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Note to: MS # A-867

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These questions were presented to Major Herbert Buechs while he was detained at "Ashcan" (C.C.P.W.E. No. 32) at the end of July 1945. I wrote out the questions in English, M/Sgt. Kiralfy then translated the questions into German, and Major Buechs typed out the answers in German himself.

A somewhat more detailed list of seven questions on the same subject was also presented to General Warlimont. These questions were also translated into German by Sergeant Kiralfy and General Warlimont wrote the answers in German. Apparently the German manuscript of his answers, however, is missing, and therefore the answers are included as "APPENDIX 7."

Index to MS # A-867

<u>Shorthand Notes</u>	<u>Page</u>
On situation reports presented daily at Fuehrer Headquarters	2
<u>Personal Reference Files</u>	2
<u>War Diaries</u>	
Army General Staff	2
Armed Forces High Command (OKW)	2
<u>Historical Branch</u>	
Air Force (Luftwaffe)	3
Navy (Kriegsmarine)	3
Seizure of Documents by the British	3



MS # A-867

Answers to questions on source documents for Military

History. - Major K.W. Hechler. Bad Mondorf, 4/8/45

Major Herbert Buechs, Aide to Generaloberst Alfred Jodl

Q. 1. What documents do you feel are most important for writing the history of the war?

(a) Give full titles of documents and the person or persons who worked with these documents.

(b) Describe in general the content of these documents.

(c) How many copies of each were there?

A: The answer to questions 1-4 can only take the form of a reference to certain persons and documents, as my own acquaintance rests solely on occasional contact with these things. In most cases I do not know of the survival and fate of either persons or documents, and the possibility is not excluded that a large fraction of the documents have been destroyed at the approach of the enemy. To clarify all these questions exhaustive information can only be obtained from the personalities referred to below:

A: 1. Shorthand notes at the Fuehrer's Headquarters about the daily discussions of the situation. These notes were taken continuously since September 1942 by two stenographers and translated in three copies. Reichsleiter Martin Bormann was responsible for the stenographers as well as the shorthand notes.

OKW War Diary, of which the most important is the War Diary of the Armed Forces Staff. These diaries were maintained at the responsibility of Major Percy Schramm, Professor at the University of Goettingen. The Diary contains copies of all important papers, one copy of each situation map and note of each telephone conversation. The Diary was written, as I remember, in two copies.

Personal files of the Chief of Armed Forces Staff, his Deputy and the various divisional chiefs arranged according to subjects, and containing all important orders.

War diaries of the Army General Staff. Diaries of all troop units from the Army Group and subordinate units down to Battalion.

The corresponding military historical documents of the Air Force and Navy were collected in the Military History Division of the Air Force in Karlsbad (General Herhudt von Rohden) and of the Navy in Tambach (Admiral Schuster).

Q. 2. What do you believe may have happened to these documents, (that is, who was in charge of them and where were they when you last remember hearing about them)?

A: 2. Only the officers concerned could give a reliable account of the fate of these documents:

General Scherff, Rittmeister Scheid, for the Military History Archives of the Army.

Major Percy Schramm for the remainder of the documents last remaining in the Armed Forces Staff's possession.

All personal files located with the Chief of the Armed Forces Staff in Flensburg were taken over by the British on 23 May 1945, including a collection of all operational directives of the Fuehrer concerning the conduct of the war since August 1940.

Q. 3. Describe in some detail how General Scherff and Major Schramm compiled their diary. What method did they use to get their information, what documents did they use and did they ever change their methods at any time?

A: 3. General Scherff, whose main task consisted in the comprehension of big psychological, military and political problems, developments, decisions, crises etc., participated in all important conferences with the Fuehrer but did not personally keep any War Diary.

Major Schramm took part in the daily discussions of the situation in the presence of the Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces Staff, and obtained an insight into the connections of all the things which were automatically disseminated to him, by copies of instructions, orders, regulations etc., for the War Diary.

Q. 4. What personal directions did Hitler or other supervising officers give on how the history should be written?

A: 4. So far as is known here, the Fuehrer did not give General Scherff any special instructions as to the method of writing the history. But on this point he should be personally consulted.

Bad Mondorf, 4/8/45

(signed) BUECHS  
Major