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**Minutes of the Division Staff
Meetings of the U.S. Group
Control Council for Germany
(USGCC) and the Office of Military
Government for Germany (U.S.)
(OMGUS), July 1944-August 1949**



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MINUTES OF THE DIVISION STAFF MEETINGS
OF THE U.S. GROUP CONTROL COUNCIL FOR
GERMANY (USGCC) AND THE OFFICE OF
MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)
(OMGUS), JULY 1944-AUGUST 1949

On the four rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the unbound minutes of staff meetings of the U.S. Group Control Council for Germany (USGCC) and the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.) (OMGUS), July 1944-August 1949. They are part of Records of U.S. Occupation Headquarters, World War II, Record Group 260. Most of the records in this publication are in the files of the OMGUS Civil Administration Division, Publications Branch. Minutes of meetings from July 28 through September 25, 1944, and of January 1946, however, are in the files of the Adjutant General's Office, OMGUS Headquarters.

History and Organization

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) authorized on February 11, 1944, the formation of the joint United States-United Kingdom German Country Unit. SHAEF was the American and British top-level command and was charged with, among its duties, planning for the civil affairs administration of liberated countries in northern, western, and central Europe and for the military government of a conquered Germany. The German Country Unit was formally established on February 16 and 17, 1944, and thereafter functioned as SHAEF's planning organization for all phases of military government in Germany. The Unit developed and inaugurated training programs to prepare officers for military government duties and wrote a handbook concerning policy and procedure for the military occupation of Germany. The Unit was the predecessor for what would be the USGCC and, ultimately, OMGUS.

On August 5, 1944, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff approved a proposal by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, to create a staff responsible for the postwar control of Germany. On August 9, 1944, Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, issued European Theater of Operations (ETO) General Order 80, which established the USGCC, a nucleus planning staff that would be guided by ". . . such directives as may be issued as a result of recommendation made by the European Advisory Commission . . ." The European Advisory Commission was a tripartite agency composed of American, British, and Soviet representatives charged with planning for the occupation of Germany. The German Country Unit was subsequently dissolved; the British element became the Control Commission for Germany while the USGCC absorbed the American part.

ETO General Order 80 named Brig. Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham, former commandant of the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va., 1942-44, Acting Deputy to the Chief U.S. Representative on the Allied Control Authority's (ACA) top-level agency,

the Control Council. The Council was comprised of the Commanders in Chief of the four allied powers (the United States, United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union) acting jointly to control Germany. The Chief U.S. Representative on this Control Council had not yet been appointed. Subsequently, on October 28, 1944, Wickersham became head of the USGCC. Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, who was appointed Deputy Military Governor for Germany on April 17, 1945, replaced Wickersham as head of the USGCC.

The USGCC, and later OMGUS, used as a guide in its policy planning the Joint Chiefs of Staff Directive 1067 (JCS 1067), issued originally in April 1945.* JCS 1067 based the "rights, power and status of the military government of Germany . . ." upon ". . . the unconditional surrender or total defeat of Germany . . ." It declared that the Commanding General of the U.S. Forces of Occupation in Germany would be "clothed with supreme legislative, executive, and judicial authority . . ."

JCS 1067 also outlined the basic objectives of military government in Germany. It proclaimed that the destruction of the German economy, the suffering of the German people, and the chaos of German society were conditions that the Germans had ". . . brought upon themselves." Germany was to be occupied as a ". . . defeated enemy nation," under a ". . . just but firm and aloof" administration, the principle objective of which was ". . . to prevent Germany from ever again becoming a threat to the peace of the world." Essential measures to accomplish this end were the elimination of Nazism and militarism, the apprehension of war criminals, the disarmament and demilitarization of Germany, and the reconstruction of German political life on a ". . . democratic basis." Other objectives provided for programs of reparation and restitution that would relieve countries devastated by Nazi aggression and programs of repatriation for prisoners of war and displaced persons.

In accordance with a directive issued by Headquarters, U.S. Forces in the European Theater (USFET) on September 26, 1945, USGCC was redesignated OMGUS, with headquarters in Berlin and a rear echelon in Frankfurt. The directive was issued to ". . . integrate further the U.S. Agencies for military government in order to coordinate the military government activities in the U.S. zone more closely with the control through central German administrative departments under the Allied Control Authority and to prepare for the ultimate transfer of military government to U.S. civilian agencies separate from the military forces." The ACA, an Anglo-French-American-Soviet organization, constituted the supreme authority in occupied Germany.

*The title of JCS 1067 is "Directive to the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Forces of Occupation Regarding the Military Government of Germany in the Period Immediately Following the Cessation of Organized Resistance."

OMGUS was responsible for the administration of the U.S. zone of Germany, consisting of the states [Laender] of Bavaria, Hesse, and Wuerttemberg-Baden; the Bremen enclave; and the U.S. sector of Berlin. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, who was the head of OMGUS and functioned as the Commander in Chief of USFET, was officially the U.S. Military Governor. He served as the American member on the ACA Control Council. As Deputy Military Governor, Clay actually directed OMGUS activities and served as the U.S. member on the ACA Coordinating Committee until he succeeded McNarney as both Commander in Chief and U.S. Military Governor of Germany on March 15, 1947. Clay remained in these positions until his departure from Germany on May 15, 1949.

Executive Order 10062 abolished OMGUS as of September 21, 1949, and transferred the authority of governmental functions of the United States in Germany from OMGUS to the U.S. High Commissioner for Germany (HICOG), under the auspices of the Department of State.

OMGUS, like its predecessor USGCC, was organized into nine functional divisions administratively responsible to the executive office of OMGUS. The functions of the divisions are indicated by their titles: Armed Forces, Civil Administration, Economics, Finance, Internal Affairs and Communications, Legal, Manpower, Prisoner-of-War and Displaced Persons, and Transport. Each division director was responsible for ". . . taking all necessary and appropriate steps to meet U.S. objectives and obligations with respect to the Military Government of Germany." Each director was empowered by the Deputy Military Governor to determine the problems and requirements involved in meeting American objectives; formulate a comprehensive, specific, long-range program; obtain, in consultation and in coordination with other division directors, approval of his respective program; negotiate, or prepare for negotiation, that part of his respective program requiring quadripartite approval; ensure that implementing instructions were issued through proper channels; recommend modifications and extensions of policy; supervise the establishment and denazification of required German governmental, administrative, and economic agencies; review the progress of the specific programs; maintain a record of progress and performance; and keep the executive office informed of problems with, and progress and results of, plans and policies.

The records of OMGUS are among the most significant source materials concerning the postwar occupation of Germany. The minutes of staff meetings of OMGUS's divisions provide a researcher with an overview of the occupation and insights into the workings of the military government at its highest level. The minutes concern discussions among and reports by Wickersham's and Clay's staffs concerning the planning for and the administration of policy for occupied Germany. The subjects of the minutes include troop demobilization and redeployment of personnel; the

establishment of a German civilian government and the development of a new German Constitution; repatriation of refugees, displaced persons, and prisoners of war; apprehension and prosecution of war criminals; economic and monetary policies; the establishment of a currency system and lines of credit; denazification; decartelization; labor policy; steel, coal, and food shipments; restoration of civilian communications, including the postal, telephone, telegraph, and radio systems, and newspapers; restoration of transportation, including railroad, barge, and automobile traffic; relations with other occupying governments; and American responses to the Berlin blockade of 1948-49.

The minutes of meetings (usually the meetings were held weekly), with accompanying documents, are arranged chronologically by date of meeting. Some meetings had prepared agenda, with documents to be discussed appended. In such cases, the documents were placed immediately after the agenda but before the minutes. Similarly, the corrigenda, though dated after the minutes they corrected, have been placed before the minutes. Identical copies of minutes have been omitted; multiple versions of minutes for the same staff meeting have been included, however.

From July 28, 1944, through the meeting of October 20, 1945, the minutes consist of summaries of reports by division chiefs. By order of Clay on September 27, 1945, no formal minutes were to be taken beginning with the staff meeting of October 27, 1945 (see note of Oct. 27, 1945, by the staff secretary reproduced in this publication). As a result, only sketchy minutes were produced until the meeting of January 5, 1946, when paraphrased, summarized accounts of discussions were reinstated. With the meeting of October 12, 1946, verbatim transcripts were substituted for the paraphrased accounts; this form continued until the final meeting of August 8, 1949.

The dates of two meetings, January 2 and January 5, 1945, are incorrectly dated 1944. Missing at the time of filming of this publication were minutes of all meetings that might have occurred from September 26, 1944, through November 24, 1944; the meetings of April 1947; and page 6 of the meeting of November 8, 1948.

Related Records

Documentary material relating to the organization of the USGCC and OMGUS may be found in USGCC files of the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.), RG 260. Other record groups in the National Archives of the United States with material relating to the occupation of Germany include Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, Record Group 165; Records of the Army Staff, Record Group 319; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917- , Record Group 407; Records

of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Record Group 218; Records of U.S. Army Commands, 1942- , Record Group 338; Records of the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, Record Group 243; Records of the Office of Strategic Services, Record Group 226; National Archives Collection of World War II War Crimes Records, Record Group 238; Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), Record Group 153; General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59; and Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, Record Group 84.

For an introduction to the problems of working with World War II records, especially concerning classified material, and for bibliographical and organizational information relating to OMGUS, researchers should consult James J. Hastings, "The Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.): Records of the Occupation," published in German in *Vierteljahrshefte fuer Zeitgeschichte* [*Quarterly Journal of Contemporary History*] (Jan. 1976).

Additional information regarding OMGUS and the occupation of Germany may be found in Earl F. Ziemke, *The U.S. Army in the Occupation of Germany* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1975); Gen. Lucius D. Clay, *Decision in Germany* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1950); Jean Edward Smith, ed., *The Papers of Lucius D. Clay Germany, 1945-1949*, 2 vols. (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1974); and John Gimbel, *The American Occupation of Germany* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1968). Documents relating to the occupation of Germany may be found in James K. Pollock and James H. Meisel, eds., *Germany Under Occupation: Illustrative Materials and Documents* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: George Wahr Publishing Co., 1947).

Henry Daniel Mayer prepared the records in this publication for filming and wrote these introductory remarks. Thomas Whitfield was the editor.

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