PAPERS OF GRAF HELMUTH CARL BERNHARD VON MOLTKE, 1800-1891

Introduction

Personal handwritten papers of General Field Marshall Helmuth Carl Bernhard, Graf von Moltke (1800-1891), dating from 1839-1891, formerly held by the Heeresarchiv Potsdam (Lager No. 60-931). Microfilmed by NARA in 1952, the original records are now in the custody of the German Bundesarchiv. The papers are organized into numbered sections (Stücke), many of which were missing when filmed, so the collection can only be regarded as incomplete. A typed inventory, prepared at the Heeresarchiv in 1938, is included at the beginning of the first roll and at the start of some sections. No frame numbers were used in filming.

Moltke spent his entire adult life in the Prussian army, rising to the rank of General Field Marshall. As Chief of the German General Staff, he was the architect of the victorious wars of German unification against Denmark (1864), Austria (1866) and France (1870-1871).

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