

## 172 – OHL's Intelligence Department

### Statements in the book

172-173: 'By spring 1917, the department had twenty-one officers and seven military officials (mainly cartographers)... We know little about its work but can tell something from its composition in early 1917. First, nearly 90 per cent of its officers senior enough to have attended *Kriegsakademie* before the war had done so... However, none of its officers were specialised intelligence analysts, though the four who had served in the general staff before the war, on transfer or secondment, probably had relevant experience. Second, almost one-third of the officers had previously been more or less seriously wounded or invalided for health reasons. These are the ones we know about, so the real proportion may have been higher... Finally, six of the officers – over a quarter – were from the Guards.'

### Update and comment

The order of the list below follows the main source, BArch, PH3/4.

- *Kriegsakademie* and General staff experience

In the list, *Hauptmann* Hans-Heinrich Staudinger was the most junior officer in the whole army to have attended *Kriegsakademie*, in his case for only one year before the academy was closed on the outbreak of war. Hanneken, Hausendorf, Kotze, Lamezan and Neidholdt were junior to him. I cannot identify *Hauptmann* Schmidt at present. Excluding him, fifteen of the department's officers were senior enough to have attended *Kriegsakademie* before the war, and thirteen of them had done so.

Rauch, Bramsch and Rundstedt served on the general staff before the war; Borries had done a probationary secondment there.

- Wounded and invalided officers

New research shows that eight of the department's officers in spring 1917 had previously been wounded or invalided, well over one-third rather than the 'almost one-third' in the book; and of course there may have been others we don't know about. (Updated 4 March 2024).

- Guards provenance

In the 'Guards?' column below, 'Baden equivalent' means the senior Badenese infantry regiment, the 109th Life Guard Grenadier Regiment, and 'Bavarian equivalent' the senior Bavarian infantry regiment, the Infantry Life Guard Regiment. If we added these two Guards equivalents to actual Guards officers, the total would be nearly 40 per cent of the department rather than the 'over a quarter' I've recorded in the book.

### Supporting evidence

Officers

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Kriegsakademie?</b>	<b>Wounded etc?</b>	<b>Guards?</b>
Rauch, <i>Major</i> Leopold von	1901-1904		1st Foot Guards
Bramsch, <i>Major</i> Ludwig	1905-1908		
Rundstedt, <i>Major</i> Joachim von	1906-1909		
Heintzel, <i>Hauptmann</i> Karl	1909-1912	Wounded 1914	
Hart, <i>Hauptmann</i>	1908-1911		
Schnehen, <i>Hauptmann</i> Karl von	1910-1913	Wounded 1914	3rd Foot Guards
Krogh, <i>Hauptmann</i> von	1911-1914		
Kuntze, <i>Hauptmann</i> Walter	1911-1914	Wounded 1914	
Kuhlmann, <i>Hauptmann</i> Johannes	1912-1914	Invalided 1915 and 1916	
Reiche, <i>Hauptmann</i> Ernst von	1911-1914	Invalided 1915	
Wendt, <i>Hauptmann</i> Erich	1912-1914		
Nickisch von Rosenegk, <i>Hauptmann</i> Siegfried	No		1st Foot Guards
Staudinger, <i>Hauptmann</i> Hans-Heinrich	1913-1914	Wounded 1914, invalided 1916	
Eberhardt, <i>Hauptmann</i> Wilhelm Magnus von	No	Wounded 1916	3rd Foot Guards
Schmidt, <i>Hauptmann</i>	Don't know	Don't know	Don't know
Borries, <i>Hauptmann</i> Hans von	1910-1913		1st Foot Guards
Kotze, <i>Hauptmann</i> Hans-Ulrich von	No		Baden equivalent
Lamezan, <i>Oberleutnant</i> Wilhelm Freiherr von	No	Wounded 1914	Bavarian equivalent
Hausendorf, <i>Oberleutnant</i> Erhard	No		
Neidholdt, <i>Oberleutnant</i> Fritz	No		
Hanneken, <i>Oberleutnant</i> Hermann von	No		4th Guard Grenadiers

Officials

Januschewski, <i>Kanzleisekretär</i> Hellmut ( <i>Oberleutnant</i> equivalent)
Renner, <i>Kanzleisekretär</i> Paul ( <i>Oberleutnant</i> equivalent)
Minke, <i>Kartograph</i> Hugo ( <i>Hauptmann</i> equivalent)

Gieche, <i>Kartograph</i>
Horn, <i>Kartograph</i> Hans ( <i>Oberleutnant</i> equivalent)
Bombrowsky, <i>Kartograph</i>
Jurianz, <i>Kartograph</i> Walter ( <i>Leutnant</i> equivalent)

### Sources

GHQ Telegraphendirektion, 'Verzeichnis der Fernsprechteilnehmer im Grossen Hauptquartier. Stand Mai 1917', BArch, PH3/4, 13-14.

OHL directory, 'Verzeichnis der beim Stabe des Chefs des Generalstabes des Feldheeres befindlichen Offiziere und Beamten mit Angabe der verliehenen Ordensauszeichnungen', c. 11 October 1918, HSAS, M10 Bü 22.