REF ID:A65377

Italian Republican Army
Systems. No naval interest

N.Y-4

Copy No:

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF
TWO ENEMY WT OPERATORS

Name:	HOMME, Jan (Hans)	BEDESCHI, Aldo
Rank:	Cpl	Pte
Unit:	DVK 183 (German Liaison HQ with Italian M ROSA Div)	HQ COY, 1 BN, 3 REGT LITTORIO DIV
FP No:	28591	87137 A
Deserted:	24 Nov 44	9 Nov 44 (captured 22 Nov 44)
Secret No:	M 44/1957	M 44/1961
Interrogated:	CSDIC (Main) CMF, 5 Dec 44	CSDIC (Main) CMF, 5 Dec 44

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

1. PREAMBLE

HOMME: born in the SÜDETENLAND, and of Czech nationality.   He has served
in the German Army since Jan 39, having been conscripted, he claims, because of his WT
tng with the Czechoslovak Army.   From about Feb 44 to Aug 44 he was instructor at a
Camp in MUENSINGEN (Wuerttemberg) where the Italian MONTE ROSA Div was being trained.
He helped to train Italian WT operators and cipher clerks and also acted as inter-
preter.   When the Div moved to ITALY, in Jul 44, he was posted to an HQ which was
called 183 German Liaison HQ (DEUTSCHES VERBINDUNGS KOMMANDO) and which was a combined
liaison-cum-advisory unit to the Italian forces, operating down to Coy or Sqn HQ level.
PW'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 informa-
tion should be taken with some reserve.   Reliability: Fair

BEDESCHI: an Italian from FAENZA who was in a Mot MG Bn at the time of the
Italian Armistice.   He found his way home from LJUBLJANA 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
tng.   He trained at SENNELAGER, nr DETTMOLD (Westphalia) and MUENSINGEN and came to
ITALY at end 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 "Brigatta Garibaldina" who was known by the cover-name of "OLIO",
at a place called SAN SEBASTIANO, 15-20 km from TORTONA.   He was then passed on from
"brigatta" to "brigatta" till he managed to cross the lines.   He has little informa-
tion to give.   Reliability: Fair

2. WT AND CIPHER TRAINING OF ITALIAN TROOPS IN GERMANY

According to both PW tng 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 oper-
ators are all taught how to encipher and decipher messages by using the box-square
type of cipher (DOPPELKASTENSCHLUESSEL), usually in the form of TRUPPENSCHLUESSEL,
rarely NACHRICHTENSCHLUESSEL.

Italians are not taught how to select call-signs.   From evidence available
so far, the German Liaison Officers control all secret sigs matters.   HOMME was shown
in Jul/Aug 44 an order which stated that the RASTERSCHLUESSEL 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.   RT was to be used, in action, for short tactical comms
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 HOMME.

3. EQUIPMENT

(a) 23 Recce Bn, M ROSA Div

HOMME 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 (FF-??3).	

(b) **1 Bn, 3 Regt LITTORIO Div** (BERESCHI - 9 Nov 44)

    2 - "d" sets (one at Bn HQ and one at Bn Cmdr'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 comns 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 ("TARNTAFEL AUSDRUECKE") 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 REITINGER	LO to 1 ALPINI Regt
Sonderfuehrer SCHLEGEL	Interpreter to Col REITINGER. 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 RUECKERT, Alois	Interpreter at Recce Bn HQ. Doctor of philosophy; Dominican monk who was forced to join the Army.
2/Lt ELSER, Richard	LO with 1 Sqn, Recce Bn
Sonderfuehrer BESTIAN, Hans	Interpreter with 1 Sqn, Recce Bn. Doctor of philosophy.
Cpl TREYSLER	On liaison staff with 1 Sqn, Recce Bn
L/Cpl KORTUS, Josef	" " " " " " "
2/Lt RAIMANN, 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. RAININGER, Karl	LO with 3 Sqn, Recce Bn
L/Cpl SCHLAGBAUER, Gustav	On liaison staff with 3 Sqn, Recce Bn
Cpl HENKO, Franz	Interpreter with 3 Sqn, Recce Bn
Cpl EISENKOPF	" " " " "
Lieut BORAK	Sigs Officer at Div HQ
Lt Dr APPUN	In Div Sigs Bn. Signed nearly all orders, etc., though BORAK was said to be i/c.
WO 1 KERN	In Div Sigs Bn. An Austrian with a loathing for Italians.
WO (Wachtmeister) ROESCH	With Div. A Bavarian regular.

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(b)   LITTORIO Div (beg Nov 44)

Capt OMAR	IO at 3 Regt HQ
W.O. RADDE) W.O. PREIE or PRAIS)	German instructors with 3 Regt during tng in GERMANY and came to ITALY as sigs personnel with same Regt.
Sjt CARNEVALLI	Sigs sjt in Sigs Pl, HQ Coy, 1 Bn, 3 Regt.

A.G.B.

'(H.T. SHERGOLD)
Major.
Comdg CSDIC(MAIN)CMF.

CSDIC (MAIN),
CMF,
8 Dec 1944.

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 HOMME, and contains notes on procedure taught to Italian sigs personnel of the M ROSA Div while training at MUENSINGEN. Sidelined paragraphs indicate details of procedure which were NOT disclosed to the Italians.

A. <u>DOPPELKASTENSCHLUESSEL PROCEDURE</u>

1. <u>Enciphering</u>

   Example:

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

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

<u>Message (FUNKSPRUCH)</u>

naoht ruhig verlaufen . gefechtsstaerke 73 mann . munition nicht gekommen . hager major .

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
n	a	q	t	r	u	h	i	g	v	e	r	l	a	u	f	e	n	y	y	g
e	f	e	q	t	s	s	t	a	e	r	k	e	x	s	i	e	b	e	n	d
r	e	i	x	m	a	n	n	y	y	m	u	h	i	t	i	o	n	x	h	a
g	e	r	s	s	m	a	i	i	o	r	y	y	n	i	q	t	g	e	k	o
m	m																			
e	n																			

Notes:
a) Full stop = yy; comma = zz.
b) ch and ck = q, but NOT in proper names.
c) Any letter can be used as a "dud" (BLENDER), except x, y or z.
d) Text to be enciphered must never be written on the same form (page) as the final, enciphered, text (SCHLUESSEL-TEXT).

<u>Enciphered text (SCHLUESSEL-TEXT)</u>

i) <u>Single enciphering (TRUPPENSCHLUESSEL):</u> for reports (NACHRICHTEN) and orders (BEFEHLE) which are passed and executed <u>immediately</u> and are therefore of no use to the (enemy) intercept service.

<u>To encipher:</u> take the first pair of letters - under figure 1 - look for letter "n" in square "A" and for letter "e" in square "B" and take the opposites, which form a rectangle with "n" and "e", 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. "e" "e" = "b" "o".

If the message (after adding letters for punctuation marks) has an uneven number of letters, a "dud" letter (BLENDER) is added.

Signatures 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 enciphered in the same manner as they are dictated, thus:

"sofort eine AVI schicken" = "sofort eine x grosz anton / x grosz
viktor x grosz ida / x sqiqen"

ii) <u>Double enciphering (NACHRICHTENSCHLUESSEL)</u>: 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:

<u>1 2 3 . . . .</u>

n a q . . . .   ne = io = <u>kb</u>; af = qq = <u>fa</u>, etc.

e f . . . .

2. <u>Deciphering</u>

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 this must be done in groups of 21 pairs.

B. <u>HEERESRUFZEICHENTAFEL (Army call-sign table)</u>

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. Rufz.Grundz.fuer "DORA" 21 - 26
      Rufz.Grundz.fuer "GUSTAV" 144 - 148

On another list are indicated, by month and day of the year ("KALENDER-MAESSIG"), the pages of the Army call-signs table (HEERESRUFZEICHENTAFEL) on which the call-signs for numbers 21-26 and 144-143 must be sought.

- 58 - (page of HEERESRUFZEICHENTAFEL)			
1 xd5			
2 5gi			
3 azo			
4 suq			
5 akr			
6 ...			
7. ...		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.

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

PW'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 ("RUFZEICHENGRUND-ZAHLEN"), 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

1	2100
2	3500
3	4800
4	4800
5	2600
6	3100
7	4900
8	2400
9	2500
10	.
11	.
12	.
13	4200
14	3700
	.
	.
33	.

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:

$$5 + 8 = 13$$
$$5 + 9 = 14$$
$$5 + 10 = 15$$
$$5 + 11 = 16$$
$$5 + 12 = 17$$

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 ("WELLENGRUNDZAHL"), the result giving the number (figure) in the frequency index ("WELLENVERZEICHNIS") against which the frequency for the "b" set can be read.
In the Recce 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:

28 + 8 = 36	36 - 33 = 3		4800
28 + 9 = 37	37 - 33 = 4		4800
28 + 10 = 38	38 - 33 = 5	Frequency:	2600
28 + 11 = 39	39 - 33 = 6		3100
28 + 12 = 40	40 - 33 = 7		4900

This system is used by the entire German WEHRMACHT.

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