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WAR JOURNAL

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War journal of Generaloberst Franz Halder, Chief of the General Staff of Supreme Command of the German Army (OKH), Vol II. Historical Division, SSUSA. 11 Sep - 6 Dec 39.

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Volume II

THE PRIVATE WAR JOURNAL

OF

GENERALOBERST FRANZ HALDER

Chief of the General Staff
of the
Supreme Command of the German Army (OKH)

14 August 1939 to 24 September 1942

VOLUME II

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VOLUME II.

THE POLISH CAMPAIGN, PART II.

The Chief of the Army General Staff.

11 September 1939 - 6 December 1939.

* * * * * *

11 September 1939.

ObdH: 1.) Bydgoszcz: Himmler's special mission.

2.) Lost reported on the south wing*.

3.) Order regarding arms:**

a) Area behind the front "Non-combat zone". Narew - Vistula - San line, effective 12 Sept. Matter for legal expert!

b) Disposition by Summary Court-Martial.

c) Report by Jaenicke. (Tomorrow morning Fuehrer).

d) Directive for Military Government Agencies. Wagner, Gen Qu.

4.) OQu IV:

a) Political indoctrination and cultural activities in Army. Suggestions, demands and requests to OKW (approach indirectly). etc. Central Branch.

b) Organization.

1050. Sodenstern on phone: Todt projects now in progress:

In Fifth Army sector: In the front line.
In First Army sector: Construction work, construction material and machinery in air defense zone. Some sections now being shipped to Dutch frontier.
Seventh Army: Black Forest position on edge of range.

OQu IV: Enemy propaganda campaign on German atrocities in Poland. How can we counter it? (Wedel?) Reply: 1.) We must get details of the accusations, then dispatch an officer by

plane to investigate the facts. 2.) Put Propaganda Companies to work.

Organized Polish units have begun crossing the border into Tomania.

OQu IV: Telegram: a) Molotov cannot keep what he promised. Russia wants to help the Ukrainiams.

b) Hungarians will not allow use of their railroads by our troops. Is being worked on.

Sodenstern:

a) Trucks requisitioned only for 1462 construction projects, all in rear positions.
Air defense zone, Pruem, Holland, Black Forest positions sites surveyed. Work can start at once.
Truck columns from evacuation organization and Armies.
Troops must help.

b) Todt organization cannot do the artillery emplacements. 700,000 tons of construction material. Report in writing to Op. Sec.

Giessen: Central Branch.

12 September 1939.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Leave Eighth Army in Lodz.

b) Leeb's report on situation. Operations in the West -- very great depth!

c) Decoration for Bock.

Development of the situation in Eighth Army.

Order to place III Corps under Eighth Army.

Reallocation of the area of Army Hq. 4.

Hungary: Railroads.

Lithuania: Hesitating.

Mt. Div. for Leeb; 62nd Div.

Propaganda Organization: Radke?

Grosscurth: Gradually expand organization.

1115. Leeb calls up.

1530. Count Brockdorf (Report on Warsaw).

1600. General Becker (On Mines, Majot Voss).

ObdH comes from Fuehrer: Russians probably do not want to start anything. Wants to try to form a Ukrainian State (to keep out the French).
Thinks it likely that Poles want peace.
Il Duce is forming block of Neutrals. (ObdH: Work fast!)
Oslo Conference. Romania does not want to offer Polish Government asylum; close frontier. He is thinking of limiting his demands to Upper Silesia and Corridor, if the West stays out. Clearing up of war damage. — Executive Power!! Fuehrer will let us know his ideas on the subject.

13 September 1939.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Part of Bock's eastern wing must drive on Luck, the other on Bialystok-Slonim.
b) Stop movement of 228th Inf. Div. Area must not be completely denuded of troops.
c) Eighth Army: Push ahead III Corps.
d) Take out Third Mt. Div., 62nd Inf. Div!
e) West. Continue construction work! Upper Rhine. — 30 in line. 15 in reserve.

List of available forces - Calculation of forces in the West, OQu I.
Report on reorganization of West — Buhle.

Training instructions for new informations.

Fortress manual; form Staff to work out revision.
Build mock position system on troop training grounds. Discussed with Training Section.
Uniformity of instructions.

General Army Office. Activation of one Cavalry Division.

Gercke: Narrow gauge railway West. Adjutant.

Org. Sec.: Recruit depots behind the front.

Gen Qu: Decontamination behind the front in position warfare. Adjutant.

Hemmerich: Map printing on Army level. Adjutant.

Discuss with Bogatsch: AA defense for Seventh Army.

Inspectors in GHq: Artillery, Engineers, Infantry??

1230. Hierl on phone:

a) Supply auxiliaries: Identification by arm band.
b) Use Labor Sevice grades as Special Missions specialists (East). Prepare list. Gen Qu. Buhle.

1400. Ltscheit on phone.

1700. Wagner: ideas on setup for Eastern territory.

Evening: Pappenheim.

14 September 1939. (Receive Iron Cross, second Class through ObdH).

Conference with Leeb on 13 September:

a) Leeb's impression: Good Divisions at Saarbruecken. Fighter protection for reconnaissance planes. Air Reconnaissance organization. } Bogatsch

b) ObdH: 1.) Additional forces.

2.) Recommendation on Command setup forthcoming seen.

3.) XXX Corps inserted in front.

4.) Tactical disposition of two-thirds of 22nd Div. on the Luxembourg frontier. Reserves to the front.

5.) Wianden corner. Reconnaissance units and advance combat teams will enter Luxembourg territory if French march into Luxembourg.

6.) He approves plans for line of rear positions. -- New positions in First Army sector. Type of positions. Throughout skeleton of permanent type, remainder field type.

7.) Gas discipline.

8.) Maps for the front must not be sent forward of specified lines.

9.) Demolition of Rhine bridges. Order to Leeb.

10.) Reinforcements for the Staff of Army Group: Engineers not necessary, only junior personnel. No Senior artillery officer of General rank necessary.

but we need a Staff Officer for the allocation and moving up of artillery. Corps Hq. static in position warfare, have no artillery specialists! (ObdH promises artillery staffs from Fourth Draft).- Engineers, Construction Staffs. Maps/

11.) Organizational questions: Reorientation to position warfare. Recruit depots in West.

12.) Directives.

Notes for ObdH: 1.) Gdynia.
2.) Fourteenth Army: XXII Corps is moving too far northward. One Division must be directed to the East.
3.) Transfer of Gen. Staff to the West.
4.) Pacification in the East.

Giessen: Operations Staff: What is the minimum? Bulk here. Central Branch.
Trains: How many? Terminus, select station.

Bogatsch: a) Between Basel and Lauterburg, 15 Btrys*; some of these are in operations in the East. Necessary number will be moved up toward the Rhine. — One Medium Bn. arriving now.
b) Preparations to keep Air Reconnaissance in the West up to required strength.

Notes for ObdH: Cracow, interim occupation.
Plonsk.
Army Hq. 1, von Pfeffer, Civil Affairs Officer.

Buhle: Thirtieth Inf. Div.

ObdH: Directives: on the whole no changes necessary.

We need more riflemen, more men carrying the service rifle! **

Marksmanship is good.

Highly satisfied with mortar.

Combat reconnaissance deficient. Training for combat reconnaissance, safeguarding measures when troops are tired.

Get rid of "defense in place".

Reconnaissance units for Corps. Cyclists.

Labor Service: Labor Service Officers low caliber, units don't get anything done. — Todt Labor troops excellent.

Traffic control: Police ineffective. Staffs etc. for West!

Camouflage against air attack very bad (Infantry bunches up.).

Trouble with MG 34. Easily dirtied by dust and mud, workamnship too delicate. Protection. Ordnance Office (ObdH).

Commanders: XIII Corps excellent. X Corps not aggressive enough; his Ia not so hot either. 24th Inf. Div. very good, Covhenhausen very good.
XI Corps slow. Central Branch.

Exaggerations in the description of combat impressions and in the reports.

Medium Inf. gun gets much praise.

Observation Bn. proved its worth. Polish artillery with light guns highly mobile.

Lessons of Eastern Campaign for West: Polish positions have fox-holes with lids. Soldiers come out after the first enemy wave has passed over them.

Infantry needs the best obtainable as replacements. The good officer material is tied up in the SS: Buhle.

Fieseler Storch planes* not plainly marked, are shot at by own Infantry. Bogatsch.

Gen Qu: a) Tremendous stream of returning refugees.

Food situation: Agriculture must be restarted at once. Food shortage in the towns. Report to OKW? Co manders of rear areas. First, refugees must be given food, after that registered by the police. Keep in small groups. Restart Lodz industry. Food! Work! Special commissioner for Lodz. Send a Special Commissioner.

Must be appointed as soon as possible under Reich Commissar.

b) All German workers behind the front must be armed, Also those of civilian contractors.

c) Report to OKW: If we want to secure this year's crop and organize sowing for the next year, we cannot take away the people. If the towns are to be fed, people in the country must have a chance to work. If quiet cannot be restored in the countryside, labor camps!

d) Provisions for shipping out and feeding prisoners (also captured horses), Kutno. Horses might go to farms!

e) Divisions should soon be freed.

Sixteenth Regt. has arrived in good shape.

Op. Sec.: No field kitchens. Service elements must be moved up behind units.

0915. Stapf:

1.) Leaflets will be dropped this afternoon between 1400 and 1500. Deadline 12 hours. Civilian population (not liable to military service, women and children). 12 hours after dropping of leaflets.
Direction Siedlce and Garbolin. Tomorrow morning massed air attack.

2.) Enemy radio message: Enemy at Wyzogrod must break through to the north. Intercepted.

Enemy movements from Kutno to Plock, this morning. Air observation Air Fleet 4.

1245: Departure by air for Lodz, Hq. Eighth Army.

Situation: a) Front firm. Left wing is being reinforced.
b) Communications with III Corps and Third Army only by radio.
c) Troops very tired.
d) Situation map.
e) Ruffled that Army Group and Army Hq. 10 are now also on their front.

Intention: Will attack north on 16 September.
Left shoulder in the lead; link up with III Corps.

Enemy: Situation map. Enemy plan to break through to the East and then push on across the Narew river.

Quartermaster service: All right. Interim government at Lodz takes care of feeding of the population. Field offices are taking charge of distribution of refugees over the countryside. Ethnic Germans could be used to advantage by this organization.

My impressions: Exchange of information between us and Eighth Army regarding situation on the left wing was not always perfect. Also communications between Eighth and Fourth Armies evidently were not always sufficient to give a clear picture of the enemy.

2000. Phone talk with Salmuth: I instruct him to prepare against an attempt by the enemy to break through in northern direction at Modlin. Order to AGp. South through OQuI to clean up the area between Warsaw and Modlin.

2030. Jodl calls up: We must now come to a decision as to what to do about the Polish capital. Asks for an appraisal of the ground situation. Reply: Complete encirclement of Warsaw

in the West is in process. I am against an attack into the city. Must be starved into capitulation! We are in no hurry and don't need the forces now outside Warsaw anywhere alse.

16 September 1939.

0800 Phone talk between von Brauchitsch and von Bock: Modlin, Praga, XIX Corps.

1200: Report that Warsaw parlementaire was not accepted. Phone talk with Salmuth: No attack on Warsaw!

Afternoon Baron von Funck (Spain) calls-suggests change of Attache now. Frontline soldier!

Becker (Slovakia) reports on participation of the Slovak Army, and on relations between Slovakia and Hungary.

Von Ilsemann (Switzerland) reports.

Krebs: Reorganization of the Training Section (BdE and General Staff). -- Training Manual for position warfare.

2000. Order of AGp South: New forces must be committed to mop up the forest area north of Lezno and to block the Bzura river where it flows into the Vistula.

2030. Col. Gen. von Bock: 23rd Div. has been released for AGp North.

2130. Gercke: Railroad situation.

2400. The Fuehrer has ordered to cancel the ground and air attack on Warsaw scheduled for 17 September.
Planes will attack enemy group at Kutno.

17 September 1939.

0200. Report that Russia has started moving forces across the frontier.

0700. Our troops must halt on the line Skole-Lwow-Wlodzimierz-Brest Litowsk-Bialystok.

Morning: Exchange of views with OKW on future demarcation line.

Buhle - Krebs: Basic data on the organization of troops for position warfare in the West.

Wagner: Basic data for position warfare; current matters.

von der Chevallerie: Transfer of GHq. to the West.

Noon: Warsaw asks us to receive a parlementaire to make arrangements for evacuation of the population. Reply by Deutschlandsender Radio Station. Soon after, Warsaw asks us to receive parlementaire to make arrangements for evacuation of Diplomatic Corps.

1530: From Fuehrer's train: Reject evacuation request, time limit has expired. Procedure: Radio message, Deutschlandsender, willingness to receive parlementaire.

Parlementaires from Warsaw.

18 September 1939.

Instruction to Fourteenth Army.-- Request report from Hq. AGp. North concerning bridge.

0800: Phone talk with Sodenstern: Move up reserves in the Pfaelzer Wald.

ObdH: Stop 56th Div. for reshipment.
Stop VII Corps.
23rd (later Third) to Corps Hq. III.
30th.

Kempf-Conversion of Light Div. to Armd. Div.

Report of Sixteenth Inf. Regt. on experiences with equipment. - Buhle, OQu I.

Wagner: Witzleben -Buerkel. Executive Power. To Fuehrer's train.

Jodl: 1550: Fuehrer will speak at Danzig tomorrow. Wants statistics on military successes. Prisoners: numbers, officers, generals, guns, tanks, planes, etc. by 2200. OQu IV with Gen Qu and Op. Sec.

von Ondarza - Hasse - Lewiez. -- 16th Inf. Regt.

From Fuehrer's train:

1.) Warsaw. Warsaw breadcasts indicate conflicting political parties. Main reason: Communist government in Warsaw -- already reflected in Polish reports. Fuehrer would not like to negotiate with Russia om Warsaw. Sacrifice no more lives than absolutely necessary. Leaflets over Warsaw and over the Radio Stations. Result of Kutno battle will make an impression. So would Russian advance. Open up with artillery fire.

ObdH: Preparation for eastern bank. If there is an opportunity, have Infantry make assault on the eastern part of the city. First off systematic artillery barrage; if possible blast electric power stations and water works out of existence. We must find out where we can effect a surprise penetration from the north after the Lezo corner has been dealt with.
Day after tomorrow: Eastern part. Kinzel, Brockdorf to Fuehrer.
No battle for center of city, if avoidable.

2.) ObdH wants a few days in the present line; only question of days' marches to demarcation line.

Erfurth: War history OKW.

19 September 1939.

Morning reports: No unnecessary movements to the East now! Regrouping toward Warsaw! Free Kinzel for Warsaw!*

ObdH: Unauthorized activations ("Senior artillery Commander", interference with organization of replacements).
Change in the top figures.

Heydrich (Wagner):

a) Missions must be known to the Army. Liaison Officers. Himmler/ObdH.
b) House cleaning: Jews, intelligentsia, clergy, nobility.
c) Army insists that "house cleaning" be deferred until Army has withdrawn and the country has been turned over to civil administration. Early December.

Stapf: Bomber groups must be increased from 30 to 45, by 15, that is, 50%.

ObdH (West): Mortars for the West. — Artillery Commanders. Observation Bns. — Petzel — Grouping of Artillery. — Very much rolling stock on the lines.

20 September 1939.

Frictions with Russia: Lwow.

Jodl (Talk with Col. Gen. von Brauchitsch): Jointly with Russians. Joint settlement of question on the spot! If Russians insist on their territorial claims, we evacuate.

Decision: Russians "Liberators of Lwow". — German troops withdraw from Lwow. — Definitive demarcation line; points of dispute left for later settlement. No political tension must develop. "San line final". Keep distance of 10 kilometers. von Br.

Russians do not advance (Keitel!). Final evacuation step by step.

Jaroslaw - Przemysl to the south - Turka - Four nations corner.

A day of disgrace for German political leadership!

von Vormann: Upon urgings by Voroshilov, the Fuehrer has decided on the following final demarcation line, which is to be officially announced today: Pisia - Narew - Vistula - San(Przemysl), Railroad line from Chyrow up to the Pass - not clear.
Wish of Fuehrer that we must not lose another man east of this line.

von Weizsaecker: What is now the final line?

von Bock: Russian leaflets dropped on Bialystok. Warsaw counter-thrust to the southeast.

von Weizsaecker: Procedure: Through military channels. "Does not want to break his word", "Not a soldier must be sacrificed."

1710: Krebs: Negotiations concluded on amicable note. Obdn.

Russian movements will start tonight. Demarcation line will not be reached before 23 September, morning. It is not known whether this line will be reached at all points.
Order to advance cautiously.

Also: There will be no fixed special zones of evacuation. Movements must be carried out at 25 km distance. 30 September has been agreed on as the date when the Russian troops will reach the line; this date will serve as reference date for regulating our troop movements. On 3 October, evening, the final demarcation line must be cleared by the German troops. The political negotiations on the exact line are still in progress.

Great emphasis is put on handing over of all important objects directly by the German to the Russian units (airdromes, large cities, RR stations, all objects of economic value, to prevent destruction by bandits). Agreement by Liaison Officers who will settle details depending on the size of the object. Russians have offered armed help against local Polish resistance. Final text now being drafted. Liaison Officers between Corps Hqs.

Col. Aschenbrenner: Inform Jeschonneck.

Text for OKW and OKH!

Von Vormann (from ObdH): After receiving report by ObdH, the Fuehrer has agreed to the following ruling: Purely military reasons compel us to withdraw German troops behind the demarcation line in eight stages.
Time needed two weeks, since actions partly still in progress must be broken off or carried through to conclusion.

Russians can move into German forward lines (Black Line) including the towns of Bialystok, Brest, Chelm, 10 km west of Lwow, Drohobycz, Borislaw by 22, noon.
Further westward movements from this line not until 25 September, 0600 hrs., and in stages marked on maps to be transmitted in time.

Withdrawal of all troops behind the demarcation line will be completed by 4 October. There must always be half a day's march between German and Russian troops.

Jodl: What needs to be done? Stipulate 25 September.

ObdH: 1.) Agreement with Russians on withdrawal,

2.) Warsaw. Eight days' softening-up attack, then air attacks; (water system, smashing of Artillery; AAA out of action.)

3.) Executive Power:

I. a) Fuehrer will inform ObdH on all decisions.
b) Reichsfuehrer SS will do the same.
c) So will Chief of the Security Police.
d) Police Commanders have to notify the competent Military Commanders.

II. Large-scale resettlement. Former German territory will be cleared of those who moved in after 1918.

III. For every German moving into these territories, two people will be expelled to Poland.

IV. a) Ghetto plan exists in broad outline, details are not yet settled; economic needs are prime consideration.
b) While operations are still in progress, which includes redeployment of bulk of troops, there will be no major movements and resettlement of populations.
c) What could be done at present is a survey and study as to what population groups must be resettled and where.
d) Nothing must occur which would afford foreign countries an opportunity to launch any sort of atrocity propaganda based on such incidents. Catholic clergy! Impractical at this time.

Action to be taken: Army Hqs. must be informed on the special instructions which will be issued to the Armies., The instructions will be officially announced. Local Commanders will report before anything is done. Summary Police Courts. Reviewing authority is Reichsfuehrer-SS.
See Himmler 23 September.

V. High Command East soon.* — Central agency for the "House cleaning". Draft of organizational set-up will be submitted to us for scrutiny.

Fortifications in the West — Organization.

21 September 1939.

Krebs, 0801:

1.) Negotiations were resumed, in Russian, on 21 September, 0200 hrs.

2.) Russian text of agreement fixed at 0400 hrs. Idea of provisional intermediate line has been dropped, since the Russians attach overriding importance to reaching the demarcation line, if in any way possible, at an even earlier date.

3.) Dates fixed for the withdrawal of German troops behind the demarcation line: Pisia, 27 September, evening.
Narew at Ostrolenka, 29 September, evening.
Narew at Pultusk, 1 October, evening.
Vistula at Warsaw, 3 October, evening.
Vistula at Deblin, 2 October, evening.
San at Przemysl, 26 September, evening.
San at Sanck and to the South, 28 September, evening.

(Southern frontier — Compensation at Suwalki!)

Russians will reach the cited sectors 24 hours later. German text will be announced this afternoon after signing at 1600, Russian time.

Weizsaecker: Confirms information on the political situation. Compensation on the southern wing (Ukraine) and on the northern wing (Suwalki).

ObdH: is still going to talk to Krebs.

Notes for ObdH: Computation of strength in the West. — Exchange for Reserve Divisions. — Artillery allocation.
Artillery position warfare. Training of Staffs.
Divisional Artillery Commanders to the West. Talk over with Busse, 22 September.

ObdH: Personnel matters: Artillery — Brand? Infantry — Ott. Engineers — Jacob. — AT: Schell?

Everhard: Brigade turned over to Police.* Buhle.

22 September 1939. (Iron Cross First Class).

Gen Qu: Talk with Thomas: In Posse's office.

Industrial manpower: No difficulties, even in the more distant future.

Raw materials question: Iron from Sweden up to now 9 million, will drop to 6 million. Thomas steel 1.3 million instead of 1.9 million now.
Peace-time consumption 1.9; additional wartime requirements 0.4, total 2.3 million tons.
Definite figures in 3 - 4 days, then we shall decide on priorities.

Gercke: Railroad situation. Confusion in the civilian economy; 80 % of railroad capacity for civilian economy.

Lwow taken.

23 September 1939.

ObdH: Central Branch. — 30 Corps Artillery Commanders: 17 available. The good ones must go to difficult sectors. — General Staff Officers. Central Branch.

Schell: Directive on AT defense; together with Puttkamer, who must be trained for the job.

OQu IV: Talk with Weizsaecker. — Foreign news.

Bogatsch: Western front.

24 September 1939.

Morning: von Bock:

1.) Worries about Brigade Eberhard* — Visband? (no!).

2.) Should Corps Wodrig* be given Table of Organization? No, must be incorporated in some other unit).

3.) Had to modify his impressions afterllong conferences with Commanders: Infantry is far below 1914 caliber. The impetus given by the first line of attackers is lacking, all depends on the initiative of the Commanders hence high officer casualties. The light machine gun in the advanced lines are silent for fear of giving themselves away.

ObdH /Brand: Main points on position warfare. Directives; first inform of instructional pamphlet.
Schall: AT defense.

von Manstein: Masses of refugees streaming westward toward our lines. Order to shoot has been given for the night. If the refugees are allowed to leave, it would be impossible to starve out the city. Moreover, the city's garrison would be enabled to take full advantage of the opportunities for street fightings, with all its uncalculable complications A decision must be made.

25 September 1939.

0715: Leave by plane for the airdrome of AGp. South.
Meet the Fuehrer on his way to the battlefield on the Bzura river. Conferences in Army Hq. 8 Corps H q. XIII, 31st Div. Corps Hq. X, Nineteenth Div. Subsequently by air over the Bzura battlefield, return 2015 to Rangsdorf.

von Stuelpnagel: Warlimont brought word on Fuehrer's plan of the attack in the West. Notes: Racial Germans must be discharged! over up regimental insignia? Org. Sec.
Kewisch.* Central Branch.
Collect tactical experiences from the front. OQu I.
Training Sec.

26 September 1939.

Becker**:Muna East*** (IGO)#. 600 tons per month, starting 1 October 1940. Trials on spreading from air!
Effect over large areas?

Gelan harmful to lungs. Instantaneuous effect, horrible convulsions. Factory under construction (capacity 2,000 tons monthly).

Animal tests have been made, Large-scale employment possible as of October 1940.

Peenemuende long-range rocket in 3 - 4 years. One ton explosive charge. Maximum range as far as London. Intermediate target 350 km.

60 cm gun as of May 1940, 6 pieces (one piece every two months); 6 pieces till May 1941, gun for use in massed concentrations*.

Research: (Research Council) people from the closed universities.

Smoke on 50 km front; daily 1 mill. Field How. projectiles** under most favorable conditions. 2,700 light Field Howitzers.

Radio direction beams in fog, possible:
a) Bottleneck: Projectors. 6 - 7 m range (electronic).
b) Ultra-red (does not penetrate natural fog).
c) Decimeter wave sets. Experiments in progress. Passes through fog.

Alarm instruments: Electric alarm instruments completed. Accessories (bottleneck) will take at least another year.

Gen. Gruen: Training of artillery for position warfare. Artillery Commanders in three waves: West, new activations, East.

Grosscurth: Lithuania and the other Baltic States will be sold down to Russia (Finland not yet clear).

von Bock, 1840: Parlementaire Warsaw. Letter from Rommel. Twenty-four hour truce to spare population - turned down. Officer for surrender negotiations promised. - Shelling continues, will even be stepped up.

Army Hq. 8, Felber: Leaflets with text agreed on yesterday dropped at 0930 hrs. Men will be discharged home. Officers will keep their swords. (Fuehrer agrees).
Order: Step up fire! Air attack will start tomorrow 0630 hrs.

von Bock, 2015: Makes a vow about alleged discrimination against Third Army. Settled by telephone to Third and Eighth Armies and to Army Group.

27 September 1939.

0900: Surrender of Warsaw. Also of Modlin.

Rommel with Third Army. Eighth Army turns over operations. Talk with Felber.

Jeschonneck: Reports on Warsaw.

1700: Fuehrer Conference: / No entries in space left for the purpose. - Ed./

28 September 1939.

Schell: Must find out promptly within what time mot. forces will be ready again for operations. Reply Saturday morning.
Tank production to be stepped up to maximum.
Demotorization must be stopped until further notice.
Fuel problem reported solved. (For Diesel engines: gasoline mixed with oil.)

Jacob reports on fortifications on the Upper Rhine. Steel situation.

1300: Conference of Chiefs.

von Weizsaecker: Evening: Role of the neutral powers. — Distrust of Russia. — Fuehrer sidesteps Italian peace efforts.

von Brauchitsch: Evening, talk regarding our stand on the subject set forth at the Fuehrer Conference of 27 September.

29 September 1939.

Thomas: Demands of the three services by far exceed our productive capacity. ObdH must make clearcut demands in the economic field
Not only military and political demands, also economic demands.
Air Force in the East has used up fuel equivalent to production of one-half month. Major increase of powder production not before 1941.
Germany has monthly steel deficit of 600,000 tons.
Clearly defined priorities within the military demands!

Ordnance Offices must make full use of existing factories.

Within the Army quotas ammunition production would be difficult to increase, even if we had the steel. If we start an offensive, production for the Air Force would have to be cut down.
Improvement may be expected within six to nine months. —
Supply of fuel and iron depends on decision regarding the West.

ObdH: Conference with Keitel on offensive in the West.

Stapf: Conference on offensive in the West, and instruction to inform Jodl on our plans and ideas.

Afternoon: ObdH ; Conference on report for Fuehrer:

I. We must explain to him our ideas:

a) Protection of the Ruhr.

b) Preparations in the event of a French offensive.
Ground forces available.
Air forces to attack enemy road movements.

c) French and British will reinforce their defenses against air and tank attacks. Counterargument.

d) Techniques of Polish campaign no recipe for the West.
No good against a well-knit Army.

New arms: Gas: 100 etc.*
50 mm tank** 41/42.
Superheavy tanks.
Chemical warfare projectors. Delivery of the first hundred six barrelled projectors May 1940. (range 6,500).
Lighter version of rocket in 1942.

e) Season of the year. Days in November vey short; fog, air support cannot be depended on.

II. a) Recommendation on how we can stay by behind Dutch and Belgian fortifications*** ready to go out to meet the enemy. We must resign ourselves to the existence of the fortifications. Declaration to Belgium. In the meantime joint naval and air action against British naval forces. -- India.

Enemy situation. -- How can the enemy react? Effect on balance of forces and ammunition stocks.

If we want to make a really valuable gain on the political chessboard, we must risk a daring move.

Our aim is to make the Army an instrument of maximum suppleness.

Keitel (OKW): History three times.#

Political pressure on France by means of a demonstration.

"Belgians are facing the wrong way. We shall surprise them".

We must start out from having the Army stand by against the event of a violation of neutrality, and remain flexible to meet possible political developments: What could possibly happen in the next few weeks? Possible developments resulting from our "preparedness assembly".

30 September 1939.

Mueller/Wagner: Logistic preparations for the operation.

ObdH: Condition reports of Divisions. Tabulation by General Army Office for Fuehrer.
Take all dispositions for preparedness assembly.
Schell's recommendation must be talked over once more with ObdH.

Army Hq. 4 not to be used Army Hq. 10 administration.
Army Hq numbers must be changed on transfer. Op.

1600: Fuehrer conference. (Thanks for our achievements) He is prepared for peace. Utmost determination.

Evening: Prolonged conference with ObdH on how we stand on the Fuehrer's plans in the West.

1 October 1939.

Afternoon Ochsner with Quartermaster General.

Otherwise only current reports throughout the day.

Talk with Stuelpnagel on the situation created by low estimation of General Staff work on top level.

Draft of a letter to ObdH on position of the Chief of the General Staff.

2 October 1939.

Jeschonneck: AAA Division! -- Delimitation of Air Force Administrative Districts in the East. Freeze AAA ammunition.*
Protection for Reconnaissance. -- Long-range reconnaissance. -
Sodonstern -- Additional 8 - 9 short-range resonnaissance Staff] and 50 AA Bns.
Lost: Preparations for use would take four months.

Buhle: Armd. troops for training purposes under mot. Corps Hqs. BdE?
One Corps Hq. to control one Armd. Div., one Light Div. and one mot. Div.

ObdH: Sodenstern's report on how pillboxes stand up under fire. Also his talk on Koppelberg's program (Training Bn). -- Giessen.

3 October 1939.

High Command East (Rundstedt) takes over command of the entire Eastern front. AGp. North will be withdrawn.
Artillery Commanders.

Afternoon von Leeb (Frankfurt): Third Draft suitable for position warfare only under quiet conditions.
Fourth Draft suited for position warfare only after further training in defensive warfare.

Appraisal of Hammerstein (Artillery!).
Breaking up of concentration must be put off as long as possible.

Complaints: a) Handling of dependents' care (by the Party!).
b) Construction Bn. (wages mark) versus Todt Organization workers (highest paid workers).
This applies to drivers (Construction Bns.).

Sodenstern wants to know soon what artillery he is going to keep.
Whether he can manage with 25 Divs. will depend on what he can keep.
French Artillery excellent. Own Artillery greatly inferior.
Own Infantry better.

Observation Bns.

Mortars?

Mines: First Army 12 killed, 26 wounded in 24 - 30 September period. Enemy had 14 killed, 46 wounded.
Mines must be prohibited in areas where offensives are planned. Marking of lanes.

Morale of the troops good, but rests on reliance on fortifications. "There will be no further operations." Peace will come soon. "It is the Generals that push the war."

Fieldpost: Relaxation of rigid number system.

Notes for Op.Sec.:

a) Mines must be prohibited where attacks are intended.

b) AGp. C wants to know what artillery they will keep.
Observation Bns. Senior Artillery Commanders.

c) After fixing of order of battle:
Plan of local distribution of forces. Fire plan.
Time schedule: Filling in of Fire plan. Overlapping to First Army.
Factors to be remembered in this connection: Readiness for jump-off in the event of an enemy advance must be constantly improved. Keep continously informed on state of preparedness of Armd. units, so that Armd. elements could be swiftly brought up when needed.
(Gercke) — Bluff.

Central Branch: von Gebsattel.

Gen Qu: a) Field Post.
b) Evacuation.
c) Handling of dependents' care.
d) Wage scale differential "Construction Troops/Todt Organization (One worker gets 1 M, the other one maximum wages). Todt Construction Organization must be militarized (construction workers and drivers).

von Etzdorf: German help for Belgium and Holland.*
Turkey - Russia.

Buhle: I want to be kept informed on improvements in the tank position. (A job for Schell!) Fuehrer demands increase in the number of Divisions.
In the East binary Divisions of the Third Draft; 30 Regional Defense Divisions.

ObdH: Belgium - Holland. Bluff? (as part of the peace offensive).

4 October 1939.

ObdH: Leaflets for the East: "Peace on earth". Arms must be laid down. (Whoever is found carrying arms will be put before a Court-martial).

Radio: Same line.

Bock and Leeb. Establish contact. (He has all the material.)**
Bock - Saturday/Sunday.
Will take over on Monday, as agreed with Leeb.
Also Army Hq. 10 and 4.
New man for Liebmann.
New man for Bockelberg.

Equipment of the "counteroffensive wave" with medium artillery, AT guns, aviation.
Draw up directives for cooperation with air. (Action against roads.) Mot. Advance Combat Team.

von Stuelpnagel: ObdL has ordered activation of AA divisions. These two AA divisions will be at the qualified disposal of AGp.B. Allocation to the Armies to suit the Army Group. Our wishes concerning AAA for the troops have been met.

Stapf: ObdL states that attack could not be launched now. Reasons: Time unfavorable because of the weather. Tanks are not ready for operations. Political repercussions. Other date: next spring (not 1941 or 1942).

von Etzdorf: 1.) No undue importance.* Italy at the moment still noncommittal. Price offered not yet high enough.
2.) France ready to negotiate. Conditions. Political? Subject of discussion.
3.) Fate of Poland.
4.) Belgium.

Schniewind: Increase in number of submarines cannot be materialized before 1941. Aditional 30 submarines per month, starting early in 1941. End summer 1941. Then there will be 100 submarines at the front (enough for decisive effect) (100 en route, 100 in port).

Pappenheim calls.

Jodl: Very severe crisis is in the making.
Report has been submitted to the Fuehrer on status of armaments. Schell (He will not receive him). Recommendations Fromm. Jointly for Navy, Army. — No confidence in the Czech 42 cm gun. —
Bitter because soldiers do not obey him. ObdH.

5 October 1939.

Notes for ObdH; Order on Training: Covering letter — Experiences - Courses. Troop Training Centers under BdE.

Chappuis: Findings on inspection:

a) Shortcomings in the intermediate and lower ranks of officers' corps. Lethargy.

b) Infantry does not attack vigorously enough. Preparations for fire cover too elaborate. Good opportunities are being missed. Heavy Inf. weapons are often not used. Instead, Inf. keeps clamoring for artillery. Utilization of AT Artillery.

c) Camouflage against air attack very poor.

d) Motorized forces: 1.) In traffic jams, everybody just settles down and waits. Officers sit around instead of doing something to clear the jam.
2.) Everything not needed in battle should stay at least 8 km behind the front, otherwise unnecessary congestion behind the combat line.

e) Jewish massacres. - discipline!

6 October 1939.

ObdH: Divisional Arty Commanders. 150 Admin. Divisional Staffs.

Buhle: Three Divisional Arty Commanders.

Central Branch. Personnel — Field Officers.

Buhle. Gen Qu: Admin. Divisional Staffs for Regional Defense Divs. No 300 up.
Temporary duty of frontline Commanders with replacement units.

7 October 1939.

Wagner: Hey(-drich) has seen the Fuehrer. Complaint about Mlawa. Treatment of Jews. Prueter comes here by air.

Order to Bock on assumption of Command.

1500: Report to Fuehrer on northwestern operation. Keeps material submitted.

Fuehrer emphasizes:

a) The Belgians will call the French to come to their aid. We must not wait for that. France will do that in the period of the autumn fogs.

b) We must forestall this with an operation designed to gain a decision, even if we fall short of the original objectives and attain only a line which would afford better protection for the Ruhr.

c) Deception on fronts where we do not attack.

8 October 1939.

Gen Qu: Ammunition: We have enough for an operation with about one third of our Divisions, for fourteen combat days; then we shall have left a reserve of fourteen more combat days. Current production of ammunition: one combat day for one-third of our Divs.

State Secretary: Discussion of situation. — Neurath. — King Albert.

9 October 1939.

ObdH: Mine warfare in the West.

a) Order on mine detectors through regular chain of command.*— Jacob.
b) Attention must be drawn to possible application also to combat outposts.

Conference with von Bock 1100. Operational intentions.

Fromm, 1430:

1.) Dispatch Schell and Gotsche to find out by what means mot. units could be readied for operations at an earlier date.

2.) If what Keitel says is true, viz. that tank repairs are to be given priority (priority number, etc.) and if 29th mot. and Fourth Light Inf. Divs. are stripped, then we can send to the front by 10 November:
Five Armd. Divs.
Two Light Divs.
Three Mot. Divs.

Schell, 1600: Discussion of possibilities for improving facilities for mot. units.

Ready by 10 November:	Not ready:
First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Armd. Divs., each reinforced by one Rifle Bn. First (Armd.), Second Light Divs. Second, Thirteenth, Twentieth (two Regts. each) Divs. mot.	Tenth (2-3 weeks later) Third, Fourth Light (2-3 weeks). 29th mot. must perhaps be stripped to refit other Divisions.

Artillery in Leeb's AGp: Prime movers must be freed. Get good prime movers for worn-out ones.

Buhle: Bridge columns must be changed from Corps troops to GHq. troops.

von Stuelpnagel/Warlimont:

1.) Date for offensive: 25 November.
2.) Must be put off in case of bad flying weather.
3.) Must under no circumstances bog down.
4.) Memorandum for approval.
5.) Points to stress: Establish contact between Fuehrer and Army leaders of proved worth. — Combat value of the individual Divs. varies.

9th Sec.:* Maps available for 40 Divs.
Rest of maps by 25 October, will be sent to AGp. B for distribution.

Air Force ready for operations in 10 days, at the expense of replacements.

ObdH : Show ObdH list of Regimental Numbers of permanent occupation units in the East.

10 October 1939.

ObdH : Blaskowitz)
von Rundstedt) Looting -- general perdon.

"Das Frontschwein ist da.
Wo bleibt die SS und die SA?".*

Brand: Discipline behind the front. Divisional commanders.

Bock has inaugurated his "reign".

Experiences by Hoeppner and Reinhardt.

1100. Fuehrer Conference:

1.) He reads us a Memorandum giving the reasons for his decision to strike a swift and shattering blow in the West in case he is compelled to continue hostilities.

2.) The possibility must be preserved to extend the safety zone of the Ruhr to the West, in the event of an enemy movement into Belgium.

3.) "Directive"will be issued still today.

4.) Mobilize everything to the last and as quickly as possible! Transfer from the East.
Fortress Divs. must be taken out and brought up to full Divisional strength. Captured enemy material must at once be utilized for the Forces in the East!

5.) Aims of the operation: We must make the French and British give battle and beat them. Only in this way can our superiority in leadership, training and materiel be applied to full advantage.
It is unlikely that the French would stop at their northern frontier. But if they do so it does not matter; we shall then have an air base against England.

6.) He is convinced that Belgium will collapse "in doublequick time".

7.) Attack on such a wide front that the French and British would not be in a position to build up a solid front.

We must not form a massive front.
Split up the enemy front! Concentrated attacks against single sectors by a continuous flow of troops from the rear. This enables us to bring to bear our superiority in generalship.

8.) Even if we do not gain a decisive victory, we have still an opportunity to gain ground. In this event there would be little danger that we fritter away our strength in defensive warfare.

9.) We must free all units suited for attack, including Fortress Brigades. The French Fortress Brigades will be of no use to them if they take the offensive.

10.) He is convinced that we can force a decision if we are determined to bring to bear all our strength. (Compares our situation with the much greater difficulties faced by Frederick the Great.)

11.) East. No change in the Russian attitude need be anticipated in the near future. Later on perhaps doubtful. In any event, Russia needs Germany's friendship to achieve her aims. - 15 Divs. in the East instead of 20?

12.) No deluge of new activations. Number of Divisions must remain limited so that we can keep them replenished.

13.) Date of the offensive: Through delays in the transfer of units and in the build-up of the Western front, the Army may cause the political leadership to miss the best date of the offensive.

14.) No offensive with inadequate forces. We cannot be too strong for the offensive. Any unit capable of moving is better than nothing. Fortress Divs. must be brought up to full strength!

15.) Improvement of frontier must be omitted in case of previous enemy advance.

16.) We can start the offensive only with sufficient armor and mot. elements, and Air Force (1.? !).* Our aim must be to advance the date as far as possible.

17.) In case the Air Force cannot strike at all, we shall not launch an offensive. Air Force must make preparations for launching coordinated counter-offensive.

18.) The operation will have been planned right if from the outset it aims at a wide front.
In the North we must interrupt as soon as possible the communication between Antwerp and the British Expeditionary Corps. British landing at Antwerp unlikely.
Attack on Antwerp from the West makes fall of the city a foregone conclusion.

19.) It makes no difference to us whether a besieged city holds out a month or two. In the East political reasons compelled us to reduce fortresses swiftly; but such reasons do not apply here. In the West our actions must exclusively be guided by entirely matter-of-fact calculations. Second and third rate troops are quite suitable for siege operations. "Every rifleman in an encircling front is a loss."

20.) It is particularly important that our Air Force should harass the French counter-movements and counter-offensive.

21.) Save ammunition! No medium calibers, where light calibers can do the job! Must be thought through and borne in mind in drafting orders.

22.) Armd. units must not be used against cities. They attain their maximum effect in the open field, in massive surprise attacks. He fears they may be scattered hopelessly in Belgian cities, above all in the mazes of the industrial areas.

23.) Of paramount importance is the will to beat the enemy. Enemy forces are limited. The French cannot replace losses after reverses. It is easier for them to replace their losses in materiel, but manpower losses pose a difficult problem for them.

24.) Neo expects manifestations of defeatism in France. Question of blame for new blood sacrifices. Pacifist opposition. The French people can be expected to suffer irreparable losses.

25.) An offensive is the only way to sweep Italy into action on our side. Italy now no longer interested in peace. Il Duce is eagerly waiting for the suitable moment to take the plunge. That is why he is not now making any offers of mediation. His armaments are increasing; very serious efforts. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his statement to Mackensen. 165,000 men in Libya; more reinforcements are going there. Fuel situation has improved.
Oil consumption controlled.
Various measures indicate that war production is getting under way. As long as we are sitting idle behind the Westwall, Italy will not enter the war.

26.) At the moment there is no need to fear any unrest on the Balkans.

Fromm: a) Allocation of steel (in accordance with Buhle's recommendation).
b) Replacements Bns. from the West to the East. Buhle.
In their place, larger units will go to the West.

211th, 212th, 217th, 225th Inf. Divs. stopped in the West. (AGp.B).
ObdH.

ObdH: Reorganization of the Infantry squad. Issuance of the additional MGs. -- Sixth Draft till 1 January 1940. -- Reequipment of Divs. for Poland.

Fromm: Transfer of Replacement units to the East.

Buhle for report to ObdH: What do our Armd. Divs. look like? Reconn.Bn. mot.

Reichenau - Hoth -Hoeppner) Kluge - Guderian?
Schmidt) Geyer von Schweppenburg with
Reinhardt) Guderian wont do.

First Light Inf. Div. Kempf. -- Schaal Tenth Armd. Div.

Signal Officer for OKH!

Demand on Air Force! Navy: Coast protection.

11 October 1939.

Op. Sec.:

1.) C-in-C East reports that he cannpt do without 29th (mot.) and Fourth Light Inf. Divs. (Envisaged as next wave are: XIV Corps, 29th mot. Fourth Light).
Mission: Pacification and security of lines of communication.
Heusinger to the East? ObdH.

2.) Direct reporting by the Armies. Morning, noon, evening. We need a picture of developments by 15 hrs. to be able to issue orders for the following day. Hours to be fixed.
ObdH.

3.) Planning work for West must be wound up so as to be completed by 8 November, and troops could be assembled by 15 November.

4.) Command setup East. a) Kaupisch for Heitz. Heitz CG of Corps (reduced) as relief of a regular Corps.
b) Beckelberg does not want to relinquish Executive Power.
c) 1 November.

5.) Fuehrer Memorandum.*

ObdH: a) Camouflage of troops in the West. Maintain.
Reserve Divisions in the East released. Yes. --

b) von Bock to Berlin for several days. Part a) ready. Part b) will be delayed.

c) Corps Artillery Officers. Leeb 4, free 26. Allocate to Corps.
Brand.

d) Newly arriving Divs. in Bock's Group at the disposal of OKH?

e) Map trouble.

f) 100 8.3 cm AA) Czech have 17 km range
20 9 cm AA) 2000 rounds per piece.

g) Training directives.

Plan of fire for ObdH.

12 October 1939.

ObdH must get to the Fuehrer to let him know what we are doing.
Activations, etc.: Manpower for the Fifth and Sixth Drafts.
Utilization of captured Polish materiel, etc.
Leeb's Memorandum.

Heitz.

ObdH: Not pacified yet. Sabotage attempt. Uprising possible.
(Prisoners from Warsaw).
Home Defense (Alvensleben)* is not duly authorized.
Gauleiter knows about it.

Dr. Waltmann: Medical service at the front, in the Z.I., in PoW camps.
Organization, Statistics.

Conference with State Secretary on 13 October.

13 October 1939.

ObdH: New C of S for Kuechler (Stapf). — Boeckmann will get a Division (Eleventh). — Corps Petzel - Olbricht. — Raschik - Schmidt (?).

Army Cs of S:

Model or Stapf (?) for Boeckmann. — Konrad. — Marcks, possibly Felber. — For Manstein possibly Felber. — Schmidt younger than Manstein. — Vietinghoff. — Obstfelder. — Schubert. — ObdH.

ObdH (In reply to inquiry by AGp. C in daily report, 12 October.): Enemy fire must not be drawn unnecessarily by our own fire. Retaliation fire as far as necessary.

Armored Divisions:

First, Second, Third, Sixth (First Light) Armd. Divs. have: one Rifle Brigade Staff, one Rifle Regt. of three Bns., one motorcycle Rifle Bn.

Fourth, Fifth, Seventh (Second Light) Tenth Armd. Divs. have: two Rifle Regts. of two Bns., no Brigade Staff.

Fourth Light has: two Rifle Regts. of two Bns., no Brigade Staff.

Third Light Inf. Div. has: one Rifle Regt. of three Bns., one motorcycle Rifle Bn.

14 October 1939.

Prolonged conference with ObdH on overall situation: ObdH: Three possibilities: Attack: wait and see, fundamental changes.* None of these three possibilities offers prospects of decisive success, least of all the last, since it is essentially negative and tends to render us vulnerable. Quite apart of all this it is our duty to set forth military prospects soberly and to promote every possibility to make peace.

Stapf. Travel report.

Instructions for assembly of troops ready.

15 October 1939.

ObdH: a) Date for Fuehrer report? Dependent on completion of program "Panzer".**
b) Map maneuvers.
c) Tours to the Front.
d) von Rundstedt is telling ObdH has asked him to talk the Fuehrer out of his plans.
e) Steel allocation for ammunition factory construction out of our 80,000 ton ammunition quota.

ObdH: Materials for Fuehrer report: Map and distribution of forces on front. - Distribution of all forces. — Computation of forces and distribution, French, British, Belgians, Dutch. - Earliest date (Schell).
Alerting period before X-Day is seven days. When is deadline for last stopping of movements!

Try a peaceful settlement with Holland. Armeeabteilung H.***

*

More artillery reserves from Witzleben's Group.

ObdH / Bock: Training of Army Group reserves. GHq Reserves wont start coming in before 5 October.*

Exchange of the frontline Divisions temporarily stopped, can now be resumed, since assembly plans have been decided on.

Jodl: a) Motorized forces not where there are many lines, but at junctions of lines.
b) Defensive front: Mt. Div.
c) Holland: Letter to the Prince -- Reserve for us.
d) Enemy. ObdH.

French Defeatism is nothing but propaganda to have a respite until Spring.

Norway.

Air Force: Must husband Ju 88 resources.

Jacob: 14 bridge trains for 70 Divisions.

/No entry on 16 October 1939. - Ed./

17 October 1939.

ObdH: Preparation for Fuehrer report.

Canaris: /No entry - Ed./ Raeder.

Summary of Conference ObdH - Fuehrer: Hopeless. The British will be ready to talk only after a beating. We must get at them as quickly as possible. No use swinging out too far. He does not believe that the French can get there fast enough. French Infantry not as hard as ours; use divebombers against artillery. Date: Between 15 and 20 November at the earliest. Exact date cannot yet be fixed. Preliminary notice seven days.

18 October 1939.

Wagner: Points in Conference with Fuehrer on Poland:

We have no intention of rebuilding Poland. Precautions against . . . . . /Omission. - Ed./
Assembly area for future German operations.

Poland is to have its own administration. Is not to be turned into a model State by German standards. Polish intelligentsia must be prevented from establishing itself as a new governing class. Low standard of living must be conserved. Cheap slaves. All undesirable elements must be thrown out of German territory.

The administration in Poland will have complete authority except on military matters.
Only one supreme authority: Governor-General.
Total disorganization must be created! No cooperation of Reich Government Agencies!
The Reich will give the Governor-General the means to carry out this devilish plan.

Military demands: Roads — Railroads. Garrisons as "Ordensburgen" * on the security line or forward of it.

West Prussia and Province of Posen are to built up an internal administration under Military Government.

1200: Conference with all departments concerned on new set-up of High Command East.

1700: Dankwerts, Gause etc.

Evening: Foreign Office. — Wilhelm ** calls on me.

19 October 1939.

ObdH: a) Talk with Foreign Office. (Belgium. -- Reporting of the war in French Press. Defeatism. Reports from France).

b) Army Hq. 3 - High Command Northeastern sector. Corps Hq. of its own under BdE. Executive Power.

c) Organization of the East: Continuous tank-ditch, posts of platoon strength.

d) (Stapf) Model — quiet Ia. ***

e) 25 October 2400 hrs. transfer High Command East.

Strictly military appraisal of the situation. #

Blaskowitz will take over on 23 October.

Ziehlberg: Organization of the Staffs.

Rundstedt: New Staff C-in-C East.

Quartermaster Staff for Blaskowitz. Motor vehicles for Landwehr Divisions ## for communication with advanced outposts. Wood supply,

light, water, motor sledges. Rail-trollies, ski Bns.

Becker: 1.) Mine detection and mine clearance in enemy territory and noman's land.

a) Detector will be tried out on S-mines.*
b) Development in box-frame mine detector. **
c) Portable mine detector. (Divining red.)
d) Remote-controlled mine demolition vehicle of concrete, driven across minefields to cause detonation of the mines. "Fire-rafts" against positions. *** Remote control device on underside of tanks.
e) Hammer vehicles. #

2.) Bridge-laying vehicles; production must be started. Chassis of tank IV; 50 have been ordered.

Org. Sec.: Schell reports that First through Eighth Armd. Divs., Tenth Armd. Div., Second, Thirteenth, Twentieth Divs. mot. ready for operations as of 10 November.

20 October 1939.

Bockelberg commendation. Letter of thanks through Personnel Division. Iron Cross.

Heitz.

Danzig Bock.

Posen Petzel.

Blaskowitz sees ObdH and myself. Briefing. Will relieve Rundstedt on 23 October.

Hoeppner calls on me.

Jodl sees OQu I

21 October 1939.

Notes for ObdH:

1.) Transfer of GHq.
2.) Fuehrer's ideas: Possibly only with assault groups.
Reichenau. Eben Emael 50 gliders.
3.) Fuehrer report, Jodl's inquiry.

4.) Leeb – OQu.
5.) Grossdeutschland: Mot. Regt. or airborne. Decision: mot. Op. Sec.

Must be done as quick as possible; order will be forthcoming for Divisions of the Third Draft.
Org. Sec. Wait for order. BdE and field army will not be done in the Third wave until order is given.*

Tour to the front as soon as possible. Itinerary. Inquiries. Termination 5 Nov.

Rhine pillboxes: Find out what can be done against French pillboxes. Buhle.
Position on the flood dam must be reconnoitered. Op. Sec.
Report and move up before onset of winter.

Seventh Section**
8.35 Batteries.
8.8 cm: 8.35; 10.5 guns.
Prepare AA guns from rear positions.
8.3 Czech; crews to be trained.
} Urgent. -- Set deadline (5 November) Op. Sec.

40 Jueterbog 8.8 cm AA *** are with Kluge and Reichenau. Op.Sec

OQu IV:# Krebs ## -- What is the Commission doing? ### It is very important to us that work should be completed at an aerly date.
OQu IV.

If date is cancelled, troops will be dispersed.
How much time must we stipulate for restarting of machinery?
Op. Sec. Greiffenberg.

Flame throwers, talk over with Eng. Off.

Telescopic sight (snipers) Ott. Training Sec.

AT Rifles. Org. Sec.

Equipment with antitank mines. Discuss with Eng. Off.

Allocation of Divisional Artillery Commanders and Observation Bns. — Brand.

Distribution of maps showing enemy dispositions. Liss.

Preparation of plans through map maneuvers. OQu I.

Smoke ammunition and special ammunition. Wagner.

Recommendations on defense of East Prussia.

Recommendation on organization of High Command East.

Leeb's deception plan.

Buhle: Signal Sec., Stapf.

a) 10 Watt armored reconnaissance car * for Air Force Liaison Officer.
b) Twelve 12 ton prime movers for 8.8 AA guns reported available.
Fourty 8 ton prime movers (trailers) for 8.8 cm AT guns reported in factories for dismantling.

22 October 1939.

Keitel: There seem to be new difficulties about assembly order. — Jodl.

Blaskowitz: Rundstedt should leave altogether. One man too many. Blaskowitz tomorrow noon.
When Telegram? Transportation Officer has left - Teilacker - Passed on to Central Branch. Eng. Off. Liebmann Radom.

Memo: Trip to the West Tuesday morning.
Buerkner, Mann for Belgium. — Papen. — East Prussia.

Chevallerie (after talk with Hollidt): Blumentritt still there; hands over business to Gerlach. Langhaeuser (Ic) is transferred to Staff West. Also Jaehnicke. Teilacker stopped in Berlin on his way to the West. — Not fault of Army Group! Three Officers there.
Request will be made for Eng. Off.
Burkhardt, Chief of Signal Communications, is there.
Subordinate personnel still lacking. (BdE announces arrival 24)
Rundstedt's Staff apparently has not taken with anything unnecessary.

Col. Gen. Keitel, with Jodl:

1.) a) Conference with ObdH.

b) Conference with Bock, Kluge, Reichenau Wednesday. It will be left up to him to decide whether he wants it on Wednesday before the general conference, or on Tuesday; and whether he wants it alone or together with the Generals; perhaps also same time. (Decision: 1200 - 1400.)

2.) Re: Directive for assembly:
Armeeabteilung North: IJssel inundation area will be first obstacle. Attempt not worthwhile. Troops will be cut off! (Objections denied.) Group too strong (two Divs).

Second Army: one more Division. Antwerp must be cut off from the north. Navy cannot cut off communications to Vlissingen. Second Army is given mission to encircle the fortress from the north, north-east and east.

Sixth Army:

a) From which Army does OKH expect greater things, Sixth or Fourth? A tangle.
b) After breakthrough the ratio of motorized forces must be enlarged. Sixth Army must look after its flanks.
c) Army Groups Reserve.

Twelfth and Sixteenth Armies: no comments.

AAA: / No entry in space allotted. - Ed./

Main effort: In Sixth or Fourth Army. Army Group Reserve within reach.

Could we infer the following development from these intentions?

a) Infantry Divisions are apparently depended on to force the breakthrough. (Five crossings, two siege operations).

b) Has it been taken into account that Sixth Army must be divided after the obstacles have been overcome? Independent "GHq. Cavalry Group".

Details: a) 45 Gliders (Task force Udet), total of 400 men. Junker planes will be made available for this purpose.
Airborne operation against bridges (from an altitude of 4000 - 5000 m, 50 - 100)*. Combined with coups de main.
b) Eben Emael. Groups with flame throwers. Railway guns: 28 cm. Smoke?
c) Airborne operation against Ghent. (Where is 22nd Div.?)
d) Fuehrer wants to attack on 12 November (Sunday). Twelfth Army to the West.

Fuhrer wants to leave at the end of the week. Saarbruecken.

23 October 1939.

Note for ObdH : Strategic analysis of Polish Campaign, by Christmas.

24 October 1939.

Op. Sec. (Schell):

a) Wheeled vehicles not before 7 Nov., evening. Tanks not before

7 Nov, evening. — Fourth Light Div. (needs three days.)
Ready 16 Nov, evening. -- 29th Div. (needs five days.)

SS Adolf Hitler? *

ObdH !

Bring up what is needed at the front in three days (by road and rail); on 12 Nov, during day.

Kunzen (Third Light Div.) and Geyer (Third Armd. Div.) must change. Geyer to Reichenau.

b) Personnel replacements said to be feasible. Last Div. due what date? Probably not all AA guns will be ready in time. (Three one-third Bns.)

c) Signal Regt., Sixteenth Army, not yet ready.

Officers. Not Twelfth. Replacements.

Fellgiebel: a) Three telephone and twelve teletype lines behind each Army. (Eight wires), from the rear to Army Hqs., not exceeding 200 km.
b) Ready by 12 November to connect with postal and air network.
c) Army and Navy systems safe. Air Force radio communications not protected against interception.

ObdH. - Observations on his tour in the West:

Witzleben wants us to tell Fuehrer about troubles with mines.

First Army has had its 10 cm Btrys taken away. Distress calls!

Gercke: Should materials for Eng. Corps be shipped under regular bills of lading!

ObdH: a) Goering feels insulted by our "demands", and by Rundstedt's letter. Op. Sec. must find out how Goering got to it.
Answer: Was turned over at request of Air Force Gen.Staf:

b) Swastika marking for air -ground identification (Order of the Fuehrer). (Bogatsch). Op.Sec.

c) Tanks must be marked on top. Signal flares. (Bogatsch). Op. Sec.
Leave painted markings. Hoods of tanks. Bust! **

Memo for ObdH: Ambassador Ritter (Negotiations with Moscow on economic questions).
Ready to submit report this week (Foreign Office).
Reports on frontline observations for Fuehrer, in order of the Armies visited (Fourth, Tenth, Fourteenth, Eighth). Warlimont.

25 October 1939.

Salmuth: We have not enough bridge columns. Bock -- Tresckow.

Buhle: Machine guns etc. will be all right.
Truck situation will not be straightened out.) Obstruction
Corps Signal Bns. for Corps impossible.) by Schell.
Divisional Columns.) ObdH.

Troop movements.

Albert Canal, air reconnaissance of slopes of southern bank (Liss). Mines.

Fuehrer Conference 25 October 1200 - 1800:

a) Still more from the East.*
b) 10 Divisions from AGp. C.
c) No more movements after start of offensive.
d) Offensive will be broadened later on.
e) For attack move to front AT Companies of other Divisions, medium and light AAA. No need to tie ourselves rigidly to the order of battle.

Army North: By what means are inundations produced, by locks or by dams? Would blowing up of locks serve any purpose?

ObdH: Areanorth of the Meuse not needed? Islands.
Kluge on Charleroi. Reichenau on Ghent.
In between,a new Army which must be able to withstand heavy blows. Covering of southern flank. If possibl, List should also ..., participate in the offensive. Groups on both wings very strong. Catastrophe similar to that on the Vistula bend.
Plan of operation: Wants main effort south of Liége, to the west, but still unwilling to stake all on one card.
Mountain Arty. for airborne operation.

26 October 1939.

Memo for ObdH:

1.) a) Tour in the West? Cancel.
b) Let preparations in the field run on for time being.
Signal communications?
Gen Qu?
Railroad no change. OQu I.
Air etc., no notifications yet.
Fuehrer tomorrow evening, 27 October. Op. Sec.

2.) Notes for report.

3.) Report on Albert Canal.

4.) Fuehrer should be given reports on experiences of the campaign (our wishes). Reports based on Polish Campaign, which show performance of Infantry, importance of Officers Corps, training, changeover from the West to the East.
OQu I, Org. Sec.

Before 1300:

Kuechler in place of Weichs. Op. Sec.
Krebs — Marcks. Central Branch.
Heitz VIII Corps.
Fuehrer, 26 Oct., Training, lighting*.

New Army Hqs. Central Branch and through Ziehlberg.
Op. Sec., Org. Sec.
Gen. Qu.
Take our central sector, Blaskowitz with Fuehrer.
Kuechler — Bockelberg.

Jodl: Fuehrer wants reports.
Important change from original plans: Attempt to break through everywhere.

Hollidt: Himmler calls up in Warsaw.
Negotiations with Moscow on exchange of Germans in Volhynia (Galicia) for settlement in German territories, against Ukrainians and Jews.
400 German officials will go to Russia, 1,000 Russian Officials will come to the area of High Command East. Will stay in country for four weeks, will be watched by Himmler's men (espionage). Inquiry whether we have any objections. Reply: None. ObdH.

27 October 1939. Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

1245. Meeting at the Fuehrer's. Award of decorations.
Subsequently Lunch.
Afterwards Fuehrer Conference: Formation of two mot. assault groups (Ghent and southwest of Namur). Date 12 November.
Final order on operations tomorrow!

After return: Reports by Central Branch, Buhle, Chief of Transportation.

In the evening, conference with ObdH alone (he is tired and dejected).

Activation of new Army Hq.: No signal troops. Only in two months, when it will perhaps possible to form a Signal Regt.

Merger of organizations in the East. High Command East and Sector Command Center. Must be postponed until final decision on the West

Hierl wants to revive the Labor Service now during the war. Three months' service, wants to take Labor Service Officers out of Army, young people from industry.

28 October 1939.

0900, Conference with OQu I and Op. Sec. Recommendation on operation south of Liége.

1000, Fuehrer Conference.

Outline of the dissimilar conditions obtaining north and south of Liége. North of Liége the difficulty is to overcome the first obstacles, south of Liége the problems are those of distance and the barrier of the Meuse river.
Conclusions: We must do the one thing without excluding the other. In Reichenau's sector the mot. Group must be held up until we can see whether crossing of the river can be made.

1400, Conference with OQu I and Op. Sec. on outcome of Fuehrer Conference.

1400, Buhle: 10 cm guns instead of medium Field Howitzers. 14 Bns.? ObdH's wish.

1400, Roehricht: Talk on artillery instruction pamphlets by Wandel.

Notes for ObdH: 1.) 10 cm Batteries must be ready to move on 5 Nov. Two Bns. can be converted for sure (by 3 November) Ask for numbers?
2.) Protectorate Division stopped.
3.) Artillery 50% ready. Remainder will be completed in time with the exception of two heavy Bns. (604th and 605th). (Heavy Howitzers and 15 cm guns)
B.*

29 October 1939.

Conference Buhle - Brand. Greiffenberg.

Report to ObdH on new assembly order.

1600, Stapf: Airborne troops. Intentions?

Memo for ObdH: Front tour OQu I ? ** Rundstedt and Leeb, orientation on reasons for the change. Talk to Commanding Generals; orient on intentions.
Reichenau - Stuelpnagel.
Transfer to H. ***

30 October 1939.

ObdH: Camouflage preparations so that the program can start running as of 5 November.
Friday, Saturday to the Fuehrer — Trip on 2 and 3 November. — Going out one half, returning three-quarters.
Armd. troops must at all events be ready to roll.

Has the Fuehrer got our reports on campaign experiences? Check points for stopping of movement.* Last signals eight hours before jump-off; after that there is no stopping.

Buttlar: a) Preparations for trip on 2 and 3 November.
b) Preparations for transfer of GHq. to H.

Jacob: a) Railroad gun emplacement for the Fuehrer (Request of AGp. C).
b) Control of iron allocations.
c) Use of Engineer troops for deception maneuvers on the Saar and Moselle rivers.
Army Hq. 18 5 November Cologne.

31 October 1939.

ObdH: Mechanical equipment for position construction.
Officer appointments in Rear Services.**
Haseloff***, BdE.
Representative of the Personnel Div.
Pappenheim.

1 November 1939.

Note for ObdH:

a) Railroad accidents; railroads are taxed to breaking point (damaged cars, late trains, nervousness). New fronts impossible! Railroad maps showing critical points for ObdH.
b) Difficulties in supply by rail.
c) Deterioration of ordinary good manners observable in furlough traffic.
d) Recommendations to Fuehrer: 256th Div., 255th Div. (Protectorate Staff Brand should be attached to XXXIII Corps.
e) Ahr Valley Railroad.
f) Pressure of time. Logistic preparations.

Program: For Commanding Generals of Army Groups only!

Report from AGp. A. Lacks positive aspects. Reduction of forces. Surprise attack in spring. Southeast Europe! Should initiative be left to the enemy? (General popular mood.) OQu IV caution in reporting to OKW.

1.) First talk with Bock: Only operational and tactical questions, Salmuth, Greiffenberg.

2.) Next, Reichenau.

Time schedule for the three hours.

Trip to front set for 2 and 3 Nov.

2 November, AGp. B. Morning, Sixth Army (Duesseldorf), afternoon, Fourth Army and Second Army (Cologne). Overnight at Niedermendig.

3 November, AGp. A. Morning, Twelfth Army (Mayen), afternoon Sixteenth Army (Bad Bertrich).

The points of discussion are detailed in the prepared program for ObdH and in the protocols of Op. Sec., Org. Sec., Gen Qu. Other participants: Artillery Officer, Engineer Corps Officer, Air Officer, Chief of Transportation.

Salient points:

1.) At the moment we cannot launch an offensive with a distant objective.

a) Personnel replacements have on the whole been received, but they have not yet been integrated into real teams. In some cases we are short of some officers.

b) Level of training: Among the Western Divs., even Regular Army troops have suffered from the long period of defensive warfare. The Eastern Divisions must get at least two weeks' intensive training to prepare them for the wholly different situation in the West. We must have these two uninterrupted weeks before the assembling movements are started.

c) Materiel. Some of the Divisions are obliged to pick up their deficiencies directly at the depots in the Z I (will take 10 days).
Much of the damage cannot be repaired, e.g. broken axles of AT guns. Trucks of the supply services also show faulty materiel. Spare parts for MG 34 and trucks. Horse replacements will not arrive in time. Ammunition rations, fuel sufficient on hand including current consumption.

d) Some Divisions will be absent from the line-up for the time being. E.g., Second and Third Mt. Divs. and in 34th and 72nd Inf. Divs. are still one-third under-strength.

2.) None of the Higher Hqs. think that the offensive ordered by OKW has any prospect of success. No decisive success can be expected on ground operations.

3.) On the whole appraisal of enemy parallels that of OKH. Naturally, every Army Group feels it will have to bear the brunt of enemy counter-measures. I do not share AGp. A's anticipation that the enemy will become active outside the Maginot line soon, staging a strong counter-offensive, with distant objectives (right wing on the Moselle river).

4.) Details:

a) Notify OKW that Todt must temporarily suspend operations. Op. Sec.

b) Border Control Service can remain. Customs questions must receive more attention. Org. Sec. Gen. Qu.

c) Army Hqs. 18 and 2 will remain, as planned by OKH.

d) Another job for Prager. Central Branch.

e) Fixed schedule for reporting, new procedure for Op. Sec. reports (noon reports)! Op. Sec.

f) Armd. Divs. from AGp. B to right wing of Twelfth Army as far as Bastogne.
Grossdeutschland to Twelfth Army.
SS Adolf Hitler to Eighteenth Army. Op. Sec.

g) Chart showing distribution of traffic control Bns., Gen Qu.

h) Distribution of Com Zone units? Gen Qu.

i) Replacements: Gen Qu-BdE. Sources of mistakes and delays. Proposals for changes (in major shifts of troops, in minor shifts). Gen Qu.

k) P-Day* system must be clarified by order. Op. Sec.
Road movements when there is no danger of air attacks. By order of the Armies also during the day. Order! Op. Sec.

l) Check: What can still be moved up to AGp. A. Observation BN. (XXIII Corps) Medium Artillery. HG. BN. Op. Sec.

n) Airborne Division nonsence! Better to jump on bridges in Belgium (Fourth, Twelfth, Sixteenth Armies).
Op. Sec. and Air Officer.

4 November 1939.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Strategic analysis of the PolishmCampaign. Interference by Fuehrer.
b) Transfer of GHq. possible in 24 hours. (Signal Center 48 hour
c) Fuehrer wants airborne troops. Two more in addition to Sixteenth Regt.! Details must be settled between Sixth Army* and Student.
d) In the event of an offensive, Gercke will not be able for a considerable time to move any civilian goods.
e) Todt has been given orders for a new West Wall. Hannecken has to allocate steel for the new West Wall.
f) Work completed on road movements of mot. units. (Maps of 7 Nov., time schedule 9/10).

1100, Col. Gen. von Bock:

1.) Reichenau again back in Berlin. In the course of today (Savoy Hotel).
2.) Goebbels will inspect the West Wall on 7 and 8 November, then go to the offensive wing.

Talk with ObdH on future measures.

1530, Thomas (Keitel not notified)!

a) Effects of a violation of neutrality on sources of supply: Repercussions in Sweden (iron ore); U.S. wants to get it; in Romania:(fuel, food); Yugoslavia: (copper).

b) If we hold the Flanders coast, there will be continuous fighting in that sector.
Will absorb large proportion of our supply. Cannot be done by Air Force and Navy.

c) Belgium: Needs 50% food imports. Will be very short on food next year (sowing)**.

5 November 1939.(Report to the Fuehrer by ObdH.)

Op. Sec.: Warlimont outlines the ideas of the Fuehrer!

1.) Armd. units in Twelfth Army (Schell's recommendation).
2.) How can tanks be camouflaged in transit? (Change silhouette, cover with tarpaulins!) Time needed for loading!

3.) Radio deception in connection with operation "Student" * (Throw enemy command into confusion! But care must be taken that this deception does not cause disorganization of our own operations.)

Long-range reconnaissance authorized over France.

22nd Div., 7 and 8 November, Muenster.

Bork (on Keitel's inquiry): Once transport movements have been stopped, they cannot be restarted before 48 hours. If unloading points are changed, resumption of movement would take even 72 hours.

ObdH's report to the Fuehrer:
Condition of the troops.
Memorandum - Countermemorandum.**
Stand taken: Questions can be solved only by military measures. Impossible in bad weather. (Yes, but also the enemy suffers under bad weather.)
He goes into a ragewhen told that front shows the same symptoms as in 1917/1918. Wants data: In what units have there been any cases of indiscipline? What happened? Wants to fly there himself tomorrow.***
As regards the level of training, what is argued now would still hold good four weeks from now.
Weather unfavorable also in spring. — Any other method to protect the Ruhr is undebatable.#
Any sober discussion of these things is impossible with him.
Army did not want to fight, and so build-up of armament was slow and lagging.
"Instance of insubordination occurred, such as we knew in 1917/1918". What troops? What action has been taken? (Death sentence, West, East.)## Gen Qu has full data. — Railroads. ###
Refer to Gen Qu, Chief of Transportation, BdE, Personnel Division.

6 November 1939.

Note for ObdH: a) Talk with Keitel.
b) Transfer of Gen. Staff Tuesday night. ObdH Wednesday night. Bulk Wednesday, during the day.

Keitel (Personnel Division): Prager - Waeger.

Bock: Personnel and materiel replacements: Two Divisions in Poland (Eighth and Twenty-eighth Divs.) wanting replacements had their requisitions returned after several days because the wrong forms had been used. Two weeks have now gone by. - Army Hq, 14, VIII Corps Hq.
Army Clothing Depots and Army Ordnance Depots are issuing supplies normally.

Reichenau only "acknowledged an orientation received." Stated his views. Time will be set by top level.

Fellgiebel: a) Air landing at Ghent. Spread radio rumors of landings at Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Brugge.
b) Embargo on border traffic Belgium-Holland. Order will be forthcoming (OKW). Check with Gen Qu. ObdH.

7 November 1939.

ObdH: a) Student - Zero Hour 0715.
b) Ghent. One-third of 22nd Div. Two-thirds of Div. at Muenster.
c) Wishes concerning equipment have been met. No wishes received concerning training. 22nd Div.
d) Fuehrer Hq will be transferred to Nauheim within the next few days.
e) Proclamation to Belgian and Dutch population: Signed: "The High Command of the Army". - Yes. New version. No Army Order of the Day. Fuehrer must give the word. (Is being worked on). Text of the proclamation must be submitted to the Fuehrer. Gen Qu.
f) Cause: "French march into Belgium".
g) Equipment: Normally Gen Qu. In special cases BdE (Ib).

Gen Qu: Ammunition build-up will be completed in time (including special ammunition). Engineer equipment. Shortages in bridge equipment, vehicles and prime movers.
Richter!

Notes for ObdH: Erfurth. Yes.
Sandbags. Gen Qu.
Execution of the offensive; how far should it go?
Must be thought over. Op. Sec.
Form a reserve out of Bock's units.

1300 OKW order to stop the mot. movements is received.

1600 Jodl: a) Restart in any event not before 9 November, evening.
b) Transfer of GHq undesirable now.

Fuehrer will not be in tomorrow and the following day; afterwards conference with ObdH.

Transfer of GHq cancelled at the request of ObdH.

Gercke back from Fuehrer: Start of offensive not before 15 November (if later, 19).

8 November 1939.

Wagner: Note on Geib report for ObdH.
Currency for Belgium: Reich treasury notes.

Blaskowitz - Hollidt: Probable distribution of troops as of 1 December (Map!). Remounts -- Improvement and training of Reserve Divs. Divisions will be called up in the sequence: 218th, 223rd (each has one Arty. Bn.), 228th (full strength).

Etzdorf: Démarche treated with sarcasm and sneering.* They must be crushed! Instruction to Dietrich is: Give news a very inconspicuous spot (second page). He ** is leaving on a trip, will not be in for anyone .

Instruction for Ribbentrop on line to be taken on inquiries:

1.) Any steps the sovereigns may wish to take have already been answered by Britain through Halifax.
Speech held last night: (War aims are : Building of a new world that knows no armed rivalry; collaboration with all nations on the basis of mutual tolerance; ways must be found to prevent the use of force, damage done by Germany must be repaired as far as possible).

2.) Fuehrer away.
Foreign Minister's instruction: Material to prove discriminatory pro-French attitude of Belgium now and also in past. ("Give free rein to your imagination").

Belgian Ambassador saw Weizsaecker: Expressed his indignation at the treatment accorded the King's journey in our press. Asks whether we want to pick a quarrel. Weizsaecker has been instructed to tell the Belga *** correspondent, who made a comment on aggressive intentions: Blaskowitz still in Warsaw. No armor on the Belgian border.

Buelow-Schwante/Spaak: Spaak: The way in which we are treating the King's journey is arousing great anxiety. In Belgian public opinion, the King's journey is sign of imminent danger.

Air reconnaissance Northern France.

Wagner: AGp. B reported to motorize its Border Guards, and to occupy national frontier with Regional Defense units.

Hasse: AGp. has issued orders on 28 October with a view to motorize the Border Guard. Later order: On transfer of Border Guard, function will be taken over by Regional Defense units.
On receipt of order of ObdH: Decision deferred.

Schell (through Greiffenberg): 29th Div. ready 16 November. Will move 19 November. Fourth Light Div. (Officer on way) probably one Armd. Bn.: two light (Vienna), one heavy Co. (Putlos). Number of complete Btrys? Schell will report 9 November, 1000.

9 November 1939.

Greiffenberg (Keitel-Jodl):

a) Intention not to start off before 19 November (Keitel).

b) Air Force must participate, even if only in the first threedays

c) 29th mot. Div. and Fourth Lt. Inf. Div. must be completed according to plan (formerly 18). ObdH

d) Fuehrer insists that Armd. Divs. must under all circumstances strike in the direction Arlon - Tintigny. ObdH wants to speak to Busch!

e) Reinhardt, Fourth Armd. Div.; Kempf, Sixth Armd. Div., XV Corps;

f) Possible tour to the Western front!

ObdL?

Telegram to Fuehrer.

Study defense line in Sixteenth Army sector. Reflections on operations.

Schell: Heavy Armd. Co.

Reply to AGp. A.

ObdH: a) The existing Armd. units are all we have. No more reserves on hand.

As soon as Fourth Light Div. is ready for operations, the units must be combined under higher Hqs. Fourth Light Div. and 29th mot. Div. under XIX Corps Hq, which would then have to be taken away from other missions.

Fuehrer stresses concentration, as against stretching.

It takes two days to move up Sixth or Fourth.

Reserved road* to Twelfth Army sector!

b) AGp. A — Follow up Sedan.**

Wagner: Jaehnicke's report.

Schell: 29th Div. All elements ready to leave on 15. Nov., morning (Erfurt). In field on 19.

Fourth Lt. Div. will not be ready before the end of the month.

Armd. Bn. ready 16 Nov., morning, at St. Poelten:

2 Lt. Cos. (St. Poelten))	25	Tanks I
1 Hv. Co. (Putlos))	33	Tanks II
	4	Tanks III
	4	Tanks IV
	6	Armd. Command Cars.

Cannot be in field before 20.

On 15 Nov., evening, 1800: Armd. Bn. 33 with Bn. Hq, one Armd. Rcn. Troop.

One Bn. of Tenth Armd. Div., Regtl. Hq Landgraf.

Armd. Regt. Landgraf.)	)	
SS Adolf Hitler.)	Hq. Fourth)	
Armd. Rcn. Troop.)	Lt. Div.)	for Guderian
Eng. Co.)	)	
Signal Co.)	)	
Artillery of Fourth Lt. Div.	)	
Add 29th mot. Div.	Op. Sec.	

On 15 November. Armd. Regt. of Tenth Armd. Div. — Twentieth Div.

ObdH: Directive to AGp: Take advantage of movement*, if after 15 November (19). Troops must get as much rest and training time as possible. Op. Sec.
Grouping too near the enemy (lets the enemy draw his own conclusions!).

ObdH: Closing of frontier. Movement of goods.

Stapf: Report on accusations levelled against the Army and General Staff.

ObdH: Not before 19 November.

Guderian gets one mot. Div., one Armd. Div. Schell will remain.

10 November 1939.

Wagner: Police behind the front.

ObdH: Report Schwetz**.

Stapf: Reconnaissance.

Jacob: Bridge Column AGp. B.)
Flame thrower) Will be straightened out.
6 Columns B*** (materiel is ready).

Mueller, Ia Army Hq 1. Leeb: Readiness.

Leeb - Witzleben.

ObdH: Exchange Raschik (XXXVII)/Gienanth (XXXVI). Free IX. OQu I.
Reserved roads.
Reserves.
Wagner notes on rehabilitation of Field Army.
Southern front of Eighteenth Army.
Keitel: Build up has no depth.
Wagner: BdE has big stocks.

Date of offensive. Discussed with ObdH 11 November. / Subsequent entr - Ed./

11 November 1939.

Note for ObdH: AT gun on self-propelled mounts will not go with Regt. Grossdeutschland.
Shelling of Rhine pillboxes: No reconnaissance reports yet. — Engel.

ObdH wants to speak to Bock.

ObdH: After talk with Keitel OKW: Op. remains as is! Pcu. Bn. mot. to Guderian. Brand for X Corps. Guderian is moving, Staff is on the move, Guderian in front!
One Corps Hq. (IX) must be freed and will be replaced from the East.

Exchange: XIX/XXII Corps, XXII/X Corps, X/XXXIII Corps. Report on compliance! IX not for the time being.

Give Raschik possibly assignment behind the Western front. Yes, east of the Rhine.

"Sponeck". Action taken! *

12 November 1939.

Sunday: French operational study communicated to Group West.

Talk with Stapf.

Wagner: Build-up of a Gen Qu supply base for Guderian's Corps.

ObdH: Erfurth.

13 November 1939.

ObdH: OQu IV. Roatta picture. — Fortifications. — Desertion case (flyer - motorcyclist).**

Chief of Transportation: Operational accident rate: in peacetime - in war.

Own mine casualties in the past 10 days: 88 men. Adjutant.

Jodl: Holland. Directive will follow.

Paper war: OKH inspectors to the front, have spot checks made!

Evening farewell to Roatta at Guards Cavalry Officers' Club.

14 November 1939.

Memo for ObdH: Change in the directive on border assembly.
Witzleben wants to talk to me.
Postponement to 22 November. Itinerary for OKH.
Roatta sends his greetings. — Talk with Seiffert: Men on leave, own circles.*

Wahle (Bucharest).

Chevallerie - Roehricht: Study courses on Sedan.**

Jodl regarding new "directive":

a) "Dutch islands" not yet clear. (Texel?)

b) No preformed ideas on how mission should be accomplished.

c) What can be done to bring up more troops yet?
Units available: 1. Cav. Div. SS Deathhead as of 20 November.
Police Div., 1 December.

d) What do we have to rush reinforcements to Guderian in case of a breakthrough? (World War I shows that many opportunities for success remained unexploited because of lack of forces to consolidate initial success).

ObdH. Conference 1730: One Division from High Command East.
OKW. If we understand them correctly, the plan provides for occupation by the Navy and Air Force. Paratroops.
Fuehrer: A job for Air Force and Navy.

15 November 1939.

Memo for ObdH:

1.) Preliminary order issued to AGp. B. (For preliminary work they can call on personnel of Army Hq 18.).

2.) Order can be issued as soon as we have a definition of what the term "Fortress Holland" comprises. (Jodl)

3.) Stapf: Request to Air Force to make its intentions clear, as regards manpower commitment and zone of action.

4.) Navy: Intimated that order came as a complete surprise to them.

5.) Gen Qu, Air Force Officer, Eng. Corps Off. have been put on the job. —
Buhle: Regional Defense units. Orientation policy in Holland for Gen Qu.

6.) Report OKW.

7.) Transfer of OKH in event of attack now perhaps best on A-1 or A-Day; Gen. Staff on A-Day; ObdH A-Day morning. Then remain at the front.

8.) Rhine pillboxes.
Reconnaissance in all directions necessary for pillboxes.
Dispatch officers. Czech 8.35 cm gun not before January 1940.

9.) List of Artillery available(in excess of 1st Bn.):
Three Regimental Staffs. Six Light Bns. Two medium Bns.
High Command East. Polish materiel. Six gun Batteries.
Training of crews.

AAA Bn. — Short-range Reconnaissance Staffel. — Individual long-range reconnaissance planes for Signal Co. (field long-distanc cable).

Op: ObdH concerned lest Bock starts attacking also south of the Waal river without order.*
Can Guderian read also our signals?* Fellgiebel.

Conference of Army A-in-Cs.

Guderian. F.(ellgiebel).

Stapf: Air Force not satisfied with half-way solution; wants to include Holland. If only half-way solution, then the most important targets are south of the Meuse up to the river mouths.

ObdH: Giessen: Decision on what must remain behind to have an effective working Staff. OQu I, Central Branch.

Intelligence Officers to Armies (must come along to the conference with ObdH). Central Branch. Op.Sec.

Bock: Mot. Div. Mixed Regt. Engel. Op. Sec.

Fromm: a) XX and XXI Corps area good!
b) New activations: 14 Brigades, 15 December. Org. Sec.
c) Youngest age group not yet taken out of Construction Bns. Org. Sec.

Gen Qu: Horses in Poland.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Twentieth mot. Div. for Bock (X Corps and reinforced 207th and (208th Divs. Arty, Eng., bridges 1
Airborne troops. Report on compliance.

b) Fromm: 14 Brigades, SS Deathhead mot. Problem of columns.

c) State Secretary.

16 November 1939.

Bock: Matter initiated two weeks ago.

ObdH: Starting second half of December, about 10 Divisions of reinforced Brigade strength for occupation duty, sieges, etc. Doubtful whether strength can be maintained for a long time. Report to Fuehrer on action taken.

20 November, 1500. Reich Chancellery: Reichenau and Reinhard and local Air Force Commanders (Reich Chancellery).

Get statements of Air Force and AGp. B on best time for start.

(Evening new graduates from Gen. Staff Course.)

17 November 1939.

Guderian: Two questions on his mind:

1.) "On both sides" of Arlon.
2.) Suggests Zero Hour at midnight.

Jodl: a) Hope has been given up to capture the bridges across the Albert Canal in surprise attacks. Attempts to prevent blowing up by destroying cables. Dive bombers attack (Monday), followed up by parachutists.

Plan to use gliders against bridges dropped, but Eben Emael project remains. ObdH.

If we fail to get across the Albert Canal, withdraw mot. forces. Chances better on southern wing. (Enemy expects attack on Holland, bulk of his operational forces in the North. Make all necessary preparations!).

b) Utilize.*

c) Under no circumstances without Air Force. An organization should therefore be set up that would enable us to hold off start of operation until receipt of a last-minute codeword (2300 at OKH).

Conference: Goering (?), Student, Richthofen. Monday (20th), 1500. Reichenau, Reinhard, ObdH.

Fourth Light Div. lacking only one Rifle Regt., one Artillery Bn.

All points taken up with ObdH.

OQu I: How many Construction Troops, materials, Surveying Staffs for rear lines.

Jodl: Deadline for stopping attacking units; zero hour for attack. — Naval Liaison Staff. — Fortress Holland. — Coast protection a job for the Navy. — Coast defense area.

Liaison Officers: Fourth Army, Gehlen. Sixth Army, Kinzel. Twelfth Army, Sixt. Sixteenth Army, Maier-Ricks (Foreign Armies West). XIX Corps, Krebs.

18 November 1939.

Dankwerts: Internal administration. Evacuation.

ObdH: a) Conference, Koblenz, Tuesday, 21 November, 1200. All Cs-in-C.
b) Deadline for calling off offensive: 2400 hrs, at unit level.

19 November 1939. (Sunday).

Conference with Salmuth on Holland.

Reports by Wagner (Holland) and Mueller (Replacement situation – Sodenstern

20 November 1939.

Memo for ObdH:

1.) AGp. B. Plan of attack Holland, distribution of forces.
2.) AGp. A. Plan of attack for Guderian.
3.) Reserved roads.
4.) Air and AAA map.
5.) Deadline for stop: Armies see no difficulties if "check points" are used. Rundstedt wants to talk about it on Tuesday. Bock on return.
6.) Report of Gen Qu.
7.) "Broken word".*

8.) OKW Liaison Officer at High Command East (Glaise von Horstenau)
Foreign Office Liaison Officer at Army Groups Hqs.
Bader's letter.

Will leave for Koblenz in the evening.

1500 - 1900, Fuehrer Conference (Goering, Jeschonneck, Student, ObdH, myself, Reichenau, Reinhard);

Air operations in the sector of Sixth Army, and Sixth Army intentions are discussed in detail.

Notes: 1.) Next issue of orders 27 November.
2.) Conduct tests with gliders in the units (Op.Sec.).
3.) Blasting tests on Canal emplacements (Eng.).
4.) Holland and Belgium as one operation.
5.) Armd. units must be moved closer to the front.
If possible all stagings should be so arranged that operations could be started on three days' notice (weather report).

Evening leave for Koblenz.

21 November 1939. (Koblenz).

Conference with Cs-in-C of the Army Groups and Armies, and Guderian.

Summary: Sixth Army: a) Takes out First Armd. Div.; forms combat team in Third Armd. Div. for surprise thrusts against Meuse bridges and Tournhout Canal. b) Should Corps Hq XVI be kept as reserve?? (Disapproved)

Fourth Army: a) Two river barrages? OQu IV. b) Claims not to have enough bridge-building equipment to cross the Meuse at both Huy and Givet.

Guderian: Fortifications at Martelange? Arlon? Cooperation with Sixteenth Army and Luxemburg still being studied.

Twelfth Army: No comments.

Sixteenth Army: 72nd and 34th Divisions want to get their third Regiments as soon as possible.

22 November 1939.

Morning. Arrival at Berlin.

0900: Phone talk with OKW/Keitel: What is shortest possible period of preparation? For Inf. not under five days, since otherwise troops would have to be billeted in villages and towns. (OKW order to this effect will arrive during the day.)
Conferences on moving of Armd. Divs. closer to the front: By period 27 November/3 December only two Armd. Divs. and two mot. Divs. can be moved.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Moving up of two Armd. Divs. and of two Mot. Divs. For the present the others remain where they are until the next change of date.

b) Either fill up Cav. Div. or send Rcn. Bn. (Senne)* to the Div. Form Regiments!

c) Hossbach wants 82nd Regt. (perhaps also 59th and 72nd).

d) Field Regiments. 72 and 34. can join their Divisions by the beginning of December (5 December). Must be moved up as soon as possible. Should Regiments be taken from other Divisions? (No!)

e) Request to OKW that Zero Hour be advanced to pre-dawn.

23 November 1939.

1200: Fuehrer's address to Commanding Generals, Army Cs in C etc. (including General Staff): Appraisal of the situation, necessity for taking the offensive.**

1430: Fuehrer's address to Division Commanders on the planned operation. Again the purpose is to rouse enthusiasm for the offensive.

1800: ObdH and myself "Spirit of Zossen"; (Day of crisis!)***

Preparations must allow launching of offensive with a three days' alert.

Operation: Objectives. — Possible enemy reaction. — Further plans (cooperation of Italy). French frontiers of 1540! #

24 November 1939.

ObdH: Officers' shoulderstraps for administrative officials for duration of the war. Staffs must be reduced. Talk over with Section Chiefs.

Air Force wants no glider exercise.
Afternoon Schniewind.
Administration of justice in the entire Army.

Op. Sec.: Order issued to Army Hqs to submit new reports on what GHq reserves are east of the Rhine.

Buhle reports on organization.

Schniewind discussion of intentions.

Etzdorf: Italy: Naval blockade. "We fully understand the political implications of the problems". Population exodus from southern Italy. Difficulties! Military reinforcements. Bastianini (London) two weeks ago: Every possibility still open, evacuation of Poland no prerequisite. ObdH.

Gercke reports to Keitel on moving up of Armd. units to staging and jump-off areas.

25 November 1939.

Grouping of reserves east of the Rhine under XXXVII Corps. Hq.

Arrange for talk with ObdH.

Had a serious talk with ObdH about his wishes for drafts on operations in all corners of the world.

26 November 1939. (Sunday)

Picked out a thoroughbred at Mariendorf* for myself.

Operational studies for Turkey and Persia. Nonsense!

27 November 1939.

Notes for ObdH:

a) Remainders of 72nd and 34th Regts. will leave for their Divs. on 28 November.

b) Guderian. For Paulus: Watch right wing.

c) Field Marshal has stopped all individual air reconnaissance missions. (Frontwide reconnaissance occasionally.)
Paulus: Air!

d) XVII Corps: 44th, 46th, 256th Divs.
XXXIII Corps: 10th, 57th (MT), 45th Divs.
First Army: 73rd, 52nd, 71st, 36th, 25th Divs.
XIV Corps: 13th, 26th, 7th Armd., 8th Armd. Divs.
) Training

e) High Command East has alerted 218th Div. 72 hours.

Inspect SS Deathhead, Waffen SS.

Buhle: Cav. Div. — Horses from Eastern Divs. BdE cannot give any.

Krebs.

Memorandum Balkans (9th Branch), maps.

OQu I, Fourth Section*: Artillery range practice
Popitz, Schacht, Thomas.
) ObdH

Reder, Thurner, Dankwarts. Talk them out of it!**

28 November 1939.

Osterkamp:

a) Uniform of the Special Missions Officers in Higher Administration. Reder, Thurner.
b) Belgium-Holland, prepare ration coupons system. Food, Clothing, Work.

29 November 1939.

Memo for ObdH:

a) 255th Inf. Div.

b) Seventh Air Div.

c) Toussaint - Bodenschatz. Rumors in Belgrade; the matter will not be followed up any further. — Goering: short talk to Generals before Fuehrer address.

d) Defeatism in Air Force: Curtis versus Messerschmitt.* Training in blind flying.

e) Goering's order on use of AA troops against ground targets.

f) Conference with Regierungspraesidents** Reder - Thurner.
1.) Basic principles, food, currency.
2.) Expansion of Staffs preparing occupation administration.
3.) Directive to troops to practice economy. Gen Qu.

g) Goebbels wants to visit AGp. B. on 6,7, and 8 December.

h) Police Division and 50th Div. not ready before 15 December; 60th Div. 1 December.

Evening: Chevallerie says good-bye.

Training Section: Submit program! Training in one or two waves. Armor exercises: Take out of front, camouflage movements. — Fieldpost.

Irak: Consul Otto Wolf (Dahlem). OQu IV. Put men at his disposal. Schickfuss.

30 November 1939. Start of the Russo-Finnish Conflict.

Memo for ObdH:

1.) Problems of the right wing (5):

a) Liége-Antwerp.

b) Arrangements with Air Force and AAA for attack on Maastricht.

c) Advance in direction of Tournhout - right wing, 254th Div., on the Meuse. (Prepare data.)

d) X Corps must tackle their job more energetically.

e) Army Gp and GHq reserves.
All items to be discussed on trip. If not, call in Bock and Reichenau for conference.

2.) Road movements on schedule; some trains late (large areas flooded; First Armd. Div. was stranded for a night).

3.) French mcz. Div. at Sedan.

4.) 255th Div. Dresden - Bautzen - Hoyerswerda (optional, no bridge) - Z I. Departure 1 December. Arrival by 8 December.

5.) Training and regrouping program in the event of a prolonged waiting period is being prepared.

6.) Own reserves. /Words are struck out. - Ed./ Goebbels' visit.

Buhle: Reich Labor service. Directive for C in C East.

Liss: Floods in the Maginot Line. — Mcz. Div. at Sedan. — Belgian rolling stock standing on southern Belgian border.

von Etzdorf: Balkans situation. — Italy. — Russia/Finland. — France.

1 December 1939.

(ObdH is visiting Seventh Army.)

von Greiff, Schreiber report as COs of Area Hqs (Oberfeldkommandanten).

Stapf: New directive on air support of ground operations is in preparation. Substantial increase in air support; AAA against ground targets, but not on very large scale.

2 December 1939.

Fellgiebel: Varna radio monitoring post.*

Salmuth, after conference with ObdH:

1.) Richthofen Air Corps is up to things out of line with what Army Hq wants him to do. (Draft prepared by Army Group, now at Air Force Hq)

2.) Commitment of AAA at Dessloch, AA Corps stays with Sixth Army.

Remains in Sixth Army sector (objectives specified by AGp). Some elements in Fourth Army sector.
Monday morning at Goering's office.

3.) It is necessary to have dive bomber missions against Canal bridges clarified. (Reported change of former plans by OKW.)
Absolutely!

4.) Mission of Special Detachment K (Police) must also be clarified, Hq Sixth Army protests against earlier frontier crossing.
Will be cleared by Jodl with Reichenau.

Memo for ObdH:

1.) Christmas furloughs: 5 - 10%, replacement troops 50%. Reduction of frontline strength. — Training — General Inspectorate of Fortifications. Tour of the Gen. Staff to the front.

2.) AGp. A: Operational question.

3.) Busch. Two drafts submitted. Gen Qu.

4.) OKW directive on operations of AGp. C.

5.) Personal remarks by Bock (on Fuehrer speech).

(All points taken up with ObdH.)

3 December 1939. (Sunday, Berlin.)

4 December 1939.

von Tippelskirch: von Leeb protests against SS decree.*

Mueller: 1.) GHq reserves, etc. do not receive our instructions and orders.

2.) Standard forms for requisitions needed. Different forms for BdE and Field Army. Gen Qu.

3.) a) Security Regts. mot. or bicycle mounted) Must be sent to
b) Guards Bn. (Bicycle mounted),) the front for allocation. Gen Qu (Op.Sec., Training Sec., Org.Sec.).

4.) Officers' wives in rear areas.

Schmundt: Todt can be recalled from "Eifel". Op, Sec. Land Fortifications

Wagner, Dankwarts report on Holland/Belgium: What has been done by the Reich Ministry of Food about setting up food stores? Gen Qu.

I want to see the tables submitted to ObdH. Adjutant.

Leaves (Roehricht).

Evening. Celebration of the Feast of St. Barbara.**

5 December 1939.

Y-Day postponed by two days. (Field Marshal)

Notes for ObdH: a) Lettes Busch. Gen Qu.

b) Operational report AGp. A. No.

c) Denmark.

d) Sixth Army: 1.) Group Koop straightened out. Reichenau withdraws objections.
2.) Ruling on AAA question will come today.

e) Talk with Army Cs of S: Troops strong enough. — Progress in training. Jump-off: No trouble expected.

a) Trucks for Cav. Corps. OQu I for Navy elements.*

b) AA protection and air warning service; in X Corps all is clear.

Phone talks with all Army Cs of S or Cs in C on weather and ground conditions in the West: Even if the weather should improve, it will take 8 to 10 days for the ground to dry.

6 December 1939.

Mackensen's 90th Birthday.

Paulus: Short report on possibilities for attack. Talked over with Jodl.

Ziehlberg: Medal of Merit awards.

Hemmerich: Maps of Military Geographic Center for future planning. Order: Balkans, Denmark, England, Anatolia.

Notes for ObdH: Fuehrer has summoned the two AAA Generals, because he wants to brief them himself (no details known). Fuehrer is uncertain whether it should be Ghent or Dinant (Walcheren or Carignan). — Ground and flood difficulties talked over with Jodl (Paulus: Meuse 300 m wide instead of 150).

Xylander: Report on impression at the front.

Next decision on 12 December (earliest date of attack 17).
Effects on Organization.
On Training: Troops training center. — Question of leaves. —
Gas training courses. —
Gen. Staff Training course.

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