

## 167 – Western Front chief intelligence officers in spring 1917

### Statements in the book

167-168: ‘There were thirteen IIIb chief intelligence officers in Army and army group headquarters on the Western Front in spring 1917. Four had attended *Kriegsakademie* but only two had subsequently been seconded to and none permanently transferred into the general staff before the war’.

### Update and comment

Of the two described here as seconded to the general staff, further research shows that one, *Hauptmann* Hans Witte, had been attached for a few years rather than seconded, but in any case he was not permanently transferred into the general staff before the war.

Although OHL had refused to transfer all of these chief intelligence officers automatically into the general staff (see p. 168), by spring 1917, the three army group officers had in fact been transferred: Hans Henke in Army Group Albrecht and Fritz Lübcke in Army Group Rupprecht were *Hauptleute im Generalstabe*, Hans Witte in Army Group Crown Prince had now been promoted and was a *Major im Generalstabe*.

### Supporting evidence

| <b>Formation</b> | <b>Name of officer</b>                                       | <b><i>Kriegsakademie</i> attendance</b> | <b>Pre-war general staff experience</b> |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| First Army       | Sprandel, <i>Hauptmann</i> Gustav                            | No                                      | No                                      |
| Second Army      | Weber, <i>Hauptmann</i> Julius                               | No                                      | No                                      |
| Third Army       | Schmidt-Schröder,<br><i>Hauptmann der Reserve</i>            | Not known <sup>1</sup>                  | Not known                               |
| Fourth Army      | Guderian, <i>Hauptmann</i> Heinz                             | 1913-1914 (one year)                    | No                                      |
| Fifth Army       | Wiedebach und Nostitz-Jänkendorf, <i>Hauptmann</i> Friedrich | No                                      | No                                      |
| Sixth Army       | Tettenborn, <i>Hauptmann</i> Karl                            | No                                      | No                                      |
| Seventh Army     | Fischer, <i>Hauptmann</i> Friedrich von                      | No                                      | No                                      |

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<sup>1</sup> Schmidt-Schröder was a reserve officer and unlikely to have attended *Kriegsakademie* or had general staff experience.

| <b>Formation</b>           | <b>Name of officer</b>  | <b><i>Kriegsakademie</i><br/>attendance</b> | <b>Pre-war general staff<br/>experience</b>   |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Army<br>Detachment A       | Budritzki, <i>Hauptmann</i> von                                 | 1910-1913                                   | No  |
| Army<br>Detachment B       | Schauke, <i>Oberleutnant</i><br>Gerhard                         | No  | No  |
| Army<br>Detachment C       | Kauffmann, <i>charakterisiert</i><br>[brevet] <i>Major z.D.</i> | No  | No  |
| Army Group<br>Albrecht     | Henke, <i>Hauptmann</i> Hans                                    | 1906-1909                                   | No  |
| Army Group<br>Crown Prince | Witte, <i>Major</i> Hans  | 1904-1907                                   | Attached to the Great General<br>Staff and seconded to VIII<br>Corps, probably as<br>intelligence officer   |
| Army Group<br>Rupprecht    | Lübcke, <i>Hauptmann</i> Fritz                                  | 1908-1911                                   | Seconded to the Great<br>General Staff on probation,<br>but not then permanently<br>transferred; later attached to<br>the Great General Staff and<br>seconded to XVI Corps as<br>intelligence officer |