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Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 04-28-2014 pursuant to E.O. 13526
FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF TWO GERMAN PW

Name: HOFFMANN Gerhard
Rank: 1/Cpl (Stabsgefreiter)
Unit: 4 COY 40 GAF SIGS REGT
FP No: 40839

Deserted: 13 Oct 44, to EAM near ATHENS
Secret No: MIA/1965
Interrogated: OSDIC(Main), CEP, 6 Dec 44.

Subject of report: TP and TF equipment and procedure:
Sigs identifications and personalities.

1. PREVIOUS

HOFFMANN: PW is a 27 year old watchmaker from near BRESLAU who volunteered for the GAF in 1936. He has always served in the sigs branch. He has worked as a teleprinter mechanic since 1940. He deserted because he had strong sympathies for the Greeks, whom he says he helped to listen in to Allied broadcasts. PW talked unwillingly. He is being evacuated to UK for further specialised interrogation.

Reliability: Fairly good.

MANSFIELD: PW is a 27 year old commercial student from BORSIGWERK (Silesia) who was in GAF sigs from Apr 39 till Sep 44, when he transferred to the paratroops. He has not been engaged on teleprinting since Jul 44, and his knowledge on technical matters is not nearly so good as that of HOFFMANN. Although a deserter he attempted to be secure.

Reliability: Fair.

2. HISTORY AND MOVEMENTS

HOFFMANN:

end 39 With TP Exchange (FERNSCHREIBVERMITTLUNG), HANNOVER, at the Luftgau HQ.
Apr 40 With Sigs Coy of COLOGNE Air Defence Command (LUFTVERTEIDIGUNGS KOMANDO).
May 41 Moved with GAF Sigs Regt SOUTH-EAST to SALONIKA.
Jun 41 With 4 Coy of same regt to ATHENS (Coy later became 4 Coy of 40 GAF Sigs Regt).
13 Oct 44 Deserted to EAM near ATHENS.

MANSFIELD:

Apr 39 To 1 GAF Sigs Regt at KORNSBERG. Training in sigs work.
Oct 42 After service in the Polish campaign, and with various units, posted to 206 GAF Sigs Regt (Night Fighters), BERLIN.
Nov 43 Sent to FRANCE for intf training.
Jan 44 To 4 GAF Sigs Bn, and with 4 Para Div at NETTUNO.
Feb 44 To Parachutist Detachment Training HQ HARTUNG (FALLSCHIRM TRUPPE LEHRENSARTUNG) near RIOM as intf instructor.
Apr 44 To 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (205) near PARIS. Shortly after sent on course to officers' school at HALLE.
Jul 44Returned to last unit in FRANCE.
Sep 44 Sent to WITTSTOCK for parachutist training.
20 Oct 44 Posted to 3 Para Regt.
30 Nov 44 Deserted.
3. UNIT (40 GAF Sigs Reg.)

HOFFMANN could give info only on 4 Coy. This was responsible for maintaining communications for the Luftgau HQ in ATHENS. FW knew no details of this, as he was employed only on the maintenance of the TP machines employed. Only one TP exchange was maintained by the Coy, in ATHENS, with 15 machines. Ten of these were used for clear transmission (made by LORENZ or SIEMENS) and five for enciphered transmission (T-52, types "Ca" and "P"). These machines transmitted by line to an RV station, from which the latter means was used. The receiving station was an RV station, from which a line led to a TP station proper. For further details on TP equipment and its use see para 5.

A telephone exchange was also maintained by the Coy. The teleprinter exchange also had a branch which sent out net bulletins (WETTERUNSDIEB ZENTRALE).

4. IDENTIFICATIONS

(a) 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (mot)

According to BLACKWOOD, who was with this unit in FRANCE from Jul to Sep 44, it is independent and does not form part of a bn or regt. It came under command of the OB Bl. Before moving to FRANCE it was stationed at DEREFITZ, and came under command of Night Fighter Command. In FRANCE its prime function was to be the establishment of communications for fighter and fighter-bomber aerodromes; the TP sets of the Coy (see below) were equipped with special vehicles (SPEZIAL WAGEN) and could be used as mobile TP sets to be set up at speed on aerodromes. In fact the Coy was employed on maintaining communications for 5 Para Div.

The Coy consisted of three Platoons, with a total strength of some 150 all ranks. 1 and 2 Pls were WT and telephone construction pl, 3 Pl was a TP/telephone pl.

3 Pl had the following TP equipment:

Three TP vans, two of them with two TP machines, made by SIEMENS, for strip transmission (SPRINGSCHRIBER) in clear;

one of them with two TP machines (type T-52 "Ca") for enciphered transmission.

One exchange van, with one TP machine with exchange auxiliary; one receiving machine;

one reserve TP machine for clear transmission.

(b) 2 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy

BLACKWOOD heard that this Coy, presumably of the same type as the above, was stationed somewhere near the Channel coast in early summer 44. No further details available.

5. TP EQUIPMENT (HOFFMANN)

FW knew of the following machines - for those in use in his unit see para 3.

(a) T-56: Made by LORENZ/SIEMENS. A strip printing machine, on the system known as HOKUM-KLEINSCHMIDT, and known as a STREIFEN-SCHRIBER or SPRINGSCHRIBER.

(b) T-52: Four types of machine, made during the war, by LORENZ/SIEMENS, all capable of transmitting in clear or in cipher.

Types were:

"A und B"
"Ca" or "Casar"
"D" or "Dora"
"S" or "Smil", a type which is said to be the latest available and to be used by the Navy.

Some of these machines are fitted out as page teleprinters (KLATT-SCHRIBER) instead of as strip teleprinters (SPRING or STREIFEN-SCHRIBER).
6. **TF EQUIPMENT (MAINSFELD)**

(a) **Ref** knew of the following sets of TF apparatus which were used by Night Fighter Command. They were made in BERLIN, by a Belgian firm called BELL (*), who had built them under US license.

TFM
TFb 1 to 6
MEK 8
MG 15
TARK 12

(b) The type of TF apparatus used by the Reichspost on trunk lines was capable of passing 250 conversations over the same line.

(c) **BOA 12 TF set**

This is capable of passing 12 conversations over the same line. Said to be American made. No further details available.

7. **TP PROCEDURE AND SECURITY**

(a) **TP Stn Names and Code Procedure**

According to MAINSFELD each GAF TP stn is given a four-letter name, the first letter for which is always L for LUFTWAFFE, the second the initial letter of the location of the stn, the third and fourth indicating the HQ served by the stn. Thus, LBRL is the stn of the BERLIN air Ministry, where L=LUFTWAFFE, B=BERLIN, RL=REICHSLUFTMINISTERIUM.

TP exchanges (VERMITTLUNGEN) have five letters in their designation, which always begin with VL. Otherwise letters are allotted on the above basis.

Ref stated that Q groups were always used and that their clear meaning never changes.

(b) **TP Security in GREECE**

HOFFMANN stated that in L Coy 40 GAF Sigs Regt TP transmission in cipher was done according to regulations laying down security measures for the traffic. Monthly tables were issued giving the combinations of settings and connections for the various adjustable parts of the equipment. Settings were changed daily at 0900 hrs. The officer i/c TP comms kept the schedule for the month in his security box and issued operators with a strip with daily settings every morning.

8. **PERSONALITIES**

Col SCHUFTEZ

CSO (Nachrichtenführer) in GAF Sigs Regt SOUTHEAST, later 40 GAF Sigs Regt, till Apr 42, when he was posted to ROE, capacity unknown.
Lt-Col WILHELMUSCH (Oct 44) CSO (Nachrichtenfuehrer) at "KOMANDO FUG", ATHENS.

Capt HATTENKOFER (Sep 44) CO 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (mot).

2/Lt STEICHER (Sep 44) In " " " " " "

Lt ROSE (Oct 44) CO 5 (?) Coy 40 GAF Sigs Regt.

CSM ZIMKOWSKI NO 1/c Special Workshops at GAF Sigs School at Halle (see para 5).

Aunmann CHRISTENSEN 1/c teleprinter sec in Special Workshops.

A.G.B.

C.S.D.I.C.(cain), C.M.F.
12 Dec 44.

H.T.SHERGOLD, Major, I.O.
Army Section,
CSIC(cain), C.M.F.