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AN EXHIBIT OF GERMAN MILITARY DOCUMENTS FROM THE HEERESARCHIV POTSDAM,  
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Introduction

On the two rolls of this microcopy there is reproduced a permanent documentary exhibit (Dauerausstellung) that appears to have been prepared by the National Socialists for the purpose of glorifying war and the military tradition of Germany. The folders containing these documents are stamped "Heeresarchiv Potsdam," which institution, it is believed, was the previous archival custodian. Originally the Heeresarchiv (Army Archives) was a part of the Reichsarchiv (German National Archives). The Reichsarchiv was established in Potsdam in 1919 as the archival repository for noncurrent records of the Government of the Reich and certain other materials. Military records constituted the largest part of its holdings. In 1936, however, all military records were withdrawn from the legal custody of the Reichsarchiv and transferred to that of the Heeresarchiv. As a result of military operations in World War II the documents reproduced in this microcopy came into the possession of United States armed forces. In 1947 the War Department transferred custody of them to the National Archives of the United States where they constitute part of a body of records designated as Record Group 242, World War II Collection of Seized Enemy Records.

The original arrangement of the exhibit by vitrines has been maintained in this microcopy. The vitrines, 32 in all, are numbered from 1 through 7 and 9 through 33. The contents of vitrine 8 were not received by the National Archives when the exhibit was transferred and are not known to exist. The exhibit, arranged in a very rough chronological order, opens with a passport signed by the Great Elector of Brandenburg (Vitrine I, item 1) and closes with propaganda leaflets dropped from balloons by Americans during World War I (Vitrine 33) that called upon German soldiers to surrender. Some of the documents in this permanent exhibit were at one time used as a special exhibit (Sonderausstellung). The special exhibit, arranged in chronological order, has been microcopied at the end of Roll 2 following the permanent exhibit. Pertinent cross references have been inserted in the permanent exhibit.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Vitrines 1-16 of the Permanent Exhibit, 1679-1913
2	Vitrines 17-33 of the Permanent Exhibit, 1888-1935, and A Special Exhibit, 1716-1935