BRITISH MILITARY PLANNING FOR THE DEFENCE OF GERMANY, 1945–50

STUDIES IN MILITARY AND STRATEGIC HISTORY

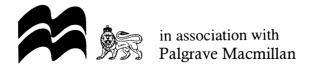
General Editor: Michael Dockrill, Reader in War Studies, King's

College, London

British Military Planning for the Defence of Germany 1945–50

Paul Cornish

Research Fellow International Security Programme Royal Institute of International Affairs London





First published in Great Britain 1996 by

MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and London Companies and representatives throughout the world

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-349-24339-6 ISBN 978-1-349-24337-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-24337-2



First published in the United States of America 1996 by

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC., Scholarly and Reference Division,

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-12960-6

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Cornish, Paul.

British military planning for the defence of Germany, 1945-50 / Paul Cornish.

p. cm. — (Studies in military and strategic history) Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-312-12960-6 (cloth)

1. Great Britain—Armed Forces—Germany (West). 2. Military planning-Great Britain, I. Title, II. Series.

UA649.32.G3C67 1996

943.087'5--dc20

95-37739

CIP

© Paul Cornish 1996

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1996 All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

9 7 6 5 05 04 03 02 01 00 99 98 97 96

For my parents

Contents

Acknowledgements A Note on Sources Glossary		viii ix x			
			Intr	roduction	1
			1	Threat Perceptions, 1945 -50	7
2	The Defence Budget, 1945 -50	33			
3	The 'No War Rule'	71			
4	Fragile Logic: Strategic Plans, 1945 -47	86			
5	Consolidation of the Cold War: Strategic Plans, 1947 -48	104			
6	Token Forces: Strategic Plans, 1949 -50	130			
Conclusion		164			
Appendix: Civil and Military Officials		170			
Notes and References		172			
Bibliography		190			
Index		207			

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to several people for the time, advice and encouragement they have given at various stages of this project, including Dr Anne Deighton, Dr Saki Dockrill, Mr Eric Grove, Dr Hugh Macdonald, Dr David Reynolds, Professor Hew Strachan, Dr Philip Towle and Professor John Young. Any errors of fact or judgement are, of course, entirely mine. I am grateful for the assistance provided by archivists and librarians at the National Army Museum, the Imperial War Museum, Churchill College Cambridge, Cambridge University Library, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library, and the Public Record Office, Kew. Crown copyright material in the PRO is reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Production of the final manuscript could not have been achieved without the help of Nick Redman and my brothers, Anthony Cornish and Martin Cornish. Special thanks are due to Fiona Cornish, my wife.

A Note on Sources

This book makes use of the usual mix of secondary works, published papers and documents, and unpublished government documents held in the Public Record Office. In the course of researching this book, a number of previously retained government papers were released on the author's request to the PRO, in accordance with the June 1992 'open government' initiative. Papers relating to the work of the Joint Intelligence Committee were not released, but a selection of some thirty Chiefs of Staff and Joint Planning Staff papers were made accessible and are listed separately in the bibliography.

Glossary

ACC Allied Control Council

AOC-in-C Air Officer Commander-in-Chief BAFO British Air Forces of Occupation

BAOR British Army of the Rhine BTO Brussels Treaty Organisation

CAS Chief of the Air Staff

CCG (BE) Control Commission, Germany (British Element)

CFM Council of Foreign Ministers (5 Power)
C(I)GS Chief of the (Imperial) General Staff

C-in-C Commander-in-Chief

CNS(FSL) Chief of the Naval Staff (First Sea Lord)

COS Chiefs of Staff Committee

DMO Director of Military Operations

DRPC Defence Research Policy Committee

ERP European Recovery Plan/Programme

FARELF Far East Land Forces

FDP Future Defence Policy (DO (47) 44)

FGA Fighter Ground Attack

FO Foreign Office

GOC-in-C General Officer Commander-in-Chief

HMG His Majesty's Government

HQ Headquarters

IDC Imperial Defence College
ISR Imperial Strategic Reserve
JCS Joint Chiefs of Staff (US)
JIC Joint Intelligence Committee

JPS Joint Planning Staff

JSM Joint Staff Mission (Washington Embassy)

LOC Line(s) of Communication

MCFP Military Committee of the Five Powers

MELF Middle East Land Forces
MoD Ministry of Defence
MoS Ministry of Supply
MSA Main Supply Area

MTDP Medium Term Defence Plan (NATO) NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

NS National Service

OEEC Organisation for European Economic Co-operation

PHP Post-Hostilities Planning Sub-Committee

PHPS Post-Hostilities Planning Staff PUS Permanent Under-Secretary

SHAEF Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

SLOC Sea Lines of Communication

TA Territorial Army

(2)TAF (Second) Tactical Air Force (successor to BAFO)

VCAS Vice Chief of the Air Staff

VCIGS Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff

VCNS Vice Chief of the Naval Staff

WU(C-in-C) Western Union (Commanders-in-Chief Committee)

WUCOS Western Union Chiefs of Staff Committee
WUDO Western Union Defence Organisation