

German teleprinter and radio, terms and technologies

Amtes Anna – Main German army telecommunications exchange at Mauerwald, near the Wolfschanze.

Dauerton – ‘continuous tone’. ‘Modulation’, or variation, of the tone used to indicate a unit during transmission.

Dezimeter-Wellen – Short wave radio system, directional, ‘beamed’ technology, Army name. 1 meter to 10 centimeters, Frequency 300-3000 Mega-Hertz. High frequency range, good reception, multiple simultaneous transmissions (telephony and telegraphy). Used for short distances as landline substitute.

Fernschreibanschlussgeraet – Teleprinter attachment device – Lorenz SZ40/42 cipher machine.

Fernschreiber – Teleprinter.

Fernschreibrufnamen – Teleprinter call signs.

Fernschreibstelle – Teleprinter station.

Funkfernschreibstelle – Teleprinter (‘beamed’) radio station.

Fuehrernachrichtenabteilung – The Fuehrer’s communications department

Geheimschreiber – ‘Secret writer. A generic name for cipher machines based on the Lorenz cipher, including two main models, the Siemens T52 and the Lorenz SZ40/42 machines.

Geheimstube – ‘Secret office’ or ‘cipher office’. Room staffed by operators with security clearance who typed plain language messages into a teleprinter equipped with a Geheimschreiber to produce an enciphered version.

HNV – Heeres-Nachrichten-Betriebsleitung – Army Signals Traffic Directorate

Hellschreiber – Special system for transmitting teleprinter messages using its own special code with high levels of redundancy and a printing system to survive corruption during transmission (see Appendix ?) Used on the original Fish link between Vienna and Athens until replaced by ‘teleprinter tone transmission’ which used the Baudot code.

Kurhaus – Communications exchange at the Wolfschanze

Lochstreifen – punched/perforated paper tape. So: Lochstreifensender – perforated tape sender/transmitter unit; Lochstreifenmaschine – perforated tape machine; Lochstreifenempfänger – perforated tape receiver; Motor Locher – motor perforator; Lochschreiber – strip printer.

OKH – Oberkommando des Heeres – Army High Command. Army general staff for the eastern front, based at Angerburg near Hitler's 'Wolfschanze' headquarters close to Königsberg in East Prussia. The OKH teleprinter exchange was at Mauerwald near Angerburg, codename Amtes Anna.

OKW – Oberkommando der Wehrmacht – High Command of the Armed Forces. In effect a rival general staff of the army all fronts except the eastern front (see OKH), thus OKW was the general staff of the German army in north Africa, Italy and Western Europe. It was based at Zossen near Berlin. The OKW teleprinter exchange was codenamed Zepellin.

Richtverbindungen – directional short wave radio, Luftwaffe name (abbreviation - RV), see 'Dezimeter'.

Robinson – codename for Hermann Goering's private train (Goering was in charge of the Luftwaffe and controlled major parts of the Reich's economic system).

Schreiben-Sprechen-Kanal – 'teleprinter/telephony channel'

Wechselstromtelegraphie – 'alternating current telegraphy'). 'Alternating current telegraphy' is known as 'voice frequency' telegraphy in English usage.

Wechselstromtelegraphiekurzwellenzusatz – 'alternating current telegraphy', short wave attachment (abbreviation – Weteka)

Wehrmachtsfunkfernschreibschluesselnetz – Armed forces wireless cipher-teleprinter network

Wolfschanze – 'Wolf's Lair' – Hitler's eastern war headquarters (see OKH).

WNV – Wehrmacht-Nachrichten-Verbindungen – OKW operations staff responsible for all signals, wireless and communications matters.

Zepellin – codename for the Berlin teleprinter exchange at Straussberg, near the OKW headquarters at Straussberg. Zepellin's teleprinter call-sign was HOSF.