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OSD/C(Liaison)/Y 21

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FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF TWO GERMAN PW

Name:	HOFFMANN Gerhard	HANSFELD Joachim
Rank:	L/Cpl (Stabsgefreiter)	Cadet (Paechnrich)
Unit:	4 COY 40 GAF SIGS REGT	10 COY 3 PARA REGT
FP No:	40859	
Deserted:	13 Oct 44, to EAM near ATHENS	30 Nov 44, S. PIETRO
Secret No:	M44/1965	M44/1966
Interrogated:	OSD/C(Main), GAF, 6 Dec 44.	OSD/C(Main), GAF, 7 Dec 44.

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

1. PREAMBLE

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 willingly. He is being evacuated to UK for further specialised interrogation.
Reliability : Fairly good.

HANSFELD : 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 KOMMANDO).
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.

HANSFELD :

Apr 39 To 1 GAF Sigs Regt at KOENIGSBERG. Training in sigs work.
Oct 42 After service in the Polish campaign, and with various units, posted to 204 GAF Sigs Regt (Night Fighters), BERLIN.
Nov 43 Sent to FRANCE for inf 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 LEHRSTAB HARTUNG) near ROE as inf instructor.
Apr 44 To 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (mot) near PARIS. Shortly after sent on course to officers' school at HALLE.
Jul 44 Returned 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. PW 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 "D"). These machines transmitted by line to an RV stn, from which the latter means was used. The receiving stn was an RV stn, from which a line led to a TP stn 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 met bulletins (WETTERUNDSCHREIB ZENTRALE).

4. IDENTIFICATIONS(a) 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (mot)

According to MANSFELD, 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 OBDL. Before moving to FRANCE it was stationed at DOEBERITZ, 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 dets of the Coy (see below) were equipped with special vehicles (SPEZIAL WAGEN) and could be used as mobile TP stns 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 pls, 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 (SPRINGSCHREIBER) 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

MANSFELD 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)

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

(a) T-36 : Made by LORENZ/SIEMENS. A strip printing machine, on the system known as MOKRUM-KLEINSCHLIDT, and known as a STREIFENSCHREIBER or SPRINGSCHREIBER.

(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 "Caesar"

"D" or "Dora"

"E" or "Emil", 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 (BLATTSCHREIBER) instead of as strip teleprinters (SPRING or STREIFENSCHREIBER).

- (c) SAEGEFISCH : PW knew this to be the cover name for the wireless teleprinter, though he has no detailed knowledge of its working. SAEGEFISCH is also the cover name for a WT/TP stn.

Note : HOFFMANN states that the "Ca" and "D" can be used for RV comms. Two stns can also communicate when one is equipped with the "A and B" and the other with the "Ca", though a "Ca" at one end cannot communicate with a "D" at the other. The SAEGEFISCH can also be used for transmitting "D" traffic.

Testing and modifying of TP equipment, e.g. changing "Ca" to "D" or "D" to "E", is carried out at the special workshops (SONDERWERKSTATT) of the GAF Sigs School at HALLE a.S. (Map ref : GERMANY 1:100,000 Sheet 87 Umgebung von HALLE a.S. 44965707).

6. TP EQUIPMENT (KANSFELD)

- (a) PW knew of the following sets of TP apparatus which were used by Night Fighter Command. They were made in BERLIN, by a Belgian firm called BELL (?), who had built them under USA license.

TPa
 TPb 1 to 6
 MEK 8
 MG 15
 ?MEK 12

- (b) The type of TP apparatus used by the Reichspost on trunk lines was capable of passing 260 conversations over the same line.

(c) BOA 12 TP 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 KANSFELD 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.

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

(b) TP Security in GREECE

HOFFMANN stated that in 4 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 SCHUETZE

CSO (Nachrichtenfuehrer) in GAF Sigs Regt SOUTHEAST, later 40 GAF Sigs Regt, till Apr 42, when he was posted to ROME, capacity unknown.

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Lt-Col	WALFERRBUSCH (Oct 44)	CSO (Nachrichtenfuehrer) at "KOM ANDO FLUG", ATHENS.
Capt	HATTENKOFER (Sep 44)	OC 18 GAF Special Service Sigs Coy (mot).
2/Lt	STREICHER (Sep 44)	In " " " " " " "
Lt	ROSE (Oct 44)	OC 5 (?) Coy 40 GAF Sigs Regt.
CSM	ZIMKOWSKI	NCO i/c Special Workshops at GAF Sigs School at HALLE (see para 5).
Antmann	CHRISTENSEN	i/c teleprinter sec in Special Workshops.

A.G.B.

H.T. Shergold Major

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

H.T. SHERGOLD, Major, I.O.
Army Section,
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