

June 9, 1989

Ms. Geraldine Wilson
USGS Records Officer
Geological Survey, National Center
Room 1C-112 MS 208
Reston, VA 22092

Dear Geri:

National Archives personnel have recently completed a review of several USGS records accessions retired to the Washington National Records Center. We have determined that the accessions are eligible for immediate transfer either as scheduled USGS records or as an accretion to a previously accessioned series. We are enclosing for your convenience copies of the Standard Form 258 providing for the immediate transfer of these records to the National Archives of the United States. To begin the process please complete the information in Block 6 of the forms and return them to the address indicated in Block 2.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. WOOD
Records Appraisal
and Disposition Division

Enclosures

Official File - NI
Day File - NIR

cc: Job N1-57-89-2 (R. Wood)

REWood/mj t6/9/89 doc: USGS^RECORDS:FILE

File - Department of the Interior

National Archives



Washington, DC 20409

Handwritten: #2, 6/15/89
J.C.L.

Date June 1, 1989

Reply to
Attn of E Everly

Subject N1-57-89-2P

To NNT

This job is an appraisal of eight cubic feet of records at the Washington National Records Center. The records consist of military geographic and geologic studies (in German) for nations of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Although they were produced by German military authorities during the Second World War, the provenance of the records once they were in the custody of the Americans is unclear.

The NIR appraiser recommends the records be appraised as permanent and accessioned into RG 242, rather than RG 57. The NN reviewers, NNR, NNTA, and I, concur with this recommendation. The NIR appraiser cites Job NN 375-128 as a precedent for this action.

NIR:

I am very glad that NNR has consulted NNR-CG on this job and these reviewers as well as all others are in agreement as to the allocation of these records.

NNT concurs.

Handwritten signature: Geraldine N. Phillips 6/1/89

GERALDINE N. PHILLIPS
Director
Textual Projects Division

TO *NNR* *NI-57-89-20*

NNT LOG NUMBER *160*

DATE SENT *5/1/89* DATE RECEIVED BY EE *5/1/89*

DATE DUE *5/30/89*

JOB ALSO SENT TO:

NNTA

PLEASE RETURN THE JOB WITH YOUR COMMENTS TO ELAINE EVERLY (NNT) ROOM 101

WNRC PHONE 763 1710

5-10-89

NUR-CG, NUR concurs.

Rm

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

Date May 30, 1989
Reply to
Attn of NNTA-NAB
Subject NI-57-89-2
To NNTA

These records appear to have permanent value based on their subject matter, source, and the treatment of them by the U.S. Geological Survey.

I recommend that they be accessioned into RG 242 as has been the usual practice with captured German records which ended up in the custody of various Federal agencies.

Francis J. Heppner
FRANCIS J. HEPPNER
Assistant Chief
Archival Projects Branch

May 30, 1989

I agree that these records should be accessioned into RG 242.

Ronald E. Swerczek
RONALD E. SWERCZEK
Chief, Archival Projects Branch
Textual Projects Division

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

Date April 27, 1989
Reply to Attn of Richard E. Wood NIRC
Subject Appraisal of Records in Job N1-57-89-2
To Director NIR *NR 4/27/89*

*HW 4/27/89
JK 4/27/89*

This job consists of an appraisal of records maintained within the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Branch of Military Geology. The eight cubic feet of records are contained in Accession 68A-2628, located at WNRC. The Branch of Military Geology, located under USGS's Geologic Division assisted in the preparation of studies and guides in training or operations involving the application of geology to military problems. This included soil and terrain analyses, water and mineral resources, and the geology of sites with possible military interest, mainly at home or where American forces were stationed or active abroad.

The records in this accession are textual rather than cartographic in nature. They are military geographic and geologic studies produced by German military authorities during World War II (approximately 1939-1943). They are country studies for nations and areas of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East which the Germans either dominated outright (Italy, Yugoslavia, North Africa, France, the Baltic area, etc), or which they hoped or expected to dominate (England, Turkey, Palestine, etc). The studies are in German, with classification markings (Geheim/Secret). Included in a typical study may be reproductions of aerial photographs and ground photography of a selected area or region, color coded geologic and natural resources maps, and accompanying text describing features of military interest.

The provenance of the studies as to how and when they came into American hands is not precisely clear, as there is no supporting textual documentation. Some markings indicate they once belonged to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Whether they were captured or obtained through other sources is not clear although the former is the more likely explanation. They were apparently transferred to the Branch of Military Geology in the period 1946-1948, where they were used as a reference file.

Studies of this type have been previously accessioned by the National Archives as part of RG 242 (National Archives Collection of Foreign Records Seized) as part of the German

Army High Command Mapping and Survey Office. In addition 15 cubic feet of similar records were transferred from the CIA but were allocated to RG 242 (Job NN 375-128). The records examined in this appraisal should also be accessioned by NARA. I would also urge that NN consider following the CIA precedent, take them as an accretion and allocate them to RG 242. The fact that they were originally compiled by German military authorities, were probably seized as a result of Allied victory in World War II, and seem to be a reference file maintained by USGS indicates that they should more logically be allotted to RG 242. If this cannot be done, the eight cubic feet of records in 68A-2628 should be accessioned as part of RG 57.

I would appreciate comments from NNT on this appraisal.



RICHARD E. WOOD
Records Appraisal
and Disposition Division