

C-120 A.

DIRECTIVES FROM HITLER AND KEITEL
PREPARING FOR WAR AND THE INVASION
OF POLAND.

(Extracts from a file containing Directives with detailed Annexes. The Directives are mostly translated in full. The Annexes, owing to their length, are given mostly in the form of precis. The extracts are supplemented by C-126).

1. Translation of document signed by KEITEL.

Top Secret
Officer Only

The High Command of the Armed Forces Berlin, 3rd April 1939
WFA Nr. 57/39 Top Secret Officer Only L Ia

SUBJECT: Directive for the Armed Forces 1939/40 5 Copies
2nd. Copy

The Directive for the Uniform Preparation of War by the Armed Forces for 1939/40 is being re-issued.

=
Part I ("Frontier Defence") and Part III ("Danzig")
Margin- will be issued in the middle of April. Their basic principal note ciples remain unchanged.

in ink

"Attached") Part II "Fall Weiss" * is attached herewith. The signature of the Fuehrer will be appended later.

The Fuehrer has added the following Directives to "Fall Weiss":

- 1) Preparations must be made in such a way that the operation can be carried out at any time from 1.9.39 onwards
- 2) The Command of the Armed Forces has been directed to draw up a precise time-table for "Fall Weiss" and to arrange by conferences the synchronised timings between the 3 branches of the Armed Forces
- 3) The plans of the branches of the Armed Forces and the details for the time-table must be submitted to the OKW by 1.5.39.

= used as an operational codeword for Defence of the Reich frontier. See Annex I.

* Translator's Note: "Fall Weiss" (literally "Case White") is the cover name for the intended invasion of Poland.

C-120 A. (contd.)

The Chief of the High Command of the
Armed Forces.

(signed) KEITEL

Distribution:-

OKH	1	(Copy No. 1.)
OKM	1	(" No. 2.)
**RdL u Ob.d L	1	(" No. 3.)
OKW (L)	<u>2</u>	(" No. 4 u.5)
Total	5	

** (Translator's Note: Reichsmarschall der Luftwaffe und
Oberbefehlshaber der Luftwaffe, i.e. Goering.)

C-120 B.

Translation of document signed by HITLER.

Top Secret.
Officer Only

Berlin, 11th April 1939

The Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces
OKW Nr. 37/39 Top Secret Officer Only. WFA/LI

5 Copies
2nd Copy.

Directive for the Uniform Preparation of War
by the Armed Forces, 1939/40.

I shall lay down in a later directive the future tasks of the Armed Forces and the preparations to be made in accordance with these for the conduct of war.

Until that directive comes into force, the Armed Forces must be prepared for the following eventualities:

- I) Safeguarding of the frontiers of the German Reich and protection against surprise air attacks. (see Annexe I)
- II) "Fall Weiss" (see Annexe II)
- III) The Annexation of Danzig (see Annexe III)

Annexe IV contains regulations for the exercise of military authority in East Prussia in the event of a warlike development.

(signed) Adolf Hitler.

Distribution:

OKH 1 (Copy No. 1)
OKW 1 (" No. 2)
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OKW (WFA/L) 2 (" No. 4 u. 5)

120 D.

4. Annexe II contains the directives for "Fall Weiss"

In para 1) headed "Political Hypotheses and Aims" it is stated that quarrels with Poland should be avoided. Should Poland, however, change her present policy which is based on the same principle and adopt a threatening attitude towards Germany, a "final settlement" will be necessary notwithstanding the pact with Poland. * The Free State of Danzig will be incorporated into Germany at the outbreak of the conflict at the latest. "Policy aims at limiting the war to Poland, and this is considered possible in view of the internal crisis in France and British restraint as a result of this. Should Russia intervene, this would imply Poland's destruction by

*The aim is then to destroy Polish military strength and to create,

C-120 B & D. (cont.)

C-120 D. (contd.)

in the East, Bolshevism. German military exigencies will determine a situation which satisfies the requirements of defence" the attitude of the Baltic States. Hungary is not a certain ally. Italy's attitude is determined by the Berlin-Rome Axis."

In para 2) - Military conclusions are drawn from the above political premises.

The remaining paras set out the tasks and operational objectives of the 3 branches of the Armed Forces. "A camouflaged or open ('general' added in ink) mobilization will not be ordered before D-day - 1 at the latest possible moment."

The Army may, on its Southern flank, enter Slovak territory. In the North, a junction between Pomerania and East Prussia must be quickly established. "The preparations for the opening of operations are to be made in such a way that - without waiting for the planned assembly of mobilized units - positions can be taken up immediately by the first available troops."

C-120 K.

Translation of a document signed by HITLER.

Top Secret
Officer Only

The Supreme Commander
of the Armed Forces Berlin, 10th May 1939

NR. 48/39 Top Secret WFA/L (I) 7 Copies
2nd Copy

Subject: Directive for the uniform
preparation of War by the Armed
Forces, 1939/40
(OKW.Nr.37/39 g.K.Chefs. WFA/L (I) of 11.4.39.)

(Stamp:
Ob.d.M. AI
Op. 50/39
Received:
12.5.39
Enclosures: 1
attached in note
on report)

Herewith, as Part VI of the "Directive",
instructions for the economic war and the protection
of our own economy.

The Commanders-in-Chief of the 3 branches
of the Armed Forces will report to the Armed Forces
High Command on the measures taken in consequence
of these instructions by 1st August 1939.

Marginal note in
copying pencil
"Done 31.7
Note in green
pencil:
"Verbal report in time".
Note in copying pencil:
before leave: from 1.7. onwards)
Verbal report has been
made on 30.6. Ia (Initial) 29."

(signed) Adolf Hitler.

Note in red pencil:
"Submit report about 20/25. VI
Translator's Note:
S. (SCHNIEWIND) 16.5.)

Distribution OKH 1 (Preuf Nr. 1)
OKM 1 (" Nr. 2)
RdL u Ob d L 1 (Preuf Nr. 3)
OKW (W stb) 1 (Preuf Nr. 4)
OKW (Ausl/Abr) 1 (Preuf Nr. 5)
OKW (L) 2 (Preuf Nr. 6 u.7)

C-120 L.

12. Precis of Annexe VI referred to in C-120 K.

"Directives for the war against the enemy economy
(economic warfare) and measures of protection for
our economy."

Navy and Air Force in particular are directed to
make preparations for the immediate opening of economic
warfare, principally against Britain, and, as second
priority, against France, in the event of "Grenzsicherung"
(Translator's Note: see Annexe I) being ordered. The
measures to be taken by Army, Navy and Air Force are
described in detail and based on the assumption that
the operations will be offensive in character.

C-120 K & L. (cont.)

C-120 L. (cont.)

A Directive for "Fall Weiss" (see Annexe II) sets out as the main objective the capture, in undamaged condition, of Polish economic installations. A speedy occupation of the industrial areas of Polish Upper-Silesia and Teschen is considered important. Poland must be cut off from imports by sea, and this must be borne in mind when dealing with ships sailing under neutral flags and perhaps carrying goods for Poland to neutral ports.