

Arti

Section I. INTRODUCTION

1. GENERAL

Perhaps to a greater extent than any other army, the German Armed Forces employ military abbreviations on their maps and charts, on task force tables of organization, on direction and location sign posts in combat zones, on field orders, and, in short, in every case where abbreviations may possibly be used. These abbreviations are often used in connection with military symbols (see *German Military Symbols*, January 1943, Military Intelligence Service). A thorough knowledge of both abbreviations and symbols is therefore essential to military personnel engaged in the interpretation of captured documents.

There is no "easy road to knowledge" in regard to these military abbreviations. Many words are abbreviated in more than one manner, sometimes in the course of a single document. Individual commanders frequently improvise abbreviations, which will be understandable from the context to the German officer reading them, but may cause considerable difficulty to the non-German. A

thorough foundation in the German language is useful, but not infallible, in determining the meaning of a particular abbreviation—guessing, in this, as in all military intelligence work, is dangerous.

2. PRINCIPLES OF FORMATION

While the Germans do not follow any consistent procedure in abbreviating, the following tendencies can be observed:

a. Whenever possible the Germans keep enough of the original word structure to make the abbreviation a recognizable skeleton of the word for which it stands. An example is *abkdr.* for *abkommandiert*.

b. Another common tendency is to lop off syllables of the word being abbreviated; the degree to which this is carried depends on the writer's haste and the amount of comprehension he expects in the reader. Here also the Germans attempt to leave enough of the distinctive structure of the word to give the reader a clue. The word *Befehlshaber*, for instance, can be abbreviated *Befhb.*, *Befh.*, or *B*.

c. In the case of compound words, the Germans often make an abbreviation by taking elements or initial letters from each of the component parts. An example is *Kfz.* for *Kraftfahrzeug*.

d. Sometimes this procedure results in a pronounceable combination of letters, and the abbreviation gains currency as a word. *Flak* for *Flugzeugabwehrkanone*, *Gestapo* for *Geheime Staatspolizei*, and *Stuka* for *Sturzkampfflugzeug* are familiar examples.

3. SCOPE OF THIS DICTIONARY

Because of the extent of the field, it is unlikely that any dictionary of German military abbreviations could be "complete." New abbreviations, whether as the result of developments in military equipment and tactics, or as the temporary short-cuts of an individual commander writing orders, will continue to come into existence. With these the intelligence officer must deal to the best of his ability. A good working knowledge of the abbreviations commonly in use at present will help in interpreting these new coinages. Frequently the meaning can be inferred from the context. The present list aims at a reasonable completeness, within the following limits:

a. Military terms borrowed from other languages in use during the first World War and earlier have frequently been replaced in the present German Army by German equivalents. A considerable number of these older terms have been retained in this list, but not all.

b. German writers often use combinations of single abbreviations. The policy of this dictionary has been to include these combinations when they are encountered frequently, but otherwise to list the component parts separately. For instance, *Divisionsaufklärungsabteilung* will be found under *Div.Aufkl.Abt.*, and separate entries will be found for *Div.*, *Aufkl.Abt.*, *Aufkl.*, and *Abt.* But for *Eisb.Pi.Rgt.* it would be necessary to look under *Eisb.* and *Pi.Rgt.* separately.

c. Besides strictly military terms the present dictionary contains abbreviations for many general German words and expressions which are likely to occur in military docu-

ments. In deciding which of these nonmilitary abbreviations to include, the aim has been to put in those which will probably occur most frequently rather than to include all possible forms.

d. In a few cases German abbreviations will be found identical with those used in the U. S. Army. Examples are *Apr.* for *April* and *mm* for *millimeter*. Abbreviations of this type have not been included. But where a difference exists which might prove confusing, the German abbreviation has been given. Examples are *Dez.* for *December*, and *mm²* for *square millimeter*.

e. While this dictionary is primarily for the use of army personnel, a certain number of naval and aeronautic abbreviations are included in it. It is inevitable that such abbreviations will be encountered in military documents, and the more familiar the intelligence officer is with them, the better.

4. ORGANIZATION OF THIS DICTIONARY

In using this dictionary the following principles of organization should be kept in mind:

a. Abbreviations are arranged alphabetically, first according to the abbreviation itself, then according to the word or expression abbreviated. Thus *A.* for *Abteilung* precedes *A.* for *Ausbildung*, and both these abbreviations precede *Abt.*

b. The umlaut is equivalent to the addition of *e* after the vowel; consequently *ä-* follows *ad-* and precedes *af-*.

c. The German capital *I*, often written *J*, will be found under *I*.

Bbv.....	Bahnbevollmächtigter für Militär - Angelegenheiten	authorized railroad agent for military matters
B.d.A.....	Befehlshaber der Aufklärungsschiffe	commander of cruisers
B.d.A.....	Befehlshaber der Aufklärungstreitkräfte	commander of reconnaissance cruiser forces
B.D.A.....	Besoldungsdienstalter	longevity (<i>pay</i>); increment
B.d.A.d.O.....	Befehlshaber der Aufklärungsschiffe in der Ostsee	commander of cruisers in the Baltic Sea
B.d.E.....	Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres	Commander of the Replacement Training Army
B.d.E.....	Befehlshaber des Ersatzwesens	chief of recruitment service
Bdfu.....	Bordfunker.....	board radio operator (<i>aviation; navy</i>)
B.d.G.....	Befehlshaber der Gendarmerie	commander of the local police
Bd.G.....	Brandgeschoss.....	incendiary shell
B.d.L.....	Befehlshaber der Linienschiffe	commander of battleship force
B.d.L.....	Befehlshaber der Luftstreitkräfte	Commander of the Air Forces
Bd.-MG.-T.....	Boden-Maschinengewehrturm	bottom machine-gun turret (<i>airplane</i>)
B.d.O.....	Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei	Chief of the Regular Police
B.d.S.d.N.....	Befehlshaber der Sicherungstreitkräfte der Nordsee	commander of the security forces of the North Sea
B.d.S.d.O.....	Befehlshaber der Sicherungstreitkräfte der Ostsee	commander of the security forces of the Baltic Sea
B.d.Sipo u.d.SD...	Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes	Chief of Security Police and of the SS Security Service
bd.taug.....	bedingt tauglich.....	conditionally fit
b.d.Tr.....	bei der Truppe.....	with the troops
Bd.Z.....	Bodenzünder.....	base percussion fuze; base detonator fuze
B.E.....	besondere Einflüsse.....	special factors (<i>ballistics</i>)
Bed.....	Bedarf.....	requirement
bed.....	bedeutet.....	means

Bed.....	Bedeutung.....	meaning
bed.....	Bedienen.....	to serve; to operate
Bed.....	Bedienung.....	gun crew; service
Bef.....	Befähigung.....	qualification
Bef.....	Befehl.....	order; command
Bef.....	Befeuerung.....	firing; lighthouse service
Bef.....	Beförderung.....	promotion; transport
Bef. A.....	Befehlsausgabe.....	issuance of orders; distribution of orders
Bef. E.....	Befehlsempfänger.....	message orderly; runner
Bef. E.....	Befehlsempfang.....	receipt of order
Befest.....	Befestigung.....	fortification; fastening
Bef. Gr.....	Befestigungsgruppe.....	group of fortifications
Befh.....	Befehlshaber.....	commander; commanding officer
Befhb.....	Befehlshaber.....	commander; commanding officer
Befh. d. P.....	Befehlshaber der Polizei.....	commander of police
Beg. Gef.....	Begegnungsgefecht.....	meeting engagement
Begl.....	Begleit.....	accompanying
Begl. Zg.....	Begleitzug.....	accompanying platoon (<i>of machine-gun company</i>)
beh.....	behelfsmässig.....	emergency; hasty; makeshift
behelfsm.....	behelfsmässig.....	emergency; hasty; makeshift
behelfsm. Bef.....	behelfsmässige Befestigung.....	hasty fortification
Beh San. A.....	Behandlung der Sanitätsausrüstung.....	care of medical supplies
Beil.....	Beilage.....	annex; enclosure; appendix
beil.....	beiliegend.....	enclosed
Beitr. O.....	Beitreibungsordnung.....	procedure of requisition
Beiwg.....	Beiwagen.....	sidecar
Bekl.....	Bekleidung.....	clothing; uniform
Bekl. A.....	Bekleidungsamt.....	clothing depot
Bekl. Fw.....	Bekleidungsfeldwebel.....	clothing sergeant
Bekl. N.....	Bekleidungs- und Ausrüstungsnachweisung.....	clothing and equipment tables
Bekl. Uffz.....	Bekleidungsunteroffizier.....	clothing noncommissioned officer
Bekl. Ufw.....	Bekleidungsunterfeldwebel.....	clothing sergeant
Bekl. V.....	Bekleidungsvorschrift.....	clothing regulations

d. The German practice varies in use of the period following an abbreviation. In this list the period is usually not given, but an abbreviation given here without a period may appear in a document with one.

e. A German abbreviation frequently can stand for either the singular or the plural of the word it abbreviates. In this list the English meaning is usually given in the singular only.