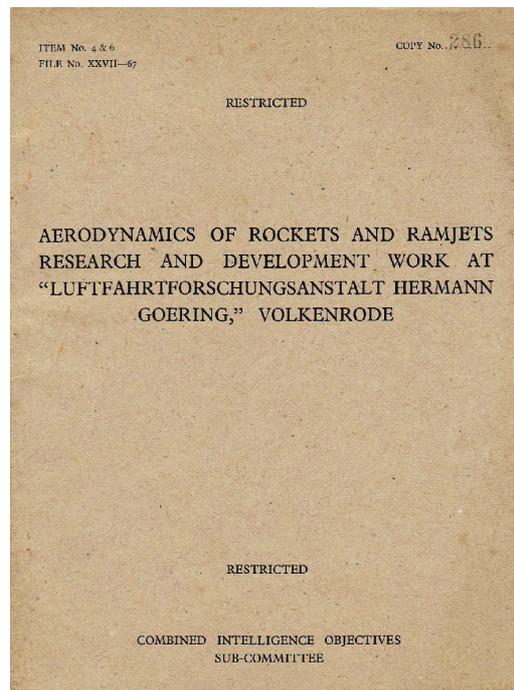


WW2 CIOS and BIOS Military Intelligence Reports on German Wartime Technology



Notes for collectors, archivists, librarians and researchers

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Original WW2 military planning and intelligence documents

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Germany's advanced wartime technology

By the final months of the 1939-1945 second world war, it had become clear to the British and American authorities that the German wartime advances in many military fields - including rockets, guided missiles, jet aircraft, synthetic fuels, supersonics and infra-red applications - had been enormous.

German technology in these areas was so much ahead of the Western Allies that, as was realised, “they had no choice but to seize those weapons, find the scientists, uncover their research, and put them to work before someone else did”.

In this context, “before someone else” had come to mean “before the Russians”.

The Combined Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee (CIOS)

The joint Anglo/American *Combined Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee*, or *CIOS*, was therefore established in July 1944 to operate under *SHAEF* (*Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force*) and uncover the secrets of Germany's advanced technologies.

The function of *CIOS* was to provide teams of military and civilian scientists and engineers to act alongside *T-Force*, a fast-moving non-combatant British Army unit, to secure and investigate newly liberated or captured factories, research centres and other targets of military interest; in short, to gather intelligence on those target sites by whatever means possible.

This included the inspection and, where possible, removal of all aspects of the technology - prototypes, documents and working drawings - to interview scientists and other personnel, and to issue reports on their findings.

These *CIOS* reports were issued in duplicated typewritten format for controlled circulation to appropriate groups with relevant security clearance within the Allied intelligence community.

The reports were each about 10 x 7.5 inches, 25 x 19 cms, stapled in card covers, although they varied greatly in number of pages and number and type of illustrations depending on the subject area covered and the size or importance of the target site.

The Black List of Targets for investigation

To prioritize targets, *CIOS* operated a *Black List* consisting of some 33 general target Items (i.e. categories) for immediate or urgent investigation.

Examples of these *Black List* categories are: *Item 1 Radar ... Item 4 Rockets ... Item 5 Jet propulsion ... 9 Vehicles ... 22 Miscellaneous chemicals ... 24 Medical ... 25 Aircraft ... 27 Instruments and equipment ... 31 Machinery and mechanical equipment*

Each report's front cover showed its *Black List ITEM* and *FILE* numbers.

Most important reports classified as Secret, Restricted or Confidential

Reports on sensitive material using advanced technologies had a *Secret, Restricted* or *Confidential* classification on the cover with an additional unique security number in the top right corner similar to the report on the first page of these notes.

These classified and numbered reports carried solely the *CIOS* name as publisher and were distributed within the closed senior ranks of the Allied intelligence community.

Unclassified reports on less sensitive subject areas, or reports which, although initially classified, had been de-classified, in some cases with partial redaction, were issued jointly by *CIOS/HMSO* and made available after the war to a wider industrial and commercial audience.

The majority of *CIOS* reports which appear for sale today are the unclassified *CIOS/HMSO* variety or those which although initially classified were re-issued under that same joint imprint in de-classified form.

Examples of the classified and numbered *CIOS* reports, without the *HMSO* imprint, on *any* subject area are very rarely found.

Number of different *CIOS* reports produced

The *CIOS* file numbering system indicates that a total of some 1,090 reports were produced by them between August 1944, the date of their first report (*FILE I-1 Radar and Controlled Missiles*), and mid-1945 when *CIOS* was disbanded.

During this period, reports on a large range of German military and technological subject areas including aviation, jets, missiles, rocketry, fuel, oil, gas, weapons, armour, medicine, chemicals, coal, electrical and mechanical engineering, medicine, radar, shipbuilding, communications and transport were issued.

A 1948 *HMSO* publication, *Reports on German and Japanese Industry Published up to and Including March 31st 1948*, provides details of the *CIOS* titles and file numbers of 590 of those 1,090 which were then (in 1948) available for purchase or for inspection at 80 libraries and Chambers of Commerce across Britain.

The titles of the "missing" 500 *CIOS* reports (i.e. the known total of 1,090 reports less the 590 listed titles) were omitted from the 1948 publication as either too sensitive for wider release or for containing material of little interest to the post-war commercial or industrial world. Despite much research, I have been unable to find a complete listing of the missing 500 titles.

CIOS, JIOA and Operation Paperclip

The advanced German technologies uncovered by the *CIOS* investigation teams and evidenced by many of their reports led directly to *Operation Paperclip*, the secret program of the US *Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency (JIOA)* which commenced shortly after the war's end in mid-1945.

Under this program, more than 1,800 German scientists, engineers, and technicians including, notably, Dr. Wernher von Braun and his V-2 rocket team, were recruited and taken to the United States.

Most copies destroyed or discarded; present-day rarity of the survivors

After more than 70 years, it's impossible to know how many copies of any individual *CIOS* intelligence documents were produced. The best estimates are that most of the early reports with sensitive military content had a print-run of between 50 and 350. Some of those reports which were released for a wider distribution because of their commercial as opposed to military content may have been produced in somewhat greater numbers, perhaps 400 - 600.

However, whatever the number produced, it is certain that within a very few years of the end of the war in 1945 the vast majority of *CIOS* reports had either been withdrawn on security grounds or discarded as having served their original purpose.

Most of the *normal* unclassified reports which survived were stored away in libraries to be virtually forgotten; surprisingly few - seldom more than three or four of any individual title - are listed in official records as being held by major national, academic and specialist libraries worldwide.

As has been mentioned above, the classified and numbered reports have virtually disappeared in their entirety having been suppressed or deliberately destroyed.

Post-war intelligence, 1945-47

After the disbanding of *SHAEF* - and therefore *CIOS* - at the end of the war in mid-1945 and the consequent restructuring of intelligence gathering in Germany, two new agencies, the *British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee (BIOS)* and its US equivalent the *Field Information Agency Technical (FIAT)*, took over the rôle previously held by *CIOS*.

From then on both *BIOS* and *FIAT* reported increasingly on areas of commercial, as opposed to military, interest with most reports designed for, and given, wider exposure within the industrial and commercial communities. Some 1,300 *BIOS* and 1,000 *FIAT* reports are also listed in the 1948 *HMSO* publication mentioned on page 4.

Although important reports were issued by the post-war British *BIOS* and US *FIAT* agencies, the *CIOS* reports are of special note in being original WW2 intelligence

documents containing information from a period when hostilities, either in Europe or with Japan in the Pacific were continuing.

Part of the evolutionary history of MI6 and the CIA

Interestingly, whilst the wartime joint Anglo/American *CIOS*, and the post-war British *BIOS* and US *FIAT*, were short-lived, their acronyms now largely forgotten, both of those agencies live on today under more familiar names. *BIOS* was subsumed into *MI6*; *FIAT* merged with other US intelligence agencies in 1947 to form the *CIA*.

The classified and numbered versions of the *CIOS* and *BIOS* reports, in addition to having great historical importance in their own right, could therefore be regarded as being early forms of classified *MI6* and *CIA* documents.

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