

Kriegsarchiv der Marine –
Operations in the Baltic, 1914-19

During the First World War, the Imperial German Navy's *Admiralstab der Marine* (Admiralty Staff) maintained a central collection of subject files to document both the overall conduct of the naval war and its own involvement in key aspects of the conflict. These records, identified as the *Kriegsarchiv der Marine* (Naval War Archives) or alternately as *Admiralstab der Marine: Kriegsakten* (Admiralty Staff War Records), were apparently prepared, received, or collected by the *Admiralstab's* component organizations corresponding to their specific activities. Thus the records of naval operations in the Baltic Sea, 1914-19, were initially assembled by the Admiralty Staff's *Abteilung "O" (Operationen)*, presumably *Dezernat* (department or section) *Op II (Ostsee)*, and subsequently reworked in part by archivists of the postwar *Marine-Archiv*. Collectively these comprise over 180 "PG" registry record items in four general collections, mostly reproduced on 31 rolls of Microfilm Publication T1022, Records of the German Navy, 1850-1945, Received from the United States Naval History Division

Records within the *Kriegsarchiv der Marine* included correspondence, operational orders, after-action and battle damage reports, organizational data, telegrams, annotated drafts of reports and communications, maps, sketches, excerpts from the war diaries of individual commands and warships, copies and translations of foreign press articles, and occasionally photographs affixed to textual documents. Much of the material is handwritten. The records not only document operations of specific commands and warships, but include intelligence information, documentation of coordination with the German Army in the conduct of joint operations, and sometimes personnel data (e.g., the relief or transfer of a warship commander after a poor performance, proposed recommendations). Also included is documentation of contacts and coordination with German diplomatic representatives in Denmark and Sweden and with the German Foreign Ministry (*Auswärtiges Amt*) as well.

The records were originally arranged, without regard to the provenance of individual documents, into subject files designated by a complex system of elaborate file designations (*Aktenzeichen*), many of which have already been described in *Guides to Microfilmed Records of the German Navy, 1850-1945, No. 6: Selected Records of the Imperial German Navy Relating to World War I*. Those subject files documenting naval operations in the Baltic were initially designated **Akten III.2.-18 (a-z)**, *Operationen in der Ostsee* ("Operations in the Baltic Sea"), and generally arranged chronologically. After World War I German naval archivists began to process these records, as they had with similar records relating to operations in the North Sea, into a more detailed arrangement that abandoned the original file designations, reorganized the records into specific operations according to chronology, retitled the series as "*Kr. Op.* (abbreviations for

Kriegs Operationen) Ostsee” and provided operational titles and descriptions for each file. These processed records provided the basis for the official history begun by the navy’s *Marine-Archiv, Der Krieg zur See 1914-1918: Ostsee*, only two volumes of which appear to have been published in 1921/22, covering Baltic operations in 1914-15. The process of collecting and reorganizing original records, like the official history, was interrupted by the Second World War and never completed, in contrast to the ostensibly complete collection for North Sea operations (*Kr. Op. Nordsee 1-98*); nevertheless the latter collection is far less complete for the 1917-18 period than those for Baltic Sea operations. The subsequent capture and exploitation of the German naval archives by Allied forces further sharpened the administrative distinction between the chronological collections of records by assigning different blocks of consecutive “PG” registry record item numbers to them.

Consequently, operational records for the Baltic for the period August 1914-October 1915, originally designated *Aktenzeichen III.2.-18 (a-s)*, became the new series *Kr. Op. Ostsee 1-53* (“Baltic Sea Operations Nos. 1-53”), PG registry record item numbers PG 64857 – 64913; those not yet processed by German naval archivists remained as *Aktenzeichen III.2.-18t* through *-18z*, collectively designated as *Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee* (“Files concerning Continuation of Baltic Sea Operations”), January 1916-August 1918, with PG registry record item numbers PG 77168 – 77179. These in turn were supplemented by two further collections, designated with PG record item numbers 77180 – 77207 and 77401 – 77486, that especially document operations through the November 1918 armistice and the immediate postwar period. The first collection thus documents specific naval operations in the Baltic for the 1914-15 period; the three remaining collections pertain to Baltic operations during specific blocks of time or in specific areas, or for specific aspects of operations, for the 1916-19 period. All records described here complement the war diaries of the individual Baltic Sea operational commands and individual warships described in *Guide No. 6*, pp. 118-126. The records particularly supplement the operational subject files *Ostsee-Operations-Akten* and *Ganz geh. Akten betr. Kr 03 (Ostsee)* maintained by the *Kommando der Hochseestreitkräfte*, described in *Guide No. 6*, p. 105.

The originals of the records described here now constitute a part of *Bestand RM 5, Admiralstab der Marine*, in the custody of the *Bundesarchiv-Abt. Militärarchiv (BA-MA)*, Freiburg/Br. A significant number of the records are marked as “Ganz Geheim,” approximately the equivalent to “Top Secret.” Closely related as well are records of the *Auswärtiges Amt*, many of which were microfilmed and are described in George O. Kent, ed., *A Catalogue of Files and Microfilms of the German Foreign Ministry Archives, 1867-1920* (Oxford, 1959).

The 1914-15 collection of *Kr. Op. Ostsee 1-53* represents the apparent intention of German naval archivists to preserve the essential documentation of individual operations by specific naval commands and warships in the Baltic during this period. The detailed title for each numbered operation usually identified the operation’s purpose and the participating warships or commands, together with the relevant dates; the titles often also include the name of the commanding officer and the designation of the specific operational order. Each PG record item number typically constitutes the records of one operation; in cases of complex or protracted operations, which required more than one volume (*Band*) of documentation or a special supplementary volume

(*Anlage* or *Anlageheft*), separate PG record item numbers were assigned to each volume. In general, the documentation for each operation is not preceded by a table of contents, however a handwritten listing of the individual warships participating in the referenced operation is usually provided at the beginning of the file. In some cases, two naval operations were so closely related as to be combined within a single PG record item number.

This early collection, however, is incomplete. There are no numbered operations 26, 28, 39, 41-43, 46-48, and 50-51 in the series, resulting in noticeable gaps in documented operations, particularly for the period August-October 1915. Operation Nos. 41-43, for example, almost certainly documented major German naval operations in the Gulf of Riga, 15-20 August 1915; possibly these materials were in the process of preparation or were in use for historical purposes but were lost before they could be returned to the naval archives. Other numbers were possibly assigned to naval activities that were subsequently incorporated within other operations, or were not used for reasons not known. In addition, no operational files are indicated for the period from mid-October through December 1915, though some of this period is covered in the subsequent collection of *Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee*. These gaps in the numbered operations can only be covered by the war diaries of the relevant Baltic Sea operational commands and individual warships described in *Guide No. 6*, pp. 118-126. The extant 42 numbered Baltic Sea naval operations are described below.

Kr. Op. Ostsee 1. Operationen “Augsburg,” “Magdeburg” in der östl. Ostsee. Minenlegen vor Libau, Beschiessung Libau (minelaying and coastal bombardment operations off Libau [Liepaja, Latvia] by light cruisers *Augsburg* and *Magdeburg*), 2 – 8 Aug 1914:
PG 64857, roll 412

Kr. Op. Ostsee 2,3. Operationen K. Adm. Mischke mit “Augsburg,” “Magdeburg,” H. Str.M. Dampfer “Deutschland,” V. 25, 26, 186, “Amazone,” “S 94” (a minelaying operation in the Gulf of Finland by light cruisers *Augsburg*, *Magdeburg*, auxiliary minelayer *Deutschland* and several torpedo boats, broken off due to combat with Russian warships), 9 – 26 Aug 1914:
PG 64858, roll 412

Kr. Op. Ostsee 4. Sonderunternehmung I K.Adm. Behring gegen den finnischen Meerbusen. Strandung “Magdeburg.” Vorstoss des IV. Geschwader 24./29.8.1914 und einiger Schulkreuzer zur Bergung der “Magdeburg” (a sweep against Russian naval forces at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland that resulted in the stranding of light cruiser *Magdeburg* and a subsequent attempt to recover her, including reports on the *Magdeburg*’s scuttling, an assessment of the loss of the ship’s classified codebooks and maps, and an interrogation of a Russian naval officer), 26 Aug 1914 – 11 Jan 1915:
PG 64859, roll 412

Kr. Op. Ostsee 5. Operationen des IV. Geschwaders, “Blücher” und kl. Kreuzer und Torp.-Booten in der östl. Ostsee, um den Feind zur Schlacht zu stellen (a sweep by the Fourth Battleship Squadron, armored cruiser *Blücher* and supporting units in the eastern Baltic, attempting to engage major Russian units), 3 – 9 Sept 1914:

Band 1: PG 64860, rolls 412-13
Band 2: PG 64861, roll 413
Anlage: PG 64862, roll 413

Kr. Op. Ostsee 6. Operationen der IV. und V. Geschwadern, mehrerer Kreuzer und Torpedoboote in der östl. Ostsee vom 22./26.9.14 und Nachrichten über Einbruch der engl. Flotte in die Ostsee (regarding a large-scale diversionary operation off Windau [Ventspils, Latvia] in support of German Army operations, as well as establishment of observation units in the western Baltic in the event of a British attempt to break through the Kattegat; the two *Anlagen* comprise handwritten radio communications of specific units), 22 – 26 Sept 1914:

Band 1: PG 64863, roll 464
Band 2: PG 64864, rolls 464-65
Band 3: PG 64865, roll 465
Anlage 1: PG 64866, roll 465
Anlage 2: PG 64867, roll 465

Kr. Op. Ostsee 7. Sonderunternehmung II K.Adm. Behring gegen den finnischen Meerbusen mit kl. Kreuzern, Torp.- und U-Booten 8./14.10.14. Versenkung russ. Panzerkreuzer "Pallada" (operation by light cruisers *Amazone* and *Lübeck*, supported by light forces and submarines *U-23*, *U 25* and *U 26* in the Gulf of Finland, including a British news clipping regarding the loss of Russian cruiser *Pallada* in this operation), 5 – 23 Oct 1914:

PG 64868, roll 465

Kr. Op. Ostsee 8. U-1, 3, 4, 32, U.A. Wartestellung in der westl. Ostsee gegen feindliche U.-Boote (establishment of a line of U-boats in the western Baltic as a defense against reported British submarines breaking through the Kattegat), 20 – 27 Oct 1914:

PG 64869, roll 465

Kr. Op. Ostsee 9. Sonderunternehmung III K.Adm. Behring gegen den finnischen Meerbusen mit Kreuzern und Torp.-Booten und U.-Booten. U-Bootsblockade gegen Libau (operation of light cruisers *Augsburg* and *Lübeck* and accompanying torpedo boats to reconnoiter Russian minefields off the Gulf of Finland, and an attempt by submarines *U 23* and *U 26* to establish a temporary blockade of Libau [Liepaja]), 24 – 30 Oct 1914:

PG 64870, roll 466

Kr. Op. Ostsee 10. Beabsichtigte Beschiessung und Verblockung Libaus durch II. Geschwader, IV. A.G. und Streitkräfte des K.Adm. Behring usw. Übungsfahrt des II. Geschwader und der IV. A.G. in der Ostsee (planned operation employing the transfer of Second Battleship Squadron and Fourth Reconnaissance Group from the North Sea to the eastern Baltic to bombard Libau [Liepaja], ultimately cancelled and replaced by routine exercises; the *Anlage* comprises handwritten copies of radio messages), 8 – 26 Nov 1914:

Band 1 and Anlage: PG 64871-872, roll 348

Kr. Op. Ostsee 11. Unternehmung des K.Adm. Behring mit Kreuzern, Torp.-Booten und Blockschiffen gegen Libau. Untergang "Friedrich Carl." U-Bootsunternehmung gegen den finnischen Meerbusen November 1914 (operation led by the *Detachierter Admiral* to bombard, mine, and blockade Libau [Liepaja] harbor, involving light cruisers *Augsburg* and *Lübeck*, armored cruiser *Thetis*, and supporting craft; also reports on the loss of armored cruiser *Friedrich Carl* to mines and of a submarine operation in the Gulf of Finland by *U-23* and *U-25*), 6 Nov – 17 Dec 1914:

Band 1: PG 64873, roll 348

Band 2: PG 64874, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 12. Minenunternehmung Hilfskriegsschiff "Deutschland" vor Björneborg und Raumo im Bothnischen Meerbusen. Aufnahmestellung durch Streitkräfte des K.Adm Behring, 3.-8.12.1914 (minelaying operation by auxiliary minelayer *Deutschland* in the Gulf of Bothnia, supported by forces of the *Detachierter Admiral*), 27 Nov – 18 Dec 1914:

PG 64875, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 13. Unternehmung des Detach. Adm. Behring mit Kreuzern und Torpedobooten zur Erkundung Mariehamn, 15.-18.12.1914 (reconnaissance of the Aaland Islands carried out by forces of the *Detachierter Admiral* in search of suspected Russian naval bases there), 12 – 24 Dec 1914:

PG 64876, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 14. Demonstrationsfahrt des V. Geschwaders nach Gotland. Sicherung durch Streitkräfte des K.Adm. Behring 26./30.12.1914. Vortäuschung einer Unternehmung gegen des finnischen Meerbusen, 26.-30.12.1914 (employment of Fifth Battleship Squadron and forces of the *Detachierter Admiral* off the southwest coast of Gotland as a feint), 24 – 31 Dec 1914:

PG 64877, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 15. Handstreich gegen Utö durch Streitkräfte des K.Adm. Behring – nicht durchgeführt, 6.-9.1.1915 (attempted raid by forces of the *Detachierter Admiral* against a suspected Russian submarine base on Utö in the Aaland Islands, broken off due to delays in available minesweeping equipment, and including some information on the experiences of *U-26* in the area), 25 Dec 1914 – 17 Jan 1915:

PG 64878, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 16. Vorstoss des Det. Admirals gegen Libau, 22.-25.1.1915 (abortive attempt to sever Russian and illegal neutral trade routes to Libau [Liepaja] by forces of the *Detachierter Admiral*, including reports on the mining of light cruisers *Augsburg* and *Gazelle*), 12 Jan – 6 Feb 1915:

PG 64879, roll 349

Kr. Op. Ostsee 17. Operationen zur Wiedereroberung Memels, 18.-25.3.1915 (naval operations associated with the Russian seizure and German recapture of the city of Memel, including an account of a German naval unit involved in the city's defense and operations of the Second

Reconnaissance Group and the *Detachierter Admiral* in bombarding Russian positions at Polangen; *Anlageheft 2* includes an investigation of German naval friendly fire on German ground forces), 16 Mar – 14 Apr 1915:

Bände 1-2: PG 64880-881, roll 447

Anlageheft 1: PG 64882, roll 447

Anlageheft 2: PG 64883, roll 1627

Kr. Op. Ostsee 18. “Lübeck” Unternehmung gegen Libau, 28.3.1915 (operation of light cruiser *Lübeck* and naval seaplane tender *Glyndwyr* against Libau [Liepaja], with a particular view to attack a Russian submarine there, including the flight reports of a naval seaplane), 28 Mar – 6 Apr 1915:

PG 64884, roll 447

Kr. Op. Ostsee 19. Minenunternehmung “Deutschland” gegen finn. Meerbusen von Kiel aus. Deckung des Unternehmens durch Streitkräfte des Det. Adm. Vorstoss von “U 26” vom 12.17.4.1915 bzw. 25.4.1915 (closely-related operations involving minelaying by auxiliary minelayer *Deutschland* in the Gulf of Finland, an associated diversionary operation by the *Detachierter Admiral*, and a patrol by *U-26* into the Gulf of Riga off Reval [Tallinn, Estonia]), 30 Mar – 24 Apr 1915:

PG 64885, roll 448

Kr. Op. Ostsee 20/21. “Thetis,” “Lübeck,” S.148, S.139, S.108 aus Memel ausgelaufen. Operation gemäss 2.Adm.F.d.A.d.O. Gg. 751 vom 26.4.1915, Gg. 753 vom 27.4.1915. Kreuzer beschossen am 27.4.1915 Buddendickshof und Strasse bei Butingi; am 28.4.1915 Vorstoss von Memel gegen Libau. “Thetis,” 4 Torp.-Boote Vorstoss von Memel gegen Riga Meerbusen (Runö, Domesnas, Zerel) (related naval operations supporting a German Army advance from Memel along the Baltic coast, including naval bombardments of Russian positions by light cruisers *Thetis* and *Lübeck*, seaplane reconnaissance, bombardment and threatened amphibious assault of Libau [Liepaja], and a thrust into the Gulf of Riga that resulted in attacks on Russian lighthouses at specific locations; included is documentation of army-navy coordination), 21 Apr – 2 May 1915:

PG 64886, roll 448

Kr. Op. Ostsee 22. Operationen in der Ostsee (östl.). Einnahme Libaus gemäss O.-Befehl des F.d.A.d.O. vom 5.5.1915 (extensive documentation pertaining to naval participation in the bombardment and capture of Libau, May 1915, primarily involving the forces of the newly-established command of *Führer der Aufklärungsstreitkräfte der Ostsee* under Adm. Albert Hopmann, reinforced by the *IV. Aufklärungsgruppe* in a support role; included are summaries of meetings between navy and German Army [*Armeegruppe Lauenstein*] staff officers on coordination of efforts, divergent views regarding the seizure of Libau vs. its denial to the Russians, observations on intercepted Russian naval signals, and aerial reconnaissance reports by naval seaplanes; *Band 4* includes an account of an engagement between light cruiser *München* and four Russian cruisers east of Gotland and the record of a telephone conversation between the

Ostseebefehlshaber [Adm. Heinrich Prinz von Preussen] and the *Chef des Admiralstabes* [Adm. Gustav Bachmann], 9 May), 19 Apr – 31 May 1915 -

Bände 1-3: PG 64887-889, roll 448 (duplicated on roll 1627)

Band 4: PG 64890, rolls 448-49 (duplicated on roll 1627)

Kr. Op. Ostsee 23. Minenunternehmung des F.d.A.d.O. (K.Adm. Hopmann) gegen den finnischen Meerbusen gemäss O.-Befehl 2 vom 12.5.1915 (vom 13./16.5.1915 vorgesehen Unternehmung 14.5.15 abends abgebrochen) (aborted minelaying operation in the Gulf of Finland), 13 – 16 May 1915:

PG 64891, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 24. Minenunternehmung des F.d.A.d.O. (K.Adm. Hopmann) gegen den finn. Meerbusen gemäss O.-Befehl 3 vom 22.5.1915 (vom 23./26.5.1915 Minensperre von H.Str.M.-depfr. "Deutschland" 24.5.15 geworfen) (minelaying operation by auxiliary minelayer *Deutschland* southeast of Utö Island at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland), 23 – 26 May 1915:

PG 64892, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 25. "Augsburg," "Beowulf," und Torpedoboote Vorstoss aus Libau nach Nord zur Aufklärung. Beabsichtigt war Beschiessung von Ulmalen und Sackenhausen vom 28. bis 29.5.1915 (planned reconnaissance and coastal bombardment along the present Latvian coast against Russian troop movements by light cruiser *Augsburg* and armored coastal defense ship *Beowulf*), 27 – 31 May 1915:

PG 64893, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 27. Minenunternehmung des F.d.A.d.O. (K.Adm. Hopmann) von Danzig aus gegen den Riga-Meerbusen (Moonsund) vom 2./6.6.1915 gemäss O.-Befehl 4 vom 28.5.1915 (a minelaying operation off the southern entrance to Moon Sound in the Gulf of Riga, combined with an air attack on Russian works at Dünamünde by seaplanes from tender *Glyndwyr*, only partially carried out; included are accounts of an engagement between a Russian submarine and armored cruiser *Thetis*, and the sinking of a collier by a British submarine), 27 May – 4 July 1915:

PG 64894, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 29. Minenunternehmung gegen den Westeingang des Rigaer Meerbusens (a minelaying operation in the center of the western entrance to the Gulf of Riga), 10 – 18 June 1915:

PG 64895, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 30. Minenunternehmung gegen den Riga Meerbusen (a minor minelaying operation near the western entrance to the Gulf of Riga), 16 – 23 June 1915:

PG 64896, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 31. Minenunternehmung des F.d.A.d.O. (Hopmann) von Danzig aus gegen den Finn. Meerbusen (Utö – Gotska. – Farö. – Oestergarn) gem. O.-Befehl 5 vom 20.6.1915 (laying

of three separate minefields by minelayer *Albatross* off the Gulf of Finland and west of Gotland), 16 – 23 June 1915:

PG 64897, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 32. Minenunternehmung des F.d.A.d.O. (Hopmann) von Danzig aus gegen den finn. Meerbusen gem. O.-Befehl 6 vom 25.6.1915 (another minor minelaying operation off the western entrance to the Gulf of Finland), 19 – 30 June 1915:

PG 64898, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 33. Demonstration der Ostseestreitkräfte von Libau aus vor Windau und Beschiessung der Bahnhofsanlage Windau (a naval bombardment of the Russian naval base at Windau [now Ventspils, Latvia], 28 Jun, by several warships in support of German Army ground operations, and involving a naval engagement between light cruiser *Lübeck* and 15 Russian destroyers near Lyserort), 27 June – 9 July 1915:

PG 64899, roll 414

Kr. Op. Ostsee 34. Minenunternehmung des 2.Adm.d.A.d.O. (Kapt.z.S. v. Karpf) gegen den finn. Meerbusen gem. A.d.O. Gg. 167 vom 30.6.1915 (another minelaying operation at the western entrance to the Gulf of Finland by minelayer *Albatross*, 30 Jun, followed by a major naval engagement involving that ship and light cruisers *Lübeck*, *Augsburg* and *Roon* against several Russian light and armored cruisers in the waters between the Courland peninsula and Gotland island, 2 Jul; in the course of these operations *Albatross* was badly damaged and stranded on the coast of Gotland, while armored cruiser *Prinz Adalbert* was torpedoed by a British submarine but returned to Danzig safely; *Band 2* includes extensive data on damage incurred by *Albatross* and *Prinz Adalbert*, and on the Swedish internment of the former's survivors; *Band 3* comprises a collection of associated radio communications, and the *Anlageheft* consists of Swedish, Russian and German press accounts of the loss of *Albatross*), 19 June – 13 August 1915:

Band 1: PG 64900, roll 414

Bd. 2: PG 64901, roll 414

Bd. 3: PG 64902, roll 415

Anlage (Zeitungsnachrichten über Gefecht “Albatross”): PG 64903, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 35. Vorstoss der Streitkräfte der Oberleitung des IV. Gesch. (Chef des Geschwaders V.Adm. Schmidt) bis nördlich Gotland gem. O.-Bef. I der Oberleitung des IV. Geschwaders vom 9.7.1915 Gg 6/0 (offensive thrust by the Fourth Battleship Squadron into the eastern Baltic north of Gotland, without contact), 1 – 13 July 1915:

PG 64904, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 36. Operationen vor Windau (Windau 18.7. von Armee besetzt) (naval operations in support of German ground operations by the *Niemann-Armee* in the seizure of Windau [Ventspils], of limited significance as the Russians evacuated the city before the arrival of German forces; includes information on a cancelled naval bombardment, minelaying, and minesweeping operations), 13 – 31 July 1915:

PG 64905, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 37. Vorstoss des IV. Geschw. (V.Adm. Schmidt) von Danzig bezw. Libau aus bis nach Gotland gem. O.-Befehl 2 der Oberleitung Gg. 36/0 vom 17.7.1915 (another offensive thrust by the Fourth Battleship Squadron and accompanying light forces into the eastern Baltic west of Gotland, 19 Jul, without contact), 15 – 31 July 1915:

PG 64906, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 38. Verkehrung gegen etwaige russische Unternehmungen am 1. u. 2. August 1915 (a reconnaissance in force off the Gulf of Riga involving pre-dreadnought battleships *Braunschweig* and *Elsass*, supporting lighter forces, and airship *L 5*), 31 July- 5 August 1915:

PG 64907, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 40. Vorstoss der VIII. Torp.-Flot. und Minensuchen am 4. August 1915 (sortie and planned attack on Russian forces off the entrance to the Gulf of Riga by German torpedo boats supported by heavier forces), 2 – 4 August 1915:

PG 64908, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 44. Vorstoss “Regensburg,” “Pillau,” und X. Torp.-Flot. gem. O.-Befehl 8 der Oberleitung am 25./26. August 1915 (minesweeping sortie by two light cruisers and supporting craft of the *X. Torpedoboots-Flottille*, including an intercepted Russian naval signal and a report on minesweeping equipment), 24 – 26 August 1915:

PG 64909, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 45. Vorstoss des F.d.A.d.O. mit “Roon,” “Braunschweig,” “Elsass,” “Lübeck” und X. Torp.-Flottille am 29./31. August 1915 (sortie by two battleships with supporting forces north of Gotland, without contact), 28 – 31 August 1915:

PG 64910, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 49. Vorstoss des F.d.A.d.O. zum Finnischen Meerbusen und Handelskontrolle an der schwedischen Küste am 21./23. September 1915 (sortie by pre-dreadnought battleships *Braunschweig* and *Elsass* with supporting forces off the Swedish east coast to inspect neutral ships’ cargoes), 19 – 25 September 1915:

PG 64911, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 52. Minenunternehmung (Legen einer Minensperre bei Ostergarn) am 5./6. Oktober 1915 (minelaying sortie in the waters east of Gotland by four German auxiliary minelayers and supporting torpedo boats), 1 – 6 October 1915:

PG 64912, roll 415

Kr. Op. Ostsee 53. Minenunternehmung gemäss Oberleitung Gg 707/0 am 7./8. Oktober 1915 (another minelaying operation in the waters between Gotland and the Courland peninsula by four auxiliary minelayers and supporting torpedo boats), 6 – 17 October 1915:

PG 64913, roll 415

Baltic Sea operations for the 1916-18 period, as noted above, are documented in the *Kriegsarchiv Aktenzeichen III.2.-18t* through *-18z*, collectively designated as *Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee* (“Files relating to Continuation of Baltic Sea Operations”), although titles of individual files sometimes vary. These apparently represent operational records not processed by German naval archivists, and are organized into chronological blocks rather than specific operations, although some directly document individual or related operations in specified areas. Each numbered file is generally comprehensive for the time period indicated, and most include an *Inhaltsverzeichnis* (table of contents), either handwritten or typed, that lists the documents they contain (listed numerically, with the first page of each document bearing a corresponding number in the upper right hand corner). Each file title also includes a specified date span, but in fact the dates of documents within frequently include materials that predate the indicated chronological period; the accompanying description indicates the true date span. The numbered files are followed by two collections of *Nebenakten* (supplemental files) that either document a specific topic or provide a specific type of documentation (e.g., operational orders, communications) relating to particular operations or time periods; one of the *Nebenakte* documents German naval operations in the Arctic Sea off the coast of Murmansk and Archangel.

Akte III.2.-18t. Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 1.1. bis 3.2.1916 (in addition to general information on Russian minelaying and submarine activities, includes a report on damage to cruiser *Danzig* by a mine, 25 Nov 1915; an engagement between a German patrol boat and an enemy submarine, 7 Dec 1915; an account of the loss of the cruiser *Bremen* to mines, 16 Dec 1915; and lists of known German, Russian and Allied ship losses in the Baltic to the end of 1915), November 1915 – February 1916:

PG 77168, roll 1229

Akte III.2.-18u. Akten betr. Operationen in der Ostsee vom 25.1. bis 15.3.1916 (much of file relates to measures against British submarines entering the western Baltic, including a report on planned Swedish cooperation, 23 Jan 1916; the laying of anti-submarine minefields, 29 Feb; a letter and accompanying memorandum from Heinrich Prinz von Preussen to the *Chef des Admiralstabes* regarding the protection of German commerce in the Baltic against Allied submarines, and a draft response, 21-29 Feb; a report on convoying of German and neutral shipping in the Baltic, 7 Mar; and proposed minefields in the eastern Baltic against Russian forces, 4 – 16 Mar), January - March 1916:

PG 77169, roll 1229

Nebenakte. Akten betr. Minenunternehmung Riga-Meerbusen und Befestigungen an der Küste Kurland (two volumes of documentation, each with a table of contents, containing copies of communications, reports, and correspondence relating to naval operations and activities in securing German access to the Gulf of Riga, including the laying of minefields, the establishment of naval stations and facilities, and particularly the establishment of coastal artillery batteries on the Courland peninsula on the Gulf’s western face [present-day Latvia]; *Band 1* documents a particular minelaying operation by *Kommando Hermann* in April-May 1916, *Band 2* includes a

lengthy report of an inspection tour of German naval facilities on the northern coast of Courland Aug 1916, including mounted photographs and sketches) –

Band 1, February-November 1916: PG 77191, roll 1047

Band 2, September 1916-July 1917: PG 77192, roll 1047

Akte III.2.-18v. Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 16.3. bis 3 5.1916 (includes an overview of German antisubmarine measures in the Baltic, 29 Mar, and correspondence on antisubmarine minefields in the western Baltic, 15 Apr; intelligence on Russian and Allied merchant shipping in harbors of present-day western Finland; and extensive data on Russian and German air attacks on each other's facilities and vessels in the eastern Baltic, Apr-May, including attacks on the Russian battleship *Slava* in the Moon Sound by German aircraft, 27 Apr, and by German seaplanes launched from the tender *Santa Elena*, against the Russian naval base at Papensholm, 22 Apr), March – May 1916:

PG 77170, roll 1070

Akte III.2.-18w. Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 15.5 bis zum 4.7.1916 (much of the file pertains to antisubmarine operations, including a report of auxiliary ship *K* (or *Kronprinz*)'s reported sinkings of two enemy submarines, 27-28 May [Russian submarines *Gepard* and *Bars*, both only damaged]; orders for auxiliary ship *Vineta*'s patrol in the Kattegat against British submarines, 10 Jun; and information on the loss of auxiliary ship *H*, 13 May [reports dated mid-late Jun]; also included are reports of additional German naval air movements and attacks on Russian naval facilities, data on the loss of a Swedish merchant ship to German mines, mid-May; an assessment of the feasibility of German U-boat operations off the western coast of Finland, 17 May; a report on the presumed loss of submarine *U 10* east of Gotland, 10 Jun; a German Army teletype reporting a successful attack by Army zeppelin *LZ 87* against an enemy submarine, 24 Jun; and an exchange of messages regarding the possible transfer of High Seas Fleet forces to the Baltic and the operational feasibility of strategic missions there, in coordination with German Army requests, 19-23 Jun), May – July 1916:

PG 77171, roll 1070

Akte III.2.-18x. Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom Juli bis 6.9.1916 (including information on Russian air attacks on German naval and air installations; directives for antisubmarine operations by auxiliary ship *Vineta* in the Kattegat, 23 Jul and 19 Aug; an assessment of the poor performance of German *UB*-class submarines in the Baltic and evaluations of specific *UC*-class U-boat operations there, 5 Aug; a proposal for shipping American citizens as “guardian angels” on board German merchant ships threatened by British submarines in the Baltic, 26 Aug; a message on the engagement between auxiliary ship ‘*K*’ and an enemy submarine, 13 Aug; a report on new Russian minefields that resulted in the loss of two light German craft, 18 Aug; a report of the naval representative at Imperial Headquarters on the advisability of an operation to seize Ösel Island (Saaremaa) near the Gulf of Riga, 25 Aug; and a listing of German naval coastal batteries on the Courland coast, 28 Aug), July – September 1916:

PG 77172, roll 1195

Akte III.2.-18y. Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 7.9. bis 30.11.1916 (including reports of specified German naval aircraft and crewmen involved in an attack on Russian warships, 12 Sep; reports of submarine operations against Russian naval and merchant targets by *U 19*, 26 Sep, and *UB 30*, 24 Oct; a draft report for Kaiser Wilhelm II on the successful convoying and other protective measures for German merchant ships in the Baltic. Apr-Sep 1916, 12 Nov; and extensive documentation of the disastrous sortie by the *X. Torpedobootsflottille* in the Gulf of Finland, 10-11 Nov, that resulted in the loss of seven destroyers to Russian mines, including Adm. Heinrich Prinz von Preussen's account to the Kaiser, 30 Nov), September – November 1916:

PG 77173, roll 1195

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 1*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 19.11.1916 bis 11.6.1917 (no table of contents provided for this file; includes an operational history of an antisubmarine command in the western Baltic, under various designations, from Nov 1914 to Nov 1916; another report on the disastrous sortie of *X. Torpedobootsflottille* on 10-11 Nov 1916, prepared Jan 1917; reports on operations of submarines *UB 33* and *UC 27*, Dec 1916, and *UC-78*, May 1917; a summary of Russian submarine activities in 1916, 16 Dec; a summary report of German naval airship operations in the eastern Baltic [zeppelins *SL 8*, *SL 9*, *SL 14*, *L 35*, *L38*] during Dec 1916; a German translation of a Danish press article concerning an expected British naval breakthrough into the Baltic in spring 1917; an annotated draft report for the Kaiser on planned naval operations in the Baltic, 12 Mar; documentation on the temporary armistice with Russia in April 1917, including a message from Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff urging “friendly relations” with Russian military personnel, 15 Apr, and a directive to continue minelaying operations in the Gulf of Riga, 18 Apr; a directive on the treatment of American vessels and cargoes following American entry into the war; and a note on the transfer of minesweepers from the Baltic to the North Sea to combat increased British antisubmarine minelaying operations, 16 May), November 1916 – June 1917:

PG 77174, roll 1195

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 2*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 12.6. bis 24.9.1917 (no table of contents provided for this file; despite indicated date span, latest dated document is 18 Aug 1917; includes various communications on German naval aircraft operations against Russian forces and installations; reports on minelaying operations by submarines *UC 58*, *UC 57*, and *UC 79*, and a handwritten listing of successes achieved by *UB*- and *UC*- class submarines in the Baltic, Apr-Jun 1917; a staff officer's views on the possible transfer of U-boats stationed in the Baltic to North Sea and Atlantic operations, 24 Jun; draft reports for the Kaiser assessing the overall naval situation in the Baltic, 2 Jul and 9 Aug; correspondence with the Swedish Red Cross regarding transfers of goods intended for German and Austrian POWs in Russia, Jul; a report on the sinking of a Russian submarine [*Bars*] 21 May, and a report on German antisubmarine warfare in the Baltic, 14 Jun; recommendations on the use of German naval aircraft for minelaying operations, 5 Jul; and an observer's report on the capabilities and performance of the *Küstenschutz-Division der Ostsee* in protecting merchant vessels and combating submarines, 16-28 Jul), June-August 1917:

PG 77175, roll 1100

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 3*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee vom 7. August 1917 bis Mai 1918 (though extensive, the file contains relatively little regarding operational planning and activities associated with the German capture of Dagö [Hiiumaa], Ösel [Saaremaa] and Moon Islands in the Gulf of Riga, Sep-Nov 1917 [Operation “Albion”], except for some initial planning, 7 Aug, information on naval cooperation with the German Eighth Army in land operations against Riga and Dünamünde, 3-8 Aug, and reports prepared for the Kaiser relating to the overall naval situation in the Baltic, 3 Sep, and to the disbanding of the transport flotilla used at Ösel, 16 Nov; considerable documentation on German Army-Navy cooperation in the ground assault on and capture of Riga, Aug-Sep 1917; also includes extensive reports on the loss of auxiliary cruiser *K* to British warships in the north Kattegat off the Danish coast, 3 Nov; reports on the loss of transport *Newa* to a mine with heavy loss of German Army troops, 22 Nov; a directive for the operations of submarine *UB 68* in the south Kattegat, 21 Nov, and the presumed loss of submarine *UC 57*, 24 Nov; an assessment of the naval implications of an armistice or peace with Russia on contingency planning for a possible invasion of Denmark, 4 Dec; a listing of known Russian and Allied ships sunk or captured by U-boats in the Gulf of Bothnia, and which U-boats sank or captured them, 1916-17; a report of Adm. Walter *Freiherr* von Keyserlingk regarding his observations and relations with the German naval attaché and other naval officials stationed in Copenhagen, Denmark, 7 Dec; reports of Graf Ulric Brockdorf-Rantzau, German ambassador to Denmark, and others pertaining to contingency planning for a German invasion of Denmark, Aug-Sep 1917, including a draft memorandum from Reich Chancellor Georg Michaelis, 25 Sep; and an interview with a German naval officer and others repatriated from Russian captivity concerning the scuttling of cruiser *Magdeburg* in Aug 1914, 26 May and 8 Jun), August 1917 – June 1918:

PG 77176, roll 1100

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 4*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee – Aaland, vom 11.2. bis 16.8.1918 (extensive file that especially documents German Navy operations relating to the seizure of the Aaland Islands and direct military/naval aid to Finland, associated relations with Sweden, and considerations of relations with Russia during the armistice, all primarily for the period Feb-Apr 1918; includes exchanges of telegrams between the Kaiser and the King of Sweden, correspondence of German and Swedish diplomatic representatives, a German Army directive signed by Ludendorff establishing the provisional *Ostsee-Division* [Baltic Division] for the Aaland Islands occupation, 22 Feb, and data on the unit’s organization and strength, 1 Mar; correspondence on the establishment of the *Sonderverband der Ostsee* to carry out the operation, and periodic personal letters of the *Sonderverband*’s operations staff officer [*I. Asto*] regarding the *Sonderverband*’s operations [27 Feb, 28 Feb, 4 Mar, 7 Mar, 21 Mar], assessments of Aaland Island defenses and the capabilities of Russian naval forces in the eastern Baltic; a copy of an agreement concluded between the senior German and Swedish naval officers regarding the stationing of troops in the Aalands, 6 Mar; reports on conditions in Finland, including one by a Finnish White Guard officer regarding the anti-Bolshevik uprising, 21 Feb, and an interrogation report concerning the Red Guard in Finland, 19 Mar; an agent’s report of the pro-Entente sentiments of Finnish leader Carl Mannerheim, 25 Mar; intelligence reports prepared by the *Sektion Politik Berlin des Generalstabes des Feldheeres*, 29 Mar and 1 Apr; a draft report to the

Kaiser on the Aaland and Finnish operations, 20 Mar; and documentation of alleged German mistreatment of captured Russian personnel in the Aalands, with a response by a German Army officer, 18 Mar-3 Jun), February-June 1918:

PG 77177, roll 1100

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 5*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee – Finnland, vom 30.3. bis 14.8.1918 (extensive file, almost entirely reproduced on roll 1101, that documents German naval and military support for White forces in Finland against Russian and Finnish Bolshevik forces, and continued operations regarding the Aaland Islands; included are reports on the naval transport of the *Ostsee-Division* under *Generalmajor* Rüdiger Graf von der Goltz and other German ground forces to Hangö and other points on the Finnish coast, 4-5 Apr, together with mounted photographs of the landings; documentation of the *Sonderverband*'s participation in these and subsequent operations, including additional personal correspondence of the *I. Asto* [9 Apr, 20 Apr, 26 May] and a summary reports by Adm. Hugo Meurer, 29 Apr; specific reports of the Army's *Ostsee-Division* detailing ground operations against Finnish and Russian Red forces in the general area of Helsingfors [Helsinki], 16-17 Apr and 5 May, and on the internal political situation in Finland, 20 Apr; several telegrams from Ludendorff regarding policy matters in naval support of Finland and suppressing Russian forces, 22 Apr, 15 May; correspondence on Mannerheim's relinquishing of command and the adoption of a Finnish national flag, 31 May; correspondence and reports of the successor [Jun 1918] to the *Sonderverband*, *Befehlshaber der Baltischen Gewässern* under Adm. Ludolf von Usslar, including the latter's meeting with senior Finnish representative P. E. Svinhufved, 8 Jun, and detailed accounts of the command's operations in Finnish waters, 16 Jun and 25 May; various reports on minesweeping operations in the eastern Baltic; additional reports and correspondence regarding the disposition of captured Russian personnel and military equipment in the Aaland Islands, and associated relations with Swedish representatives there; assessments of Finnish military and naval requirements as a German-allied independent nation; several reports of Russian coastal fortifications along Finland's southern coast, including photographs and sketches; correspondence on captures of Russian vessels by auxiliary cruiser *Möwe*, 19-29 Apr; reports on the activities, stranding, and recovery of the battleship *Rheinland* in the Aaland Islands, 3 Apr; a report on German naval facilities and Estonian popular attitudes in Reval [now Tallinn, Estonia], 6 May; lists of Russian vessels in Finnish waters; and an interview with a Russian naval officer regarding the Russian Baltic Fleet during the war, revolutionary sentiments of Russian sailors, and attitudes of Russian naval officers, 29 Apr), April – August 1918:

PG 77178, rolls 1100-01

Akte III.2.-18z (*Band 6*). Akten betr. Fortsetzung der Operationen in der Ostsee – Kattegat, west. und mittl. Ostsee, vom 1.5. bis 28.7.1918 (collected materials mostly pertaining to German naval operations in the Kattegat, western Baltic, and central Baltic, but including some additional documentation relating to operations in Finnish waters; included are reports of British antisubmarine minefields laid in the Kattegat and off the Swedish west coast, including charts, descriptions of mines, Swedish protests to Britain and subsequent British denials, 15-16 and 22 May, 18 Jun; reports of a rumored British naval movement into the Baltic, 23 May; scattered reports relating to naval activities and intelligence regarding Finland, including reported British

activity in the area of Murmansk; and a listing of 58 German and seven neutral merchant ships lost in the Baltic, Nov 1914-Aug 1918, including for each the name, tonnage, shipyard, location, and cause of loss), May – July 1918:

PG 77179, roll 1101

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte I. Akten betr. Sonderunternehmung gegen Lithauen vom 9.10.1917 bis 20.2.1918 (copies of operational orders and communications pertaining to a covert mission involving the auxiliary supply ship *Equity*'s smuggling of arms and ammunition to Finnish nationalists on the coast of Finland, particularly for the period Oct-Nov 1917; despite the file title there is no connection with Lithuania), October 1917 – February 1918:

PG 77180, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte II. Akten betr. Waffenstillstand und Friedensverhandlungen, Ostsee vom 8.12.1917 bis 5.7.1918 (with table of contents; file documents various naval aspects of Russian-German armistice agreement in the Baltic, including an assessment of the economic significance of Russia's Baltic ports for prewar trade, 8 Dec; copies of the Armistice Agreement in effect from 17 Dec 1917-14 Jan 1918; general reports on conditions in Russia and conflicts between Red and White forces; sailing directives regulating travel of Russian merchant vessels into and out of Finnish ports, Jan 1918; and correspondence on determination of demarcation lines, including some material in Russian), December 1917 – July 1918:

PG 77181, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 3. Akten betr. Operationen Ostsee. O-Befehle vom Februar bis Mai 1918 (with table of contents; file mostly comprises copies of draft and final operational orders for the *Sonderverband* operating in Finnish waters, including copies of specific orders dated 22 Feb, 17 Mar, 28 Apr, 29 Apr, and 30 May; also a copy of an order signed by Field Marshal von Hindenburg authorizing support for White Finnish forces, 2 Mar), February – May 1918:

PG 77182, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 4. Meldungen an S.M. vom 27.2. bis 30.7.1918 (no table of contents; consists mostly of draft and final versions of reports and telegrams intended for submission to the Kaiser on conditions in Finland and in the eastern Baltic, including a report on captured Russian naval vessels and stocks in Reval [Tallinn, Estonia], 5 Mar; a message from the *Sonderverband* on conditions in Finland, 30 Mar; and a report from battleship *Rheinland* on arrests of Russians and pro-Bolshevik Finns in the Aaland Islands, 16 Mar), February – July 1918:

PG 77183, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 5. Sachlagen des Sonderverbandes und Station O vom 23.2. bis August 1918 (no table of contents; a lengthy collection of telegrams, correspondence and reports pertaining to the *Sonderverband*'s movements and operations in the Aaland Islands and Finland; of particular note is a collection of periodic reports issued by the *Sonderverband*, initially every two days but later every five to seven days, summarizing the progress of operations, 22 Mar-25 Apr, and including copies of proclamations to the Finnish people by *Sonderverband* commander

Adm. Meurer and by an association of Finnish workers' councils, ca. 25 Apr), February – August 1918:

PG 77188, rolls 1230-31

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 6. Reval vom 19.2. bis 6.4.1918 (no table of contents; copies of telegrams received and sent by the German naval station commander at Reval [Tallinn] pertaining to the movement and supply of the *Ostsee-Division* to Finland, captured Russian naval vessels and stores, ice conditions, the status of German forces in Finland, and a report on conditions in the former Russian naval port of Pernau [now Pärnu, Estonia]), February – April 1918:

PG 77184, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 7. Telegramme Marine Attaché Stockholm Ein- und Ausgänge vom 19.2. bis 13.4.1918 (file consists mostly of collected telegrams and correspondence received and sent by the German naval attaché to Sweden pertaining to relations with Swedish authorities in the aftermath of the German seizure of the Swedish-claimed Aaland Islands and subsequent actions supporting Finnish nationalists in Finland; of particular note is a detailed report on the subject, 12 Mar), February – April 1918:

PG 77185, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 8. Telegramme Sonderverband Ein- und Ausgänge vom 22.2. bis 29.4.1918 (collected draft and final versions of telegrams received and sent by the *Sonderverband* pertaining to the German seizure of the Aaland Islands, and to a lesser extent German naval support for Finnish nationalists in Finland), February – April 1918:

PG 77186, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18z. Nebenakte 9. O-Befehle des Sonderverbandes vom 23.2. bis 11.4.1918 (important collection of operational orders, administrative instructions, and order-of-battle data pertaining to the *Sonderverband's* operations in the seizure of the Aaland Islands and the support of Finnish nationalist forces in Finland; included are instructions for wireless radio communications, particularly with regard for coordination with German Army ground and air forces, directives governing the landing of German Army *Jäger-Battalion 14* in the Aaland Islands, minesweeping directives, and detailed organizational data for the *Sonderverband* as of 23 Feb and 28 Mar, including for each warship the name of the commanding officer, top speed, radio call sign, and information relating to its signal communication equipment), February – April 1918:

PG 77187, roll 1230

Akte III.2.-18zz. Ordensangelegenheiten vom April bis August 1918 (presumably a collection of documentation relating to military and naval decorations for personnel involved in operations in the eastern Baltic), April – August 1918:

PG 77189, not filmed

Akte III.2.-18g Nebenakte. Akten betr. "Hvalen" vom 16.10.1915 bis 8.6.1916 (collected documentation, with a table of contents, pertaining to the accidental attack of German patrol boat *Vp-2* on the Swedish submarine *Hvalen* off the Swedish coast, 21 Oct 1915, resulting in the death of a Swedish officer, including copies of German and Swedish diplomatic exchanges, German naval investigative reports and interviews, and related correspondence), 16 October 1915 – 8 June 1916:

PG 77190, roll 1047

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 1. Akten betr. Vorarbeiten zu den Operationsplänen vom April 1916 (collected documentation, including a handwritten table of contents, mostly pertaining to contingency planning in the event of British and/or Russian offensive operations in the Baltic, Apr-Aug 1916, including assessments of potential Entente naval strengths and such appropriate German responses in laying new minefields, transfers of warships, and the strengthening of naval coastal artillery batteries on the northern coast of the Courland peninsula [present-day Latvia]; also included is an assessment of the potential consequences of a Russian seizure of Narvik on the Arctic Ocean coast of northern Norway and a copy of a directive for Operation "Albion," the German seizure of islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Riga, Sep 1917), 10 April – August 1916 and September 1917:

PG 77193, roll 1047

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 2. Akten betr. Operationsdenkschriften des Ostseebefehlshabers für Ostseekriegführung vom August 1914 bis März 1917 (collected materials which, despite the indicated date span in the title and accompanying handwritten table of contents, covers only the period Apr 1916-Mar 1917; most consist of directives and memoranda regarding German operational planning in the Baltic prepared by the *Oberbefehlshaber der Ostseestreitkräfte* [Grand Admiral Heinrich Prinz von Preussen], including overviews of the strategic situation and plans for spring 1916, winter 1917, and summer 1917 [the last very detailed], and specific planning for antisubmarine warfare, May 1916, countering possible joint British-Russian efforts to open the western Baltic, May-Jun 1916, and minelaying, Mar 1917; also included is a report of Heinrich Prinz von Preussen's inspection tour of German naval batteries, air stations, and other facilities from Libau [Liepaja] along the Gulf of Riga, Jul-Aug 1916), 6 April 1916 – 10 March 1917:

PG 77194, rolls 1047-48

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 3. Akten betr. Archangelsk (two volumes of collected materials, each with a handwritten table of contents, relating to German planning to close or limit access to the Russian port of Archangel on the Arctic Sea coast during the period Mar 1915-Jun 1916; included are reports of ice conditions, excerpts from a 1909 publication describing the Murmansk coast, plans for the use of a auxiliary minelayer to mine the approaches to the port, the laying of minefields, reports of Allied merchant ship losses, including a listing of Allied and neutral merchant ships known to have been sunk by German mines in the Murmansk-Archangel area as of July 1915, and reports relating to the operations of the German auxiliary cruiser *Meteor* in the area, including the proposed awarding of the Iron Cross to all crewmembers, Jul

1915; Bd. 2 includes an operational plan for the stationing of a U-boat in the Arctic Sea during the summer of 1916) -

Band 1, 12 March – 30 October 1915: PG 77195, roll 1048

Bd. 2, 16 March – 23 June 1916: PG 77196, roll 1048

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 4. Akten betr. “Albatross” (three volumes of collected materials, each with a handwritten table of contents, pertaining to the German minelayer *Albatross*, badly damaged in an engagement with Russian cruisers on Jul 2, 1915, and forced to beach on the Swedish coast while still under Russian fire; included are accounts of the action, names of German crewmen killed and wounded, a diagram of the vessel indicating shell damage, photographs of shell hits on the vessel, data on the internment and treatment of the wounded and other crewmen in Swedish custody, correspondence on the possible salvage and repair of the vessel, proposed decorations to Swedish medical personnel, and negotiations with Swedish authorities; also included are statements of individual crewmen of the auxiliary warship *Hilfsschiff “H” (Hermann)* who were wounded in an action with Russian destroyers, 13 Jun 1916, and put ashore in Sweden for medical treatment, and a final report on the loss of the *Albatross* by her captain and first officer, 9 Aug 1918):

Band 1, 2 July – 31 August 1915: PG 77197, roll 1177

Bd. 2, 2 September 1915 – 7 February 1916: PG 77198, roll 1177

Bd. 3, 18 February 1916 – 23 August 1918: PG 77199, roll 1177

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 5. Akten betr. Schriftwechsel mit dem Oberbefehlshaber der Küstenverteidigung vom 14.4. bis 23.10.1916 (collected correspondence, with a handwritten table of contents, pertaining to shared jurisdictional matters between the Navy and the Army’s Commander in Chief of Coastal Defenses in the Baltic theater of operations, Apr-Oct 1916; included are some high-level exchanges among *Chef des Admiralstabes* Adm. Henning von Holtzendorff, *Chef des Generalstabes des Heeres* Erich von Falkenhayn, and *Ostseebefehlshaber* Heinrich Prinz von Preussen, mostly in the period 15-24 Apr), 14 April – 23 October 1916:

PG 77200, roll 1177

Akten III.2.-18 Nebenakte 6. Akten betr. Unterseebootsbefehle vom 11.2.1916 bis 27.7.1917 (collected correspondence, with a handwritten table of contents, relating in general to submarine warfare issues in the Baltic, including data on the arming of German merchant ships against submarine attack, the need for adequate instruction of German U-boat commanders on existing German agreements with Sweden and Denmark, general directives on the conduct of submarine warfare according to prize rules and later according to unrestricted submarine warfare, a recommendation for the capture of Allied merchant ship captains and engineering officers, a summary of neutral and Allied press articles, Feb 1916, and reports on the organization of a Danish merchant ship convoy and of German U-boats operating in Danish waters), 11 Feb 1916 – 27 July 1917:

PG 77201, roll 1177

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 7. Akten betr. Operationsvorbereitungen Dänemark (four volumes of collected materials, each preceded by a handwritten table of contents, regarding contingency

plans for operations against Denmark, on the assumption of joint British-Danish action against Germany, especially for the period Sept 1916-Jan 1917; German contingency plans here were initially designated *Fall "a"*, later changed to *Fall J*; scattered throughout are draft plans and correspondence on the availability and employment of naval forces, intelligence estimates of Danish strength and operational objectives, specific German countermeasures planned, correspondence on cooperation with German Army forces under *Generaloberst* Josias von Heeringen, correspondence exchanged among such senior naval figures as Heinrich Prinz von Preussen, von Holtzendorff, and Scheer, and naval command conferences pertaining to these issues; *Band 1* includes the record of a discussion with Field Marshal von Hindenburg on available Army forces, 2 Sep, a draft plan for possible naval operations ["*Operationsziele Dänemark*"], and verbatim transcripts of staff conferences involving Heinrich Prinz von Preussen and von Holtzendorff on 18 and 27 Sep; *Band 2* includes documentation regarding the possible cutting of Denmark's submarine cables, 11 Nov, and a verbatim transcript of a staff conference involving von Holtzendorff and Scheer's senior staff officer Vice-Adm. Heinrich von Trotha on the possible transfer of the High Seas Fleet to the Baltic for operations against joint British-Danish forces, 15 Nov; *Band 3* includes a verbatim transcript of a naval staff conference on possible sources for the transfer of additional naval manpower, 12 Jan, correspondence of Admiral Scheer on the possible re-deployment of naval air power in North Sea commands, 31 Jan, and notes for a planned discussion with the Army's *Chef des Generalstabes* on additional Army forces, 19 Apr; and *Band 4* documents heightened preparations for the issuance of an ultimatum to Denmark and associated military and naval operations, April-June 1917, including correspondence of the head of the Foreign Ministry Arthur Zimmermann with von Holtzendorff on the unlikelihood of Denmark entering the war and a draft response by von Holtzendorff, 27 Apr-2 May, as well as minutes of a naval conference on possible countermeasures should British forces appear in the Kattegat in response to Operation "Albion," 8 Oct 1917, and the record of a discussion with the German ambassador to Denmark, 17 Mar 1918) -

Band 1, 25 August – 1 October 1916: PG 77202, rolls 1177-78

Bd. 2, 9 October – 18 November 1916: PG 77203, roll 1178

Bd. 3, 18 November 1916 – 25 April 1917: PG 77204, roll 1178

Bd. 4, 26 April 1917 – 8 June 1918: PG 77205, roll 1178

Akte III.2.-18 Nebenakte 8. Akten betr. Operationsvorbereitungen Norwegen (two volumes of collected materials regarding contingency planning for operations against Norway, designated *Kriegsfall N*, nearly all of which is located in the first volume, which also includes a handwritten table of contents; included are draft plans ["*Operationsziele Norwegen*"] with provisions for mining Norwegian harbors by submarine, intelligence estimates of Norwegian military and naval strength and information on Norwegian coastal fortifications, data on Norwegian exports, imports, and other economic information, and the proposed cutting of Norwegian ocean cables and air attacks on Norwegian cities in the event of war; also included are plans and correspondence relating to operations against Norway and Denmark combined, and a transcript of a senior level staff conference hosted by von Holtzendorff and representatives of the High Seas Fleet on the feasibility of specific naval actions, 4 Jan 1917; *Band 2* contains only scattered materials without a table of contents) -

Band 1, 10 November 1916 – 7 September 1917: PG 77206, roll 1179

For reasons not known, a significant number of original German Navy records directly relating to Baltic Sea operations were subsequently added to the *Kriegsarchiv der Marine* collections as **Akten III.2.-29** through **III.2.-53**. Following their seizure by Allied forces at the end of World War II, only a handful of this fourth collection of subject files were microfilmed by the U.S. Navy in London. A number of these record items provide documentation through the 1918 armistice, some extend into the postwar period. Because the originals were restituted to Germany and are now in the custody of the *Bundesarchiv-Abt. Militärarchiv* in Freiburg/Br., those records not microfilmed are listed below with their original *Aktenzeichen* and PG registry record item numbers; those that were microfilmed are described in the same manner as the subject files above.

Akte III.2.-29. Akten betr. Kriegstagesbefehle des O.d.O. (three volumes of operational orders-of-the-day maintained by the *Oberbefehlshaber der Ostsee*) –
Bände 1-3, 16 April 1916 – 23 January 1918: PG 77401-403, not filmed

Akte III.2.-30, Nebenakte I. Akten betr. Statistik der Ein- und Ausfuhr Schwedens (supplementary volume of statistical data on Swedish imports and exports), 1 September 1916 – 10 August 1918:
PG 77404, not filmed

Akte III.2.-31. Akten betr. R.M.A. Beschaffungen in Schweden (a volume of correspondence pertaining to German naval procurement orders in Sweden), 24 January 1915 – 3 September 1916:
PG 77405, not filmed

Akte III.2.-32. Akten betr. Russische F.T. Wesen (two volumes of materials apparently pertaining to Russian radio and teletype communications, presumably with particular regard to procedures and methods) -
Bände 1-2, 1 October 1914 – 14 November 1918: PG 77406-407, not filmed

Akte III.2.-32a. Akten betr. Russische Funksprüche (14 volumes of materials presumably representing intercepted, decrypted, and translated Russian radio and teletype communications after 1 April 1916 in the Baltic Sea theater) –
Bände 1-14, 1 April 1916 – 11 November 1918: PG 77408-421, not filmed

Akte III.2.-32b. Akten betr. Funksprüche; -Neumünster (a volume of materials pertaining to intercepted, decrypted, and translated Russian and/or Allied signal communications, Aug-Sep 1918, presumably processed at the German intercept station at Neumünster), 1 August – 18 September 1918:
PG 77422, not filmed

Akte III.2.-33. Akten betr. Nachrichten über Minen und U-Boote in der Ostsee (seven volumes of correspondence and other materials apparently relating to intelligence data on Russian minefields and Russian and British submarines operating in the Baltic) –

Bände 1-7, 1 March 1915 – 30 July 1919: PG 77424-430, not filmed

Akte III.2.-33a. Akten betr. Schriftwechsel über die vom O.d.O. herausgegebenen Zusammenstellungen der in der Ostsee bekannten Minensperren pp. (a volume of correspondence presumably relating to updating reports compiled by the *Oberbefehlshaber der Ostsee* and his successors on identified Russian minefields in the Baltic), 23 March 1915 – 15 July 1918:

PG 77431, not filmed

Akte III.2.-33b. Akten betr. Deutsche Netz- und Minensperren in der Ostsee. Sperrmeldungen (two volumes of correspondence and other materials pertaining to German anti-submarine nets and minefields in the Baltic throughout the war) –

Bände 1-2, 2 August 1914 – 18 November 1918: PG 77432-433, not filmed

Akte III.2.-33c. Akten betr. Notizen über Minensucharbeiten in der Ostsee vom 1.4. bis 31.8.1917 / Akten betr. Feindliche Minen- und Netzsperrungen vom 7.12.1917 bis 25.4.1918 (two volumes of correspondence and other materials pertaining to German minesweeping operations, Apr-Aug 1917, and data on Russian minefields and anti-submarine nets, Dec 1917-Apr 1918):

PG 77434-435, not filmed

Akte III.2.-33d. Akten betr. Schriftwechsel über Minensperren (a volume of post-Armistice correspondence presumably relating to locations of German minefields in the Baltic), 14 November 1918 – 1 July 1919:

PG 77436, not filmed

Akte III.2.-34. Nebenakte I. Akten betr. Luftschiffs-Operationen vom 26.3.1915 bis 4.12.1917 (a volume of correspondence, operational orders, and other materials, with a handwritten table of contents, relating to German naval airship operations, focusing on the year 1916; they include the record of a staff conference in Wilhelmshaven, 18 Jan 1916, on plans for the concentration of airship attacks on strategic targets in Britain, but providing for the allocation of two *L 20*-type airships for the Baltic; correspondence on planned but ultimately cancelled airship attacks on St. Petersburg, Reval (Tallinn), Helsingfors (Helsinki), and other Russian targets, Jan-Aug 1916; German Army correspondence on possible airship attacks in the Baltic, including a recommendation to attack a munitions factory in Petersburg, 18 Nov 1916; and reports of an emergency landing by *L 38* due to engine failure (29 Dec 1916), *SL 9*'s aborted operation against Reval (19 Feb 1917), and of an engagement between *L 30* and an enemy submarine west of Libau (4 Dec 1917), 26 March 1915 – 4 December 1917:

PG 77437, roll 1183

Akte III.2.-34. Nebenakte II. Akten betr. Luftunternehmungen vom 7.3. bis 25.10.1917 (a volume of reports and correspondence, with a handwritten table of contents, detailing naval

airship operations in the Baltic during the indicated period; includes a summary report of airship operations for December 1916, brief summaries of the operations conducted by seven airships (*SL 7*, *SL 8*, *SL 9*, *SL 14*, *LZ 88*, *L 9*, and *L 35*) during the period 22 Jul-31 Dec 1916, detailed reports of specific operations by *L 35*, 28/29 Dec 1916, *SL 9* (bombing of Reval [Tallinn], 19 Feb 1917, and reconnaissance flight 1 Jun 1917, and *L 37* (attack on Aaland Islands), 26/27 Jul 1917; also included is a listing of possible operational tasks for airships in the Baltic, 21 Jun 1917, and correspondence on the importance of publicity for airship operations in the theater), 7 March – 25 October 1917:

PG 77438, roll 1183

Akte III.2.-35. Akten betr. Wissenswertes über Archangelsk und Nord.-Russische Küste (three volumes of correspondence relating to significant information regarding the port of Archangel and the Russian Arctic Ocean coast) –

Bände 1-3, 15 April 1915 – 12 April 1920: PG 77439-441, not filmed

Akte III.2.-36. Akten betr. Berichte allgemeiner Natur und Zeitungstelegramme vom Marine Attaché Stockholm (four volumes of correspondence, intelligence reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials originated or collected by the German naval attaché in Stockholm [*Marine-Attaché für die nordischen Reiche*] relating to the conduct of the war in the Baltic theater; the first three volumes include handwritten tables of contents; all provide intelligence information, particularly regarding conditions in Russia, as well as information regarding Swedish attitudes toward, and relations with, Germany; *Band 1* includes data on wartime trade in the port of Archangel, intelligence on British submarines entering the Baltic, and data on Swedish iron ore exports and trade with Russia in 1915; *Band 2* includes a May 1916 draft reply to the Dutch Government regarding the latter's firing on airship *L 19* for crossing Dutch airspace, an assessment of German territorial requirements in the Gulf of Riga in the event of a separate peace with Russia, 19 Jun 1916, an assessment of British official attitudes at the end of July 1916, and numerous reports of conversations with Swedish and Russian informants on conditions in Russia, particularly with regard to the possibility of a separate peace, May-Sep 1916; *Band 3* includes directives for the establishment of a branch office of the naval attaché in Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct 1916, an assessment of the attitudes of leading Swedish naval figures toward Germany, 6 Dec 1916, a lengthy report on proposed increases in Swedish-Russian trade through improved commercial connections, 19 Feb 1917; a detailed evaluation of Russian economic conditions, 27 Feb, and a recommendation for greater German naval involvement in the eastern Baltic to counter the deteriorating influence of Germany among Swedish leaders, 10 Jul 1917; *Band 4* contains only scattered reports of naval operations in the eastern Baltic, Jan-Sep 1918) -

Bände 1-4: 1 June 1915 – 14 November 1918: PG 77442-445, roll 1199

Akte III.2.-36a. Akten betr. Berichte des Marine-Attachés Kristiania (three volumes of correspondence, intelligence reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials originated or collected by the German naval attaché in Kristiania [now Oslo], Norway, from late 1915 through the end of the war; the first two volumes include handwritten tables of contents; most of the material consists of translated Norwegian press articles on such issues as Norwegian exports to

Britain and Russia, U-boat incidents involving Norwegian merchant ships, intelligence information regarding Britain and Russia, and British propaganda in Norway; *Band 1* includes a summary of Norwegian reactions to the voyage to the United States by German commercial submarine *U Deutschland*, 13 Apr 1916; *Band 2* includes a German agent's report of his tour of the Norwegian coast for evidence of covert British installations, Jul 1916, and a Norwegian journalist's account of a visit to the captured remains of airship *L 33* in southern England, 15 Oct 1916; *Band 3* includes a Norwegian perspective on the Central Powers' peace initiative, 24 Dec 1916, a Norwegian article on "Scandinavia and Allied blockade policy," 21 Aug 1917, and a confidential interview with a Norwegian Army staff officer regarding attitudes toward the United States, 1 Oct 1917) –

Band 1, 11 October 1915 – 19 April 1916: PG 77446, rolls 1199-1200

Bd. 2, 20 April – 30 November 1916: PG 77447, roll 1200

Bd. 3, 1 December 1916 – 14 December 1918: PG 77448, roll 1200

Akte III.2.-36b. Akten betr. Berichte vom Handels-Attaché in Kopenhagen (collected correspondence, translated newspaper articles and other materials [but lacking a table of contents] documenting activities of the commercial attaché in Copenhagen, Denmark, from late 1915 into early 1919; includes reports on the alleged use of the motor yacht *Densy* for covert British espionage along the Danish coast, Nov 1915, statistical data on commercial trade in Copenhagen during the first quarter of 1916, an assessment by the visiting German naval attaché of the attitudes of Danish naval and military authorities toward Germany, 30 Oct 1916, a reported interview with a Danish businessman regarding political and social conditions in Russia, 2 March 1917, an operational report on the successful attack by British light forces in the southern Kattegat on a German naval vessel and several fishing craft, and attendant failure of the German intelligence apparatus in Denmark, 2 Nov 1917, and an interview with a Norwegian naval officer regarding Britain and the general war situation, May 1918), 12 November 1915 – 17 February 1919:

PG 77449, roll 1200

Akte III.2.-37. Akten betr. Verschiedenes über Libau (four volumes of collected materials pertaining to the port of Libau [now Liepaja, Latvia] following its capture by German forces in May 1915, presumably relating to the port's buildup and use by German forces) –

Bände 1-4, 1 June 1915 – 11 June 1918: PG 77450-453, not filmed

Akte III.2.-38. Akten betr. Amtliche und halbamtliche Zeitungsveröffentlichungen (two volumes of materials, presumably of official and semiofficial German press releases relating to operations in the Baltic Sea) -

Bände 1-2, 13 October 1914 – 2 October 1918: PG 77454-455, not filmed

Akte III.2.-38a. Akten betr. Verbreitung falscher Nachrichten in der Auslandspresse (collected materials presumably relating to the circulation of false news in foreign newspapers), 12 November 1915 – 26 October 1916:

PG 77456, not filmed

Akte III.2.-39. Akten betr. Aalandinseln (two volumes of collected materials apparently relating to the Aaland Islands and associated German naval operations) –
Bände 1-2, 7 August 1915 – 5 April 1918: PG 77457-458, not filmed

Akte III.2.-39 Nebenakte. Akten betr. Unternehmung gegen Mariehamn (collected intelligence agents' reports and associated correspondence, with a handwritten table of contents, relating to the apparent use of the small port of Mariehamn in the Aaland Islands as a Russian submarine base, including some identifications of the agents themselves; also included are copies of agreements and associated correspondence regarding the use of specific Finnish and Swedish merchant marine officers to serve as pilots for German forces operating in those waters), 24 November 1915 – 22 July 1917:
PG 77459, roll 1200

Akte III.2.-40. Akten betr. Dislokation der russischen Armee (collected materials apparently relating to the disposition of Russian ground forces in the Baltic theater), 22 April 1917 – 4 August 1918:
PG 77460, not filmed

Akte III.2.-42. Akten betr. Verschiedenes über Windau (collected materials apparently pertaining to general information on the Russian naval base at Windau [now Ventspils, Lithuania]), 16 September 1915 – 20 October 1916:
PG 77461, not filmed

Akte III.2.-43. Akten betr. Wissenwertes und Vorarbeiten zu O.-Plänen gegen Dagö und Ösel (*Band 1*); Akten betr. Operationen Ösel (Bände 2-5) (five volumes of documentation, each except *Band 5* with its own handwritten table of contents, regarding strategic and operational planning for the seizure of the islands of Ösel [Saaremaa], Dagö [Hiiumaa] and Moon at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga, 1915-17, and the operations involved in the invasion and capture of the islands [codenamed “Albion”], Sept-Nov 1917; *Band 1* documents background strategic planning, including intelligence reports and prisoner of war statements regarding Russian facilities, defenses, and military strength on the islands, a letter of Field Marshal Erich von Falkenhayn rejecting a proposed invasion of the islands due to insufficient forces, 26 Dec 1915, copies of aerial photographs, several operational studies of the undertaking's feasibility, Jun 1916-May 1917, and the verbatim transcript of a high-level conference on the topic among Gen. Erich von Ludendorff, Chief of the Admiralty Staff Admiral von Holtzendorff, and other staff officers, 16 May 1917; *Band 2* details the immediate operational planning and partial execution of “Albion,” with more extensive documentation than that listed in the table of contents, extending up to 21 Oct 1917, including much organizational data on the composition of naval forces involved in the operation, a summary of a war games exercise by the *Admiralstab* on the seizure of the islands, 12 Sep, data on coordination with German Army commands [especially *Armeeoberkommando 8*], detailed information on the composition, armament, and shipment of the Army's *42. Infanterie-Division* for the invasion of the islands, data on Russian minefields and associated minesweeping operations, action reports, and an authorized press release on the operation, 20 Oct; *Band 3* includes reports from the German naval attaché in Sweden on Danish

and Swedish press articles relating to the rumored German offensive in the eastern Baltic; *Band 4* principally comprises the documentation of the naval liaison officer to *Armeeoberkommando 8* regarding coordination of efforts between naval and army forces, Oct-Nov 1917, as well as reports of a minelaying operation by submarine *UC 60*, minesweeping operations, a summary and listing of German naval vessels lost or damaged during Operation “Albion,” 5 Nov, the verbatim transcript of a conference among regional German naval authorities regarding the planned measures and future use of Ösel as a German naval base, 3 Nov, and copies of press releases by the Russian Army and Admiralty regarding operations in the area; *Band 5*, though lacking a table of contents, contains the most complete collection of operational postmortems on “Albion,” including listings of German warships sunk and damaged, the final report of the commander of the *Flottenverband für Sonderunternehmung*, 24 Oct, reports of the German Army’s participating commands, the *XXIII. Reservekorps* and the *42. Infanterie-Division*, after-action summaries of component naval units [e.g., *Transportflotte, IV. Geschwader*] and individual warships, including the artillery firing record [*Schiessliste*] of battleship *Friedrich der Große*, against Russian coastal batteries, 14-15 Oct, and an overall assessment of ‘lessons learned’ prepared by the *Admiralstab*, 15 Apr 1918; *Band 5* also includes records of confidential conversations with a Russian Army officer regarding the political situation in Finland, 24 Jan 1918, and with a Russian Navy admiral who summarizes the Russian naval perspective in Baltic campaigns, 1914-17, 6 Feb 1918) –

Band 1, 16 September 1915 – 9 August 1917: PG 77462, roll 1235

Band 2, 19 September – (21 October) 1917: PG 77463, rolls 1235-36

Band 3, 25 September – 18 October 1917: PG 77464, roll 1236

Band 4, 18 October – 10 November 1917: PG 77465, roll 1236

Band 5, 11 November 1917 – 15 April 1918: PG 77466, rolls 1236-37

Akte III.2.-43 Nebenakte. Akten betr. Operationen Ösel; Op – Befehle und operative Anordnungen des Sonderverbands mit Anhang: Befehle des Koflieg. (a supplemental collection of operational and administrative orders and directives, with an accompanying table of contents, relating to the establishment, organization, and tasks of the *Flottenverband für Sonderunternehmung* [or *Sonderverband*] to carry out Operation “Albion,” including much information concerning communications procedures and codenames; also included are directives relating to participating German Army commands and copies of Orders No. 1-8 of the *Kommandeur der Flieger* [Air Commander] attached to the *Sonderverband*, 20-25 Sep 1917), 21 September - 6 November 1917 -

PG 77467, roll 1237

Akte III.2 -44. Akten betr. Fahrwasserverhältnisse in der Osten (four volumes of documentation apparently pertaining to navigational aspects of Baltic waters) –

Bände 1-4, PG 77468-471: not filmed

Akte III.2.-45. Akten betr. Zeitungsnachrichten über die Minensperre bei Falsterbö (collected materials and press clippings apparently relating to reported minefields off the Swedish coast near the Sound), 16 February – 21 June 1916:

PG 77472, not filmed

Akte III.2.-46. Akten betr. Island (collected materials presumably relating to Iceland), 1 August 1916 – 20 July 1918:

PG 77473, not filmed

Akte III.2.-47. Akten betr. Wissenwertes über Ösel, Dagö und Moon (collected materials apparently relating to reference and geographical information pertaining to the islands of Ösel [Saaremaa], Dagö [Hiiumaa] and Moon at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga), 25 September 1917 – 21 June 1918:

PG 77474, not filmed

Akte III.2.-48. Akten betr. Kriegsnachrichten (two volumes of collected materials apparently pertaining to general war news, Mar-Aug 1918) –

Bände 1-2, 5 March – 30 August 1918: PG 77475-476, not filmed

Akte III.2.-48a. Akten betr. Schriftwechsel über Kriegsnachrichten (a supplementary volume of presumably associated correspondence to the general war news documentation noted above), 1 April 1918 – 12 February 1919:

PG 77477, not filmed

Akte III.2.-49. Akten betr. Operationen auf dem Ostseekriegsschauplatz (collected telegrams, reports and correspondence, lacking a table of contents, pertaining to naval and military developments in the Baltic theater for the last months of the war and continued fighting along Germany's eastern frontier through June 1919; wartime materials include an *Auswärtiges Amt* report on the possible scuttling of the Russian Baltic fleet at Kronstadt, 22 Aug 1918, a report on fighting in Petersburg between Russian nationalists and Bolsheviks and the state of defenses of the Kronstadt naval base, data on German minesweeping and continued Russian minelaying operations in Finnish waters, Aug-Oct 1918, communications exchanged with German Army authorities regarding coordination of efforts in a contemplated strike at Kronstadt [Operation "Schlußstein"], 24 Aug – 5 Sep, and a lengthy report by the *Befehlshaber der baltischen Gewässern* on the military situation in the area of Lake Ladoga and the possibility of German intervention there to support Finland, accompanied by maps, 10 Oct; postwar records include a summary of an attack on German positions at Windau [Lentspils] by Bolshevik forces, 2 Mar 1919, a report summarizing the activities of the naval liaison officer to *Oberkommando Nord des Grenzschutzes* on military operations on Germany's northeastern border, Feb 1919, translations of Finnish press clippings, Mar-Apr 1919, copies of summary reports issued by *Oberkommando Nord des Grenzschutzes*, with maps, on military operations on Germany's northeastern frontier, 30 Mar and 29 Apr 1919, a report on the operations of the German *VI. Reservekorps* on the northeastern frontier, 16 Apr 1919, and communications regarding the refusal of U.S. Navy warships in the Baltic to provide assistance to German forces in coastal areas, 17 June 1919), 15 August 1918 – 30 June 1919:

PG 77478, roll 1237

(Akten Nrn. III.2.-50 through III.2.-52 do not relate to operations in the Baltic theater)

Akte Nr. III.2.-53. Akten betr. Nachrichten über die Flotte in der Ostsee (collected materials, lacking a table of contents, relating to naval activities and developments in the Baltic theater during the period immediately following the November 1918 armistice; the most extensive documentation comprises daily or near-daily summaries of the precise locations of German Navy warships and operational commands throughout the Baltic, 17 Nov 1918-12 Jan 1919, as well as periodic situation reports for the same period of the naval commands at Libau [Liepaja] and Swinemünde [now Świnoujście, Poland]; also included are reports of mutinies aboard specific ships and in specific commands, the decommissioning of specific warships and furloughing of crews, the beginning of the evacuation of the naval base at Reval [Tallinn], the status of training ship *Schlesien* in Danish coastal waters, 7 Nov, and a summary of anti-submarine minelaying and nets at the entrance to the Baltic, 26 Nov), 6 November 1918 – 12 January 1919:

PG 77483, roll 1238

Three additional collections of materials pertaining to Baltic operations, and especially to the occupation of the islands at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga, were apparently never processed by German naval archivists into designated *Kriegsarchiv der Marine* files, but were brought by British authorities to London after World War II and designated record items PG 77484-486. They were not microfilmed by the U.S. Navy in London, but are presumably available today among *Admiralstab* records in Freiburg/Br. These comprise:

Sachlagen des Oberbefehlshabers der Ostsee, 19 August 1917 – 13 January 1918 (record item PG 77484)

Erwägungen über ein Vorgehen gegen Ösel, Moon, und Dagö, 17 March 1916 (record item PG 77485)

Sachlagen: B.M.A. Ösel und Libau, 21 February – 3 April 1918 (record item PG 77486)

LIST OF 1022 ROLLS CITED

348-49

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1100-01

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