Italian Republican Army

Cyptems. No mail interest.

NY-F
FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF TWO ENEMY WT OPERATORS

Name: Homm, Jan (Hans)  
Rank: Cpl  
Unit: DvR 183 (German Liaison HQ with Italian M ROSA Div)  
FP No: 28599  
Deserted: 24 Nov 44  
Secret No: M 44/1957  
Interrogated: OSDIC (Main) CMF, 5 Dec 44

Subject of Report: WT and CIPHER in Italian M ROSA and LITTORIO Divisions.

1. PERSONAL

Homm: born in the SUDERTLAND, and of Czech nationality. He has served in the German Army since Jan 39, having been conscripted, he claims, because of his WT training with the Czechoslovak Army. From about Feb 44 to Aug 44 he was instructor at a Camp in MÜNSINGEN (Wurttemberg) where the Italian MONTE ROSA Div was being trained. He helped to train Italian WT operators and cipher clerks and also acted as interpreter. When the Div moved to ITALY, in Jul 44, he was posted to an HQ which was called 183 German Liaison HQ (DEUTSCHES VERBINDUNGS KOMANDO) and which was a combined Italian-cum-advisory unit to the Italian forces, operating down to Coy or Sgn HQ level. FW's knowledge of WT and Cipher matters is complete, but it dates back to Aug 44, since when he has acted as interpreter. He is apt to contradict himself, and his information should be taken with some reserve. Reliability: Fair.

Breischl: an Italian from FAENZA who was in a Hot MG Bn at the time of the Italian Armistice. He found his way home from LUBILIANO along with a column of fellow soldiers and, after going into hiding, was imprisoned and later forced to join the LITTORIO Div (in Mar 44), which was then being reconstituted, and sent to GERMANY for trg. He trained at SENDELAGER, in WESTPHALIA (Westphalia) and MÜNSINGEN and came to ITALY at the end of Oct 44. On 9 Nov 44 he deserted from his HQ, taking along with him a folder containing the box-square ciphers issued for Nov 44 (4 x 2 boxes) and schedules of call-signs and frequencies for the month. These latter he handed over to a "capo" of a "Brigata Garibaldina" who was known by the cover-name of "OLIO", at a place called SAN SEBASTIANO, 15-20 km from TORINO. He was then passed on from "brigata" to "brigata" till he was managed to cross the lines. He has little information to give. Reliability: Fair.

2. WT AND CIPHER TRAINING OF ITALIAN TROOPS IN GERMANY

According to both FW trg of Italian operators and cipher clerks is given by German instructors, assisted by interpreters, who are expected to translate and often adapt German examples to the Italian language (spelling, etc.). Equipment is standard; usually "b", "d" and "g" sets are used. WT operators are all taught how to encipher and decipher messages by using the box-square type of cipher (DOPPELKASTEN SCHLÜSSEL), usually in the form of TRUPPENSCHLÜSSEL, rarely NACHRICHTENSCHLÜSSEL.

Italians are not taught how to select call-signs. From evidence available so far, the German Liaison Officers control all secret sigs matters. HOMM was shown in Jul/Aug 44 an order which stated that the RASTERSCHLÜSSEL is for German units only, and that it is NOT to be mentioned to non-German troops, who will continue to use the box-square type of cipher. WT was to be used, in action, for short tactical scenes only.

For details of sigs data taught to and available to the Italians, as well as matters controlled by the German personnel in the Italian units, see Appendix "A", drafted by HOMM.

3. EQUIPMENT

(a) 23 Recon Bn, M ROSA Div

Homm came to ITALY with this unit in Jul 44, before being posted to 183 German Liaison HQ in Aug 44. The unit had:

HQ: 2 - "b" sets (transmitting 2000-5000, receiving 2000-6670 kcs)  
1 Sqn: 2 - "g" sets (transmitting and receiving 2500-3500 kcs)  
2 Sqn: 2 - "g" sets (  
3 Sqn: equipped with Field Telephones (FP-073).
(b) 1 BN 3 Regt LITTORIO DIV (UESCHI - 9 Nov 44)

2 - "a" sets (one at BN HQ and one at BN Com's disposal for allotment to Coy which required it most in action),

6 - "b" sets (used by the Italians chiefly as RT set and therefore only good for oams at ranges of max 1.5-2 kms). Distributed among Coys.

4. CODE NAMES

HOMME stated that before he left the M ROSA DIV the German personnel had thought of drawing up a list of "code-names" and expressions ("PAPIFAEL AUSBRUCKE") in Italian, but this had not been done at date of desertion (24 Nov 44).

5. PERSONALITIES

(a) M ROSA DIVISION (mid Nov 44)

Note: Some of the details should be taken with reserve.

Gen PICKER  Head of 183 German Liaison HQ with M ROSA Div. Holds Knight's Cross.

Col REITTINGER  LO to 1 ALPINI Regt

Sonderfuehrer SCHLEGEL  Interpreter to Col REITTINGER. Speaks fluent English, French and Italian. Reported to have been in the "Diplomatic Service" and to have lived five years in LONDON and three in PARIS.

Capt (Cav) ALBERTI  LO to Recce BN (at HQ)

Sonderfuehrer HEUSCHT , Alois  Interpreter at Recce BN HQ. Doctor of philosophy; Dominican monk who was forced to join the Army.

2/Lt KELLER, Richard  LO with 1 Sqn, Recce BN

Sonderfuehrer BESTIAN, Hans  Interpreter with 1 Sqn, Recce BN. Doctor of philosophy.

Cpl TRETSCHER  On liaison staff with 1 Sqn, Recce BN

L/Cpl KURTS, Josef  " " " " " " "

2/Lt RAHMANN, Kurt  LO with 2 Sqn, Recce BN

Cpl KIRCH  On liaison staff with 2 Sqn, Recce BN

L/Cpl MAURER  In 2 Sqn, Recce BN

W.O. RAHMANN, Karl  LO with 3 Sqn, Recce BN

L/Cpl SCHLAGBAUER, Gustav  On liaison staff with 3 Sqn, Recce BN

Cpl HENZEL, Franz  Interpreter with 3 Sqn, Recce BN

Cpl KISSENKOPF  " " " " "

Lieut BONAK  Sigs Officer at Div HQ

Lt Dr APPUN  In Div Sigs BN. Signed nearly all orders, etc., though BONAK was said to be 1/c.

WO 1 KERN  In Div Sigs BN. An Austrian with a loathing for Italians.

(b) LITITORIO Div (beg Nov '44)

Capt OMAR

W.O. RADDE
W.O. PEIN or PRAIS

Sjt CARNICALLI

LO at 3 Regt Hq

German instructors with 3 Regt during tour in GERMANY and came to ITALY as sigs personnel with same Regt.

Sigs sjt in Sigs Pl, Hq Coy, 1 Bn, 3 Regt.

A.G.B.

CSIDIC (MAIN),

CMF,

8 Dec 1944.

(H.T. SHEPQOED)

Major.

Cmndg CSIDIC (MAIN) CMF.
WT AND CIPHER PROCEDURE IN ITALIAN REPUBLICAN FORCES
(of Para 2 of att report)

Note: This App is a translation of a draft prepared by PW HANDE, and contains notes on procedure taught to Italian sigs personnel of the M ROSA Div while training at MUSENDELEN. Sideline paragraphs indicate details of procedure which were NOT disclosed to the Italians.

A. DOPPELKLASSENSCHLüssEL PROCEDURE

1. Enciphering

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H Q K P D</td>
<td>D T F M C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S T N X</td>
<td>N K Q X Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M U L G B</td>
<td>V O L I S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Z V T W</td>
<td>U G Z Y P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C R F O E</td>
<td>E R H W Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Message (FUNKSPRUCH)

nacht ruhig verlaufen . gefechtsstarker 75 mann . munition

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 | n | a | q | t | r | u | h | i | g | v | e | r | l | a | u | f | e | n | y | y | g |
| 2 | e | f | q | t | s | t | a | e | r | k | e | x | s | i | e | b | e | n |
| 3 | r | e | i | x | m | a | n | n | y | m | u | n | i | t | i | o | n | x | h | a |
| 4 | g | e | r | s | s | m | a | i | o | r | y | n | i | q | t | g | e | k | o |
| 5 | m | m | e | n |

Notes:

a) Full stop = YY! Come = ES.
b) oh and ok = q, but NOT in proper names.
c) Any letter can be used as a "dud" (BLEND), except x, y or z.
d) Text to be enciphered must never be written on the same form (page) as the final, enciphered, text (SCHLüssEL-TEXT).

Enciphered text (SCHLüssEL-TEXT)

i) Single enciphering (TRUPPEN-SCHLüssEL): for reports (NACHRICHTEN) and orders (BESPRECHE) which are passed and executed immediately and are therefore of no use to the (enemy) intercept service.

To encipher: take the first pair of letters - under figure 1 - look for letter "n" in square "A" and for letter "o" in square "B" and take the opposite, which form a rectangle with "n" and "o", that is letter "i" in square "B" and letter "o" in square "A".

If the clear letters (pairs) are on the same line, take letters immediately on the right, e.g. "a" "e" "b" "o".

If the message (after adding letters for punctuation marks) has an uneven number of letters, a "dud" letter (BLEND) is added.
Signature in the message are placed sometimes at the beginning, on
other occasions in the middle of the text, etc., NOT always at the
end of text. When signalling names (of persons and places) in the
text, insert letters "x" if the names are not well known. Complicated
names of persons and localities are repeated in the text, e.g.,
.....text x.name x name x text.....

Vowels are written inside boxes in a different colour from that in
which consonants are written, in order to have greater ease in handling.

If abbreviations are included in the clear text, then they are en-
ciphered in the same manner as they are dictated, thus:

"sofort eine AVI schicken" = "sofort eine x gross anton / x gross
victor x gross ida / x aigen"

11) Double enciphering (NACHRICHTENSCHLÜSSEL): Orders which are not
executed immediately and reports which are not urgent are enciphered
twice. Double enciphering is usually resorted to, Taking the same
example as above:

1 2 3 . . . .
naq . . . .
nse = io = kb; af = qq = fa, etc.

ef . . . .

2. Deciphering

When deciphering use the two squares in reverse order. In order to
facilitate cipher work the squares are drawn as follows:

1

2

3

"A"

"B"

"A"

and the enciphering work is done on box-squares 1 and 2 ("A" and "B") whereas the
deciphering work is done on box-squares 2 and 3 ("B" and "A")

When deciphering pay attention to the fact that pairs of letters
(clear) must be written one under the other and that thus must be done in groups
of 21 pairs.

B. HEERSCHRIFTEichenTAFEL (Army call-sign table)

German units must calculate the page which they have been allotted and
which applies to that day, whereas foreign units, e.g. Italian formations, are given
the number of the page which has been calculated for them.

Every month, the Liaison Officer (German) at the HQ of an Italian unit
receives from the Sigs Officer at Div a list of numbers ("ZAHLEN") which are typed
on a schedule, and which are used as "basic numbers" ("GRUNDZAHLEN") for looking up
call-signs for the units to which he is attached. (In the case of the M ROSA Div,
this schedule is issued by Lt Dr APPUN and WO KERN, both from the Sigs Bn of the
Div) e.g. Ruf,Grunde, fuer "DORA" 21 - 26
Ruf,Grunde, fuer "GUSDAY" 144 - 148

On another list are indicated, by month and day of the year ("KALENDER-
MAESSIG"), the pages of the Army call-signs table (HEERSCHRIFTEichenTAFEL) on which the
call-signs for numbers 21-26 and 144-148 must be sought.

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- 58 - (page of HEERSCHRIFTEichenTAFEL)

1 xfl
2 5gl
3 aso
4 suq
5 akr
6 . . .
7 . . .

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N.B. Source thought there were
4 columns and about 180
call-signs on each page,
The Army call-signs table (HEeresRUFZEICHENTAFEL) is a book of about 150 pages, with red covers, and is kept together with the Secret Documents by the German Liaison Officer at the HQ of a BN, Regt, etc.
This book is used by the entire German Army.

0. ALLOTMENT OF FREQUENCIES ("BESTIMMEN der WELLEN") FOR THE WT STATIONS ("FUNKTRUPPS") OF A REGULAR UNIT (ITALIAN)

FW's note: same also for other units.

A few days before the beginning of each month, the German Liaison Officer at unit HQ receives, together with the call-sign numbers ("RUFZEICHENGRUNDZAHLEN"), also the frequency numbers ("WELLENGRUNDZahlen"), for the WT sets which are in the unit.

The Liaison Officer keeps among his Secret Documents the Frequency Index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS") for each type of set. E.g. "b" set

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<td>1</td>
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Assume the Frequency numbers ("WELLENGRUNDZahlen") for "b" set are 8-12 for the current month. The frequency applicable is then calculated with the aid of the following:

1) The day of the month, say 5 Dec
2) The frequency numbers ("WELLENGRUNDZahlen") say 8-12 (8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, i.e. five frequencies).
3) The frequency index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS").

Example: for the 5th day of the month:

\[ \begin{align*}
5 + 8 &= 13 \\
5 + 9 &= 14 \\
5 + 10 &= 15 \\
5 + 11 &= 16 \\
5 + 12 &= 17 \\
\end{align*} \]

The frequencies for the 5th of Dec are therefore 4200, 3700, etc.
This is arrived at by adding the figure of the day of the month (5) to the frequency number ("WELLENGRUNDZahlen"), the result giving the number (figure) in the frequency index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS") against which the frequency for the "b" set can be read.

In the Regt BN the frequency index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS") issued contained 33 frequencies, listed from 1 to 33. If the figure obtained by addition of the day of the month to the frequency number exceeded the total number of frequencies listed (33 in this case), then the number of frequencies listed was deducted from the former sum (day + frequency number) and the resulting figure was used for reading off frequencies in the frequency index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS").

Example: for the 28th day of the month:

\[ \begin{align*}
28 + 8 &= 36 \\
28 + 9 &= 37 \\
28 + 10 &= 38 \\
28 + 11 &= 39 \\
28 + 12 &= 40 \\
\end{align*} \]

\[ \begin{align*}
36 - 33 &= 3 \\
37 - 33 &= 4 \\
38 - 33 &= 5 \\
39 - 33 &= 6 \\
40 - 33 &= 7 \\
\end{align*} \]

Frequency: 2600, 3100, 4900

This system is used by the entire German WEHRMACHT.