

WORKING
SECRET

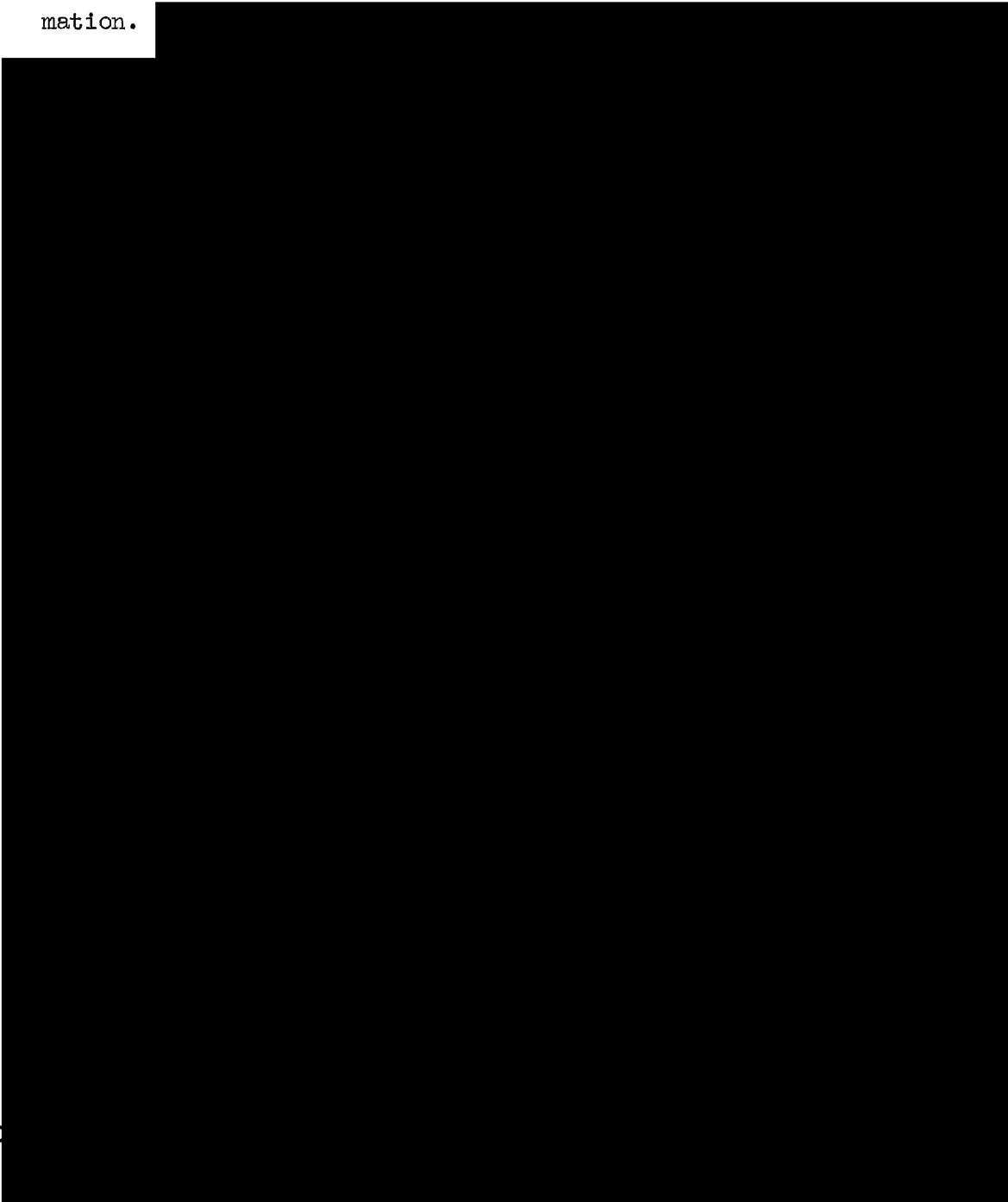
BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Background

By the end of World War II duplication of biographic information on foreign nationals was widespread in the US Government. ^{*This ~~was~~ had happened*} because no attempt had ever been made to coordinate the activities of the various intelligence agencies in Washington and their representatives abroad concerned with the collection, control and production of such information.

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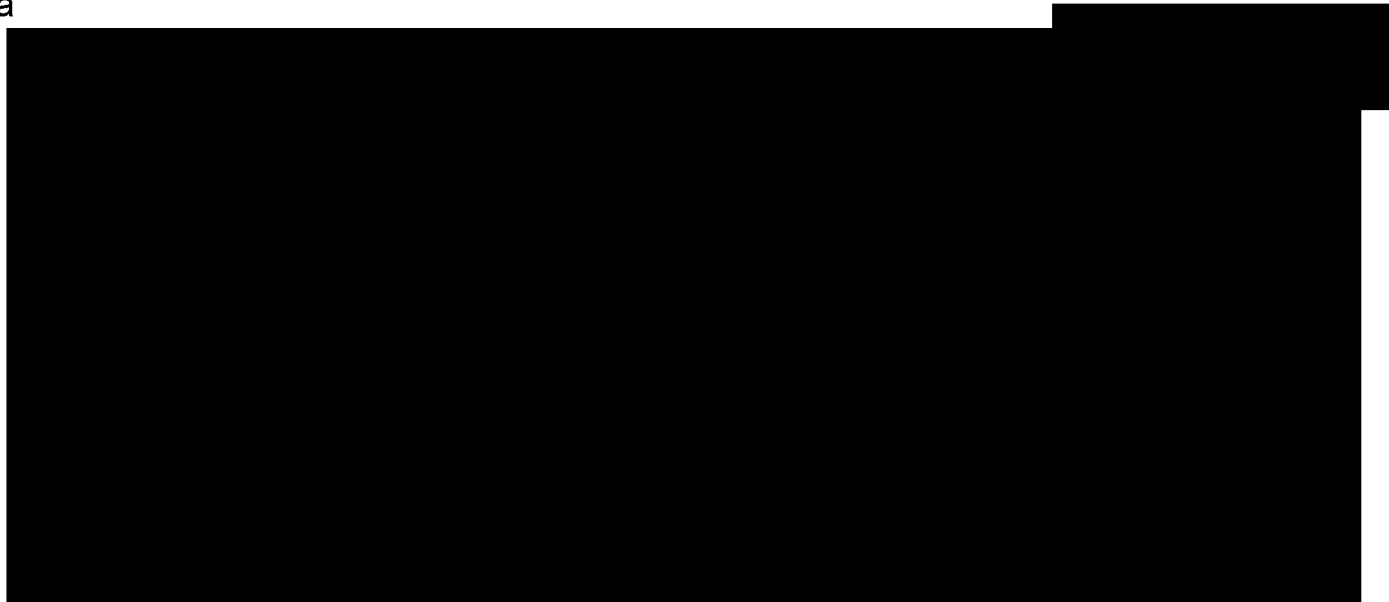
In November 1947 a management team ~~surveyed~~ conducted an or organizational survey of the Reference Center. They proposed a T/O of [REDACTED] for BIR, while noting that a substantial saving in personnel could be achieved if register activity was confined exclusively to punch card recording. The survey team noted that the establishment of files and the extracting and annotating of reports for file purposes that occurred in BIR and other registers was time-consuming and required the services of many professional employees. (13 Nov 47 [REDACTED])

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By late September 1948 Dr. Andrews was quite concerned about BR, describing it as "in poor shape, working ineffectively, and suffering from poor morale." For that reason, he considered it of utmost importance that "a proper head man" be located for the Register as soon as possible. His

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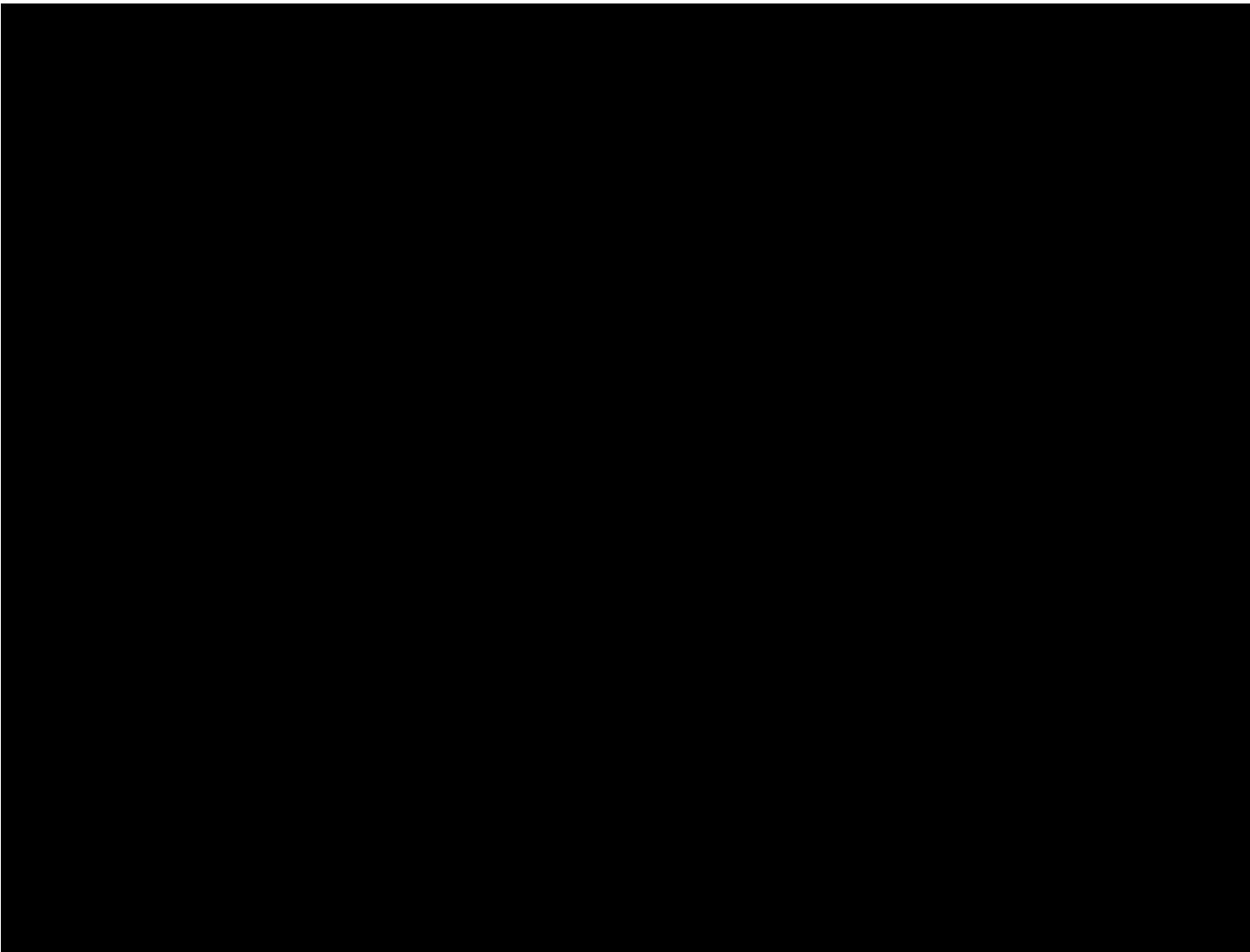
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Management conducted another survey of BR in 1949 and found a number of problems. Once again, they advocated that BR analysts cease writing reports and merely assemble available information ~~data~~ in dossiers, leaving it to the analysts in the production offices to make sense of it. Again, ~~BR management~~ AD/CD rejected the idea, noting that the information contained in various reference volumes used by BR analysts could not, without great output of time and effort, be typed out, clipped and put in the dossiers, and the customers would not be pleased if instead of getting reports from BR, they were handed quantities of information and told to sort it out for themselves. (dossier on BR and memo of 23 Feb 50 from Andrews)

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In ~~Aug~~ July 1950 Maj. Gen. S. LeRoy Irwin, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Department of the Army, requested that the IAC consider what steps might be taken to achieve a central biographic facility, handling all categories of biographic intelligence data. The AD/CD, in commenting on this request/to the Chief, COAPS, and the Acting Executive, CIA, noted that the need for such a facility had long been recongized, but that this was the first time that anyone currently performing biographic intelligence work had called for centralization. (memo of 10 Aug 50)

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of
ct.)

1950

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Despite the approved/T/O calling for [redacted] slots in the

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[redacted]

nothing seems to have been done about actually making any changes. In February 1952 the Chief of BR submitted to the AD/CD a resume of current BR problems. The first he listed was that of lack of suitable distribution of workloads within the Register. This, he stated, was due to a reluctance to

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Other major problems facing BR were dependence on a system of processing data that was inefficient and a staff that, with several exceptions, was weak, especially in the administrative echelons. [redacted] attributed the latter problem to various factors. One of these was that clerks were assigned to BR without previous screening by the Division's administrators. Often, these clerks were college graduates who were not trained in clerical functions and who, armed with college degrees, were not satisfied with clerical duties. These people usually left, unless rapidly promoted into professional positions, and were a constant source of demoralizing remarks to their associates and supervisors as long

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Another source of personnel difficulties surrounded the recruitment of employees for the professional positions. During the initial growth of the Agency, the competition for first-class employees was keen, and BR was rather low in priority for persons of top caliber. It therefore accumulated a staff that ~~was~~ considered "only slightly above averaged" Most of the exceptions to this characterization, he said, had "come in through the back door" or had been only recently recruited under the Agency's expanded and improved recruitment program. Because the Agency maintained a policy of promoting employees on duty in preference to filling vacancies from the outside, the "slightly above average" persons were often moved up into positions with which they could not cope. (memo 26 Feb 52)

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[REDACTED] also listed various other personnel problems with which he contended.

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No major upheavals occurred in BR for the next 9 years. The 1952-61 period was devoted to developing new files, as needs for special collections arose, and expanding services.

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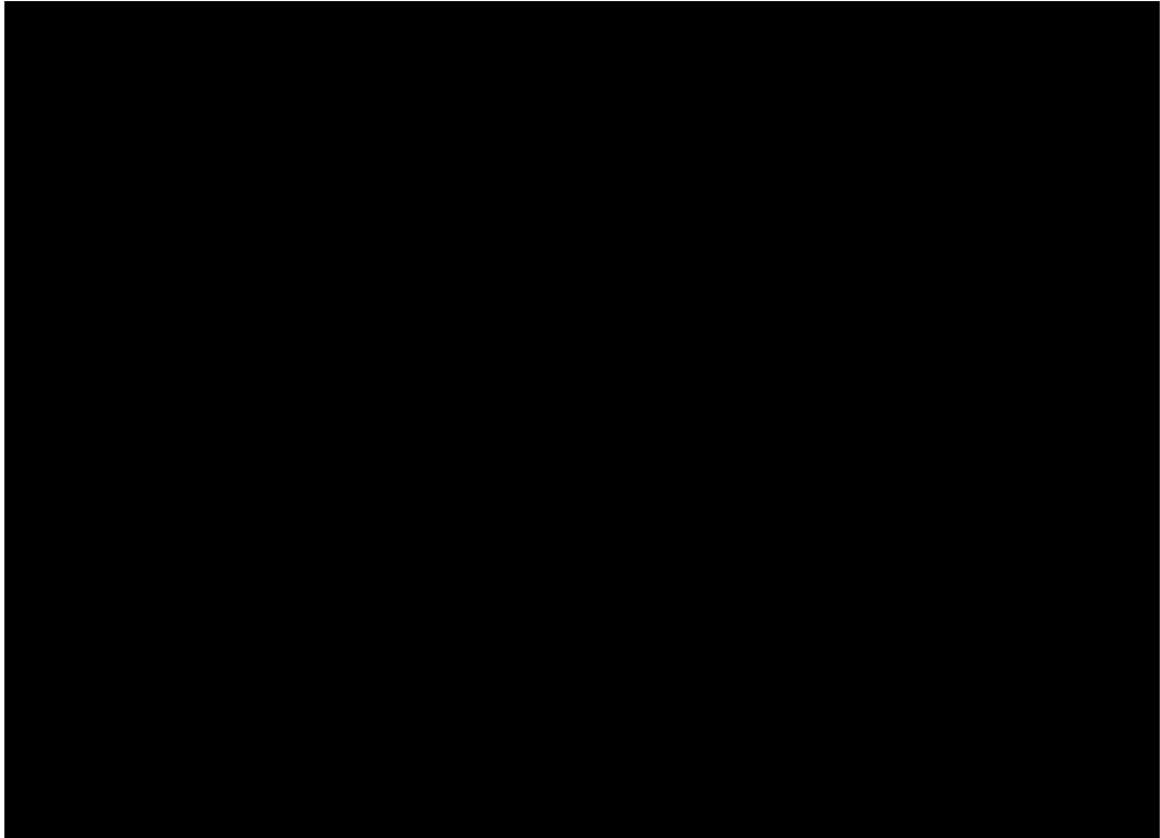
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1962

In its first year of operation after the merger
BR became deeply involved in ~~the~~ support to offices con-
cerned with the situation in Cuba. In its directory

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1967

Chief, Central Europe Section,

In July 1963 25X1A9a [redacted] of BR¹³ became Chief of

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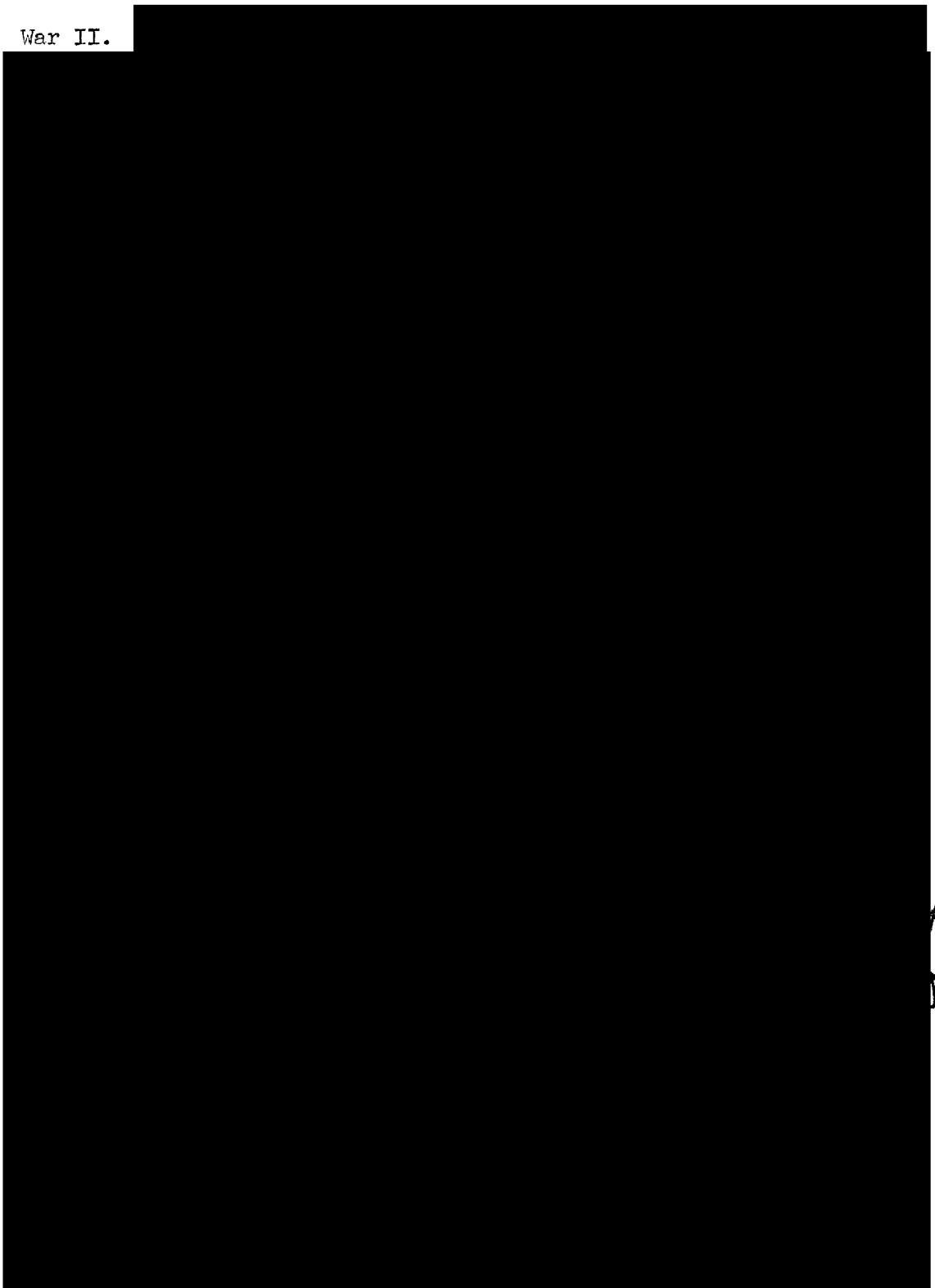
the [redacted], a repository for German documents from the Nazi period, most of which were captured by American forces at the end of World

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War II. [redacted]

she was funded by DDP



see proposal?

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