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MAP RESEARCH BULLETIN

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7 September 1950

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Note: This Bulletin has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

PROVISIONAL RECTIFICATIONS IN THE WESTERN
BOUNDARIES OF GERMANY

Part I

Background.

After the end of World War II, various claims to German territory were advanced by the neighboring countries. At the Potsdam Conference in 1945, it was agreed that Poland should be allowed to administer the part of Germany lying east of the Oder-Neisse line, including the southern part of East Prussia, on a provisional basis pending the final determination of German boundaries by a peace treaty, and that the Soviet Union should administer the northern part of East Prussia. In 1946, the French Government obtained the approval of the United States and the United Kingdom for the administrative detachment of the Saar from the French Zone of Occupation. Subsequently, an autonomous government was set up for the Saar territory. Nothing was done, however, regarding claims to cessions of territory advanced by countries along the western borders of Germany because of inability of the western allies to come to agreement with the USSR on a German peace treaty.

Representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, meeting in the London Conference in June 1948, determined that machinery should be set in motion for the establishment of a provisional German government. It was decided at the same time that there should be a preliminary examination of the western frontier question and that proposals for minor provisional adjustments in the western boundaries should be submitted to the six governments represented at the conference.

A Working Party on Provisional Adjustments to the Western Frontiers of Germany, made up of representatives of the six governments, met in Paris in the summer of 1948 to consider the proposed changes. A communiqué issued on 26 March 1949 stated that the six governments had approved the recommendations of the Working Party. It was stated that the areas affected by the proposed adjustments would be placed under the administration of the countries adjacent to Germany, and that the adjustments might be confirmed or modified by the terms of the final settlement concerning Germany. The communiqué pointed out that within the frame of reference fixed by the London Conference:

Only those proposals might be examined which involved no appreciable loss to the German economy and which, being of minor character only, could be regarded as desirable to eliminate local anomalies and improve communications.

Thirty-one adjustments were approved, embracing a total area of only 52 square miles (135 square kilometers) and a population of about 13,500. These lay along the German boundaries with the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and the Saar. The communiqué stated that the rectifications would be made at a date to be announced later. Delimitation commissions were requested to go over the ground, establish new provisional boundaries, and determine locations for provisional boundary markers. In April 1949, the claimant countries took over some but not all of the parcels approved for transfer to them, reserving the right to take over the unacquired areas at a later date. The situation regarding the provisional transfers of territory is therefore still somewhat fluid.

The present article deals with the provisional rectifications along the Netherlands-German boundary. Future articles in the Map Research Bulletin will discuss the rectifications along the boundaries of Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and the Saar.

Recommendations for US Government Cartographers.

In representing these rectifications on unclassified maps or charts the following points should be taken into account:

1. The new boundaries are to be considered as provisional only.
2. Most of the rectifications are so small that it would be impractical to attempt to show them on maps at scales of 1:1,000,000 or smaller. Even at scales of 1:200,000, attempts to show the changes would result in variation from the old boundary by no more than the width of the boundary symbol in many cases.

In cases where the scale of the map requires the representation of these changes, it is suggested that:

1. Both the new provisional boundary and the old boundary should be shown.
2. The new boundary should be given emphasis over the old, and the old boundary may be shown by an inconspicuous symbol.
3. The new boundary should be identified by the notation "present provisional boundary" or "1949 provisional boundary." This notation might be placed along the line itself, or the section of line to which it applies might be represented by a distinctive symbol.

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Rectifications Along the German-Netherlands Boundary.

A folder of maps showing the details of the rectifications at scales ranging from 1:1,000 to 1:50,000 is available in the CIA Map Library. The two maps accompanying this article (plate 1, CIA 9087, and plate 2, CIA 9086) show the locations of the areas.

The provisional boundary was demarcated in a way that would preserve circulation routes between German settlements on the frontier and interior parts of Germany and prevent the separation of farm houses from barns and fields owned by the same farmer. The new boundary segments are marked by concrete posts called provisional frontier posts, the upper surfaces of which are level with the ground. Supplementary wooden posts about one and one-half meters in height have been placed at selected points to mark the boundary more clearly. Each post is painted white, with an orange band at the top. The old boundary stones were left in place. The new boundary is considered to extend in straight lines between the provisional frontier posts. Different numbering systems are used for the old and the new sets of markers. Thus, for the southernmost rectification, the provisional frontier posts are numbered from A1 through A6 whereas the old markers at the beginning and the end of the new segment of boundary are designated as 196A and 197(E), respectively.

Rectifications in the Netherlands boundary involving the three largest pieces of land were made for purposes of eliminating salients of German territory.

The largest area transferred was the rectangular salient west of Sittard (No. 15 on map CIA 9087). It is slightly over 16 square miles in area and contains a population of 4,205. Here

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Netherlands territory surrounded the German area on three sides and part of the fourth. The German salient created a bottleneck in the panhandle of Limburg, so that the industrialized area of south Limburg was connected with the main body of the Netherlands by a corridor only four kilometers wide. The rectification was made in order to allow for improvements in north-south transportation and to simplify problems of customs administration by eliminating the irregularities in the boundary. The German inhabitants of the salient are mainly agricultural, the standard of living is low, roads are poor, and the area is known locally as the "Fringe of Life." The provisional boundary was laid out in such a way that the drainage system of two streams in the south would be brought under Netherlands control, but at the same time three villages in the frontier area and the roads between them were left to Germany. At one point, it was necessary to consider a change where the existing boundary passes through the door of a house.

The second largest area transferred was at Elten (No. 8 on CIA 9087). This area is about seven square miles in extent and contains 3,255 inhabitants. It was considered that this rectification would simplify customs administration by shortening the boundary, permit better communications between Netherlands communities south of the salient along the Rhine River and the remainder of the Province of Gelderland lying north of the salient, and allow Netherlands authorities access to the River Wild in order to institute flood control measures for Netherlands territory. The salient contains the town of Elten, and the principal rail and highway routes parallel to the Rhine between Arnhem, Netherlands, and Emmerich, Germany, pass through it. The provisional boundary passes along the approximate middle of the River Wild and to the west of a spur railway track extending from the main Elten-Emmerich line to the Rhine.

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The third largest area transferred is at Beek-Wyler (No. 10 on CIA 9087), containing slightly over one square mile of land and a population of 147. The same general reasons were advanced for eliminating this salient as in the case of the two larger ones. The provisional boundary extends along the southeast side of an old embankment called the Querdam, thence through the middle of the Wyler Lake, and finally along the east side of a road in such a way as to place the road and its connections under Netherlands control.

At Dinxperlo (No. 7 on CIA 9087), the rectification was made in order to bring all of a small urban area within the Netherlands. The old boundary passed along one of the streets of the town, the houses along the north side being in the Netherlands and those on the south side in Germany. Intensive smuggling activity was carried on along this street. The provisional boundary brings most of the built-up area within the Netherlands. A similar situation existed in another area, where the boundary was moved forward into German territory in order to place houses used for smuggling more firmly under the control of the Netherlands.

In four cases, rectifications were made in order to facilitate river improvement or the establishment of flood control measures by Netherlands authorities on streams that lay on or near the old boundary. Dual sovereignty over these streams or their drainage basins had prevented the establishment of effective measures in the past.

In area No. 1 (CIA 9086), the Westerwoldsche A flows northward into the Dollard, an embayment of the Ems River estuary. The Westerwoldsche A is used for navigation and for the drainage of a large low-lying area on the Netherlands side. The stream has a winding course. Netherlands authorities

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wanted to straighten the stream but the international boundary followed the thalweg. East of the stream and running generally parallel to it is a drainage canal that serves adjacent parts of Germany. The two watercourses are separate and flow at different levels. The provisional boundary was placed, for the most part, along the western side of the drainage canal in order to give the Netherlands control of the Westerwoldsche A and its eastern bank. The area transferred is uninhabited.

In area No. 17 (CIA 9087), the old boundary lay along the River Worm, a continually shifting stream. River improvements were claimed to be impossible because of lack of German cooperation. At one point a glass factory on the German side had straightened out the river course at the expense of Netherlands territory by filling in the old channel. As a result, a short segment of the boundary was undefined. The new provisional boundary extends in general along the western side of a railway track that parallels the Worm on the German side, thus bringing the entire river within the Netherlands.

Somewhat like the last two rectifications are those involved in areas Nos. 4 (CIA 9086) and 6 (CIA 9087). In each of the two latter areas, a river which flowed mostly or entirely in Netherlands territory was located so near the old boundary that some of its eastern tributaries were in Germany. The provisional boundary was drawn to place these tributaries in the Netherlands.

The necessity for flood control was the primary reason for the rectification at the Boertanger Moor, area No. 2 (CIA 9086). Originally, the entire moor was a vast marshy area. The western, or Netherlands portion, has been lowered by the removal of peat. In exceptionally wet seasons overflow from the higher German side causes damage on the Netherlands side. An embankment parallel to the old boundary on the German side serves as

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a partial protection for Netherlands territory. This embankment was placed within Netherlands jurisdiction by the rectification, together with a sufficient depth of land for the construction of additional embankments.

The remaining rectifications were made for the primary purpose of improving customs administration along roads. In many places, the former boundary ran along the center of so-called neutral roads. Such roads were open to the citizens of both countries and were used frequently by smugglers. At other points, roads crossed and recrossed the boundary. Most of these roads were placed under Netherlands administration. In a few instances, the neutral status of the road was confirmed or it was placed entirely within Germany.

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II. BRIEF NOTICES

A. Indonesia Becomes a Unitary State.

The political divisions in Indonesia have fluctuated so rapidly since 1945 that maps showing them have become out-of-date almost as soon as published. When the establishment of the Republic of Indonesia was proclaimed on 17 August 1945, the leaders of the new state intended that it should include all of the Netherlands Indies. According to the plan outlined in the Linggadjati Agreement in 1946 between the Dutch and the Indonesians, however, provision was made for a future United States of Indonesia, which was to consist of three states. The Republic of Indonesia was to be one of these, and was to comprise only Java, Madura, and Sumatra. The other two states were to be Netherlands Borneo and East Indonesia, the latter comprising the islands east of Java and Borneo. The Linggadjati Agreement was never implemented or even ratified. Gradually the area of the Republic of Indonesia was whittled away by the creation of new states, and Borneo was subdivided into additional states. By the time the government of the United States of Indonesia (RIS) was actually established in December 1949, there were 16 states instead of three. The constitution of the RIS, announced at the Hague Round Table Conference in November 1949, provided for a federal type of governmental structure, with each of the 16 states enjoying a considerable degree of local autonomy. Map CIA 11435 (1st revision 2-50) shows the states of the union at the end of 1949. This map, however, is now of historical value only.

After the RIS was established and the Dutch relinquished their control, most of the smaller states rejoined the Republic of Indonesia, and other areas not previously included in the Republic joined it. In a relatively short time the Republic of

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Indonesia, although legally only one of the federal units of the RIS, had grown until it equalled the RIS in power and importance. Sentiment in favor of a unitary or centralized structure to replace the federal structure of government also increased, although there was armed opposition on the part of separatist elements on some of the islands of East Indonesia. In July 1950, it was decided to merge the governments of the RIS, the Republic of Indonesia, and the few remaining smaller states into a new centralized government.

The new unitary government was established on 17 August 1950, the fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the original Republic of Indonesia. The new state is also named the Republic of Indonesia. As planned, the country will be divided into 10 provinces. Java and Madura will be divided into the provinces of West, Central, and East Java; on Sumatra there will be the provinces of North, Central, and South Sumatra; Borneo will become a single province; and East Indonesia will be divided among the provinces of Lesser Sunda Islands, Celebes, and Moluccas. Djakarta (formerly Batavia) will be the provisional capital. Details regarding the areas and boundaries of the proposed provinces have apparently not been worked out. The future status of Netherlands New Guinea is still under discussion between the governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands. The making of maps showing political-administrative divisions of Indonesia, therefore, is still a risky undertaking.

B. Cartographic Treatment of the States of Indochina.

Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia became associated states of the French Union early in 1950, and shortly thereafter the United States Government extended recognition to the governments of all three states. American cartographers have raised the question as to whether the former political entity Indochina should

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be omitted from the map and be replaced by the three new states. The following treatment is recommended as representing the present situation accurately:

1. Vietnam (capital, Saigon), Laos (capital, Vientiane), and Cambodia (capital, Phnom Penh) may each be treated as a political entity on a par with Burma, China, and Thailand. The names of the three states may appear as country names, and the boundaries -- including the boundaries between Vietnam and Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, and Cambodia and Laos -- may be represented as international boundaries. The capitals may be shown as national capitals.

2. Indochina should no longer be treated as one political entity. However, since the three states are still often referred to collectively by that name, it may be desirable on some maps to apply the name Indochina as a regional name covering only the area of the three states.

3. Laos and Cambodia have the same areas as they formerly had as parts of Indochina. Vietnam is made up of the areas of former Tonkin (now named North Vietnam), Annam (now Central Vietnam), and Cochinchina (now South Vietnam). The name for each of the three primary divisions of Vietnam is ky, or region.

C. US Engineer Research and Development Laboratories Design "Airborne" Press.

"Map-producing presses, and not just the maps themselves, will be at the actual scene of activity if or when this country goes to war again," say lithographic experts at the Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories.

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The initial tests of a pilot model of a new "airborne" offset lithographic press, designed at the Engineer laboratories to meet this need, are now being completed. It can be flown to a desired area, removed, and set up for operation in a small fraction of the time required for transporting a press by land or sea.

Military maps, charts, and line and half-tone work in single or multicolor (by successive printing) in hairline register are possible with the press. Speed of reproduction varies from 3,000 to 5,000 sheets per hour and is controlled by a V-type speed control.

The new press will aid the development of a military mapping program that will be highly sensitive to changing needs for maps near centers of activity. Detailed plans for troop movements can be printed and distributed to unit commanders a few hours after they are formed. This procedure will eliminate some of the mistakes that occur through misinterpretation of locational references in verbal orders.

Simplicity, portability, and a built-in ability to withstand changing conditions of rough and rapid transport have been considered in the design of the new press. The press is equipped with hangers or adapters by which the whole unit may be lifted and is also fitted with wheels so that it may be moved without dismantling. Screw lifts enable it to be leveled and immobilized in position.

The new press, which is both smaller and lighter than the Big Chief of World War II fame, measures 59-1/2 inches in height compared with the 72-1/2 of the old model. Its center of gravity is correspondingly lower. In length it is 72 inches as against 89, and its weight has been reduced from 6,600 to 4,200 pounds.

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D. Atlas of the Gold Coast.

Atlas of the Gold Coast; Gold Coast Survey Department, Accra; Fifth Edition, 1949; CIA Map Library, Call No. Atlas E203.

The Fifth Edition of this atlas was recently acquired by the CIA Map Library. Minor revisions have been made in the maps, but the chief change in the atlas has been the addition of a gazetteer. The atlas contains 20 maps, the gazetteer, and several pages of statistical material and graphs. Seventeen maps are of the Gold Coast; two show Africa, and one the world. Twelve of the maps are at the same scale, 1:1,500,000, and include the entire country. The topics covered are administrative areas, mineral deposits, agricultural products, cattleraising areas, forest reserves, population density, tribal distribution, language and dialects, relief, geology, rainfall, and isogonic lines. Most of the maps are in color, and, although they carry a wealth of information, they are fairly easy to read. On several, however, the crowding of place names and poor printing impair legibility.

The atlas includes town plans of Accra, Kumasi, and Takoradi, a railway map, and a historical map. Six graphs, on each of which the country is divided into four zones, show amount of rainfall, dry-bulb readings, relative humidity, hours of sunshine per day, maximum and minimum shade temperatures, and maximum solar and minimum terrestrial radiation.

The gazetteer gives, by latitude and longitude to the nearest minute, the location of more than 1,000 towns and villages shown on the Map of Administrative Areas. Names of more than 150 rivers, shown on the same map, are listed in the second section of the gazetteer.

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The statistical material presented includes information on towns possessing water supplies and electricity, on railway guages and mileages, on the areas of administrative districts, and on population.

E. Recent Mapping of the Saar.

The Saar is now included in the official French mapping program. The area will be covered by sheets of two topographic series at 1:25,000 and 1:100,000, copies from German plates. Sheets of the 1:25,000 series are now in preparation; sheets of the 1:100,000 series are scheduled for later reproduction.

Two special-subject maps at the scale of 1:100,000 are now available in the CIA map library. These are the Carte Économique de la Sarre, 1:100,000, 1949 and the Verwaltungskarte des Saarlandes, 1:100,000, 1947 and 1948 printings.

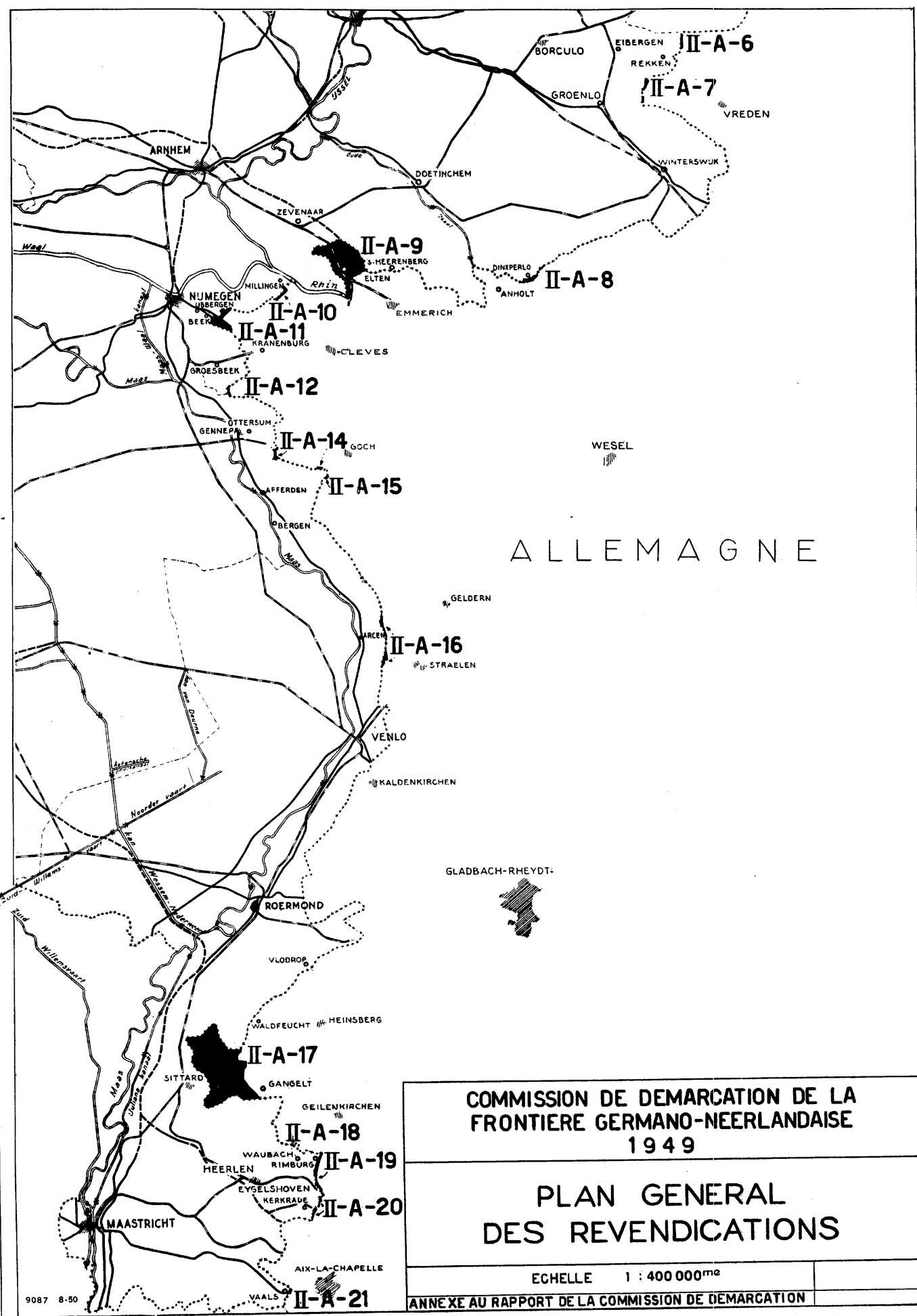
The Carte Économique de la Saare (CIA Call No. 66913) was published by the Institut Géographique National for the Haut Commissariat de la République Française en Sarre. The map shows clearly the magnitude and diversity of the industries that have come under French control as a result of the economic integration of the Saar into France. Special attention is given to the iron and steel industry. Plants are shown by type and capacity. Details of coal mining and associated industries presented include: pits, coke ovens, gas plants, gas pipelines, electric power stations, electric power lines, and waterworks. The distribution of 13 other diverse industries is shown. Communications data given include: airdromes, waterways, and two categories each of roads and railways. Arrondissement boundaries are shown and an inset gives changes in administrative boundaries from 1919 to 1949.

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Verwaltungskarte des Saarlandes (1947 printing, CIA Call No. 32581), was published by the Verwaltungskommission des Saarlandes, Direktion für Finanzen, Kataster- und Vermessungsverwaltung. A 1948 printing is known to have been made, but it is not available in Washington. Kreis, Gemeinde, and Gemarkung boundaries are shown and each subdivision is named. Two boundaries shown but which no longer apply have been crossed out. The administrative structure shown is correct, except for two recent changes: (1) the arrondissement (German Kreis) boundary between Merzig-Wadern and Sarrelouis, west of the Saar River, is located farther north according to more recent maps, and (2) a small area southeast of Hombourg was added to the Saar on 1 March 1949.

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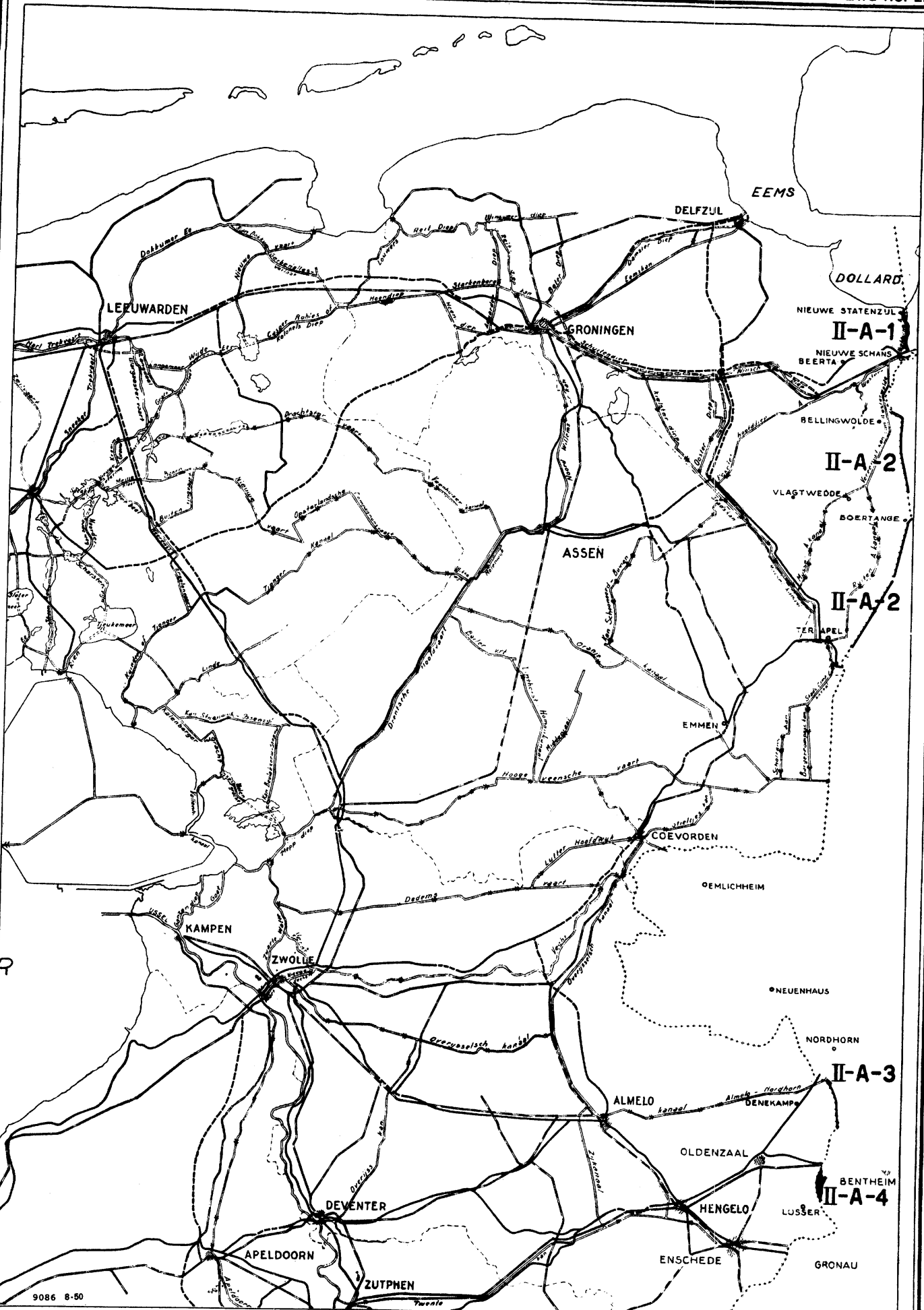
ALLEMAGNE

COMMISSION DE DEMARCATION DE LA
FRONTIERE GERMANO-NEERLANDAISE
1949

PLAN GENERAL
DES REVENDICATIONS

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