



# BREAKTHROUGH 1940

The Battle for France and the Low Countries

## GERMAN BRIEFING

"Should it become evident in the near future that England, and, under her influence, France also are not disposed to bring the war to an end, I have decided, without further loss of time, to go over to the offensive..."

*Adolf Hitler, War Directive No.6, 9th October 1939*

### KEY PERSONALITIES

**Adolf Hitler** (Supreme Commander)  
(not played)

**OKW** (not played)

General Keitel

General Jodl (Chief of Staff)

General Warlimont (Operations)

**OKH**

Gen von Brauchitsch (C-in-C Army)

Gen Halder (Chief of Staff)

**OKL** (not played)

Field Marshal Goering (C-in-C Luftwaffe)

General Jeschonnek (Chief of Air Staff)

### STRATEGIC SITUATION

In its mission to unite all Germans within Greater Germany the German Armed Forces have re-opened the Corridor to East Prussia and conquered Poland in a lightning campaign of unprecedented speed and decisiveness.

Unfortunately Britain and France have felt it necessary to declare war on Germany notwithstanding the legitimacy of its aspirations.

The Anglo-French alliance represents an enormously powerful military potential.

Nevertheless preparations must be made to face it, whilst at the same time, The Fuhrer, in his usual magnanimous way, is making diplomatic overtures.

The Armed Forces must now act in accordance with War Directive No.6, set out below.

DIRECTIVE No.6 (mod) FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR

1) Should it become evident in the near future that England, and, under her influence, France also are not disposed to bring the war to an end, I have decided, without further loss of time, to go over to the offensive.

2) Any further delay will not only entail the end of Belgian and perhaps of Dutch neutrality, to the advantage of the allies; it will also increasingly strengthen the military power of the enemy, reduce the confidence of neutral nations in Germany's final victory, and make it more difficult to bring Italy into the war on our side as a full ally.

The aim of the offensive must be to achieve decisive results on land. The political and military stakes are too high for the limited objectives defined in the present Operation order, ie defeat of the largest possible elements of the enemy in Belgium and occupation of parts of the Channel coast. Final victory on land must be the goal.

The operations must therefore be directed towards winning a final decision in France and destroying France's resistance.

3) I therefore issue the following orders for the further conduct of military operations:

a) An offensive will be planned on the Western front, through Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland and France. This offensive must be launched at the earliest possible moment and in greatest possible strength.

b) The purpose of this offensive will be to defeat as much as possible of the French Army and of the forces of the Allies fighting on her side, and at the same time to win as much territory as possible in Holland, Belgium and Northern France, to serve as a base for the successful prosecution of the air and sea war against England and as a wide protective area for the economically vital Ruhr.

c) The time of the attack will depend on the readiness for action of the armoured and motorised units involved. These units are to be made ready with all speed. It will depend also upon the weather conditions obtaining and foreseeable at the time.

4) The Luftwaffe will prevent attacks by the Anglo-French Air Forces on our Army and will give all necessary direct support to its advance. It is also important to prevent the establishment of Anglo-French air bases and the landing of British forces in Belgium and Holland.

5) The Navy will do everything possible, while this offensive is in progress, to afford direct or indirect support to the operations of the Army and the Luftwaffe.

6) Apart from these preparations for the beginning of the offensive in the West according to plan, the Army and Luftwaffe must be ready, at all times, in increasing strength to meet an Anglo-French invasion of Belgium, immediately and as far forward as possible on Belgian soil, and to occupy the largest possible area of Holland in the direction of the West coast.

7) These preparations will be camouflaged in such a way that they appear merely to be precautionary measures made necessary by the threatening increase in the strength of the French and English forces on the frontiers between France and Luxembourg and Belgium.

8) I request Commanders-in-Chief to submit to me their detailed plans based upon this directive at the earliest moment and to keep me constantly informed of progress through the OKW.

signed:



ADOLF HITLER

# THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

## The Army

In order to keep the game simple we have ignored the Corps structure, and players will command Armies made up of a number of divisions.

Reinforcements or reserve units have to be allocated to an Army and cannot operate independently.

Army player teams will report to, and take orders from, Army Group player teams (in this case we will represent two Army Groups, A and B).

Army Group teams report to, and take orders from, the High Command player team.

The Army is currently structured as follows:

[Game note: In order to keep the game manageable for the players, we have ignored the corps level of organisation, so each Army is simply composed of a number of divisions.]

### High Command (OKH)

- Reserve 9 Army (19 Divisions in reserve or coming into action)
- Reserve 2 Army (20 Divisions in reserve or coming into action)
- 1 x Air Recce Wing

### Army Group A

- 12 Army (10 Divisions)
- 16 Army (13 Divisions)
- 4 Army (2 Pz Divisions 11 Inf Divisions)
- Panzer Group Kleist (5 Panzer Divisions, 3 Motorised Divisions)
- 2 x Air Recce Wings

### Army Group B

- Luftwaffe Air Landing Corps (2 Divisions)
- 18 Army (1 Panzer, 1 Cavalry, 6 Infantry Divisions)
- 6 Army (2 Pz Divisions, 1 Motorised Division, 16 Infantry Divisions)
- 2 x Air Recce Wings

### Army Group C

- Army Group Reserve (6 Divisions)
- 1 Army (12 Divisions)
- 7 Army (5 Divisions)

## Infantry

A massive expansion has been necessary to meet the requirements of the present day and, despite the immense efforts of those officers who trained the 1920's Reichswehr, the Army is of much more variable standard than its Imperial forbears.

This is particularly true of the Infantry Divisions which have been mobilised in 9 waves or categories as detailed below:

Wave	Date Formed	Number of Divisions formed	Description
1	1934-1938	39	Peacetime army units, representing the best trained and equipped troops
2	August 1939	15	Formed from recent reservists, good solid troops.
3	August 1939	22	Landwehr – older men, experienced and enthusiastic but with limited staying power.
4	August 1939	14	Formed from other second line reserve units
5	Sept 1939	11	Reservists of mixed quality and experience
6	Oct 1939	6	
7	Dec 1939	13	
8	March 1940	10	1940 draft of recruits. Green and not suited for mobile offensive operations
9	April 1940	10	

It is safe to assume that the later the wave the less combat effective the division will be.

### **Panzers and Motorised Troops**

The new concentration of armoured and motorised forces into independent panzer and motorised divisions is an experiment that has yet to be tested in combat against a modern army.

There is an ongoing controversy in the Army as to whether these forces can achieve breakthroughs on their own, or whether they are more effective as a powerful addition to infantry armies.

The current force of 10 panzer and 6 motorised divisions represent all that the Reich can muster, and it has taken several years to assemble enough tanks and vehicles to create them. Even now they are regarded as deficient in battle tanks capable of engaging with the heavy French and British types on equal terms.

This means that these very expensive and specialised units must **not** be wasted in frontal attacks against superior enemy defences or squandered in long battles of attrition.

It is the belief of some tank enthusiasts in the Army that a strong panzer group operating ahead of the main infantry armies can use speed and operational flexibility to break through the enemy rapidly and create an expanding torrent of tanks and motorised infantry operating well in the enemy's rear, while the slower infantry armies move up to widen the breach and exploit a breakthrough and disorganisation resulting from that breakthrough.

Of course, this is entirely theoretical, as it was not practiced in Poland (the Poles did not put up enough of a fight to test any operational theories).

Nobody in the world knows if it will work and many experienced senior officers in the army suspect that it will not. They point to the fact that in Poland most of the armoured vehicles broke down and/or ran out of fuel and ammunition very quickly.

These ideas would not have been put into practice at all by High Command had the Fuhrer not taken a personal interest in them, so now, an independent 'Panzer Group' has been formed to test out these theories.

However, if this experimental force fails, you are permitted to re-absorb the specialist divisions allocated into a normal army and disband the 'Panzer Group' [Game note: In game terms, if a breakthrough does not occur the Panzer Group team loses its status as an independent team and

is absorbed into one or two other teams]

### **The Luftwaffe**

The Luftwaffe is mainly represented by a player in the High Command team who allocates air wings to Army Groups, and to strategic tasks.

Once air units have been allocated, the player teams at Army Group level will be issuing orders for them until they are withdrawn.

The available wings of the Luftwaffe are currently deployed as follows:

	WEST	REICH	NORWAY	TOTAL
Fighter Wings:	8	1	1	10
Destroyer Wings:	2	1	1	4
Bomber Wings:	12	-	2	14
Stuka Wings	4	-	-	4
Transport Wings	5	-	-	5
	31	2	4	37

The Luftwaffe also controls an Air Landing Corps of 2 Divisions. The parachute division requires the deployment of 2 Transport wings, the Airlanding Division requires transport 3 units and a captured airfield to deploy.

### **Luftwaffe Operational Radius**

	Km
Fighter Wing	160
Destroyer Wing	560
Bomber Wing	1200
Stuka Wing	160
Transport Wing	1200

### **Lufwaffe Initial Air bases**

Fighter Wings	Koblenz, Bonn, Duisburg, Osnabruck, Munster, Essen, Dortmund, Mannheim
Destroyer Wings	Hannover, Frankfurt am Main
Bomber Wings	Wurzburg, Wiesbaden, Munster, Hannover, Erfurt x2, Stuttgart x2, Ulm, Frankfurt am Main, Kassel, Koblenz
Stuka Wings	Cologne, Bonn, Mainz, Essen
Transport Wings	Kassel, Wurzburg, Ulm, Bamberg, Bremen

## **THE ALLIES**

### **See the Military Balance 1940 Briefing.**

The indications are that the allies are not contemplating an immediate offensive into the Reich since they are too weak both politically and militarily. It seems most likely that they will prefer to build up their strength for a war of attrition. The signs are that they are already doing this since Britain and France are both engaged on massive rearmament

programmes, including substantial purchases from the United States.

Offensive manoeuvres by the allies cannot be ruled out, however. The Scandinavian operation was launched by the Fuhrer precisely to forestall an Anglo-French invasion of Norway and we know that Britain, especially, desires airbases in Belgium to strike at the Ruhr.

Notwithstanding the above, the general allied posture in the West is defensive.

- a) Holland (10 Divs) and Belgium (22 Divs) are isolated by geography and their firmly neutral political position and would require Anglo-French support to stand against a major offensive by us for more than a few days,
- b) The position of the small but highly motorised British Army on the coast might allow it to operate either as a *masse de manoeuvre* to the landward flank or to conduct amphibious operations in the Scheldt estuary.
- c) The linear nature of the French dispositions (with one exception) all the way along the border should allow us to break through their line with a concentrated force at a given point,

## **THE OVERALL GERMAN PLAN**

### **Fall Gelb**

#### **Strategic summary:**

OKW has been tasked by der Führer to prepare an strategic and operational plan to achieve a decisive land victory against England and France by defeat of the largest possible elements of the enemy in Belgium and occupation of the Channel Coast.

#### **Operational Outline:**

OKW intends to achieve this task by the occupation of the Netherlands and Belgium and by achieving an armoured breakthrough north of the Ardennes and following the river Sambre along the line Namur-Maubeuge-Cambrai-Abeville on the Channel Coast, thus cutting off the main part of the Belgian Army and all Allied units that venture north in support of Belgium. The armoured breakthrough will be the task of Panzergruppe Kleist which will be subordinated by Army Group B, which will be responsible for all offensive actions north of the river Sambre. Army Group A will be supporting the attack of Army Group B by shielding the south flank of the advance by Panzergruppe Kleist by maintaining contact by offensive action, while shielding against any attacks from the South. Army Group C will shield the Maginot line and any Allied advance into Germany from that area, taking advantage of the fortifications of the Siegfried Line.

#### **Orders for Army Group B:**

The operational area of Army Group B will be The Netherlands, Belgium and France bordered on the south side by the River Sambre and including the cities Liege, Namur, Maubeuge, Cambrai and Abbeville. Army Group B consists of the following armies: 18<sup>th</sup> Army and 6<sup>th</sup> Army. Panzergruppe Kleist is subordinated to 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Army:**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Army is tasked to attack and conquer the Netherlands. Its starting line extends from Nieuwenschans and Kleef (included). The assault will be limited in south by the river Meuse. The centre of gravity will be to break through the Grebbe defence line and the cities of Utrecht and The Hague beyond, while shielding the any Dutch units in the area of Amsterdam (a.o. the Stelling of Amsterdam). The strategic end situation is the destruction

of all Dutch troops north of the Meuse river and the occupation of the whole country. It is essential to prevent that the Netherlands will be used as base or staging area for French and/or British troops and aircraft. After the attainment of the objectives the mobile elements will be directed south to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Army:

The 6<sup>th</sup> Army will attack from the starting line between Venlo and Maastricht (included), north of the Albert Canal in the direction Antwerp – Terneuzen. The objective of the attack is the elimination of the Belgian Army in this area and any Dutch south of the Meuse river. 6<sup>th</sup> Army's attack should lure Allied troops from Northern France into Belgium and bind them north of Panzergruppe Kleist's advance. This objective notwithstanding it should be prevented that such Allied forces can connect to the Dutch Army in the Netherlands. If the Allies fail to take the bait 6<sup>th</sup> Army should advance to the Channel Coast up till Dunkirk (inclusive) while maintaining contact with the advancing Panzergruppe Kleist.

#### Panzergruppe Kleist:

Panzergruppe Kleist (PzGr, Kleist) is subordinated to 6<sup>th</sup> Army. The start line for its advance is to cross the Meuse river and the Albert Canal between Maaseijk and Liege with an axis of advance Namur - Maubeuge – Cambrai – Abbeville bounded in South by the Sambre river.

The breakthrough should be made by infantry rather than the armour which should be held back until the breakthrough has been made. This way we try to keep the centre of gravity of our attack hidden from the enemy. The Special Forces of the Brandenburg regiment will be committed to ensure the capture of the bridges across the Meuse undamaged. The fortress Eben Emael (north of Liege) will be neutralized by specially trained units of the 7<sup>th</sup> Flieger division.

#### Orders for Army Group A:

The starting line of Army Group A lies between Aken en Merzig (included). Its objective is to maintain the connection between the advancing Army Group B/6<sup>th</sup> Army/Pz.Grp.Kleist and the (relatively) stationary Army Group C. It should clear the Ardennes area from Belgian defenders and defend against any Allied attacks from the South. Army Group A consists (from North to South) of the 16<sup>th</sup> Army, the 4<sup>th</sup> Army and the 12<sup>th</sup> Army.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Army:

The starting line of 16<sup>th</sup> Army lies between Aken and Trier (included). It will advance to the west using the Sambre as its northern boundary and guard against interference against the breakthrough by Allied units from the South. The target of its advance is the city of Dieppe.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Army:

Starting line for 4<sup>th</sup> Army is between Trier (excluded) and Merzig. It will attack the sector Longwy – Diekirch and move subsequently into the direction of Sedan. Apart from gaining ground, this attack functions as a decoy that should deflect attention from the centre of gravity north of Liege and guard against Allied action from the south. 4<sup>th</sup> Army should attack early with high level of display of armour and Stuka activity. After reaching Sedan the direction of advance is towards Reims. Depending on the Allied reaction the advance will be continued in the direction Rheims – Compiègne – Le Havre (hence north of Paris). Alternatively, depending on the Allied reaction 4<sup>th</sup> Army should be prepared to change its axis of advance after reaching Rheims in the direction Nancy or Troyes.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Army:

12<sup>th</sup> Army starting line is between Baden Baden en Merzig. It will advance to the line Haguenau-Longwy and keep a threatening posture to bind troops in and behind the

Maginot line.

### **Orders for Army Group C:**

Army Group C will occupy the sector between Baden Baden and Bazel, utilizing the Siegfried line fortifications to block any advance from the Maginot line into Germany. No offensive operations will be undertaken unless Allied covering troops have been withdrawn. Any such action will require prior OKW authorization.

### **OKW Reserves:**

The OKW reserves comprise the Fliegerkorps (7 Flieger and 22 Luftlande Divisions) and 39 infantry divisions. Army Group Commanders are requested to put forward proposals how to best use the Fliegerkorps in their assigned area of operations. Moreover they are asked to indicate whether they need additional divisions for the Reserve to be allocated to them

## **ARMY GROUP 'A' DETAILED PLAN**

Planning for first two weeks AG A

Boundaries AG A and position and tasks of 16<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> army

### **16<sup>th</sup> Army**

16<sup>th</sup> army connects to the north of AG C. The southern boundary is on the line Trier-Dikierch (inclusive)- Neufchateau (incl) - Sedan(excl)- Rethel(ex)- Noyon (inclusief)- Gourmay-en-Bray(excl) and at the coast Veulette sur mer (Incl)

Positions of 16<sup>th</sup> army from Aix/Aachen to Trier/Treves as follows: 17ID, 34ID, 36ID, 68 ID, 58ID and 76 ID up to Trier (inclusive).

In the second line (reserve) are 33ID at Nideggen, 6ID at Dahlem, 15ID at Germalstein and 26 ID at Landscheid. Army HQ at Daun.

The route of advance for the first 2 weeks: 17ID, 34 ID, 36 ID and 68 ID will protect the flank of PzGr Kleist advancing parallel to the PzGr

17<sup>de</sup> ID starts between Aachen and Simmerath through Namen/Namur, Charleroi (excl) and then exploits through Beaumont towards Fourmies bypassing the Maginot line to the south and Maubeuge.

34ID starts between Simmerath and Büllingen and advances parallel to 17ID up to Fourmies

Likewise 36ID starting between Bullingen and Prüm advances through Dinant. Exploiting to the south from Philippeville.

68 ID starts between Prüm and Daleiden. Southern boundary through Wincrange, Saint Hubert and Givet, Givet is bypassed to the north to avoid the defences at Chooz, after which it advances southwards, Parallel to 36ID. advance up to Saint Michel

58ID and 76ID protect the flank of 4<sup>th</sup> army.

58ID starts between Daleiden and Echtenach. Advances through Bastogne and Saint Hubert and then diverts towards Charleville Mezieres (inclusief)

76ID starts between Echtenach and Trier. Their left flank is the army boundary, Diekirch-Neufchateau-Sedan-Rethel.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Army**

4<sup>th</sup> army connects to 16<sup>th</sup> army boundary: Trier-Dikierch (exclusive)- Neufchateau (excl) - Sedan(incl)- Rethel(incl)- Noyon (exclusief)- Gourmay-en-Bray(incl) and at the coast Veulette sur mer (excl) and southern boundary (12<sup>th</sup> army): Metz- Thionville (exclusief)-Saint Mihiel (incl)-Barle duc (incl)-Arcis sur Aube(incl)- Provins (incl)-Evry/Parijs (incl)-Evreux (incl)- Caen (incl)

Positions of 4<sup>th</sup> army from Trier to Metz; Trier 8ID, 28ID, 5PZ, 7PZ, 12ID, 32ID, 62ID Metz.

in reserve: 251ID at Weiskirchen, 267ID west of Schmetz,

Yet further back: 263ID east of Hermeskeil, 211ID at Nonnenweder, 87ID at Tholey and 4 ID east of Schmetz.

Army HQ north of Hermeskeil

The route of advance for the first 2 weeks:

8 and 28ID advance parallel to army boundary. at Neufchateau exploit to the southwest bypassing Sedan (excl). These divisions therefore pass between Sedan and the Maginot line Villa at Mouzon.



5PZ, and 7PZ advance up to Arlon. Then exploit to the southwest passing between the Maginot position before Montmedy and the Maginot position before Longuyon. At Varennes-en-Argonne divert to the west. 251ID and 267ID follow in the tracks of 5PZ and 7PZ. They will attack the the forts at Longuyon from the rear.

12ID, 32ID and 62ID ignore the Moginot linie at Thionville. Bypassing it trough Luxemburg city and and divert between Mamer and Bettembourg to the southwest to pass between Longwy and Thionville.

12ID will attack teh position before Longuyon.

32 ID wil try to break through the Maginot positions before Longuyon and Thionville , 62ID cover the left flank of the attack and protects the army boundary. these units have the task of taking out the defences between Montmedy and Thionville.

This is supported by the bombers and dive bombers assigned to 4<sup>th</sup> army.

The ultimate goal of 12ID is VERDUN. This city MUST be taken.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Army

12th army is deployed between Merzig and Baden-Baden.

Deployment of 12th army from Merzig tot Baden-Baden: 3 ID, 23ID, 16ID, 24ID, 5ID, 1Mnt, 21ID, 25ID Baden-Baden.

behind them in reserve the 9ID at Bexbach and the 27 ID east of Homburg

Army HQ north of Homburg

23ID and 16ID will try to break through the Maginot fortresses of Bambich and Casso. Reconnaissance units will probe the positions to test the opportunities for attack as the area seems difficult to traverse.

If possible 23ID will try to break through. Goal is to outflank the Maginot line at Bambich and take out the forts 1 by 1.

After that is achieved the unit should link up to 62ID

When the attack starts 3ID and 16 ID will make demonstrations against the flanking positions before Metz and Straatsburg (Bambich and Casso) to pin those forces.

At the same time 24ID and 5 ID attack the gaps in the Maginot line at Strassbourg. Supported by 16ID on the right and 21ID on the left flank.

Should the attack succeed through above mentioned gap, 263ID, 211ID, 87ID and 4ID of 4de army will have to support 12<sup>th</sup> army.



# ARMY GROUP 'B' DETAILED PLAN

The operational area of Army Group B will be The Netherlands, Belgium and France bordered on the south side by the River Sambre and including the cities Liege, Namur, Maubeuge, Cambrai and Abbeville. Army Group B consists of the following armies: 18<sup>th</sup> Army and 6<sup>th</sup> Army. Panzergruppe Kleist is subordinated to 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

Air Recce:

## **18<sup>th</sup> Army:**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Army is tasked to attack and conquer the Netherlands. Its starting line extends from Nieuwenschans and Kleef (included). The assault will be limited in south by the river Meuse. The centre of gravity will be to break through the Grebbe defence line and the cities of Utrecht and The Hague beyond, while shielding any Dutch units in the area of Amsterdam (a.o. the Stelling of Amsterdam). The strategic end situation is the destruction of all Dutch troops north of the Meuse river and the occupation of the whole country. It is essential to prevent that the Netherlands will be used as base or staging area for French and/or British troops and aircraft. After the attainment of the objectives the mobile elements will directed south to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

Northern Boundary is the North Sea coast.

Southern boundary is the line Goch-Uden-Den Bosch-Waalwijk-Moerdijk (all incl)

18<sup>th</sup> Army will consist of 207 ID, 208 ID, 225 ID, 227 ID, 254 ID, 256 ID, 9 PzD, 1 CvD

Air component: 1 fighter, 1 bomber, 1 destroyer wing

256 ID will occupy the area north of the line Nordhorn-Zwolle (incl)-Kampen (incl) – Amsterdam (excl)- Ijmuiden (excl). After securing the area east of the ZUiderzee/Ijsselmeer, it will try to cross the Afsluitdijk and occupy the area to the west.

207 and 225 ID will occupy the area between the line Nordhorn-Zwolle (excl)-Kampen (excl)- Amsterdam (incl)- Ijmuiden (incl) and the line Emmerich (incl)-Arnhem-Rhenen-Nieuwegein-Rotterdam-Hoek van Holland (all incl) ie the Pannerdens Kanaal, Nederrijn and Lek river. They will

- 1) secure the crossings of the Ijssel river, then
- 2) engage the Dutch defences of the Grebbe line, and the Water Line if they turn out to be defended
- 3) occupy the area up to the North Sea coast and eliminate all remaining resistance. It will occupy The Hague, but shield any Dutch troops in the Amsterdam area.

9 PzD is in reserve to exploit a break through of the defences. 254 ID is in reserve. 9<sup>th</sup> PzD may only be engaged with approval from Army group HQ.

208 and 227 ID have the task of

- 1) securing the crossings of the Meuse between Gennep and Megen as well as those across the Meuse-Waal Canal
- 2) securing the northern flank of 6<sup>th</sup> Army
- 3) clearing the area between the line Kleef- Arnhem-Rhenen-Nieuwegein-Rotterdam-Hoek van Holland (all excl). ie the Pannerdens Kanaal, Nederrijn and Lek river and the line Goch-Uden-Den Bosch-Waalwijk-Moerdijk (all incl) and
- 4) securing the bridges between Moerdijk and Zwijndrecht.

227 ID will drive westward between the Nederrijn/Lek and The Maas. 208 ID will cross the Maas and advance along the route Oss-Den Bosch-Waalwijk-Moerdijk, engaging the Dutch defences in the Peel line. 1 CvD is in reserve to exploit a breakthrough in this area.

Due to the nature of the terrain and the mission, extra care has been taken to provide sufficient bridging equipment

#### **Air orders:**

The bomber wing, with fighter escort will attack airfields in the The Hague and Amsterdam Area

The destroyer wing will be on CAP above and forward of the front line units to establish air control over the battlefield.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Army:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Army will attack from the starting line between Venlo and Aachen (excluded), north of the Albert Canal in the direction Antwerp – Terneuzen. The objective of the attack is the elimination of the Belgian Army in this area and any Dutch south of the Meuse river. 6<sup>th</sup> Armies' attack should lure Allied troops from Northern France into Belgium and bind them north of Panzergruppe Kleist's advance. This objective notwithstanding it should be prevented that such Allied forces can connect to the Dutch Army in the Netherlands. If the Allies fail to take the bait 6<sup>th</sup> Army should advance to the Channel Coast up till Dunkirk (inclusive) while maintaining contact with the advancing Panzergruppe Kleist.

Northern Boundary is the line Goch-Uden-Den Bosch-Waalwijk-Moerdijk (all excl)

Southern boundary is the line Geilenkirchen (excl)-Maastricht (excl)-St Truiden (incl)-Tienen (incl)-Waterloo (incl)-Ath (incl)-Douai (incl)-Arras (incl)-Le Touquet (incl)

6<sup>th</sup> Army will consist of

1, 11, 61 ID are under command of PzGr Kleist until they have secured Liege

Air component: 1 fighter, 1 bomber, 1 stuka wing

7, 14 and 269 ID will

1) secure crossings of the Meuse between Venlo (inclusive) and Boxmeer (incl) and

2) attack the Dutch defenses in the Peel line.

3) advance along the route Helmond, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Breda, Roosendaal, Antwerp, also securing Bergen op Zoom. Thereby preventing a junction between the Dutch forces and Belgian, British or French units.

4) cross the Escaut to the north west of Antwerp. Advancing on Gent, Brugge, Oostende

3<sup>rd</sup> PzD will be in reserve to exploit a breakthrough along the route Venlo, Helmond,

Eindhoven, Tilburg, Breda, Roosendaal, Antwerp

31 ID is in reserve

Stuka wing provides CAS

19, 30, 56 ID will

1) secure crossings of the Meuse At Roermond

2) engage the Dutch defenses in the Peel line.

3) advance along the route Weert, Turnhout, Wijnegem, als securing Herentals. Thereby preventing a junction between the Dutch forces and Belgian, British or French units.

4) secure the flanks of 4 PzD, 20 MOtD and 216 ID

5)cross the Escaut. Advance on Mechelen, Aalst, Courtrai, Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne

223 D is in reserve

4<sup>th</sup> PzD with 20<sup>th</sup> MotD and 216 ID will

- 1) secure crossings of the Meuse at Maasbracht
- 2) advance and cross the Albert Canal at Hasselt and Beringen, advance on the route Leuven, Brussel, Lille, Lens, Le Touquet, Boulogne
- 3) protect the northern flank of PzGr Kleist

18, 255 ID will

- 1) secure crossings of the Meuse between Maastricht (excl) and Maaseik
- 2) Secure Genk and Hasselt
- 3) Provide flank and rear support for 4 PzD, 20 MotD and 216 ID
- 4) protect the northern flank of PzGr Kleist

1, 11, 61 ID are under command of PzGr Kleist until they have secured Liege And will

- 1) advance from Aachen to
  - 2) secure crossings of the Meuse between Maastricht (incl) and Liege (excl) to prepare a bridgehead for PzGr Kleist.
  - 3) establish contact with the FjD detachment at Eben Emael with all speed
  - 4' protect the flank of PzGr Kleist from attacks from Liege, and the attack the fortifications of Luik with all possible speed. These troops will be supported by available siege artillery
  - 4) once Liege is secured, these divisions will return to the 6<sup>th</sup> army reserve.
- 2 stuka wings from PzGr Kleist provide CAS until the bridgehead is secured

35,253 ID in reserve in Monchen Gladbach, will move to Roermond, Beringen, Aarschot, Mechelen.

*Brandenburger special forces will be used to secure bridges across the Meuse at Venlo, Roermond, Maasbracht, Sittard, Boxmeer before the general advance*

#### **Air orders:**

The bomber wing, with fighter escort will attack airfields in the Brussels and Leuven Area  
The stuka wing will be on CAS for 7, 14 and 269 ID.

#### **PanzerGruppe Kleist:**

Panzergruppe Kleist (PzGr, Kleist) is subordinated to 6<sup>th</sup> Army. The start line for its advance is to cross the Meuse river and the Albert Canal between Maastricht and Liege with an axis of advance Namur - Maubeuge – Cambrai – Abbeville bounded in South by the Sambre river.

It is intended to keep the centre of gravity of our attack hidden from the enemy as long as possible. The fortress Eben Emael (north of Liege) will be neutralized by specially trained units of the 7<sup>th</sup> Flieger division.

Northern Boundary is the line Aachen (incl)-Maastricht (incl)-St Truiden (excl)-Tienen (excl)-Waterloo (excl)-Ath (excl)-Douai (excl)-Arras (excl)-Le Touquet (excl)

Southern boundary is the line Aachen(incl)-Liege-Namur-Charleroi-Maubeuge-Le Cateau-Peronne-Amiens-Abbeville-St Valery

PzGr, Kleist will consist of

And is deployed east of Aachen

1, 11, 61 ID are under command of PzGr Kleist until they have secured Liege

Air component: 2 fighter, 2 bomber, 2 stuka wing

The PZ Gr Kleist will advance from the bridgehead across the Meuse secured by the 1, 11, 61 ID of 6<sup>th</sup> Army along the axis described above with all possible speed.

A special detachment from the 7 FjD will attempt a coup de main attack on the fortress of Eben Emael.

#### **Air orders:**

1 bomber wing will attack airfields in the Charleroi and Namur Area  
1 bomber wing, with 1 fighter escort will attack airfields in the Valenciennes and Denain Area  
1 fighter wing on CAP  
2 stuka wings will provide CAs for 1, 11, 61 ID of 6<sup>th</sup> Army.

#### **Army Group units**

1 recce wing will scout the area of Antwerp-Brussel (excl)  
1 recce wing will scout the area of Brussel/Charleroi  
Special attention paid to the location of enemy air units and the presence and direction of troop columns

#### **OKH/OKL units**

Air component: 1 fighter, 4 bomber, 1 destroyer wing  
1 bomber wing will attack airfields in the Antwerp area  
1 bomber wing with 1 fighter escort will attack airfields in the Gent area  
  
1 bomber wing will attack airfields in the Lille/Roubaix area  
1 bomber wing will attack airfields in the Arras/Lens area  
1 destroyer wing will escort the bombers in the Lille/Roubaix/ Arras/Lens area

## **Air Tasking Order Luftwaffe**

The Luftwaffe units will be placed under the command of the Army Groups. However, until D+3 the OKW/OKL will be keeping control over 1 Fighterwing, 1 Destroyerwing and 4 Bomberwings. On D+4 the Fighter Wing and the Destroyer Wing will be placed under command of the Army Groups, depending on the situation, the OKL will decide to which Army Group.

The four bomberwings will stay under command of the OKL als an operational attack force.

The transportwings will be placed under command of the Army Group which will have the Airborne and Airlanding divisions, based on the approved plan of attack for these units.

#### **Naming of the units**

The air units will have the following names, this for the ease of communications and recognition:

- Fighter Wings: 1st to 8th FW;
- Stuka Wings: 1<sup>st</sup> to 4th SW;
- Destroyer Wings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd DW;
- Bomber Wings: 1<sup>st</sup> to 12th BW;
- Transport Wing: 1<sup>st</sup> to 5th TW;

The Army Groups will have the following units:

- 18th Army: 1F + 1D + 1B;
- 6th Army: 1F + 1S + 1B;
- Kleist: 2F + 2S + 2B;
- 16th Army: 1F + 1B;
- 4th Army: 1F + 1S + 2B;
- 12th Army: 1F + 1B;

Under control of OKW/OKL will stay: 1F + 1D en 4 B Wings.

#### **Initial deployment of the Air Units:**

- 18th Army:
  - 1e FW: Duisburg;
  - 1e DW: Duisburg;
  - 1e BW: Osnabruck
- 6th Leger:
  - 2e FW: Dusseldorf;
  - 1e SW: Dusseldorf;
  - 2e BW: Dortmund;
- PZ Gruppe Kleist:
  - 3e FW: Aken;
  - 4e FW: Keulen;
  - 2e SW: Aken;
  - 3e SW: Keulen;
  - 3e BW: Kassel;
  - 4e BW: Kassel;
- 16th Leger:
  - 5e FW: Bonn;
  - 5e BW: Wiesbaden;
- 4th Leger:
  - 6e FW: Trier;
  - 4e SW: Trier;
  - 6e BW: Mainz;
  - 7e BW: Mainz;
- 12e Leger:
  - 7e FW: Mannheim;
  - 8e BW: Mannheim;

#### **OKW/OKL Air Units:**

Air Units under command of the OKW/OKL will be deployed at:

- 8e FW: Bonn;
- 2e DW: Koblenz;
- 9e BW: Wiesbaden
- 10e BW: Siegen;
- 11e BW: Frankfurt am Main;
- 12e BW: Frankfurt am Main;

### **Transportwings for the use of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Luftlande and 7<sup>th</sup> Fliegerdivision**

These Transport Wings will be placed under the command of the Army or Army Group that has got control of the Airborne component. The Transport Wings are needed to transport these units to battle. The 7<sup>th</sup> Fliegerdivision and 22<sup>nd</sup> Airlanding Division will be deployed near Osnabrück, Münster and Bielefeld.

- 1e TW: Osnabrück;
- 2e TW: Münster;
- 3e TW: Münster;
- 4e TW: Bielefeld;
- 5e TW: Bielefeld

After the Airborne component has been inserted in battle, control over the transport wings will be returned to the OKW/OKL.

### **General order for use of Luftwaffe Units**

Because of Command and Control issues, most Luftwaffe Units will be placed under command of Army and Army Groups. However, these Army and Army Group commanders will get orders from OKW/OKL for at least the first four days of battle:

- priority nr 1 is to destroy all Allied air forces. Therefore all Army and Army Group commanders have orders to use their air units in conjunction with the OKW/OKL in their own operational areas to gain **air supremacy** (absolute air control), the enemy cannot operate effectively over any part of the battle field.
- This can be reached by:
  - airfield denial: bombing and strafing enemy airfields and the aircraft deployed there;
  - air combat:
    - free role: fighter wings operate freely over enemy territory and are on the lookout for enemy air forces;
    - escort missions: the fighter wings operate as escort fighters for our own bombers or Stuka's;
  - strategic attacks on enemy air depots and aircraft factories.

Specially the first two roles (airfield denial & air combat) are actions for the first four days of the campaign for both the Army(group) commanders as well as the OKW/OKL.

The OKW/OKL will use its own operational airforce for strategic and operational roles: battlefield interdiction (bombing of supply lines, bridges, depots, convoys etc)

### **Air Recce Missions**

The OKW/OKL will use its own Air Recce Wing for operational reconnaissance: what enemy units are placed where? Specially enemy air units. Where are the supply lines from the rear to the front?, where are enemy reserves?

The Army(group) commanders can use their Air Recce Units for tactical/operational



reconnaissance missions.

The Recce Wings are named and numbered:: RW 1 to RW 5.

- RW1: for use by OKW/OKL;
- RW 2 and 3: for use by Armygroup A;
- RW 4 and 5: for use by Armygroup B;

Extra information on air recce units: these units have a range of 1,600 kilometers and can be used to recce a spot with a diameter of 20 kilometers. There will be reports (of varying reliability) of units within this zone.

The Recce Wings are vulnerable to airdefences, both AAA and fighters. So you should use them with an escort of fighters or destroyers, or use them in a free role only later in the campaign after air supremacy is gained.

The initial deployment of the Recce Wings is:

- RW 1: Bad Hersfeld
- RW 2 en 3: (Armygroup A) Heidelberg;
- RW 4 en 5: (Armygroup B) Göttingen;

## Naval Orders KRIEGSMARINE

### Intent of the orders

The Kriegsmarine is not fit for full scale battle with the Royal Navy, certainly not if the Royal Navy fights with the Dutch and French navies against us.

The only offensive support of the Kriegsmarine is in deploying its coastal and seagoing U-Boats to hinder transport of troops and supplies from the UK to the continent.

Defensive operations will be planned for defense of the North-German ports along the North-Sea and German Bight.

### Submarines

A: Of the 29 seagoing submarines, 12 will be deployed along a line from Newcastle British coast to Emden on the German coast. These U-Boats will be on patrol and will only try to intercept Allied troop convoys and/or main units of the Allied fleets. No attacks will be made on smaller vessels.

B: A line of 12 seagoing U-Boats will be laid from Cape Ushant (France) to Cape Clear (South Ireland) with the same orders as the northern U-Boat line: only intercept troop transports and convoys to France or main units of the Allied Fleets.

C: Of the coastal submarines, 15 will be deployed between Lands End (UK) and Brest (France), the Western patrol line, and between Lowestoft (UK) and Den Helder (Holland), the Eastern patrol line. Orders for these U-Boats will be to intercept and attack all transports between the UK and the continent (Holland – Belgium – France). Naval units will not be attacked, except for main units like battleships and aircraft carriers when in a suitable firing position.

### Luftwaffe – Kriegsmarine cooperation

The Luftwaffe units in Norway: two bomber wings and one destroyer wing, will support the U-Boat flotillas with air reconnaissance and air attacks on Allied shipping. These units will stay outside effective Allied air defence range over the North-Sea.