No interest whatever.

N Y - 4

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF
TANDEI Guido

Rank: Pte
Unit: SAN MARCO DIVISION
Deserted: 5 Aug 44
Interrogated: CSDIC, CMF,   26 Oct 44

Subject of Report : W/T services and cipher of SAN MARCO Division (till beg Aug 44):
Personalities

1.   PREAMBLE

Source is 20 years old and was a naval draughtsman in civilian life.
He was rounded up by the CC.RR in Mar 44 near LUCCA, and sent to GERMANY, where he
was enrolled in the SAN MARCO Division. After tng at GRAFENWOEHR in W/T and cipher
with others put down for W/T work, Source was returning to ITALY from GERMANY with
numbers of the Div when on 5 Aug 44 the train was machinegunned near CASALE MONFERRATO
by Allied aircraft. Source and some fifty others took advantage of the confusion to
desert. On 13 Oct 44 Source gave himself up to Partisans in LUCCA.
          Function : W/T operator   Reliability : Fair

2.   TRAINING IN GERMANY

W/T operators of all ranks in the Regtl Sigs Coy, 5th Regt, SAN MARCO
Div, were given about three months training at GRAFENWOEHR, near NUREMBERG, in
May-Jul 44. Operators were trained on   "b", "d" and "g" sets.
          They were also trained on enciphering and deciphering. The cipher to be
adopted by the Div was Playfair cipher: this was referred to by Source as "cifrario
a chiave" (key cipher)! Source understood that the Div was to begin using this cipher
only after being put into the line in ITALY.

3.   W/T SERVICE IN SAN MARCO DIV

     Note : Source had no experience of this in active service conditions.' Operators
            were told that the following would be put into operation in the field.

     (a)   W/T Links

          All traffic in the Div was to be on a one-frequency net ("collegamento
stella"), Div being the control for the three regts linked with Div HQ, each Regt for
Bn HQs etc.

     (b)   Sets

          Inf were to use "d", engineers "b", and recce "g" sets. RT traffic to
be on what Source called "Berta fonico".

     (c)   Type of traffic

          The Div had instructions to use R/T when on def tasks, and W/T when
attacking. Call signs, consisting of two letters and one figure, were to change daily.
Codenames for R/T traffic, also changed daily, were to be names of trees, fish and fruit.
          For the Playfair cipher to be used (see para 2), tables with ten different
keys were issued down to Coy HQ. The keys were to be changed every two hours, the
message announcing a change of key being an all stations message, beginning with the
callsign of control, and then reading :
          Q group break hour of change in clear break figure (i.e. number of key
          to be used) break ARSK.
          The complete table, i.e. the composition of the ten boxes, was also to
be changed periodically, but Source could not remember how often.
          For description of cipher see App "A".

4.   PERSONALITIES

(a)   Sigs offrs in SAN MARCO Div (bog Aug 44)

    Capt   SERRAGLIA   Div Sigs offr
    2/Lt   GASPEROTTI   Regtl Sigs offr in 5th Regt
    Lt   MASCOLO Savino   Sigs offr in Recce Unit

(b)   German instructors at GRAFENWOFHR (end Jul 44)

    2/Lt   PACHLE or PAKLE
    (formerly Sjt.Maj)

                                                    A.G.B.

        Note : In future reports in the "Y" series will be known as
               "CSDIC(Main)/Y..." series. Serial numbering will
               continue as before.

                                        F.G. Adams, Capt

                                  for   (R.P.F. EDWARDS)
                                             Lt.Col.
                                        Comdt CSDIC, CMF.

W.I.I.C.,
C.I.F.
5 Nov 44.

CIPHER TO BE USED BY SAN MARCO DIV IN THE FIELD (AFTER BEGINNING AUG 44)

The cipher consisted of a table of ten boxes each in a different key. Each box, of 5 x 5, contained 25 letters of the alphabet, letter "J" being omitted. Messages were written out in two lines of 21 letters each, and the enciphering was done by means of taking couples of letters, in order, one letter from the upper line, one letter from the lower line, and then reading off diagonals.

If a message was made up of an uneven number of letters, any letter might be added except S (and of course "J" which was not in the box).

According to Source, the lay-out of the boxes was as shown in the example, i.e. two identical boxes for each key, this being done "for easy encipher and decipher work". For the same reason, and in order to avoid mistakes, the column on the extreme left of the box was written out on the outside of the right-hand edge, and vice-versa, to avoid failure to understand the cycle-system of the cipher in cases of horizontally placed bigrams.

EXAMPLE : (from a drawing made by Source).

CIPHER

Key "A"

	G	U	M	D	F	
F	G	U	M	D	F	G
Q	V	L	A	P	Q	W
B	H	N	E	O	B	H
R	E	T	K	L	R	O
Z	X	Y	I	V	Z	X

Key "B"

	G	U	M	D	F	
F	G	U	M	D	F	G
Q	V	A	A	P	Q	W
B	H	N	E	O	B	H
R	O	T	K	L	R	O
Z	X	Y	I	V	Z	X

Clear:

n o s t r e p a t t u g l i e c i i n f o
r m a n o c h e d i s t r o l e l i n e e

Enciphered:

btedp   atnlb   hkwoa   sluky   mnucq   rveok   khvkv   veomb   ob   etc.