical manuals outline the use of standard rations, ammunition, and fuel supply trains with a maximum net load of 450 metric tons (or approximately 500 short tons)

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on a standard gauge (4 feet 8 1/2 inches) railway. The text-book theory has generally been followed out in practice, although in some cases two or more locomotives have been sighted pulling unusually long fuel trains, and in some areas standard rations trains seldom are used. Standard equipment supply trains, with great variations in net loading weights, also are employed. In most cases, however, equipment of all kinds is loaded on the same train.

(3) *Ammunition supply trains (Munitionszüge*), with an average of 30 cars per train, are of three types:

(a) Unit-loaded trains, loaded according to the proportion of different types of ammunition needed by a particular division.

(b) Caliber unit trains, in which each car is loaded with approximately 15 metric tons ($16^1/2$ short tons) of ammunition of a specific caliber.

(c) Single caliber unit trains, in which all cars are loaded with ammunition of the same caliber.

5. Ammunition

a. AMMUNITION ALLOWANCES. The initial issue (*erste Ausstattung*) of ammunition is the total ammunition carried by a formation in columns, in dumps, and with the troops. The initial issue is systematically replaced as it is expended, on the basis of reports of ammunition remaining on hand sent from the divisions through corps to army, except as operational conditions modify the system. The allowance per formation is based on the number of weapons called for in the table of organization of the unit. Each weapon, in turn, has a number of rounds which is allotted to it as an ammunition quota or unit of issue (*Munitionsausstattung*). Two units of issue for all weapons of the division are carried within the division, while another unit of issue for all weapons in the army is held on army columns or trains as an army reserve. Thus each army has three ammunition quotas or units of issue for all weapons of the army.

b. AMMUNITION ISSUES. Of the two ammunition units of issue that are found within the division, over one unit is found forward on the

men, with the guns, and as company and battalion reserves, while less than one full unit of issue is retained as a division reserve in division columns and dumps. The exact quantity issued to each man is largely determined by the amount held by the battalion and company as their reserves. The following charts exemplify the units of issue found in infantry and artillery units of an army.

Ammunition Issues (Rounds) for a Volks Grenadier Division:

Weapon*	Forward Issue	Division Reserve	Probable Army Reserve (Unit of Issue)
9-mm automatic pistol	18	16	17
9-mm machine pistol	690	512	601
7.92-mm machine pistol	720	540	630
7.92-mm rifle	99	75	87
7.92-mm rifle (for troop other than infantry	25	20	22
7.92-mm semi-auto rifle	159	135	147
Rifle grenade launcher	75	70	70
7.92-mm LMG	3450	2505	2977
7.92-mm LMG (for arty	1350	1020	1185
7.92-mm HvMG	6300	4750	5525
88-mm bazooka	5	5	5
81-mm mortar	150	126	138
120-mm mortar	150	90	120
37-mm AA	1200	none**	?**
75-mm inf how	192	151	171
75-mm AT (mtz)	150	100	125
75-mm AT	255	--	--
105-mm gun how	225	126	175
150-mm how	150	60	105

* Not included are 75-mm gun and flame thrower.
** AA ammunition reserves are usually kept by army and not by division

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Units of Issue for Artillery Units:	
Weapon	**Number of Rounds**
37-mm AA	1,500
75-mm AA	300
88-mm AA	300
105-mm gun	125
150-mm how	125
150-mm gun	75
210-mm how	50

c. AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE. The unit of issue of ammunition is not to be confused with the daily expenditure amount of ammunition. The latter does not arrive at any constant figure, but varies with the type of action, the area of fighting, and the other factors mentioned in paragraph 1. By analogy with the reserve amounts of other expendable supplies, however, it is possible that three units of fire are judged by the Germans to be sufficient to maintain an army for a period of roughly eight to ten days.

German Military Ordnance Logistics

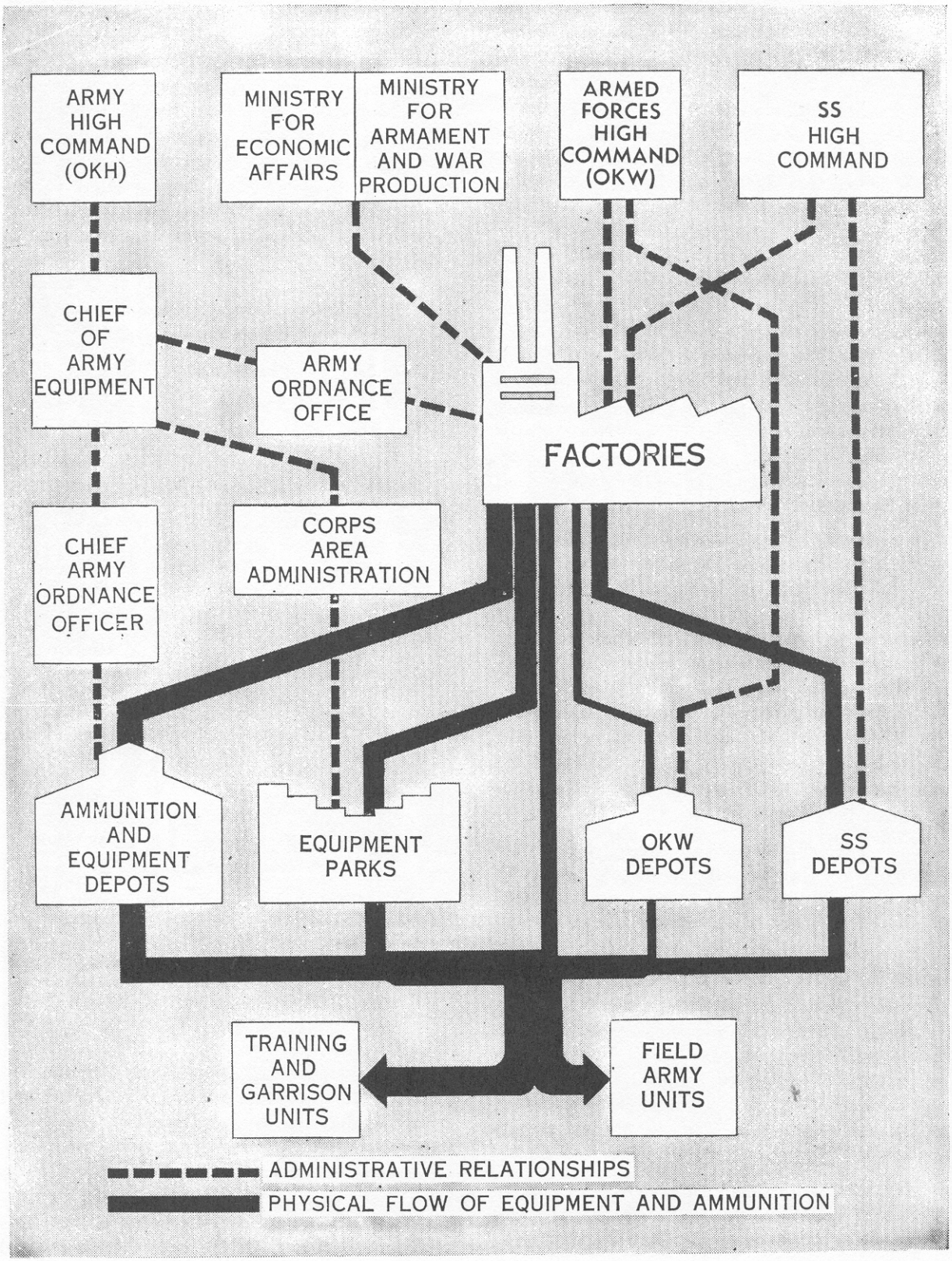
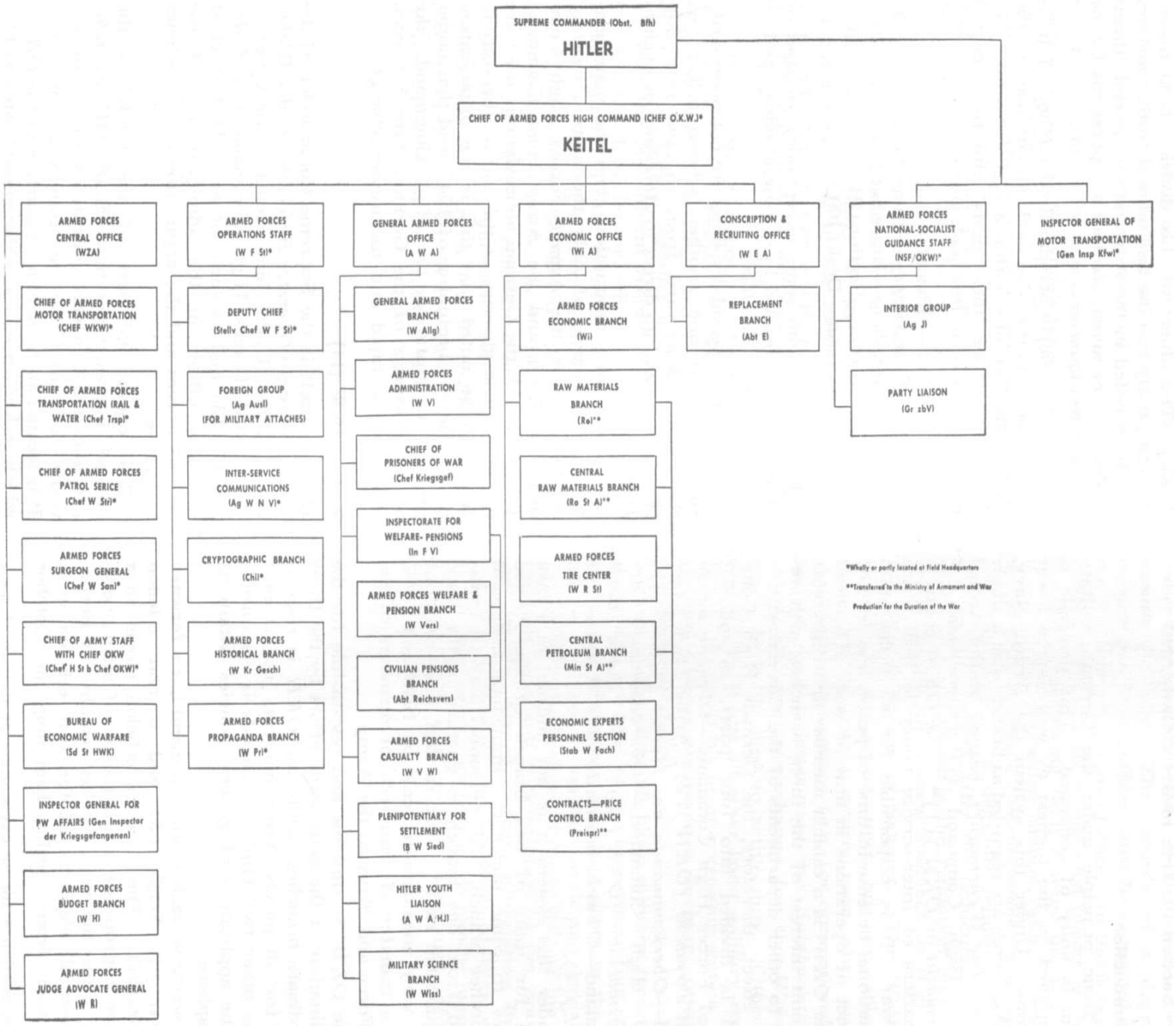


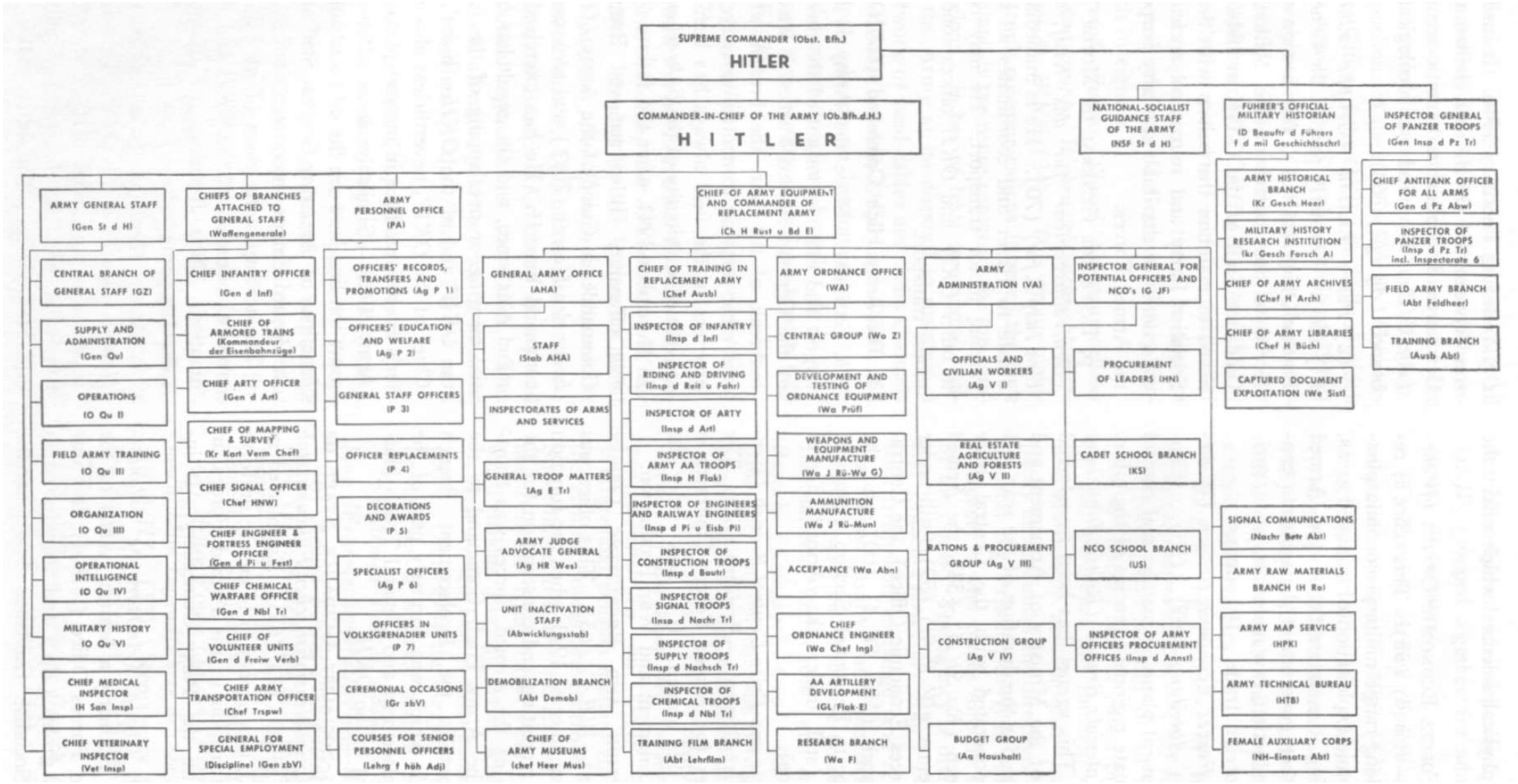
Figure 1.—Supply of equipment and ammunition.

Chart 1: OKW Organization



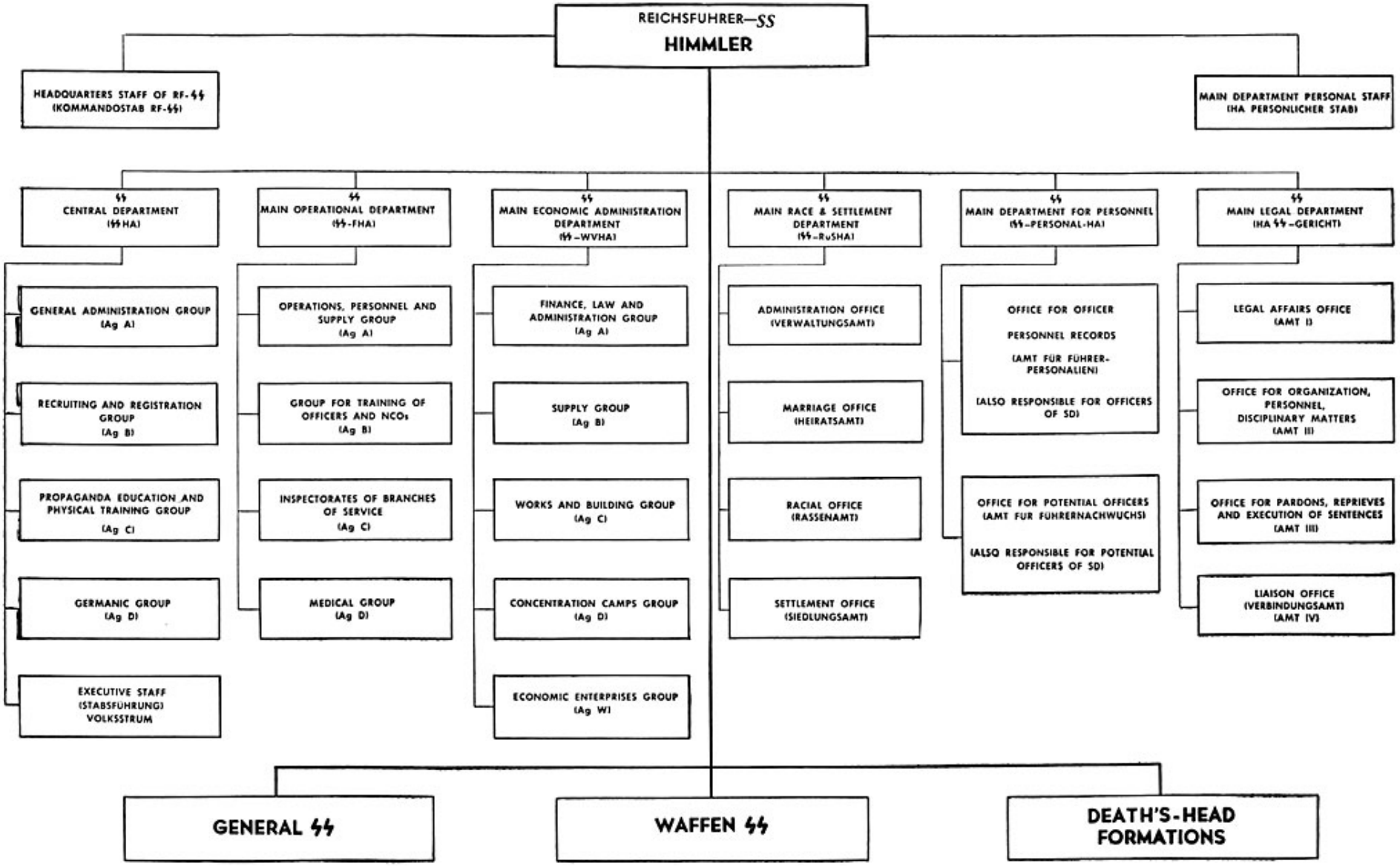
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Chart 2: OKH Organization



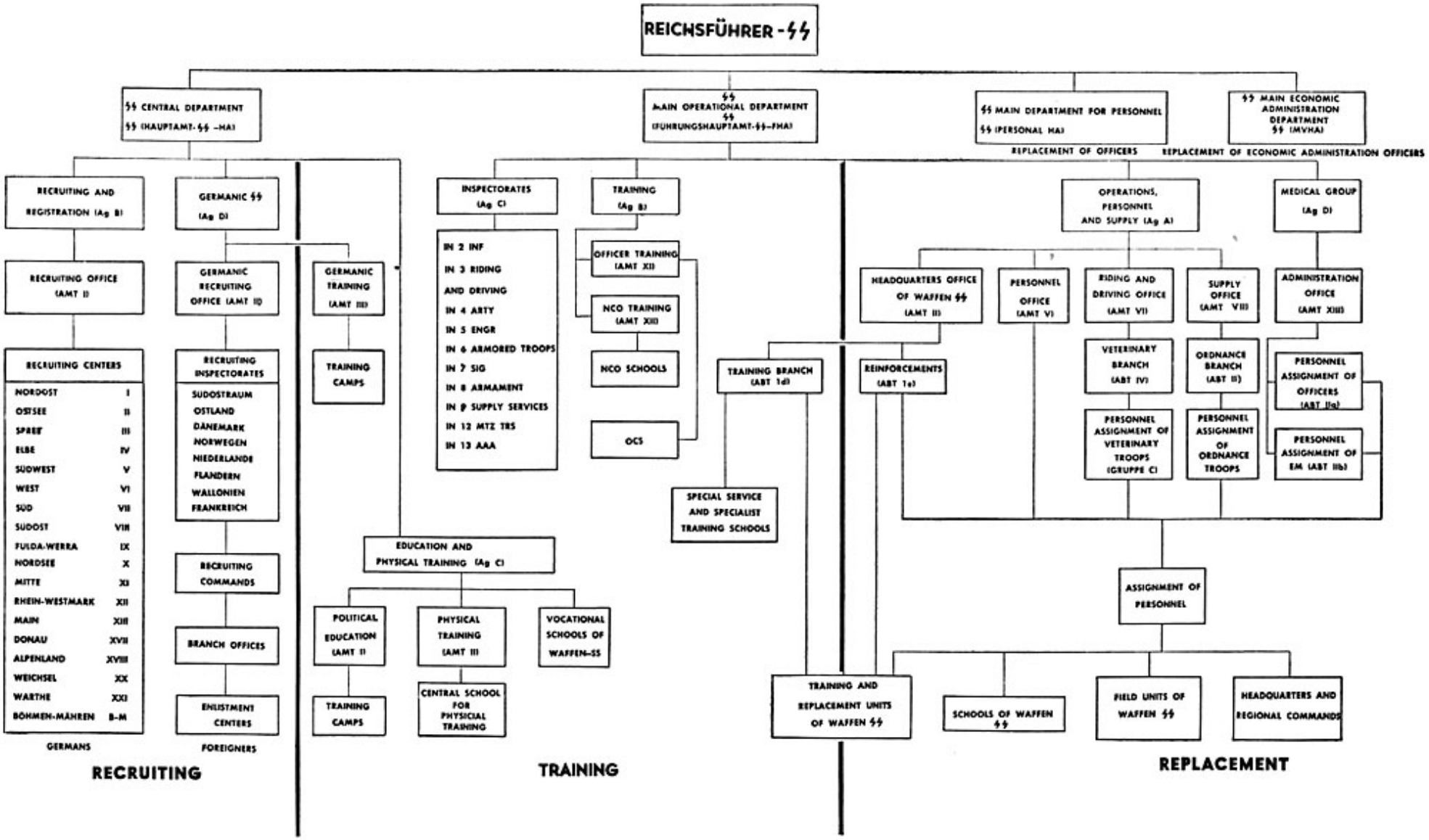
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Chart 3: SS and Related Organizations



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Chart 4: SS Recruiting, Training and Replacement



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Note: Ordnance Branch ABT II

Appendix

This appendix includes supplemental data not in the Handbook of German Military Forces (TM-E 30-451) . Some is official documentation and some is research by those who have assisted in this document. The latter is often from the IAA Forum (forum.cartridgecollectors.org).

Appendix 1-1:Code for Steelfactory's 1935 until 1942 for Patronen-Hülse S (Stahl)

I Krupp AG, Essen
II Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke, Gleiwitz
III Mannesmann, Düsseldorf
IV Eisen und Hüttenwerke, Bochum
V Hösch-Köln-Neüssen, Dortmund
VI Rheinmetall-Borsig AG Düsseldorf
VII Bochumer Verein für Gusstahlfabrikation, Bochum
VIII Dortmunder-Hörder Hüttenverein, Dortmund
IX August-Thyssen-Hütte, Hamborn
X Klöckner-Werke AG Marienwerke, Osnabrück
XI Gute Hoffnungshütte, Oberhausen
XII Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke, Werk Henningsdorf
XIII Mitteldeutsche Stahlwerke, Werk Riesa
XIV Eisenhüttenwerke, Thale AG, Thale
XV unknown
XVI Hüttenwerke Siegerland
XVII Maximilianshütte, abt. Unterwellenborn
XVIII Maximilianshütte, abt. Sulzbach/Rosenberg
XIX unknown
XX unknown
XXI unknown
XXII unknown
XXIII unknown
XXIV unknown

There are some known steel plants who we cannot find a code for
For example, it is known that Stahlwerk Döhlen, Freiberg/Sachsen made the steel for the Polte CWS case from 1928.
Normally we expect also a code.

Other plants

Stahlwerk Döhlen, Freiberg/Sachsen Steel for Polte case (P I 28) St-cu 120°
Eisen-Hüttenwerk, Berlin
Thyssen-Rheinstahl, Werk Hamborn
Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttewerke, Werk Zawatzki/Andreashütte
Ruhrstahl A.G., Werk Henrichshütte, Hattingen
Mannesmann-Röhrenwerke, Gelsenkirchen

Steel Analysis Numbers:

1 = C 0,19 - 0,24 %,Cu 0,25, Mn 0,6%, Si 0,12%, P 0,03%, S 0,035%
2 = C 0,08 - 0,12 %,Cu 0,25, Mn 0,6 - 08 %, Si 0,15%, P 0,02%, S 0,025%
3 = C 0,19 - 0,24 %,Cu 0,25, Mn 0,6%, Si 0,04%, P 0,03%, S 0,035%
4 = C 0,08 - 0,12 %,Cu 0,25, Mn 0,6 - 08 %, Si 0,15%, P 0,03%, S 0,025%
5 = C 0,19 - 0,24 %,Cu 0,25, Mn 0,6%, Si 0,12%, P 0,03%, S 0,035%, Al 0,01 - 0,02%
17 = C 0,17 . 0,22% Al 0,1% other like #1

https://forum.cartridgecollectors.org/t/7-92-mauser/35029/8 Dutch

Appendix 1-1a: Designation of Munition Depots

Designations:

H.Ma. Heeres Munitionsanstalt (Army Munitions Facility)

H.N.Ma. Heeres NebenMunitionsanstalt (Army Minor Munitions Facility)

L.H.Ma. Lufthauptmunitionsansanstalt (Air Main Munitions Depot)

L. Ma. Luft Munitionsanstalt (Air Munitions Depot)

Mar.Art.Dep. Marine Artillariedepot (WK I)(Navy Artillery Depot)

Mun.L. Munitionslager (Munitions Stock or Storage Facility))

Other Munitions Facilities

WUMBA Waffen- und Mununitions beschaffungsamt (Arms and ammunition procurement office)

https://forum.cartridgecollectors.org/t/german-ammunition-acquisition-logistics-1919-1945/35058/5 Lew & JPeleen

Appendix 1-2: Instruction from OKH how the reporting from ammunition must be done after October 1st 1939.

Geheim

Oberkommando des Heeres
BdE

Az. 65 c 9 Wa J Rü 3 (III b):
Nr. 28 892/39 geh.

Berlin, den 22. September 1939

E. Nr. 387/39
J. Nr. 222/39

Firma: Metallwerk Wandhofen G.m.b.H.

zu Händen des Herrn: Dir. Fleitmann

oder Stellvertreter:

Schwerte /Ruhr

Um mehrmals im Monat einen genauen Überblick über den Anfall von Munition, Munitionsteilen und Munitionsgeräten x) zu haben, ist es erforderlich, eine erweiterte Berichterstattung einzuführen.

Es wird daher gebeten, vom 1. Oktober 1939 ab Tätigkeitsberichte nach anliegendem Muster an das Oberkommando des Heeres — BdE —, erstmalig mit Abschluß des 10. Oktober 1939, für die Zeit vom 1. bis 10. Oktober 1939, durch die zuständige Heeres-, Marine- oder Bezirksabnahmestelle einzusenden.

Die Tätigkeitsberichte sind am 10., 20. und letzten Tage jeden Monats 18 Uhr abzuschließen und in doppelter Ausfertigung so rechtzeitig bei der zuständigen Heeres- oder Marineabnahmestelle abzuliefern, daß es dieser möglich ist, den Bericht noch am gleichen Abend zur Weiterbeförderung bei der Post aufzugeben.

Die Weiterleitung an das Oberkommando des Heeres — BdE — erfolgt durch die Heeres-, Marine- oder Bezirksabnahmestelle.

Für jeden Auftrag ist ein besonderes Blatt zu verwenden. Lautet ein Auftrag auf verschiedene Geräte, so ist auch für jedes Gerät ein besonderes Blatt zu nehmen.

Die bis jetzt übliche Berichterstattung für das Oberkommando des Heeres (Wa J Rü 3 — Munitionsbeschaffung —) gemäß Ziffer 9 der „Zusatzbestimmungen für Munitionslieferungen" — Ausgabe Januar 1939 — nebst Anlage 2 (Tätigkeitsberichte nach Muster) fällt mit dem 31. Oktober 1939 fort.

Tätigkeitsberichte sind für alle Wehrmachtsaufträge aufzustellen, die sich auf Munition, Munitionsteile und Munitionsgeräte beziehen.

Auf pünktliche Einhaltung der Termine wird besonders hingewiesen.

Die Berichte sind ungültig, wenn sie nicht der amtlichen Abnahmestelle vorgelegt sind.

Im Auftrage
Hernekamp

x) Zusatz für die Aufträge der Wa J Rü 3 (Gr. VIII):
Es sind lediglich bei Inf.- und 2 cm Munition der fertige Schuß, nicht aber die Einzelteile zu melden.

https://forum.cartridgecollectors.org/t/german-ammunition-acquisition-logistics-1919-1945/35058/11 Dutch

Appendix 1-2a: Tri-monthly reports of ammunition production (examples for Heer and Luft)

Schwerte-Ruhr, den 8. Januar 1943.
(Ort) (Datum)

Fertigungsbericht

Fernsprechverbindung: Schwerte 2741

W.-Nr.	0/0516/0086	Nr. der auftraggebenden Dienststelle	Auftrags-Nr.	Heer / Marine / Luft
Rü Jn	Münster /W.		SS III/42 Mun 4/V-750-1-0116/42 Heer	
Rü Kdo	Dortmund			

Der Fertigungsbericht gilt für: Dekade: 1. Monat: 1. Jahr: 1943

Nr. der Abnahmestelle: 282

Aktenzeichen der beschaffenden Abteilung: Wa J Rü Mun 4 V

Lfd. Nr.	Gegenstand (soweit bekannt, Lochkartennummer des Geräts angeben)	Größe des Gesamtauftrags Stück, kg usw.	a) im Berichtszeitraum b) seit Auftragserteilung einschl. Berichtszeitraum: Soll-Liefermenge	gefertigt	abgenommen	versandt	Voraussichtliche Fertigung im nächsten Berichtszeitraum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Patronen SmE (St.)+ lack.	monatl. 10000000 Stck.	a) 333 333	120000	120000	--	--
			b)	120000	120000	--	

Schwerte-Ruhr, den 8. Januar 1943.
(Ort) (Datum)

Fertigungsbericht

Fernsprechverbindung: Schwerte 2741

W.-Nr.	0/0516/0086	Nr. der auftraggebenden Dienststelle	Auftrags-Nr.	Heer / Marine / Luft
Rü Jn	Münster /W.		Mun 4 V 750-1-1123/40	
Rü Kdo	Dortmund			

Der Fertigungsbericht gilt für: Dekade: 1. Monat: 1. Jahr: 1943

Nr. der Abnahmestelle:

Aktenzeichen der beschaffenden Abteilung: Wa J Rü Mun 4

Lfd. Nr.	Gegenstand (soweit bekannt, Lochkartennummer des Geräts angeben)	Größe des Gesamtauftrags Stück, kg usw.	a) im Berichtszeitraum b) seit Auftragserteilung einschl. Berichtszeitraum: Soll-Liefermenge	gefertigt	abgenommen	versandt	Voraussichtliche Fertigung im nächsten Berichtszeitraum
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Patronen s.S.(Ms.) für gesteuerte Bordwaffen	100 000	a) 333 333	--	--	--	--
			b)	675000	675000	675000	
			a)				
			b)				
2	Patronenhülsen S (Ms.) für Patr. s.S.	vorhandene Näpfchen sollen aufgearbeitet werden	a) --	--	--	--	--
			b)	975000	975000	975000	
			a)				
			b)				

https://forum.cartridgecollectors.org/t/german-ammunition-acquisition-logistics-1919-1945/35058/11 Dutch