

~~TOP SECRET~~

OSD/C (Main)/Y 18

COPY No 8

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF
SCHEPANSKI, Klemens

N-2
NY-1

Rank. Cpl
Unit 8 LIRV Coy 3 Bn z.b.V. 40 GAF Sigs Regt
Id. No.: 1385
TP No: L 53984
Captured: 9 Oct 44, PAROS
Secret No: M 44/1931
Interrogated: OSDIC (MAIN) COMF, 30 Nov 44

Note. Information given in this report was obtained in conjunction with Sigs I, AMHQ, and should be read in connection with Report OSDIC/ME/M, 1598.

Subject of report. RV, with special reference to the AEGEAN.

1. UNIT

Pf stated that the full correct title of his Coy, with HQ in ATHENS up to Oct 44, was LIRV BETRIEBSPERSONAL KOMPANIE z.b.V. 8.

2. IDENTIFICATION

4 Coy 110 GAF Sigs Regt

This is an LIRV Coy which Pf joined in RUSSIA in Apr 42. He stated that this Coy had been in ITALY since Nov 43, having heard this from hearsay. He did not know whether it was still known under the same name.

3. RV EQUIPMENT

a) D4G 5aK (RV MICHAEL 2R)

Note Pf states that the small "a" in the title is correct.

i) Instruments

This set is equipped with a Frequency metre (FELLENMESSER) which is provided with an adjustment or tuning scale (RASTEN) numbered 1 to 16. This is worked - for tuning - in conjunction with a gauge (MESSINSTUMENT) divided into 180°.

ii) Aerials

There are usually two for receiving and two for transmitting. Aerials are of the dipole type, dipoles being made of wolfram.

iii) Makers

Sets are made by TELEFUNKEN, SIEMENS or AEG.

iv) Employment

The MICHAEL 2R can be used for RV or TP communications. It has a telephone channel (ÜBERSPRECHKANAL) and a teleprinter channel (ÜBERSCHREIBKANAL).

b) DMSGZT

This is one-way RT set (EUSZL SPRECH GERAT), with battery, used in case of emergency. It has a frequency range of from approx 480 to approx 520 megacycles. A switch is provided for change over from transmitting to receiving.

4. ORGANISATION OF RVa) Chain of Command

All that PW could say was that in the AEGEAN 3 Bn z.b.V., of which his Coy was part, came under the direct orders of the SO-in-C (HONAFUE).

b) Units and Strengths

There are no RV Regts. The basic unit is the Coy, usually a "special service" company (z.b.V.). In the AEGEAN all RV coys were part of a z.b.V. (3 Bn z.b.V. attached to 40 GAF Sig Regt).

According to PW there is no table laid down for RV units. Strength of the coys in 3 Bn z.b.V. varied between 160 and 180. Each company was made up of two to four platoons, according to requirements, each platoon maintaining three to four RV stations.

c) Employment of RV

When RV first came into use it was exclusively a matter for the GAF, but about Jan 43 Army and Navy personnel began to receive training in RV. In the AEGEAN, however, all Services used the RV maintained by the GAF (3 Bn z.b.V.). The right to use RV communication was strictly limited. On the Islands for instance only the following were authorized to use it.

Island Commander
Harbour Master
CAF and Army "Kommandantur"
Meteorological stations
WT stations
Aircraft reporting and plotting stations (FLUGMELDEMESSSTELLEN)

A system of priorities was in force, which included

- i. Ordinary conversation (GEWOENLICHES GESPREK)
- ii. Exceptional conversation (AUSNAHME GESPREK)
- iii. Exceptional-operational (AUSNAHME EINSATZ)
- iv. Exceptional-a/c alarm (FLUG-ALARM)
- v. Exceptional-a/c reporting (FLUGMELDUNGDIENST)
- vi. "Lightning" (BLITZ)
- vii. Paratroop landing (LSPRUNG)

5. WORKING OF RV

Information given here refers chiefly to M2R communications. The practical range of RV depends on theoretical visibility (OPTISCHE SICHT). It is a function of the curvature of the earth's surface (E DIERENING) and the topographical conditions of the area over which communications take place, plus practical visibility.

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Fading (Schwund), which was considered impossible in theory, was noticed sometimes in practice to take place at dawn and dusk, and/or when the moon changed its phase. Pfl, although he is not well acquainted with physics, thought this was due to the fact that beams were transmitted over large stretches of sea, the temperature of which changed at a different ratio from that of the earth, and that this affected the relative density of the air through which the beams travelled.

A.G.B.

C.S.D.I.C. (PLAIN),
C.M.F.
6 Dec 44.

Arthur W Major
H.T. SHERGOLD, Major, I.O.
Army Section,
C.S.D.I.C. (PLAIN), C.M.F.

APPENDIX "A"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RV

Note: NOT published on full distribution of attached report.

1. Additions to DMG 5aK

P/ stated that I/Cpl GOTTIEB (of CSDIC/IE/M. 1598, para 6 a ii) carried out experiments as a result of which a modification to this set enabled a telephone carrier to be superimposed on the speech channel. Apart from this modification it was necessary to connect an additional piece of apparatus which was the source and receiver of the telephone carrier. The frequency was stated to be 2.8 Kcs approx. It was possible to hear the telephone carrier, which appeared as a high pitched note with a buzz. Modified sets were set up on the route ATHENS-SALONIKA via three or four relay stations.

Modification and construction were carried out at the Faults Sec Workshop (STOERLEITSTELLE) in ATHENS. Source could not say whether the modification was generally adopted, but stated that there was a lively exchange of information between GOTTIEB and his former employers, either SIEMENS or TELEFUNKEN. This correspondence passed between them direct.

The above appears to be the correct version of the modification reported in para 6 a ii of CSDIC/IE/M. 1598. P/ said that it was essential to have transmitter and receiver frequencies at a station as far removed from one another as possible.

2. DMG 3G (LUDOLF)

P/ had little knowledge of this set. He "believes" it has nine carrier telephone channels. It has been used to establish emergency communication at the GPO BERLIN after a raid when the line exchange was destroyed. He stated that army and Naval personnel were being trained to use these sets.

3. Other Apparatus

Apart from the DMG 5aK link from the mainland to CRETE, a special Decimetre link had been installed by personnel of a "Post DM Einsatzgruppe". This link provided 12 carrier telephone channels. NO normal speech channel was provided and it was impossible for the operator to break into the circuits, except at the terminal stations. The apparatus consisted of the carrier section in one box and the transmitter and receiver situated immediately behind their respective aeriels. This was to avoid excessive losses in the feeder. The GREEK link connected ATHENS with CRETE, via MILOS (relay point). P/ believed the apparatus was developed and built by the Reichspost. (Several experts of the Reichspost were stationed in GREECE, among whom P/ remembered a Lieut HE RZ, living on one of the Islands).

Another such link had been installed in NORWAY.

4. Security and Supervision

P/ stated that in the Aegean the telephone channel on RV sets was supposed to be used for conversations which were of no security value. Communications which were considered secret were to be transmitted by TP in cipher; messages were enciphered by means of the G-auxiliary ("G-ZUSATZ").

Security was the responsibility of the "Überwachungsdiens" (SIGS Security) which existed at the exchanges ("VERMITTLUNGEN") of the RV links. Personnel of this Service listened in, and if security regulations were ignored, they would plug-in and say "attention, you are speaking over RV" ("ACHTUNG SIE SPRACHEN UEBER RV"). P/ said that the Germans were aware that RV could be intercepted. This could be done if the interception set was in line with the two stations communicating with each other, especially as the beam was NOT always accurately directed towards the receiving station.

5. Numbering of RV Stations

Numbering of stations does not alter unless the station changes its location. Numbers are chosen by the OC Coy or detailed after approval of HQM.FUE. New numbers are always higher ones. Thus Station 681 after changing its location might become Station 682, or if 682 is already allotted, 693, etc.

6. Use of RV for private calls

According to P/ the use of RV links for private calls is strictly forbidden, but cannot always be prevented, especially at night, over long distances. P/ got through to his mother at S-INEMUNDE, via MAXOS-ATHENS-SALONIKA-BELGRADE-BUDAPEST-BERLIN, and said that had any of the exchanges "cut-in" he could have always explained it away if necessary by replying that he did not know "where the call came from". This is possible on very long routes, where many people can ask to be connected with a certain exchange.

7. Women RV Operators

P/ knew of plans for training women as RV operators to replace the male personnel in the Coys and Secs, chiefly as operators on stations, but he was told that after the Italian armistice this was not carried through. He could not say whether RV Stations inside GERMANY employed any women as operators.

8. MF WT Links

According to P/ there is NO MF WT link at an RV station. In cases of emergency the D&G ZT (TAECHSEL SPRECH GERAT), a battery set, is used.

9. RV Installations in ITALY

P/ knew nothing of RV installations in ITALY, except that before the evacuation of ROME there had been a station in the City, on top of a very high building.

10. Use of RUDOLF across the BRENNER

P/ did NOT know if these sets were used for communications across the BRENNER.

11. RV Armoured Platoons

P/ stated that in RUSSIA RV had been used for communications with advanced units, and for this purpose "Decimetre Armoured Platoons" ("RV PANZER JUEGE") had been formed. Equipment used by these Platoons included a "SPEZIAL WAGEN" and a "MASTWAGEN". (Special armoured vehicle and a PANZER vehicle with mast antennae).

12. I/Cpl (O/Gefreiter) GOTTLIEB Felix (cf para 1).

This man is an Austrian from near VIENNA. He is the son of a vienna-~~er~~ surgeon. He is said to be very capable and interested in science and engineering, and to have been discharged from the forces in early 44 to work as a civilian "somewhere in the Black Forest". P/ described him as a "Hochfrequenz Techniker".

A.G.B.

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