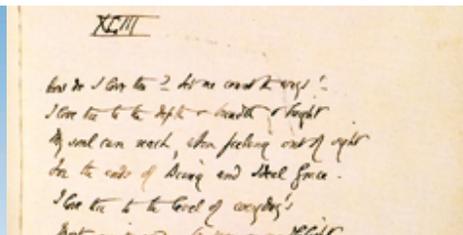




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SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE, 1940-1946: SUBVERSION AND SABOTAGE DURING WORLD WAR II Series One: SOE Operations in Western Europe

Part 3: Germany, 1936-1945 (Public Record Office Class HS 6/617-722)

Since VE Day, the concept of resistance movements and secret government organisations has fascinated all aspects of the media, from simple fictional accounts to glamorous film noir characters. The release of files documenting the machinations of the Special Operations Executive means that, for the first time, scholars are able to see beyond the romantic; witnessing the first-hand accounts of those who risked their lives in order to stop the relentless march of fascism. These files offer the realities of setting up, organising and posting agents into occupied territories, making for some of the most interesting and exciting material that has emerged from archives relating to the Second World War.

Subjects for study range from the interaction between allied forces, the impact of guerrilla warfare in occupied territories, the extent of German penetration and the planning, politics and organisation associated with action behind enemy lines. *Series One, SOE operations in Western Europe*, covers activities in France, Germany, Holland and Italy, while Series Two concentrates on the Balkans.

Initially founded in March 1939, it wasn't until mid-1940 that the SOE received a more formal, if loose, seal of approval from Whitehall. Moving from their small offices on 2 Caxton Street, London, to their new headquarters in Baker Street, the formation of SOE gave existing secret organisations, such as the SIS (Secret Intelligence Service), a means of physically carrying out campaigns that had predominantly remained on paper. Famously ordered by Winston Churchill to set Europe ablaze, the SOE became responsible for supporting and stimulating resistance behind enemy lines. Under the initial leadership of the influential socialist politician, Sir Hugh Dalton, the organisation largely overcame its shaky start to form an essential part in operations aimed at helping to halt Hitler's increasing grip on Europe.

Unlike its sister services who quietly gathered intelligence behind enemy lines, SOEs task was to cause as much disruption as possible and it quickly gained a reputation as an obscure and unique organisation. As the outfit grew, agents were hired from a diverse range of backgrounds and nationalities; by 1944, approximately 5,000 agents were involved in operations behind enemy lines, with a back-up support of nearly 10,000 staff at home.

Part 3 provides complete coverage of SOE records relating to Germany. Until the release of files HS 6/617-722, very little was known of the workings and operations of Section X, the SOE country division for Germany. By studying the archives, academics will be able to research the directorate's aims and objectives; firstly the ruination of the Third Reich and, secondly, for SOE to secure a role in a liberated Europe and post-war Germany. The link between the two is reported in HS 6/622:-

"If this policy (of obtaining information on underground movements) develops, it looks as if fully trained X Section personnel now in the field, and additional German-speaking SOE personnel, may be eventually required for real active work in Germany. This is a very definite change in our role"

File HS 6/692 covers the early work of Section X between 1940-1943. Detailing weekly and monthly progress reports, historians will be able to study the effectiveness of SOE activities in Germany throughout the first half of the war. During this period, the high command in London generally thought that the infiltration of the Third Reich was not a feasible undertaking. The turning point for SOE operations in the ruling country mainly occurred from 1944 onwards, pre- and post D-Day.

Reel 24 includes files HS 6/617-620. These chiefly concern the politics behind the armistice and military surrenders negotiated through SOE work. Detailing peacefeeler

Highlights

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See also [Special Operations Executive Wikipedia page](#) contained in a PDF attachment inside this PDF.

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(including von Trott and Moltke) and German approaches, the documents report that the former were in themselves no concern to SOE but primarily of interest to the Foreign Office. HS 6/617 states, "*we have agreed that as soon as the Germans put out feelers of this kind, our Agents will immediately refuse to discuss any questions of peace terms with the individuals or groups concerned until they have received further instructions from London.*" The files also reveal SOEs opinion that most of the approaches made by the Germans were calculated in order to serve the purposes of counter espionage, espionage, to gain information on allied policy for peace terms and propaganda.

To complement this, the German Committee Minutes (HS 6/621) include the use by X Section of various German political organisations, such as the communists, social democrats and trade unions, in order to gain manpower and create a network of resistance. Scholars will be able to research the role played in operations by the German working classes (who were thought to have anti-Nazi leanings), and related groups such as the International Transport Workers Federation (HS 6/647-648).

Sabotage missions behind enemy lines are also included in Part 3. The destruction of rail networks, machinery and the attempted destruction of the factory producing components for the V2 bomb (HS 6/662 and 663) are included and give fascinating insights into the workings of X Section in the final stages of the war. Operations DOWNEND, FORDWICK, FRILFORD, COLAN, CARHAM and CLINT can all be used to study the success/failure of missions in Germany.

Operations BRADDOCK I and II (HS 6/637, 719-722) detail the proposal to scatter four million incendiaries (from Lancaster aeroplanes) over various locations in Germany after D-Day. Backed by SHAEF and the PWE, the devices came complete with full instructions written in 11 languages. The intention was for the incendiaries to float down and be picked up by anti-Nazis and forced labourers for use in sabotage attacks. The ensuing explosions, not to mention the waste of German resources in searching for them, would cause immeasurable disruption to the enemy. Judging from the files, the operation did not take place; it was deemed that the most suitable time for the operation to prove successful "*had passed*".

Files concerning agents and double agents enable scholars to research the theories and existence of espionage, counter-espionage and counter-intelligence. Several operations were undertaken using neutral countries, such as Switzerland, as exit/escape routes.

HS 6/646 looks at the case of Lily and Harry. Both were German nationals operating in Sweden and used by the allies to gain intelligence. The papers show how SOE was suspicious of Lilys intentions and movement in German circles in Stockholm. File HS 6/649 studies the credibility and exploits of Sam and Edward two Swedish sabotage agents.

HS 6/702 documents the arrival of enemy agents in Britain. The discovery of the body of Jan Willem Ter Braak in Cambridge, fuelled speculation behind SOEs belief that "The Germans have developed the informer system to almost a fine art." The file can also be used to study German contra-espionage methods and the use of agents provocateurs.

In HS 6/699 scholars will be able to follow the progress of the Demuth Committee. As a joint venture with the PWE, SOE paid the marginal fee of £50.00 per month in order to support the Committee in their objective for the secret services to employ anti-Nazi civil servants, professional men and leading economic experts in espionage operations.

What the files undoubtedly prove is that SOE was actively pressing for a mission to assassinate Hitler and his chief subordinates. Known as Operations FOXLEY and LITTLE FOXLEY respectively, files HS 6/623-626 document the feasibility study made by Section X in 1944 to kill Hitler by sniper, poison or train derailment. Following on from a previously failed attempt within Germany to assassinate the ruler, the u-turn in allied policy targeted Hitlers alpine retreat, Berchtesgaden, as the most obvious location for the mission to take place. Reflecting this the documents include the Frhers daily routine and eating habits, aerial photographs, maps and scale drawings, security personnel, air raid shelters and even details of German uniforms. The plan, of course, never reached fruition Hitlers failing strategies meant that he was more use alive than dead.

Files HS 6/627-633 look at SOE intelligence reports on concentration and death camps. As the end of the war came into sight, finding out the fate of missing agents became a prime concern for SOE. The archives include reports from liberated agents, and the interrogation of suspects on conditions and whereabouts of colleagues. Atrocities concerning Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald are also included.

Documents HS 6/689 and 690 study the work of Military Establishment 42 (ME 42). As part of the German directorate, ME 42 was seen by some to be an extension of SOE. Its objective was to make the cross-over from resistance work to intelligence work by searching for missing agents after the war, in the prospect of securing a post-war role for SOE. The department never fully materialised - British and American troops liberated many agents before ME 42 could reach them.

The use of propaganda in the Second World War is a huge area of research in itself. One of the most successful operations ever undertaken is included in Part 3. File HS 6/641 documents the forged six-pfennig postage stamp portraying the head of Himmler. It was produced by the PWE in order to cause maximum disruption within the internal powers of the Third Reich. The stamp was used to send letters (all bearing the German postmark) to various organisations and philatelists in Europe. Secret organisations such as SOE claimed ignorance, which only encouraged the press to believe that the stamps were produced in Germany and that Himmler would actually climb to complete power in the Reich. Files HS 6/694-696 also looks at propaganda for Germany between 1942-1944, including forgeries, itching powder on German soldiers in central Crete, information rumours and the sexual defamation of the Nazi leadership.

The use of BBC radio broadcasts for propaganda purposes were of vital importance for SOE work in Germany. HS 6/637 documents instructions for the BBC to air a five minute broadcast every two hours. "It is of the greatest importance that we, not BBC officials, should have the final say in what is transmitted to Germany." This demand made by SOE to control broadcast copy can be seen in the following extract:-

"We must also be allowed the power to cut from all broadcasts such phrases as our fight is not against you but against Hitler and to substitute such phrases as you, the German people, stand convicted before the whole world. You, the German people, by your cowardice or inertia have permitted your Government to launch the most bloody war in history. "

Part Three will enable scholars to study:

- German politics and a post-war German Government
- SOEs relationship with OSS, SHAEF, DGER, PWE and the Foreign Office
- Underground organisations of the Nazi Government
- Sabotage of communication networks
- The role played by neutral countries such as Switzerland
- Propaganda
- Counter-intelligence and Contra-espionage
- The feasibility of assassination plots, such as Operation FOXLEY, the plan to kill Hitler
- The use of French officers/escaped Prisoners of War, in the allied forces
- SOE covert activities in liberated areas
- The future of SOE in a post-war Europe
- The training of agents in France (Centre 20)
- Prisoners of War and concentration camps

Due to the sensitive nature of the material, several files are retained by the department under Section 3(4). However, the documents offered in Part Three invite academics to study SOE in an area previously thought, by the London high command, to be out of reach. Was SOE successful in its operations in Germany? How feasible was the plot to assassinate Hitler? Should it have gone ahead? To what lengths did SOE rely on the German populace in order to carry out their missions? Did the work of Section X secure a role for SOE and sabotage work in a post-war world?

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Introduction by Professor Jeremy Black, Department of History, University of Exeter

Without doubt this is one of the most fascinating and important collections to appear in microfilm for many years. It is at once an account of dedication and bravery, an approach to the Second World War that emphasises the role of individuals, and a fundamental source for an aspect of the conflict that is too readily underrated in favour of a simple emphasis on the quantity of resources.

The SOE was crucial in challenging German control of occupied Europe, both by encouraging resistance and by more direct activities. Formed in July 1940 in order to encourage resistance and 'to set Europe ablaze', the Special Operations Executive was divided into 'country' sections and worked with the governments-in-exile in Britain. The political context varied greatly, as did the tasks the SOE had to fulfil. Liaison with partisan groups was part of a major attempt to build up resistance, not least by providing supplies and communication links.

The role of the resistance, of course, is a matter of some controversy. The better-armed Germans were generally able to defeat partisans in open conflict, as when they suppressed the rising on the Vercors plateau in France in June 1944, a matter fully covered in Part 2 of this collection (HS 6/355, 361, 424-5). Furthermore, many areas under partisan control were so because the Germans chose not to deploy troops to occupy them. There was also a potential tension between helping resistance operations and gathering intelligence, and this led to tension between SOE and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS).

However, the resistance still achieved much, as a reading of this collection clearly establishes. Most important (as also with the Allied air offensive), was the diversion of large amounts of German resources to dealing with the threat, as well as the need to adopt anti-partisan policies that affected the efficiency of German rule, specifically of their economic and transport activities. The supply of weapons by SOE helped make the resistance more effective. The Allies also benefited from large quantities of crucial intelligence, including on defences, troop movements, bomb damage, and the development of German rocketry. In addition, considerable damage and disruption was inflicted by sabotage and by guerrilla attacks. This was most useful when coordinated with Allied operations, for example the cutting of transport links by which the Germans might move troops, as a preparation for the Normandy landings. This complemented the air offensive. The SOE files are fundamental for attempts to secure coordination and to guide the resistance. They are also the best available source on the resistance itself.

The role of the resistance is a reminder of the mistake of only considering strength in terms of regular forces. The resistance also testifies to the character of total war, and the way in which World War Two affected the people of Europe. Countries that fell rapidly before the German blitzkrieg in 1940 recovered to launch numerous attacks on the Germans and to tie up large numbers of Germans in defensive tasks. Such action was to encourage post-war NATO planners, fearful of Soviet invasion, to develop resistance networks and facilities.

Parts 1 and 2 of this collection are devoted to France, the most important and successful field of SOE operations, not least with large-scale industrial sabotage. Preparations for the Second Front and proximity to Britain ensured that France was at the forefront of SOE activities, and this can be followed in the Files. They also provide important research material on the British perception of relations between French politicians and groups, with De Gaulle, Darlan, Vichy and the Communists all featuring. HS 6/372 covers the Outhall Mission of 1945: Wing Commander Yeo-Thomas's enquiry and reports on Buchenwald, Fresnes and other concentration camps and on wanted German camp personnel. Other missions covered include Plexus (HS 6/386), a 1944 psychological warfare mission to distribute propaganda to the German army in France. The sense of an intelligence war is conveyed well. There are reports on the arrest of French resistance leaders and on German attempts to turn networks. Wireless communications play a major role in

the files. The files include a major run of Circuit and Mission Reports and Interrogations. They are fundamental to work on SOE and the resistance.

Part 3 on Germany includes intelligence reports on concentration and death camps, material on sabotage and black propaganda within Germany, including the plot to kill Hitler, discussion of armistice terms and military surrenders, and planning for post-war Germany. It is interesting to see how early the latter started. The widespread nature of planned sabotage operations is also impressive. They included Operation Vivacious - to sabotage a precision engineering factory in Berlin; Frilford, Colan, Clint, Colburn, Curland, Cregina, each designed to sabotage railway lines; Fleckney - sabotage in the Breslau area; Carstairs - sabotage in Halle; Chalgrove and Cresswell - in Hamburg and Bremen; Fangfoss and Fiddington - in Flensburg and Kiel; Chalfont - sabotage against a new type of U-boat; and Markinch - to make attempts on the lives of U-boat officers in the Kiel area, and to incite sailors and dock-workers to subversive activities.

Part 4 includes the most dismal episode in the SOE's history, an account of the failure in Holland. In the Englandspiel, the German intelligence services were able to thwart SOE operations by capturing an agent and making him 'play back' his radio, leading to the capture of over 60 agents. As a result SOE, SIS and Dutch operations in 1941-1944 were compromised. This is important: failure throws light on the difficulties of the task and on what was achieved by SOE: a victory that helped to win the war.

Part 5 documents activities in Italy in support of Fifth and Eighth Armies. The full story of what SOE achieved in Italy is still waiting to be written. These files offer up many possibilities for new research, from the communist inclinations of patriot resistance groups, relations with the CLNAAI, SOE wireless links, coup de main raiding parties, to a thorough assessment of the role and contribution of subversion and sabotage in the Italian campaign.

This collection should be purchased by all those interested in the war.

Professor Jeremy Black

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Publisher's Note - Part 1

"The mission was interesting, exciting and we were damned lucky. We accepted much more responsibility than was given to us in the briefing. If we did wrong, we are sorry. In our team we had constantly a spirit of co-operation between the three members, and I feel sure that the three of us will be life long friends, having faced the same dangers and having done our job to the best of our ability." (HS 6/513)

Since VE Day, the concept of resistance movements and secret government organisations has fascinated all aspects of the media, from simple fictional accounts to glamorous film noir characters. The release of files documenting the machinations of the Special Operations Executive means that, for the first time, scholars are able to see beyond the romantic, witnessing the first-hand accounts of those who risked their lives in order to stop the relentless march of fascism. These files offer the realities of setting up, organising and posting agents into occupied territories, making for some of the most interesting and exciting material that has emerged from archives relating to the Second World War.

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Unlike its sister services who quietly gathered intelligence behind enemy lines, SOE's task was to cause as much disruption as possible and it quickly gained a reputation as an obscure and unique organisation. As the outfit grew, agents were hired from a diverse range of backgrounds and nationalities; by 1944, approximately 5,000 agents were involved in operations behind enemy lines, with a back-up support of nearly 10,000 staff at home.

Part 1 offers a wide range of files concerning the Jedburgh Teams and operations in occupied France between 1944 and 1945. Based on an idea by Colin Gubbins (SOE's executive director from 1943-1945), a total of 93 teams were sent in after D-Day in June 1944 to assist in Operation Overlord – the Allied invasion of German-occupied Europe. With the majority of missions taking place between July and September of that year, each team consisted of two officers and a wireless operator (in principle, one American, one British and one French). Reacting to pressure from America and France for them to become more involved in the war, the Jedburghs were an ideal solution in helping to bring together the allied forces, on both political and military levels, but with Britain remaining as the senior controller.

Files HS 6/471-564 list the activities of the Jedburgh teams in full. The typed reports follow a standard format; the codename for each team, agents despatched (with photographs), type of mission and its objectives. A detailed analysis of drop times, reception committees, liaison with other allied forces, German manoeuvres and the ensuing battles and skirmishes, are all detailed. These are backed up with relevant maps, plans and correspondence. With SOE headquarters also based in Algiers, some papers include teams dropped into France from Africa (these are titled 'Massingham').

The reports, usually written by the commanding officer of the team, reflect the reactions to unknown situations into which the agents were sent. Drop zones were chosen based on maps and intelligence reports; in reality the terrain was often unsuitable. Several documents tell of turbulent flights and bad landings that resulted in loss of ammunition and radio equipment. Consequently, any communication with London ceased until wireless sets were borrowed, repaired or subsequently found. Separate ciphers were not available to SOE until 1942, so relying on existing SIS radio frequencies and codes to contact London, posed problems for agents, as HS 6/511 reveals. In this instance, team GEORGE had not made contact with London for 15 days. Fearing that the Gestapo had caught the agents, GEORGE's frequencies were constantly monitored, but their communications and requests for arms remained largely ignored.

Detailing the operation, the commanding officer concludes:

"This was done by a miracle... these results had been heavily paid for by hundreds of arrestations and murders. We were feeling very depressed, considering what could have been done if we had received the arms and money we were begging for in time. In that case we can guarantee that on the 5th of August 10,000 men could have been armed. Not a single Jerry would have escaped and damage done to the enemy could have been incredible."

Scholars will be able to study the reasons and consequences behind the breakdown in communications with London and Algiers.

The files in Part 1 will also help to answer any questions regarding the position and status of SOE in the 'league table' of secret organisations. Most of the reports cover relations with fellow secret services such as the SAS and/or SIS; SOE's attitudes and relations with them differ considerably from team to team:

"Our relations with the SAS were very good; Lt Mylook worked with us, and insisted that London should supply our Maquis with arms, in order to encourage the excellent officers, and young men. The presence of the SAS was a help to all the men of the Maquis, who felt that they were being helped. Owing to the lack of arms, we were unable to do even a small part of what should have been possible, if our requests had been acceded to." (HS 6/482)

"From what we gathered at the briefing we knew before we started that contact with the SAS and liaison with them would be most difficult. On arriving there we found this to be absolutely true. Perhaps contrary to our orders we avoided them as much as possible but as I have stated before liaison with them was affected. Jedburghs and SAS cannot work together. We heard that FREDERICK had the same difficulty. They should be used, in our opinion, strictly as OG groups of fighting men. Their fighting qualities were excellent but as for diplomacy and tact and organisation, Jedburghs are much better." (HS 6/513)

Files HS 6/566-584 cover the circuit and mission reports and interrogations of agents on their return from operations in France. Listed alphabetically using the agent's real name, the reports provide information concerning their nom de guerre, circuit and operational name. Details regarding clandestine activities pre- and post- D-Day, cover stories, recruiting and training of Maquis and Resistance groups, safe houses and enemy counter intelligence can be studied for each circuit. The wider effects of operations can also be researched, such as the effects of sabotage, German infiltration, casualties, arrests and cross/parallel circuits. The following extracts show the fundamental problems and conditions that informants were up against during operations in the field.

"Very few days after D-Day I received from General Koenig an order that we were to become all FFI with one chief the departmental head of the FFI, Capitaine de la Forte (FERRANT). I contacted him. A more unhappy choice could never have been made than placing him at the head of Saône et Loire. A nice boy, honest, brave, an ideal 2nd lieutenant, he never was able to command more than a company. Distrusted politically by the average man, envied and distrusted by the political organisations (MUR, FTP), and an ex-admirer of Pétain..." (HS 6/567)

"The second example given [of penetration by the enemy] was that of a young Alsatian, who posed as a deserter from the Waffen S.S. and was recommended and brought to the Maquis by a man who was already well-known in the resistance... it transpired that the Alsatian had, in fact, been sent to the Maquis by the Germans and that he had persuaded the batman to work for him. He confessed that his mission was to signal the whereabouts and report on the strength and morale of this particular Maquis. Both men were tried and shot." (HS 6/572)

The diplomatic problems caused by the differing political tendencies of French organisations are also documented throughout the files. Although agents were instructed to ignore the affiliations of various groups, their reports indicate that the outlook of the French people seemed to be more nationalist, rather than allied. In HS 6/564, Captain J.C. Montague concludes:

"Civilian and Political affairs may be looked after by a mission of the same nationality as the occupied country. Military affairs are best looked after by a Military mission which is entirely independent of any political mission and is under the orders of the Allied High Command."

"We then moved into a camp in the mountains back of St Bertrand des Comminges about 25kms west as we learned that certain elements among the French were selling us out to the Boche... At this time we had more to worry about from the French than we did from the Germans... From this point on we had to be most careful about our security and it was impossible for me to be seen in uniform in the villages... The resistance groups began to doubt our ability to produce anything except promises... At this point, we saw that the whole situation was becoming one of politics with the different groups within the F.F.I. starting to

fight among themselves for power, and as the mission given us was a military one we carefully avoided anything to do with politics.” (HS 6/490)

Several files also cover relations with American troops and the presence of enemy military forces in occupied France.

“The movement of the American forces seemed to be towards the east and north-east so we decided that the mission of the FFI in the department of the Yonne was to secure the open right flank of the American forces and to push the Germans as far south away from this flank as possible...Close contact was kept with the other resistance units of the department and with the American units in the neighbourhood. Co-operation between the two enabled the Americans to pick up any German troops which they otherwise would not have heard about or been able to tackle.” (HS 6/489)

“After the attack on St. Donat, where Mongolian and Russian troops carried out atrocities, the Germans dropped leaflets to the Maquis telling the French to beware of friendships with Russia, because of the savagery of the Russians, referring the French to their conduct at St. Donat. The debriefing officer, who was near St Donat at the time of the aforesaid attack, can vouch for these atrocities, and would add that the German officers to those Russian troops took no steps to stop the atrocities.” (HS 6/494)

Part 1 also offers the opportunity to study:

- The actions against Vichy shipping
- Relations with French Authorities, Maquis and Free French
- The use of Breton fishermen in sea operations
- Air transport operations BUICK, CADILLAC and GRASSY involving the USAAF
- SAS operations under SHAEF control
- Disruption to communications
- Contrast in operations between northern and southern regions
- The command and control of Resistance after D-Day

The publication of these important archives will enable scholars to debate issues more thoroughly, to assess the success/failure of operations and to study the crucial contribution that SOE made to the Second World War.

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE, 1940-1946

Series 1, Special Operations in Western Europe

Part 1: France: The Jedburgh Teams and Operation Overlord, 1944-1945,

Part 2: France: Political and Planning Files, Circuits and Missions, 1940-1947

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Contents of Reels - Part 1

REEL 1

The Jedburgh Teams (HS 6/471-564)

HS 6/471

Alan Team (1944-1945)

Purpose: Contact and liaise with mission Camelle, harass enemy in Lyons/Nevers and Lyon/Dijon area.

HS 6/472

Alastair Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact Colonel Maximum, work with the Maquis north-east of St Die and possibly in Alsace. Organise delivery of stores.

HS 6/473

Alec Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany SAS party to Loire and Cher; contact resistance and Ventriloquist group.

HS 6/474

Alexander Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany half a troop of SAS, under command of Bergamot mission, to assist resistance and harass enemy movements on roads and railways in the Perigeux/Limoges/Chateauroux and the Toulouse/Limoges/Chateauroux area.

HS 6/475

Alfred Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact Pasteur I, assist the organisation of FFI, provide additional deliveries to FFI and link London with the FFI groups in the region.

HS 6/476

Ammonia Team (1944)

Purpose: Destroy communications between Brive/Montauban and Montauban/Bordeaux. Organise and train guerrilla troops of 20.

HS 6/477

Andrew Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist organisation of FFI, deliver extra stores, contact Citronelle, and provide an additional link with London.

HS 6/478

Andy Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist Ellipse in the organisation of the Haute Vienne, and maintain groups for the disruption of railways converging on Limoges.

HS 6/479

Anthony Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany half troop of 3rd French Parachute Battalion, contact Ditcher and liaise with SAS/Resistance groups, and harass enemy roads and rail in the Lyons/Nevers/Dijon region.

HS 6/480

Archibald Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of stores to the FFI, link London and FFI, contacting Planette.

HS 6/481

Arnold Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist and organise stores as above, contacting Pedlar or Diplomat.

HS 6/482

Arthur Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist and organise stores as above, contacting Ovale.

HS 6/483

Aubry Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of the FFI in the Seine and Marne area; assist in the delivery of stores, link with London, contact Tolerant or Spiritualist.

HS 6/484

Augustus Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of stores, contact Cardioide, Aisne area.

HS 6/485

Basil Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of stores and contact Ligne; Zone Nord.

HS 6/486

Benjamin Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of stores, link London and FFI, contact Planette.

HS 6/487

Bernard Team (1944)

Purpose: As above; contact Planette for work in Meuse area.

HS 6/488

Brian Team (1944)

Purpose: As above; contact Pascale for work in the Doubs area.

HS 6/489

Bruce Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the organisation of stores and aid communications of FFI with London, contact Donkeyman, Yonne area.

HS 6/490

Bugatti Team (1944)

Purpose: Mission from Massingham base; assist developments in the Pyrenees area (Wheelwright), harass enemy lines of communication and organise reception for daylight troop landings.

HS 6/491

Bunny Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise stores, aid communications, contact Ovale group, Haute Marne area.

HS 6/492

Cecil Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist Abelard in the FFI organisation, provide additional means of communication with London, contacting Pedlar or Diplomat, Anbe region.

HS 6/493

Cedric Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist FFI, contact Treasurer, Haute-Saône.

HS 6/494

Chloroform Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to re-establish resistance in Drome and Hautes-Alpes region after the recent attack on the Vercors area resistance.

HS 6/495

Chrysler Team (1944)

Purpose: To encourage guerrilla warfare and operations against German lines of communication in Ariège and Aude, disrupt railways in the Boussene/Perpignan and Castelnandry/Narbonne area as well as cable and electricity supplies.

HS 6/496

Cinnamon Team (1944)

Purpose: Stimulate and sustain guerrilla warfare in the Var area with Perpendiculaire circuit.

HS 6/497

Citroen Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to join Quinine team in support of the Arête mission, Avreyon region.

HS 6/498

Collodion Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to join Quinine team in support of the Arête mission, Avreyon region.

HS 6/499

Teams Daniel 1 and 2 (1944)

Purpose: Liaison link to mission Aloes and commander of the department, Côtes-du-Nord.

HS 6/500

Desmond Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist FFI in harassing and destroying enemy troops passing east and west through Dijon, in conjunction with Christopher.

HS 6/501

Dodge Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham team, to harass German communications on the left bank of the Rhone and roads and railway transport, Lyon/Vienne area.

HS 6/502

Douglas I Team (1944)

Purpose: Liaise with mission Aloes and communicate with the department leader, Morbihan.

HS 6/503

Douglas II Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist local FFI, contacting Ligne groups Serpolet and mission Dugeat, Aisnes, Doubes and Jura region.

HS 6/504

Eclaireur Team (1944)

Purpose: Formation of a circuit of 20-40 parachute groups and reception committees; region unclear.

HS 6/505

Ephedrine Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to stimulate and sustain guerrilla action in the Jockey circuit area, Savoie.

HS 6/506

Felix Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in the Côtes-du-Nord, including arrangements for landing stores and contact with SAS units.

HS 6/507

Francis 1 Team (1944)

Purpose: Aid resistance in Finistère region.

HS 6/508

Frank Team - cancelled (1944)

Purpose: Harass enemy troops in the La Rochelle area, contact Shinoile mission; team cancelled. See George mission.

HS 6/509

Frederick Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in the establishment of an SAS base, with authority to withdraw and make use of local resistance forces, Brittany (south-west Guingamp, Côtes-du-Nord).

HS 6/510

Gavin Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance groups with Guy team in Ille-et-Vilaine, north of Rennes.

HS 6/511

George Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist SAS in establishing a base for SAS parties to withdraw to with supplies, using local resistance to locate the base west of Redan, Brittany.

HS 6/512

George II Team (1944)

Purpose: Second mission; possibly Borgeaux region.

REEL 2

HS 6/513

Gerald Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in Morbihan area, Brittany.

HS 6/514

Gilbert Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in Finistère.

HS 6/515

Giles Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in Finistère.

HS 6/516

Godfrey Team (1944)

Purpose: Support the organisation of FFI, recruiting volunteers to take information to the Allied lines, protection of electrical supply centres in Rheims, Lac Noir; protection of other centres, substations transformers and junctions at Ille Napoleon, Haut-Rhin.

HS 6/517

Graham Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to sustain and stimulate guerrilla warfare, Basses-Alpes area

HS 6/518

Gregory Team (1944) (see also HS 6/371 in SOE Series 1, Part 2)

Purpose: Coordinate activity with FFI with action of the 2nd Battalion SAS in Vosges area.

HS 6/519

Guy Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance, Ille-et-Vilaine area, Brittany.

HS 6/520

Hamish Team (1944)

Purpose: Assistance to Hugh team, Châteauroux region.

HS 6/521

Harold Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in the Vendée area, provide a communications link with the SAS and Britain, cut off railway lines, Nantes-Poitiers.

HS 6/522

Harry Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany reconnaissance party of two SAS officers to establish a base to receive SAS troops for raiding activities, Morvan area, north-west of Autun.

HS 6/523

Henry Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact Pascal and organise assistance to the organisation of FFI, report on current state of resistance movement, zone Nord.

HS 6/524

Hilary Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in Finistère.

HS 6/525

Horace Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise resistance in Finistère.

HS 6/526

Hugh Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany an SAS reconnaissance party, to establish a base for raid, Châtelleraut-Châteauroux region. Immediate action against rail communications, Limoges-Châteauroux and Bordeaux-Tours.

HS 6/527

Ian Team (1944-1945)

Purpose: Assist Shipwright circuits, working through the resistance chief in Vienne. Organise attacks against rail lines Bordeaux-Poitiers; Tours-Bordeaux; Niort-Saumur and train resistance groups in Charente.

HS 6/528

Ivor Team (1944)

Purpose: Coordinate with Hamish team, St Amand, Cher.

HS 6/529

Jacob Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist SAS in the organisation, training and arming of Maquis, Vosges.

HS 6/530

James Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact mission Tilleul, assist SAS reconnaissance, Corrèze.

HS 6/531

Jeremy Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, work with Heckler mission in Haute-Loire, assist in the organisation of the FFI, reporting on groups in the Haute-Loire.

HS 6/532

Jim Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist with FFI, especially by provision of communications between field groups and London, contacting Ligne, Zone Nord, Ain, Jura, Doubs.

HS 6/533

Jock Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to assist organisation of the resistance in the Lackey area; mission cancelled.

HS 6/534

John Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, Work with the Pimento circuit in Tarn, Garonne, to assist and report on the FFI group in the same.

HS 6/535

Jude 1 and 2 Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany French paratroopers, provide liaison between SAS, London and resistance forces, harass enemy movements by road and railway in the Lyons/St Etienne/Loire/Rhône area.

HS 6/536

Julian Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist Hugh in the organisation of the Maquis in the Indre-et-Loire.

HS 6/537

Julian 2 Team (1944-1945)

Purpose: Cooperate with Oscar, organising resistance group, military intelligence, transmitting information to Brian team, to facilitate crossing of the frontier by the FFI in Switzerland and the arming of FFI, Haut-Rhin.

HS 6/538

Lee Team (1944)

Purpose: Accompany French paratroopers, under Hamlet/Salesman, to reinforce the Maquis groups, and provide communications with London and Haut-Vienne.

HS 6/539

Mark Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to work with Wheelwright in Tarn-et-Garonne, assisting FFI group and reporting on its potential.

HS 6/540

Martin Team (1944-1945)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to work with Wheelwright in Gers, assist in the organisation of the FFI, and report on potential of the group, Zone ouest.

HS 6/541

Masque Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to assist in Isère.

HS 6/542

Maurice Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist FFI, organisation of stores, and contact Ligne, Jura region.

HS 6/543

Miles Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to work with Wheelwright, assist in the organisation of FFI, and report on groups, Gers region.

HS 6/544

Minaret Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to arrange for the 'surrender and mass seduction' of Armenian troops, Barre des Cervennes, Gard.

HS 6/545

Monocle Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to contact Major Legrande, chief of the FFI, Drome.

HS 6/546

Nicholas Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact with the 1st Regiment France, located at Bussières, arranging liaison, supply of arms etc.

HS 6/547

Norman Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist organisation of FFI, assist the delivery of stores, providing additional links with London, Jura.

HS 6/548

Novocaine Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to stimulate guerrilla activity in the Hautes-Alpes region, contacting Jockey circuits.

HS 6/549

Packard Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission.

HS 6/550

Paul Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist organisation of FFI, contacting Ovale, provision of communication link, Côte d'Or.

HS 6/551

Philip Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist organisation of FFI, report on the state of the resistance, produce plans for re-supply, recruit volunteers to take information to the Allied lines, Meurthe-et-Moselle.

REEL 3

HS 6/552

Quentin Team (1944-1945)

Purpose: Assist in harassing and destroying enemy troops in the La Rochelle area, contacting Tony mission.

HS 6/553

Quinine Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, assisting resistance on lines of communication Montauban/Brive, Cahors area.

HS 6/554

Raymond Team (1944)

Purpose: First mission cancelled; second arranged to assist in the harassing and destroying of enemy troops in the area of La Rochelle.

HS 6/555

Roderick Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise FFI, report on current status, Doubs.

HS 6/556

Ronald Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact mission Aloes and commander of department concerned, Finistère.

HS 6/557

Sceptre Team (1944)

Purpose: Cooperate with the Maquis in the Alpes Maritimes, organising resistance on the French border.

HS 6/558

Scion Team (1944)

Purpose: Contact Commandant Noir in Isère, rally the elements of the Free French in Vercors, and stimulate further resistance in the area.

HS 6/559

Simon Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist in harassing and destroying enemy troops in La Rochelle, contacting Tony mission.

HS 6/560

Stanley Team (1944)

Purpose: Organise the FFI, assess the state of the resistance forces, and arrange for volunteers to take information to the Allied lines.

HS 6/561

Timothy Team (1944)

Purpose: Attached to Sainfoin mission (Orgeat), providing communications and an information service for the advancing 3rd Army, Jura Doubs.

HS 6/562

Tony Team (1944)

Purpose: Assist Dickens team and SAS base, arming of Maquis, report on the organisation, arms strength of resistance in the Vendée area.

HS 6/563

Veganine & Dodge Team (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to harass German communications on the left bank of the Rhone and the railway line Lyon-Marseilles, road and rail links on the line Lyon-Grenoble and Grenoble-Valence, Valence-Viennnes areas. The file for this mission also includes reports on the Vercors resistance.

HS 6/564

Willys Team: (1944)

Purpose: Massingham mission, to follow up Pectoral mission to the Ardèches.

HS 6/565
Addresses of members of Jedburgh teams (undated).

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HS 6/567 Baissac to Burney (1944-1945)
HS 6/568 Cammaerts to Cruzel (1944-1945) including Carte organisation
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REEL 5

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REEL 6

HS 6/583 Wallace to Woerther (1945)
HS 6/584 Zeff (1945)

HS 6/585 Personnel: circuit mission reports and interrogations: circuits A - G (1944)
Acolyte, Actor, Beggar, Broker, Butler, Detective, Digger, Diplomat, Ditcher, Donkeyman, Farmer, Fireman, Footman, Gardener, Gondolier

HS 6/586 Personnel: circuit mission reports and interrogations: circuits H - P (1944)
Headmaster, Helmsman, Hermit, Hillbilly, Historian, Jockey, Marksman, Mason, Minister, Pedagogue, Permit, Pimento

HS 6/587 Personnel: circuit mission reports and interrogations: circuits R - Z (1944)
Racketeer, Rover, Salesman, Scholar, Scientist, Shipwright, Silversmith, Singlet, Spiritualist, Stationer, Stockbroker, Straggler, Tilleul, Tinker, Treasurer, Wheelwright, Woodcutter, Wrestler

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Extracts from Documents - Part 1

HS 6/477

Jedburgh Team Andrew: Report by Major A H S Coombe Tennant

Team Members: Major A H S Coombe Tennant

Lieutenant E D'Oultrement

Sergeant F Harrison

"1. Mission.

Team was briefed by a representative from E.M.F.F.I. in LONDON before leaving. Our instructions were to contact the head of an inter allied mission operating in the French Ardennes, and to give him any assistance he required. The mission controlled some 120 armed men, and had been in operation since April 1944. We were to drop to a reception committee in the area, who would put us in touch with the mission. The head of the mission was a Lieutenant Colonel in the French Army, known by the code name PRISM. No further information was available, and when we asked for an address of a safe house and a password in case of emergency we were told that this would be unnecessary since we were to be met by a reception committee. Two French officers, Captain JEAN and Lieutenant ROBERT, were to accompany us to take over commands under the Colonel. We were strictly forbidden to cross the Belgian frontier or enter into official relations with any Belgian Resistance group.

2. Narrative.

On August 15th team ANDREW, Captain JEAN, Lieutenant ROBERT, and a party of 9 Belgians from S.A.S. left an Oxfordshire aerodrome for France at 2150 hrs. The S.A.S. party were to operate just over the Belgian frontier, but they were to drop to the same reception committee. The plane also carried the luggage of both parties. Our own kit consisted of three rucksacks for ANDREW, the personal kit of JEAN and ROBERT being carried in leg bags, and a wireless set..."

HS 6/478

Report on Jed Team Andy by Major R A Parkinson (Fife)

"MISSION: Our Mission as given at the briefing was:

1) to assist ELLIPSE in the organisation of HAUTE VIENNE.

2) to maintain 'coup de main' parties for the disruption of the four railways converging on LIMOGES. With regard to 1) I was reasonably happy, but would have appreciated more information on the general policy for our area, this, apparently, was not forthcoming at the time of briefing, yet, 48 hours after our arrival in France, we received a 10 point plan of operation for the area, which was excellent, it gave the policy, under 10 headings, to be followed, leaving the details to be done by us, this was straightforward and was wholeheartedly agreed with by ELLIPSE when we eventually met him and talked it over with him.

THE BRIEFING: I consider (and said at the time) that our brief was much too long and bulky. Too much space was taken up with descriptions and locations of possible targets, most of these were known about, by the Maquis, from whom full details could be obtained, if and when necessary.

ACTION AT AIRPORT: Satisfactory, except for carrying of the pack, which I believe has now been discontinued. I now consider it essential for the jumping team and the aircraft crew, together, to be finally briefed for the drop, this will help to ensure:

- 1) correct recognition signal to be given by R.C.
- 2) height of drop.
- 3) order of despatch. Bodies, containers, packets.

DROPPING: Generally bad - after I had agreed with pilot that we should jump first and maintain the lights for the containers, when No.1. went to jump the hole was blocked by container static lines, had he jumped then I am certain he would not have reached the ground alive, I managed to partially block the hole with one leg and the despatcher caught him by the shoulder and so prevented his exit. We made another circuit and were told it was now O.K., on receipt of the despatcher's order Cmdt. VERMEULEN and myself jumped, and we both estimate the time of being parachute-borne at not more than 10 seconds before we hit the ground, VERMEULEN receiving a severely injured foot and myself a double compound fracture of the left leg. Sergeant LOOSEMORE who was to jump No.3., told me afterwards that when he attempted to go, the static lines had become disarranged and he nearly went out head first, he was pulled out by the despatcher, the aircraft made another circuit, and he jumped without mishap.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE: Owing to my injury I was not able to watch or help the R.C., but all stores, less two packages, were collected.

CONTACTS: I contacted the chief of the R.C. at the farm I had been carried to - he knew GEORGES CROC (ELLIPSE'S Adjutant) and arranged for him to see us that morning which he did, expressing surprise to find us in INDRE when we were going to work in HAUTE VIENNE. He sent a message to ELLIPSE who visited us 8 days later.

ACTIVITIES: Once I hit the ground I realised that my leg was broken. I was found by two partisans and carried to a farm house and made comfortable on the kitchen table! I was the first of the team to arrive inside, the farm was crowded with workers plus 4 agents who had arrived half an hour before us..."

HS 6/479

Operational Report of Jedburgh Anthony
Capt. Deprez (F); Lt. Starring (A); Sgt. Bradner (A).

"MISSION: To accompany a half troop of Third French Parachute Bn, to contact French Section organizer Ditcher, and 1) provide liaison S.A.S./Resistance groups; 2) S.A.S./London, and 3) take part in action designed to harass enemy movements on roads and railways, in particular Lyons/Nevers; Lyons/Dijon.

BRIEFING & DROPPING: We were briefed the morning of the fourteenth of August. Left for airport at approximately noon of that day. Met the stick of S.A.S. at airport and then went to Keeville airport from which we left England in a Stirling at ten thirty that evening. We were dropped at one thirty in the correct spot and without any accident... After the drop we were taken to a farm at Ameun at which place we met Tiburce and Jacquot.

FIRST CONTACTS: After having met Tiburce and Jacquot we were told that there would be a meeting of the local chiefs the following night. We went to this meeting and met Captain Laurent, commander of the Regiment of Cluny, and his officers. We found that they were quite well armed but needed specialized equipment. It was only at the very end that we received any of this equipment. There were about two thousand men in the area, all with officers and N.C.O.s. They had already cut the railways to be cut in our Zone and were in a position to attack the main road almost every day. That part of our mission seemed to be well taken care of. Two days later it was decided that Captain Deprez was to go to command a battalion at Charolle, that the radio of team Alan was to provide the needs of the S.A.S. along with another radio of theirs all under the orders of Cmdt. Corman (S.A.S.). Our radio was to provide for the needs of the Cluny area and for Tiburce, and Lieutenant Starring was told to assist Tiburce..."

HS 6/486

From pages 3-5 of the Report of Teams Benjamin and Bernard, sent to contact the F.F.I in the MEUSE Dept., and help in training and organising maquis groups for action against the enemy.

On August 23 Colonel Ambusson and Agnelet arrived and discussions took on how best to organise operations. Existing Maquis comprised 900 F.F.I. troops, about 4,000 Sédentaires, 330 F.T.P. troops, as well as an assortment of some 3,000 Russian miners and scattered Poles and Yugoslavs. Six priority parachute drops were planned.

"On the following day, however, most of these plans were completely upset by a sudden and quite unexpected raid by the Gestapo and Milice on the nearby town of LES ISLETTES. Posing as F.F.I. maquis who wished to be put in contact with the local resistance chiefs they succeeded in bringing off a 'coup de file', as a result of which SAULNIER, the operations chief of the MEUSE, his younger brother HENRI, who was one of our couriers, AGNELET, and his assistant, JEANNIN, were all arrested, together with several maquis and sédentaires officers who were on the point of joining the maquis. Vague news of enemy movements had reached our ears earlier in the day, and we led a patrol in the morning to evacuate as many arms as possible from the dump in case the enemy should find and attack it. A skeleton guard was left with instructions that should the enemy arrive in the area in force they were to retire to the neighbouring woods and observe the enemy's movements without giving away the site of the dump by showing themselves. The dump was sufficiently well camouflaged to pass unnoticed even at a very short distance.

Unfortunately the enemy arrived in the afternoon in force (about 150 lorryborne men led by an SS Captain), straight onto the site of the dump, whose location must have been revealed by one of their captives. The guard in these circumstances opened fire and managed to extricate themselves without loss after having killed the German captain.

By an unfortunate coincidence an FTP patrol from SOUILLY which had arrived on the scene with a few sedentaires in order to be issued with arms in conformity with our previous instructions blundered into the arms of the Germans; in the running fight which ensued they managed to kill 7 Germans for the loss of ten of their own men...

On the 29th, contact was made with an SAS recce party led by Major ROONEY (JoJo 30)... At this stage we heard that American troops were nearing our sector. We received a message from UK instructing us to send a party of guides through the lines to meet them, which we did. They took with them such information on the enemy as we possessed, for which the forward American troops, were, so we learnt later, apparently very grateful.

On the 30th we led three offensive patrols along the STE. MENCHOULD - LES ISLETTES - CLERMONT road with the object of engaging the enemy as he pulled out, and preventing the destruction of the railway tunnel and bridges at STE. MENCHOULD.

The STE. MENCHOULD patrol led by Capt. MARCHAND and Cmdt. DULAC entered the town, killing an SS despatch rider and 3 others, and established contact with the local F.F.I. force, numbering about 80 men led by M. CANONE. Together they had hoped to seize the town, or negotiate its surrender before the entry of the Americans but the local forces were cut off from our patrol as they were trying to join it with the result that our men, who had only numbered 8, were forced to retire under artillery and mortar gun fire from tanks hastily brought up by the German command.

The 2nd patrol meanwhile reached the tunnel about 2 miles away only to find that the German guard had left a few hours previously. An inspection of the tunnel did not reveal any charges or ignition systems except for a very worn length of Bickford safety fuse which had already been cut..."

HS 6/489

Co-operation of Team Bruce with forces of American 4th Armoured Division

"On about the 22nd of August American armoured units were reported at COURTENAY so a decision was made to contact them and find out what the local commander wished the F.F.I. of the area to do. We contacted G.2 and G.3 of the 4th Armoured Division. We turned over to them an American P.38 pilot, Captain John Courtney, who had been shot down and was being repatriated by Roger. He had by this time been provided with civilian clothes and false papers. He was given to the American unit for transport back to his organisation. Conversation with the G.2 and G.3 resulted in their requesting the local F.F.I. to give information and act as local security around their out-post positions. Beyond this they had no idea of their role.

In conformance with the request for information we dispatched numerous liaisons to various towns looking for German concentrations. Ensign Peggy Knight, F.A.N.Y. (Nichole) and Madame Raymond (see Appendix) did some very fine and very hazardous work in connection with this, pushing alone into heavily occupied towns such as MONTARGIS. Large amounts of information were given to the American forces by the F.F.I. of the area..."

HS 6/494

Some final points at the end of the Report of the Chloroform Team

"1. The railway line GRENOBLE - ASPRES - SISTERON was reported cut on 20th June and remained cut, yet on 19th August it was bombed by Allied Air Forces causing casualties to civilians and property, particularly in LUCETTE.

2. After the attack on St. Donat, where Mongolian and Russian troops carried out atrocities, the Germans dropped leaflets to the Maquis telling the French to beware of friendship with Russia, because of the savagery of the Russians, referring the French to their conduct at St. Donat. The debriefing officer, who was near St. Donat at the time of the aforesaid attack, can vouch for these atrocities, and would add that the German officers of those Russian troops took no steps to stop the atrocities.

3. There was no organised liaison between other missions and other Jeds in the field, with consequent duplication of effort.

4. Only 10% of the maquis in Hautes-Alpes were trained by the middle of July.

5. The team felt the lack of a single directing power at Algiers and they felt discontented on this account."

HS 6/552

Report of Jedburgh Team Quentin

Team Members: Capt. R S Fenton (Br); Capt. J Lassere (Fr); Sgt. D G Rawson (Br).

"MISSION. To be despatched to the areas of enemy resistance in LA ROCHELLE and ST NAZAIRE and to assist the Jed Teams TONY and GEORGE and Mission SHINOILE in their work of organising the harassing and destruction of the enemy forces in these areas.

DESPATCH. As a load of arms and equipment for the French forces engaged in this area was being sent by sea to LES SABLES D'OLONNE, it was decided to include the four Jed Teams SIMON, QUENTIN, RAYMOND and FRANK on the two destroyers detailed for the task...

On Wednesday October 4th, we met Colonel FELIX, who told us that he would like us to take over the newly formed 6th Battalion, with Captain LASSERE as Battalion Commander and I as his assistant and liaison officer with 376th US Regiment, situated on the French right flank. Sergeant Rawson was to be in charge of W/T training - and assist in liaison duties...

In the early hours of Wednesday 11th October the Germans launched a fairly strong attack against our positions with the object of testing the defences and unsettling the men... As one of the company commanders reported that the Germans were nearly into his positions, a French officer and I took down two lorry loads of the reserve company, about 40 in all, together with the Battalion reserve ammunition. At this time ammunition was not plentiful and, in fact, by the time we arrived some of the MG positions had less than 100 rounds left...

Early next morning, Sunday, October 15th, Sergeant Rawson and I with a patrol of eight men went out to blow up the track. Owing to the steepness of the railway embankment, we were unable to reach the track at the spot we had chosen on our reconnaissance of the area. The bank was covered with loose stones which would have made a great deal of noise. Leaving the patrol to give us covering fire, Sergeant Rawson moved towards the German positions to find a spot where we could descend the embankment. We finally chose a spot from where we would certain to hear the Germans if they tried to mend the track again.

Working in pouring rain, we placed the charges in position and when everything was ready, Sergeant Rawson withdrew to take the patrol out of the danger area of flying fragments of rail.

I allowed him five minutes start, and then ignited the fuses. Although we had double means of initiation, all the fuse igniters refused to work, owing to the rain, and I was placed in the embarrassing position of having to strike matches. To further complicate matters the Germans, either having seen the lights or heard the patrol moving back, opened fire with an MG, fortunately very inaccurately. After I had struck about half a dozen matches the fuse finally got going, and I withdrew to cover. Thirty seconds later the charges went off. A reconnaissance next morning showed that all four rails had been cut by the charges..."

HS 6/567

Interrogation of Madame M K de Baissac (Claudine/Jeweller), 30 January 1945

"Informant's mission was to work as courier to her husband, DAVID (Claude de Baissac), who was organiser of the Scientist Circuit, BORDEAUX. Her husband had gone to France on 30.7.42, and Informant left England in September 1942 for Gibraltar, arriving in France on 31.10.42. ...

Informant's cover story was not tested until much later, when she was interrogated by the Gestapo. Her papers were quite often examined and passed the test every time...

The circuit to which Informant belonged was betrayed to the Germans by a man called GRANDCLEMENT, who worked with DAVID. The casualties were not as numerous as might have been expected, for most of the members of the circuit were able to get away in time.

At the beginning of August 1943, DAVID decided that his second W/T operator DEDE (real name: DEFENCE) should go to PARIS as the circuit had spread and they were in contact with the chef of the O.C.M. of the PARIS region, MARC O'NEILL who required a W/T. Informant went back to BORDEAUX, having arranged that if there were any messages, ALBERT who was O'NEILL's Lieutenant should take them to BORDEAUX.

DAVID was due to return to England for a report to the Section, and left for PARIS a few days later. At that time, GRANDCLEMENT's wife had been arrested and DAVID tried in vain to persuade him to come to ENGLAND with him. DAVID left for PARIS, telling Informant to contact him, if there was anything important he should know before returning to England. A message arrived from London, which it was decided DAVID ought to see, and Informant went back to PARIS, to find that DAVID had already left.

On her return to BORDEAUX, CHARLOT/YVES (real name: V C HAYES) told her that trouble was brewing over the GRANDCLEMENT case, and that she had better go to the country for a while, as there was nothing for her to do in BORDEAUX.

GRANDCLEMENT'S office had been visited by the GESTAPO, and they had found in his safe a list of people working in the circuit. Informant therefore went back to the country, near POITIERS, and came back to BORDEAUX occasionally to see how things were getting on. While she was there in October, she received the visit of CHARLES (real name: CORBIN) who told her that YVES had been arrested by the Gestapo.

YVES was engaged to DUBOUE's daughter (DUBOUE being a member of the Scientist Circuit) and visited her regularly every week. One day, as he and DUBOUE were arriving at the house, they were surrounded by Germans and shots were fired. YVES was wounded in the leg, and DUBOUE may also have been wounded. They arrested the DUBOUE girl and Madame DUBOUE, who had been wounded in the back and was taken to hospital.

BERTRAND, who kept the café where the circuit used to meet frequently, was arrested on the following morning. Informant returned to the country, and did not come back to BORDEAUX, until the beginning of

December when she was to have her baby..."

(Madame de Baissac was arrested in Poitiers on 18 February 1944, but released from prison just before Easter. She found that her baby had been taken to the Hotel Dieu where she had been very well looked after).

HS 6/567

From report dated 24 October 1944, by FI/Lt Brown-Bartrolli, Nom de Guerre: TIBURCE, Circuit: DITCHER

"I came to France in October 1943 with mission to supervise and train the maquis in the Saône et Loire region, to attack from D-day German railway and road traffic from Chalon, Macon, Paray le Monial and also Amberien in the Ain region..."

In November the Germans came to occupy every little town, and the danger to our maquis and our mainly unsuccessful parachutage operation was increased: we had a few fights. Jean Louis DELVIME was severely wounded but in spite of them we carried on, derailed two trains and blew up a few electric pylons as practice. Most important work at that time was done by people in towns and villages who fed and clothed the maquis, received and hoarded arms and explosives, or did any of the numerous jobs to be done..."

In February the Germans started big raids in Saône et Loire and in Cluny alone arrested 110 men and women. Fortunately we had been warned beforehand and only George MALERE was there to be arrested, but the wives of Jean RENARD, André ARGNET and several others were taken in their place... D-day arrived with messages for attack on communications and guerrilla warfare. In Saône et Loire we were able to arm about 200 men. From the very first day these men divided in small groups started the attack. The position at the time was that the Germans were at Macon, Chalon, Paray le Monial, Montceau, Le Creusot, but had no garrisons inside the triangle formed by those towns. However, the first month they sent strong columns to keep open their communications..."

From the very first days the lines Lezanno - Parcy, Macon - Cluny, Cluny - Chalon and Cluny - Paray were cut and were never used again... We then attacked bridges of which several dozens were destroyed, but most paying of all were stone bridges. Nine of them were destroyed between Villefranche and Tournus, but large quantities of explosives were needed for each bridge (about 1,300 kilos of plastic) and it took us a long time to assemble such great quantities..."

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Publisher's Note - Part 2

In contrast to the archival material on the Jedburgh Teams and Operation Overlord offered in Part 1 of this project, Part 2 concentrates on documents relating to the Political and Planning Files, Circuits and Missions, in one of the largest operational areas for SOE – occupied France. Covering the years 1940-1947, scholars can study topics that still remain controversial (such as the fate of the PROSPER network [HS 6/393 and HS 6/426]) and consider the post-war ramifications of policies and operations. The documents provide a fascinating insight into the relationships between General de Gaulle, the French Governing bodies, Resistance groups, SOE and the allied governments.

With Charles de Gaulle exiled in London from 1940 onwards, this section also provides a wealth of attitudes on the General's role and status during the War. Although the majority saw him as the 'leader' of the Resistance and Free (Fighting) French, several papers report of problems caused as a consequence of his infamous difficult manner and unpredictable temperament. Particularly relevant to this series is file HS 6/318 which documents the General's nervousness of ties with the intelligence services best illustrated by the policy drawn up by Her Majesty's Government in May 1941 "not to use Frenchmen in operations without the expressed permission of de Gaulle." Document HS 6/309 reflects the significance of this for SOE; it proved to be a security and political nightmare - if all Frenchmen sent into France leaned politically towards de Gaulle, what sort of effect would this have on SOE's relations with the Vichy Government?

Further documents on this subject can be found in HS 6/308 and HS 6/312. Both record the in-depth relations of SOE with the Gaullist Movement; the latter reporting the alleged lack of direct co-operation between the General and the Executive. It also questions the subsequent knock-on effect of their relations with the Free French:

"As far as SOE is concerned, all attempts to build any form of para-military organisation with Fighting French help and through Fighting French personnel have met with failure. General de Gaulle is not in a position, in SOE's opinion, to put into action even 50 armed men to attack a given target." Again using HS 6/308, academics will be able to study the inter-relationship between de Gaulle and his leaders. As well as looking at the policy towards the French Secret Services, it also includes evidence that French officials saw de Gaulle as important for the War, but did not think "his position would be maintained for very long after the War."

Scholars can also research de Gaulle's attempts to concentrate on relations with leaders of French political groups, possibly in the hope of winning over the French masses and securing his status as leader in a post-war French Government. De Gaulle's relations with the Syndicalism movement, socialist party, Trade Unions, and political representatives of the right-wing parties are also documented, as is his supposed 'quid pro quo' relationship with the Communists.

"Thus it appears that the General is chiefly engaged at the present time in a big political effort to demonstrate that he has been accepted as the leader of all Frenchmen in France of whatsoever political leanings." (HS 6/312, folio 227)

The files also show that the long history of conflict between France and Great Britain had left traces still reflected in the attitudes and sentiments of certain groups. While France seemed unconvinced that Great Britain would support her security after the war, HS 6/311 and HS 6/316 look at the war-time general political situation, especially the suspicion by US and UK officials as to the policy of de Gaulle's French Committee of National Liberation (FCNL), formed by de Gaulle when he moved his Headquarters to North Africa in August 1943.

The archives reveal how the US was generally held in high esteem by the French people, although "*Pétain had never understood the maintenance of the US embassy in Vichy,*" and rumours abound of America's role in helping to maintain capitalist and conservative programs and groups in power in France "as a means of facilitating American business interests." (HS 6/308) Marshal Pétain's surrender of the Vichy Government to the Germans in November 1942, and the ensuing total occupation of France, also brought about criticism at the lack of "*American observers of the revolutionary changes in sentiment and opinion which have occurred.*" (HS 6/308)

Part 2 also looks at the re-birth of the French Army, the part played by Jean François Darlan (Ex-head of Vichy Armed Forces) in his new role as high commissioner of French North Africa, and the eventual military leadership of General Henri Giraud after Darlan's assassination in December 1942. With de Gaulle and Giraud acting as Co-Chairmen of the FCNL, the papers also look at relations within the FCNL itself, the leaders of the Resistance movement, as well as with Giraud and his (predominantly) right-wing followers.

Until Pétain's surrender in 1942, the files confirm that French opinion of the war was very confused. However, by 1943 the number of Frenchmen involved in resistance groups was estimated to be slightly less than one million, with over two million sympathisers. Their role in the liberation of France is recorded in depth in the archives, with awards and commendations included in many papers. Material dated 13 June 1944 in file HS 6/330 includes an appreciation of the potential for French resistance in Eastern, Central and Southern France. Issues such as communist influences, political in-fighting, areas under patriotic control, and warnings that SOE's "failure to support resistance in the manner outlined (an Allied bomb effort) may have far-reaching political repercussions" are also reported.

The mission and circuit reports show that the differing political tendencies and subsequent policies, proved to be a complicated obstacle to overcome for SOE agents in the field. JOSEPHINE B, ARMADA and HOUSEKEEPER are just three of the sabotage operations included for study. Containing detailed reports on landing grounds, locations and SOE's activities in liberated areas, scholars can research the success/failure of missions, relations between the organisations involved and effects of action behind enemy lines. Files HS 6/356-375 cover political and military liaisons with the French Forces, Resistance and Maquis.

The CIVETTE mission, mounted by the London Gaullist organisation Bureau Central de Renseignements et Action et Londres (BCRAL), can be looked at in detail in HS 6/368. Documents BERGAMOTTE, VERVEINE and TILLEUL concentrate on important allied missions to Maquis groups, while files such as HS 6/395 (ROSE) and HS 6/404 (CHALDEEN) offer an insight into the setting up, and destruction, of telecommunications. Several missions also concentrated on intelligence gathering; HS 6/408 looks at the FAUCHEUSE mission to collect information on secret arms and HS 6/401, operation BEDLOW, follows on from the COAL/TURTLE missions to obtain details on German aircraft for Air Ministry Intelligence.

File HS 6/416 is an ideal case study in itself. Covering operation OVERCLOUD in January 1942, it details how pistols took precedence over field bandages, the use of limpets and RAF flares in sabotage, the role of invisible ink in the field and the request for more coffee, tea and chocolate to be included in food drops.

The organisational preparation for D-Day and the reluctance of the Allied Forces to allow de Gaulle to take part, can be found in HS 6/336 and 337. Further files contain information that can be used to research the networks of organisations behind the Allied landings. HS 6/319 complements this by looking at the use of political groups for SOE activities between 1941 and 1944, including papers which question whether some French communist groups "*may have independent aims for D-Day*".

HS 6/327, 381, 382, 422 and 423 study the breakdown of the CARTE organisation. Originally started as a group of specialists in military, economic and industrial organisations, it operated over almost the whole of France. By 1942 it had attained the semi-official position of technical council, advising and trying to co-ordinate the work of various resistance groups in the Free and Occupied Zones. Due to this, SOE was in collaboration with CARTE from 1941 onwards. The pseudonym 'CARTE', was used to cover both the leader of the organisation in the field and the organisation which he founded. During his time in London in 1943, evidence mounted about in-fighting and treachery within the CARTE organisation. He, and his organisation, was now seen as a big security threat and, as the files reveal, became increasingly difficult for SOE to control. Precipitated by the arrest of his wife in France, Carte's desperation to return led him to double-cross SOE and the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) by collaborating with the Americans, who sent him to North Africa to help with propaganda missions. The papers are an interesting insight into the political and military consequences of relations with such an 'allied' organisation.

Other documents include:

- The Political Warfare Executive on the Allied entry into Rome (HS 6/379)
- The BISHOP transmitter enquiry (HS 6/322 323 and 423) and the penetration of codes by the Germans
- Missions to set up liaisons with Prisoner's of War (HS 6/399)
- Missing personnel and concentration camp lists (HS 6/437 and 438)
- Local awards and payments (HS 6/445-450)
- Details of clandestine French Newspapers 'Combat', 'Liberation Française' and 'Franc-Tireur' (HS 6/308)

Due to the sensitive nature of the material, a few files are still retained by the Department under Section 3(4). However, most of the documents covering France have now been released. The material in Part 2 allows academics to study SOE at the height of its powers and assess the consequences of their operations in Occupied France. Did De Gaulle's lack of co-operation weaken the position of his own staff? Did he put the Allied Forces into a Catch 22 situation by disrupting Allied intelligence relations with Free French, Vichy and Resistance movements? Was the FCNL on equal footing with Allied Governments or were they at their

beck-and-call? Did Washington see De Gaulle as an obstacle to US relations with the Vichy Government? Why were some missions more successful than others and to what extent did the Germans penetrate the Allied operations and circuits?

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HS 6/352 1940-1941

SAVANNA B; particulars of personnel

HS 6/353 1943

DRESSMAKER; sabotage of tanneries

HS 6/354 1942

HANGMAN; sabotage of pylons

Allied Missions still in France, 1944-1945 - (HS 6/355)

HS 6/355 1944-1945

Mission to France to contact British members of allied missions still in France, settle financial matters and collect wireless equipment

Political and military liaison - (HS 6/356-375)

HS 6/356 1944-1945

ECHALOTTE mission; wireless bases in Moselle and Vosges areas

HS 6/357 1943-1944

SLING: attack on Paris electricity supply

HS 6/358 1944-1948

CITRONELLE mission: liaison with French resistance and Maquis in Ardennes

HS 6/359 1943-1945

UNION mission: liaison and organisation of Maquis

HS 6/360 1944

Missions PAVOT, ORGEAT, SAINFOIN

HS 6/361 1944-1945

EUCALYPTUS mission to Vercors resistance: communications with London on conditions and supply needs; disruption of road and rail communications; court of enquiry findings

REEL 16

HS 6/362 1944

Cantinier alias APOTHEME: liaison with resistance, Maquis in Haute Savoie, Ain and Jura; Free French forces: doubts over security arrangements; D-Day 1944

HS 6/363 1944

ALOES mission: internal communications to Jedburgh teams in Côtes du Nord, Finistère, Morbihan and Loire Inférieure; to pass intelligence from behind enemy lines to 3rd American Army; control of action of resistance in Brittany

HS 6/364 1944

CLE (SOCRATES) mission

HS 6/365 1943-1945

BERGAMOTTE: Allied mission to Maquis in Creuse

HS 6/366 1944

VERVEINE/ISAAC mission to Maquis in Mont de Morvan area

HS 6/367 1944

TILLEUL Allied mission to Maquis

REEL 17

HS 6/368 1944-1967

CIVETTE mission: mounted by London Gaullist organisation Bureau Central de Renseignements et Action, Londres (BCRAL)

HS 6/369 1944

CAMPHRE mission

HS 6/370 1944

SHINOILE mission

HS 6/371 undated

ETOILE mission: intended for Loyton but transferred to Marksman area (see also HS 6/518 in SOE Part 1)

HS 6/372 1945

OUTHALL mission: Wing Commander Yeo-Thomas's enquiry and reports on Buchenwald, Fresnes and other concentration camps; wanted German camp personnel; finance and payments to helpers

HS 6/373 1944

Organisation and activities of Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur (FFI) of Savoie (Folder 1)

HS 6/374 1944

Organisation and activities of Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur (FFI) of Savoie (Folder 2)

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Military role of French resistance; plan of organisation of secret army; Comité de la Liberation Nationale

Circuits and Missions in France - (HS 6/376 - 470)

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Resistance and secret army (Folder 1)

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Resistance and secret army (Folder 2)

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D-Day plans and all PWE material (Folder 1)

REEL 18

HS 6/379 1944

D-Day plans and all PWE material (Folder 2)

HS 6/380 1943-1945

SOPHIE mission: Claude Serreulles sent to field as assistance REX/MAX to De Gaulle's commissaire for all France

HS 6/381 1942-1943

ARTE mission: André Girard; unofficial group formed in 1940, working for interim military dictatorship to replace Vichy government

HS 6/382 1942-1945
CARTE mission: André Girard

HS 6/383 1944
BENJOIN mission: armament of Maquis in départements of Cantal and Correze

HS 6/384 1941
Clandestine lines: MAINMAST; line from unoccupied France through Spain and Portugal to Lisbon

HS 6/385 1941-1943
MAINMAST B mission

HS 6/386 1944
PLEXUS mission: psychological warfare party; to distribute propaganda to German Army in France

HS 6/387 1944
ACOLYTE B mission

HS 6/388 1942
AUTOGIRO mission: general sabotage

HS 6/389 1943-1944
MAURICE mission (Independent French); Maquis activities, particularly Ain and Savoie

HS 6/390 1943-1944
Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/391 1944
STOCKBROKER mission: industrial sabotage in Montbeliard, Belfort, Hericourt area

HS 6/392 1943-1944
DIPLOMAT mission

HS 6/393 1943-1949
Marcel Hatet's organisation of resistance in Nantes area; PROSPER circuit

HS 6/394 1944
SALESMAN mission: report on Groupes Francs

HS 6/395 1944 ROSE mission: Robert Rodrigues dropped to field to organise sabotage of telecommunications

HS 6/396 1944
VANILLE: blackmail mission to attack industrial targets

HS 6/397 1943
CASANOVA mission: to organise pick-up and reception of agents

HS 6/398 1944
BIRCH mission; Captain Menzies' imprisonment at Fresnes

HS 6/399 1943-1944
VARLIN/ALGEBRE: Tartuffe's mission to set up liaison with POWs and foreign workers deported to Germany

HS 6/400 1943-1944
MARQUIS: organisation of dropping and landing grounds in southern zone: enquiry after BLUDGEON operation in February 1944

HS 6/401 1943
BLEDLOW: to obtain German aircraft for Air Ministry Intelligence; follow-on of COAL/TURTLE operation

HS 6/402 1944
ARCHIDUC mission

HS 6/403 1942-1944
DORY/BRULO: sabotage in north of France; Michel Pierre Gries

HS 6/404 1944
CHALDEEN mission: wireless communications

HS 6/405 1944

DISTANCE mission: sabotage of industrial targets

HS 6/406 1942-1944

ROACH mission: liaison with Resistance in occupied and unoccupied France; wireless communications

HS 6/407 1944

EXCELLENCE mission: air operations in Paris area; Pierre André Jolinon

HS 6/408 1944

FAUCHEUSE mission: agent to collect information on secret arms; sabotage high tension cables; Jean Etienne Sribier; Guy Walter alias CHARRUE

HS 6/409 1943

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/410 1943-1944

SAPEUR/LEMNISCATE mission André Louis Rondenay

HS 6/411 1943-1945

MARECHAL mission: A J M Desgranges

HS 6/412 1945

GALILEE mission: organisation of region M; J F H Clouet des Perruches sent in succession to CRAB MAJOR

HS 6/413 1945

GAUSS mission: organisation in northern France; M A Pichard

HS 6/414 1945

LATEUR/PHILINTE mission: railway information and sabotage planning; Ceux de Libération - Bureau Operations Ariennes (BOA); Henri Pergaud and René Vivier

HS 6/415 1945

CRAB MAJOR mission: reception committee organisation; dropping grounds in Zone Sud; Bureau d'Operations Aeriennes (BOA) Organisation in Paris: Paul Schmidt and G E Brault

REEL 19

HS 6/416 1941-1942

OVERCLOUD mission

HS 6/417 1942-1944

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/418 1941

BARTER mission: organisation of groups in Bordeaux area; sabotage

HS 6/419 1945-1968

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/420 1945

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/421 1943-1944

Arrests of French resistance leaders; arrest of Moulin 1943; REX

HS 6/422 1942-1943

Security files: the BISHOP transmitter enquiry; arrest of members of Carte organisation (Folder 1)

HS 6/423 1943-1945

Security files: the BISHOP transmitter enquiry; arrest of members of Carte organisation (Folder 2)

HS 6/424 1944-1945

Security file: EUCALYPTUS military mission to Vercors; liaison

HS 6/425 1944

Security file: EUCALYPTUS mission to Vercors; court of enquiry

HS 6/426 1943-1984

Security files: PROSPER - to re-create active circuit around Paris; press cuttings; PROSPER arrests; with 21 French newspaper cuttings (folded), French Telecom publication May 1966 and Paul Guillaume's book on L'Abbé Emile Pasty

REEL 20

HS 6/427 1944

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/428 1941-1942

Security file: De Gaulle and Basque delegation; political intrigue and Basque movement; Basque plan for Western Europe Confederation or greater French Confederation based on Paris

HS 6/429 1944

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HS 6/430 1943

Security files: COCKLE MAJOR/MINOR; storage depots for arms in western France; finding beaches for escape and landing operations

HS 6/431 1942-1943

Security files: SEA URCHIN/DAB; organisation of resistance in Corsica; wireless suspected to be under German control

HS 6/432 1943-1945

Retained by department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/433 1943-1945

Security files: general policy; security queries; wireless traffic

HS 6/434 1944-1947

Security files: TUNMER/CHRISTOPHE case; Gilbert Charles Georges Turck; arrests in Marseille area

HS 6/435 1944

Security files: Woodchuck circuit escape routes

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Security files: ACTOR/WEAVER enquiries

HS 6/437 1945

Security files: repatriated prisoners of war; interrogations; war crimes; missing personnel; concentration camp lists (Folder 1)

HS 6/438 1945

Security files: repatriated prisoners of war; interrogations; war crimes; missing personnel; concentration camp lists (Folder 2)

HS 6/439 1944-1945

Security files: SPU 24 (Paris) vetting; interrogations of returned agents; with 1 French newspaper cutting (folded) (Folder 1)

HS 6/440 1945

Security files: SPU 24 (Paris) vetting; interrogations of returned agents (Folder 2)

REEL 21

HS 6/441 1945

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/442 1944

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/443 1943-1945

Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/444 1942

Air operation SHALE to Melun

HS 6/445 1942-1950

Local awards and payments A-C

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Local awards and payments D-H

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Local awards and payments I-L

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Local awards and payments M-O

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Local awards and payments P-S

HS 6/450 1945-1948
Local awards and payments T-Z

HS 6/451 1944-1946
Finance: claims

HS 6/452 1944-1946
Finance: local franc advances; settlement of claims; lists of persons to whom payments have been made

HS 6/453 1945
Finance: general reports, liquidation progress; liquidation tour: Major Butler and Lieutenant Colonel Bourne-Paterson

HS 6/454 1945-1946
Finance: liquidation; correspondence with Barclays, Lloyds, National Provincial and Westminster banks

REEL 23

HS 6/455 1942-1946
Finance: liquidation

HS 6/456 1942-1946
Finance: letters advising credits

HS 6/457 1968-1969
Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

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Reseau "Alliance" (KUL); non-free French; list of names and addresses

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SIS renseignements reseau "Alibi" non-free French; card index

HS 6/460 undated
Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/461 1943-1944
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HS 6/462 undated
HAEF certificates issued to French personnel

HS 6/463 1945
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HS 6/464 1947-1949
Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/465 undated
Retained by Department under Section 3 (4)

HS 6/466 1946
Recommendations for awards to Z group agents (run by Z1 from Switzerland)

HS 6/467 1945
List of circuits showing personnel with their last known addresses

HS 6/468 undated
Cross-reference list of British and French agents, personnel and people: A-Z

HS 6/469 1946-1947
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HS 6/470 1944-1946
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SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE, 1940-1946 Series 1, Special Operations in Western Europe

Part 1: France: The Jedburgh Teams and Operation Overlord, 1944-1945,

Part 2: France: Political and Planning Files, Circuits and Missions, 1940-1947

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Extracts from Documents - Part 2

HS 6/308

Record of Conversation of Général de Lattre de Tassigny with Ambassador Winant, 10 November 1943

"In the course of the conversation General de Lattre repeated certain of the remarks that he had made to Admiral Stark on November 9, which are summarised in the record of that conversation. He provided additional information on a number of points, notably:

- A. The organisation, strength and program of the French resistance groups.*
- B. The attitudes and sentiments in France towards Great Britain and the United States.*
- C. The problem of the role and activity of the French Army in the liberation of France.*
- D. The relation between the United States Government and the F.C.N.L."*

Page 4 of this document, compiled by Commander T S Kittredge, U.S.N.R., starts with some comments on the Attitude toward Britain:

"12. A number of special groups such as the officers of the French navy, the Vichy officials, the conservative monied class, that had business contacts with Germany, were all inclined to adopt a critical attitude toward England. The long history of conflict between France and England had left traces still reflected in the attitudes of certain groups.

13. The General was convinced however that the great majority of the French population have the greatest admiration for the British resistance, almost single-handed, to German attack in 1940-41. They have the greatest veneration and admiration for British leaders such as Winston Churchill. They have toward him much the same attitude they took toward Clemenceau in 1918. They recognise that the action of Britain in 1940/41 alone made possible the ultimate victory of the Allies...

14. There may be some doubts and hesitation in certain French circles as to the future British policy toward the Continent. The events of 1919/39 are still fresh in French minds. They are therefore not convinced that after victory France can be assured of prompt and effective support from either Britain or the U.S. in maintaining a security system on the Continent. This explains certain tendencies in France to look to Russia for military support against a German effort through a new war to obtain military domination of the Continent."

Toward the end of this document discussions covered:

D. The relation between the United States Government and the French Committee of National Liberation.

"General de Lattre expressed great surprise and concern at the conflicts that had arisen between General de Gaulle and a number of the more important Gaullist leaders on the one hand, and high officials of the United States Government on the other hand. He believed that this was largely due to reciprocal misunderstandings. He also felt that the various incidents which had arisen had been magnified because of lack of information about France and understandings of the real situation in France on the part of the Americans.

General de Lattre emphatically insisted that the great majority of French people are completely pro-American and have an almost childish faith in the power, wisdom and friendly intentions of President Roosevelt. He was therefore convinced that if the American authorities would now seek a new basis of understanding with the reconstituted committee in Algiers, a complete and friendly co-operation could

easily be achieved.

It was clear to the General that the revival now proceeding in France and the restoration of a strong and democratic France would be much hampered if it did not get full understanding and support from the United States. While the French wish to play a maximum part in the liberation and reconstruction of their own country, this would hardly be possible without American support and assistance. He was sure that it was the intention of the President and of the high American military and political leaders to do everything possible to restore France to an important place in the future structure of Europe..."

HS 6/308

Harold Macmillan to Anthony Eden, 28 December 1943

"In the course of the conversation which, as reported in my despatch No. 170 of today, I had with M. Massigli on the 18th December, he told me that at the meeting of the Committee that morning he had developed a 'tour d'horizon' on the general political situation. He had explained his anxiety as to the apparent suspicion in high quarters in Great Britain and the United States of the policy of the Committee. He thought that every effort should be made to dissipate this misunderstanding, and said that he would do his best, but that he must have the support of his colleagues. He felt that there was an unnecessary amount of minor troubles between France and her Allies, which were often allowed to become major items of dispute. This made it more difficult to get settlement of the really important issues. General de Gaulle took all this very badly and considered it a personal attack upon him. The Committee seemed responsive. M. Massigli had the impression that General de Gaulle is getting more and more baffled, and is sometimes very moody and difficult. M. Massigli thinks that this is due to the success with which we have imprisoned him in the chains of constution and collective responsibility, and begged me to let this aspect of affairs be known in London..."

HS 6/309

From an Aide Memoire, dated 28 January 1941, with details on the Savanna Project

"This consists of dropping by parachute two officers and six men for the purpose of ambushing certain pilots and N.C.O.s of the G.A.F. K.G.100 Squadron. The pilots in question are the picked pilots of the G.A.F. who operate on the 'beam' and, in fact, are the fire-raisers who precede the night bombing operations. According to information received from the Air Ministry and supported, we understand by the C.A.S., night bombing operations by the G.A.F. are only successful when K.G.100 operate. The pilots in question were old Deutsche Lufthansa personnel; have great knowledge of this country; and the wireless operators who go with them have to undergo very severe and lengthy training in the 'beam' technique.

Following on a conversation with Major Morton, de Passy of the de Gaulle Organisation was asked by Mr Cadett whether S.O.2 could obtain the services of two officers and six men out of the de Gaulle personnel."

De Passy said that final approval for the operation needed to be cleared with General de Gaulle. General Spears asked General de Gaulle who apparently flatly refused to accede to the wishes of S.O.2. The matter was put in the hands of the Prime Minister:

"We would therefore be grateful if at the interview, which we trust the Prime Minister will have with General de Gaulle, he can persuade the General to co-operate by placing his subversive organisation under the direction of S.O.E., on a basis which will, at the same time, preserve its identity, but also lend itself to full co-operation with H.M.G. in respect of the wider strategical and tactical issues of the war."

HS 6/312

From a memorandum on "The Position of General de Gaulle and 'Fighting France' vis-à-vis Resistance in France today", dated 31 July 1942

"There is little doubt that the political activity that General de Gaulle has shown in recent months has enabled him to get a considerable political following in France. This has been helped by the fact that he appears to be willing to accept any allegiance that may be offered, whatever the conditions demanded; and that he has concentrated on the leaders, without any serious effort to influence the mass of their followers. Notwithstanding, there is evidence that the great body of French opinion is apathetic to his leadership, while a small but active proportion, perhaps commensurate with his genuine following, is actively opposed to him on personal grounds.

At the same time, he has shown increasing disinclination to concern himself with preparing for action in France, which is to be directly concerned with assisting an Allied invasion. His policy appears to be based on the assumption that, when the day comes, he will be able to take over the control of events in France, and that the 'Armée de l'Armistice' will either follow him, or will be so over-awed by the resistance groups with which he is in contact that it will be unable to oppose him or them."

HS 6/319

Note dated 1 October 1943

"I return herewith Reilly's letter, which is interesting. While the Communist party is at present the most active and is probably still contributing the most to current sabotage (other organisations are closing up to them a bit) it is a considerable exaggeration to say, in the face of 30/40 operations per moon and our D-day plans, that they 'are the only intact and well organised and really effective element.' They are by no

means intact and suffer grievously from time to time. They are well organised just now, but look like being, from the military point of view, a relatively uncontrolled force on D-day; as you know we are counting on them not at all - directly at least - to implement any of our plans. The return of MARIE CLAIRE, if he is successful, may allow them to be brought into the fold without reserve, and take their share of coordinated and controlled D-day action."

HS 6/330

From an Appreciation of the Potentialities of French Resistance in Eastern, Central and Southern France, dated 13 June 1944

"12. The following are the conclusions which may be drawn from this paper:

a. An opportunity exists now for the employment of resistance on a very large scale and with far-reaching results. This opportunity will not recur. The urgency of the situation precludes the possibility of selecting any single area for experimental development.

b. In many areas of Central and Southern FRANCE fighting is already in progress; some areas are coming under patriot control; considerable interference with the enemy's communications and some diversion of his military effort has resulted.

c. Although in preliminary planning it was always considered that the support of resistance in these areas would make an excessive demand upon the Allied air effort, the way in which resistance has now crystallized shows that it is possible to support it by means of a comparatively small diversion of an Allied bomber effort.

d. This diversion of air effort might result in virtual patriot control of most of Central and Southern FRANCE with far-reaching strategic possibilities.

e. Failure to support resistance in the manner outlined may have far-reaching political repercussions.

In view of the fleeting nature of the opportunity and the very far-reaching effect which the adoption of such a policy might have, it is felt that the situation should be fully presented to SHAEF in order that a decision may be made with full knowledge of the possibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. a. Since air assistance to resistance can only be given at the expense of the strategic bomber effort, the allocation of this effort should only be allotted in direct relation to the contribution by resistance to 'OVERLORD'. It is recommended that such a direct contribution can be made by diverting 160 sorties for the initial equipment and 275 sorties for the maintenance of groups in paragraph 6 above and shown in BLUE on Map 'MA'.

b. That the figures given in Appendices 'A' and 'B' be accepted as the limit beyond which supply will not be authorised in accordance with paragraph 8 above.

c. That very early consideration be given to the provision of the additional lift necessary to supply the forces referred to in paragraph 9 above and shown in RED on Map 'MA' - 755 tons initial equipment and 1,180 tons monthly for maintenance.

d. That the day bomber formations selected under a. above be authorised to deal direct with SFHQ for working out detailed arrangements."

HS 6/381

Joint Report from SOE and SIS on the inter-connection of their contacts with Clandestine Organisations in France. 15 October, 1942.

"1. The Carte organisation is an expressly unofficial group formed in 1940. SOE have been in touch with it since 1941, and during the last six months the contacts have been closer. As a result of this closer connection, we now know the names of some of the individuals who are supporting the Carte organisation, and they are to be found among the high-ranking military authorities in France within the orbit of the French General Staff. As individuals, some of these officers must undoubtedly be aware that Carte has established close relations with British organisations.

2. From what SOE has been told by the Carte organisation, it aims at an interim military dictatorship, and is therefore planning to replace the Vichy Government when an opportunity of overthrowing collaborationist policy arises. Members of the organisation have told SOE that they consider that Darlan is still Public Enemy No. 1 in France, and no co-operation from him at any stage is to be thought of. Both our agents in France who have spoken to the officer whom SOE sent recently to a mission there, and representatives of the Carte organisation now in London, have affirmed that the members of the Vichy Government are unaware of their organisations and plans..."

HS 6/386

E.M.F.F.I. Operations Order No.42, dated 22 August 1944.

"1. INFORMATION

(a) *It would appear that the moment has come when the troops of the German Army must lose all hope of winning the war and must, in consequence, be receptive to propaganda which incites them to give up a struggle which holds out no prospect of victory.*

(b) *Propaganda of this type is already being spread in German by the BBC and it is without doubt bearing fruit. It is possible that, by the intelligent distribution of leaflets in German in the eastern department of France, the effect could be heightened and a decisive result accelerated.*

(c) *It is, therefore, considered that the despatch to the East of France of teams who are capable of printing and distributing leaflets in German might add considerably towards the effective demoralisation of the enemy.*

2. INTENTION

Two teams trained in psychological warfare will proceed to France. These teams will each be attached to a maquis in the East of France and they will print, with the aid of portable printing presses, leaflets destined to demoralise the German troops.

3. METHOD

(a) *Zone Nord will suggest an organisation to receive one team.*

(b) *Zone Sud-Est will suggest an organisation to receive the second team.
Responsibility for operation: 6e Bureau.*

(c) *The 6e Bureau will be responsible for the departure of these teams and for the despatch of their material.*

(d) *The 6e Bureau will contact Major Brooker, Office of Strategic Services, M.O. Branch, 39 Portman Square, Erie Extension 7341..."*

HS 6/423

Report on the Bishop Case, July 1943. Enquiry into BISHOP transmitter and arrest of members of the Carte organisation.

"11. At the end of October, 1942, GAUTHIER's wireless operator, CELESTIN, was caught transmitting at FEYZEN. A courier named CHRISTIANE was arrested at about the same time. At this time the agent HILAIRE was at GIBRALTAR waiting to go by felucca to the Gulf of Lyons. Instructions for HILAIRE were received from CELESTIN on the 20th October. They were that he should contact Danielle WOOD at 2, rue Ste. Hélène, Lyons. He should ask for JOSEPH, giving the password, 'Le stock de plomb est-il épuisé?' It appears that when CELESTIN was arrested he still had on him the text of this message, for a day or two later the French police arrived at No.2, rue Ste. Hélène, and got in by giving this password. They there arrested Danielle WOOD's fiancé, who had been left in charge of the office during the temporary absence of herself and JOSEPH in MARSEILLES. In the office they found photographs of JOSEPH and his family, and JOSEPH himself was arrested as he came out of the station on his return from MARSEILLES on about the 2nd November. Several other members of the GAUTHIER organisation were arrested in the course of the next few weeks, including GAUTHIER himself, who is said to have been taken at LIMOGES on the 15th November. It seems fairly certain that CELESTIN was D/F'd, since another member of JOSEPH's group who has since arrived in this country has reported that the police had been searching the neighbourhood of FEYZEN for a wireless transmitter until a few days before CELESTIN was taken. Further light, or obscurity, is thrown upon the round-up of the GAUTHIER Group by a Berne telegram dated the 2.7.43, passing on a report from HILAIRE to the effect that the following prison sentences had been passed:

JOSEPH ten years hard labour.

MENDELSSOHN (i.e. DANIELLE WOOD's fiancé) one year and 12,000 francs fine.

CHEF (not known) one year and 12,000 francs fine.

DEDIEU (the real name of a local recruit who was known to the group as BENJAMIN) four years and 12,000 francs fine.

L'ALLEMAND DE CREVOIRIER (unknown) and GAUTHIER ten years' hard labour, in their absence. (This is the first intimation we have had that L'ALLEMAND and GAUTHIER have escaped).

Mr and Mrs JOURDAN (unknown) are said to have been acquitted.

12. Meanwhile HILAIRE and URBAIN had landed in the Gulf of Lyons. Mercifully, HILAIRE was still at CANNES when news was received of the LYONS arrests. RODOLPHE, who had been walking closely behind JOSEPH when the latter was arrested at LYONS station, but had himself escaped arrest, went to CANNES and collected HILAIRE, whom he took to AGEN. After staying there for some time HILAIRE settled down in CASTELNAU, where he subsequently got himself appointed as assistant to the mayor and seems still to be fairly well established.

13. URBAIN, who landed with HILAIRE, was the BISHOP wireless operator. His mission was to act as operator for the ROBERT - ALPHONSE organisation above described, taking his orders directly from ALPHONSE, but being ultimately responsible to ROBERT. To begin with his wireless set would not work, and he did not, in fact, come on to the air until 8.1.43. Meanwhile CATALPHA was instructed to try to put

URBAIN's set in order. This seems to have been one reason why CATALPHA remained in the South of France instead of going to PARIS. While his set was out of order, URBAIN worked for EUGENE as well as for ALPHONSE. He assisted the former to bury a large quantity of ammunition...

20. There is thus ample evidence for URBAIN's arrest. There is also, however, ample room for mistakes...

23. M.I.5. regard it as certain that URBAIN has been acting under German control at least since his message No.16 of 23rd April, and if HILAIRE is to be believed, most of his subsequent traffic has been passed while he himself was actually in prison in TOULOUSE. M.I.5. are also of the opinion that URBAIN may well have been under control from some much earlier date. They rely upon the facts that he took a long time to make contact at all, that he always omitted his security check from his messages, and that his early traffic contained requests for new apparatus and funds. In my opinion, however, no importance whatever should be attached to these indications, since

(a) It is known from various sources that his set was out of order (see opinion of ALPHONSE quoted in para.14) and

(b) The omission of the security check seems to be a common feature of nearly all the country sections' wireless traffic (on my recent experience I should regard it as much more suspicious if the security check was invariably included). The most suspicious feature of this traffic, to my way of thinking, is the wording of his message No.21, dated the 1st May, which reads:

'Repeat no contact EUGENE, ALPHONSE, HILAIRE, already stated last messages for them undelivered. As no contact with persons concerned in your No.19 think friends would be useful in any capacity you may think fit. Instruct.'

It is perhaps not unreasonable to suppose that the last sentence of this message was worded by the Gestapo.

24. The later traffic, on the other hand, seems more consistent with URBAIN's being free than with his being under control. On the 3rd May he was informed from the UK of EUGENE's arrest and asked to suggest a safe house or post box and password where he could be contacted by ALPHONSE... he replied that his courier could be found as from May 14th from 11.30 to 12 outside the 'grand bureau de poste' at AUCH, and gave a password for ALPHONSE to contact him. On the 14th he reported that his courier was waiting. On the 23rd he said that ALPHONSE's courier had not yet arrived and asked when he could withdraw his own courier, since he considered it dangerous to keep him there too long. (It was not surprising that ALPHONSE's courier had not arrived, since on the 8th May BERNE had been asked by telegram to do their utmost to prevent ALPHONSE from keeping the rendezvous. This, of course, was unknown to URBAIN. On the contrary, he had been told on the 16th 'ALPHONSE instructed to make contact'.) On the 24th the following message was sent to URBAIN:

'As soon as you get this go to the green pub at usual place. You will find your friends waiting for you with half a million. Cheerio.'

URBAIN replied on the 25th:

'This makes no sense to me. Have no knowledge of green pub. Explain by return more clearly.'
We replied on the same day:

'We mean green pub, repeat green pub, where you went often with ANDRE and JACQUES. Go there immediately. ALPHONSE's courier and half a million waiting for you.'

URBAIN replied the following day that he knew of no green pub nor of ANDRE or JACQUES, to which we replied on the 26th:

'We mean the green pub in ANDORRA'.

URBAIN answered that he had never been in ANDORRA, and that as he could not make any sense out of our last messages he saw no reason to stay in the Field any longer and would try to get out through Spain.

25. It is said that if URBAIN had not been under control he would immediately have recognised the 'green pub' as a reference to the 'Manchester Arms' in Baker Street, (which is apparently much used by students recruited by the French section), and would have realised that our messages were an invitation to return at once to England..

26. Whether URBAIN was really under control or not, this case illustrates once more how valuable a really efficient security check could be, and how useless are the security checks at present in use..."

HS 6/440

Interview with Jacques WEIL, May 8 and 9, 1945.

PROSPER Case. Interrogation of returned agents.

"...WEIL again got in touch with the Inspecteur and accused him of fooling. The Inspecteur said he had been instructed by the Germans handling the case to make a rendez-vous at the Café Sport, Porte Maillot,

where the girls would be handed over. The rendez-vous was kept by the PROSPER group, but WEIL there saw a police car appearing in the Place Maillot, and sent ROBIN to follow it. ROBIN said it had stopped near and several police had got out and were coming in the direction of the Place Maillot. The party therefore dispersed and the whole affair was called off. The Inspecteur did, however, return the money.

WEIL stated that there was no question of FUHRER having double-crossed them over the affair.

(b) Arrest of PROSPER, DENISE and ARCHAMBAUD WEIL said he had met the three of them the afternoon before the arrests took place, and also the new W/T operator JUSTIN. WEIL proposed that ARCHAMBAUD should come next day to 10 Rue Cambon, where he was going to store a W/T set etc. for JUSTIN. JUSTIN (Cohen) and WEIL went to this rendez-vous the next day at 3pm but no one turned up.

WEIL sent someone to DENISE's room (Andrée Bonel) at the rue des Petites Écuries, where this person heard that DENISE had not turned up, but that two men had been and taken away her things.

That same day WEIL saw GASPARD who told him that ARCHAMBAUD and DENISE had dined with him the previous evening. ARCHAMBAUD had left on his bicycle, and DENISE on foot to catch the last metro. DENISE and ARCHAMBAUD were to meet PROSPER who was coming to Paris from Gisors by the first train the next morning...

WEIL told GASPARD to warn the Gisors people, and later that day GASPARD - so he told WEIL later - had met the people from Gisors, who said that PROSPER had left Gisors in the morning as arranged. He asked these people to warn the Gisors group. For this reason, and assuming that the warning reached George DARLING promptly, it is puzzling that he fell for the German trick of producing a letter signed 'Prosper' ... WEIL said a message was sent to the UK through JUSTIN about June 25th, saying PROSPER, DENISE and ARCHAMBAUD had disappeared. Note: this has not been checked with London. It is known that a message came from ACTOR on 2nd July to this effect...

III. Louis FUHRER

WEIL was asked about FUHRER on May 9th 1945, he having seen FUHRER that morning. He said he had no reason to suppose that FUHRER had worked for the Germans either before his arrest or after. There was one point only which he did not feel very happy about, and that was how the faux CLOTHAIRE managed to get the password and to say he had been dropped to a terrain of GUY...

IV. Gilbert DERICOURT

Jacques WEIL said that FUHRER had told him that DERICOURT had been arrested and released a short time before PROSPER's arrest. He will ask FUHRER to substantiate this story (if he can)..."

HS 6/469

The British Circuits in France

From a report dated London, 30 June 1946

"4. The purpose behind the work of these circuits was the encouragement of sabotage in Occupied Europe. In this respect France presented a special case, since after the events of May and June 1940 only half of the country was actually occupied by the Germans, although in the remainder it was abundantly clear that the Vichy Government was at the mercy of the invader, who could choose his own time to put on pressure.

5. The distinction, however, did involve a difference in so far as the work of S.O.E. was concerned. Whereas in the Occupied zone 'discreet' explosions could be countenanced, there could be no such licence in the Unoccupied zone; there, fires might mysteriously light themselves, bearings might run hot, but things must not 'go bang in the night'.

6. A word that was very popular in the early stages was the word 'insaisissable' as applied to sabotage.

7. In fact, in the early stages the objectives put before F. Section organisers were somewhat nebulous: 'insaisissable' sabotage, 'discreet' bangs, 'organisation' of resistance were supremely indefinite terms.

8. The last, in particular, possessed dangers all its own. The British organiser was very carefully trained in matters of security, and he was told that the only secure method was to build up what was known as a 'circuit' by a system of small self-contained cells, very much on the method known to be adopted by the Communist Party. The emphasis was on efficiency, security and smallness of numbers.

9. 'Organising Resistance', or any similar omnibus term, on the other hand, implies large numbers and centralised organisation. It was tried, by Lucas in Paris in late 1941 and early 1942, by David in Bordeaux in late 1942 and early 1943, and in both cases it brought its own Nemesis. The time was not yet ripe.

10. At the same time the very indefiniteness of the objective in the early period tended to defeat itself. The organiser recruited his men and found himself unaware of what to do with them.

11. And so the system grew up of smaller, more compact circuits with definite limited objectives: something to bite on, and something well within the capacity of the numbers which could be recruited with safety and efficiency.

12. In the early stages the objectives were economic, and targets were chosen for their capacity to impair the industrial effort of occupied France in support of the German economy. Little by little the emphasis shifted and the targets became more and more military. They remained, however, sabotage targets, but

the railway line, the telephone cable and the canal had replaced the factory.

13. *There were two types of activity which quite definitely formed no part of what it was intended that an F. Section circuit should perform, and into which, equally, they were pitch-forked by the logic of events in the later stages.*

14. *Firstly they were not 'Intelligence' circuits. They were there for action, and the passing of Intelligence was a waste of time and - more valuable still - of vital wireless space. Besides, the collection of information was in other hands. The outstanding series of Intelligence reports which came out of Bordeaux in mid-1943 and from Le Havre in early 1944 are magnificent exceptions which prove the rule. At a still later stage, just before the Normandy landings, S.H.A.E.F. being dissatisfied with the amount of Intelligence actually available, asked that S.O.E. organisers be instructed to report back all items of military intelligence. This was firmly resisted by S.O.E. where it was realised that radio operators in the Field were already working almost beyond endurance; a compromise was reached and S.O.E. organisers were asked to report back a specified number of major types of Intelligence.*

15. *The copious reports on V.1 sites by the Farmer circuit [see HS 6/585] and the Mitchell circuit, and the tactical Intelligence by Verger just behind the battle near Thury Harcourt are good instances of what was accomplished in this new sphere. Pedlar also, by his speedy reporting of Von Kluge's new Headquarters near Verzy, caused a further and rapid dislocation of that harassed General's plans.*

16. *Secondly, the F. Section circuits were sabotage circuits, and not designed for guerilla warfare and still less for open warfare. The original intention had been that the British circuits should occupy themselves exclusively with sabotage, while the French paid special attention to the 'Insurrection Générale', but inevitably as time went on the British circuits, by their experience and their excellent communications took their part in the guerilla phase. This phase remained, of course, essentially a French one, the British role being that of co-operation with the French organisations, a task of which the British officers involved acquitted themselves with almost ambassadorial distinction.*

Why 'British'?

17. *A word is perhaps needed to explain the existence of 'British' as opposed to 'French' circuits in the Field. The difference is one of Control and Organisation, since quite clearly the working members of both types of circuit were French.*

18. *S.O.E. was already in existence when General de Gaulle raised the Free French banner in June 1940, and a section had already been formed for the organisation of subversive activity in France. This was already active in the Field by the time the Free French Organisation was sufficiently developed to undertake similar activities in mid-1941.*

19. *Inevitably, as soon as this point was reached, the Free French claimed the exclusive right to control subversive activity in France, but for various reasons (in particular, unfortunate experiences of French lack of security, as in the abortive Dakar operation) it was decided to maintain the 'British' circuits side by side with, but entirely distinct from, those controlled by the Free French, S.O.E. providing a liaison service with Free French Headquarters, and acting as universal provider of facilities for training, transport and supply.*

20. *This arrangement continued until D-Day, when 'British' and 'French' circuits merged in the F.F.I. under the command of General Koenig working through E.M.F.F.I. (État-Major des Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur), a joint Franco-Anglo-American Headquarters staff in London...*

22. *Another advantage lay in the fact that the British organisation had no Politics and was able to concentrate on its objective, the expulsion of the enemy, without the political distractions which tended to assail all purely French Resistance movements. The personnel of the British circuits was extremely varied, running right across French society without distinction of class and type, and the lack of political bias in the officers sent out to control those circuits enabled Frenchmen of widely differing backgrounds to co-operate wholeheartedly in the liberation of their country, conscious of the fact that there was no political afterthought in the circuits' activities...*

24. *By the combination of all these factors it is certain that the British organisation was the more efficient in the clandestine period... There was, and still is, a deep and abiding jealousy of the F. Section or Buckmaster circuits, and a deep interest in the doings of everyone connected with them both on the part of the Deuxième Bureau and also on the part of the Communists. The Communists, in particular, suspect the Amicale, 'Libre Résistance', 3 Rue Marivaux, Paris (Secretary Marcel Taurent-Singer), which has been formed of ex-members of the 'Réseau Buckmaster', of being a body of pronouncedly Rightist tendencies and a danger to themselves. In so far as its existence tends to disprove the Communist assertion of a quasi monopoly of Resistance activity, they are undoubtedly correct...*

30. *F. Section in all sent 393 officers to France. 119 of these were arrested or killed by the Germans. Of those arrested only seventeen came back."*

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Publisher's Note - Part 3

Part 3 provides complete coverage of SOE records relating to Germany. Until the release of files HS 6/617-722, very little was known of the workings and operations of X Section, the SOE country division for Germany. By studying the archives, academics will be able to research the directorate's aims and objectives; firstly the ruination of the Third Reich and, secondly, for SOE to secure a role in a liberated Europe and post-war Germany. The link between the two is reported in HS 6/622:

"If this policy (of obtaining information on underground movements) develops, it looks as if fully trained X Section personnel now in the field, and additional German-speaking SOE personnel, may be eventually required for real active work in Germany. This is a very definite change in our role..."

File HS 6/692 covers the early work of X Section between 1940-1943. Detailing weekly and monthly progress reports, historians will be able to study the effectiveness of SOE activities in Germany throughout the first half of the war. During this period, the high command in London generally thought that the infiltration of the Third Reich was not a feasible undertaking. The turning point for SOE operations in the 'ruling country' mainly occurred from 1944 onwards, pre- and post- D-Day.

The organisation of X Section is covered in HS 6/621, 635-636, and 639-640, including SOE directives, policy and planning documents.

The first reel of Part 3 (Reel 24) includes files HS 6/617-620. These chiefly concern the politics behind the armistice and military surrenders negotiated through SOE work. Detailing peace feelers (including von Trott and Moltke) and German approaches, the documents report that the former were in themselves no concern to SOE but primarily of interest to the Foreign Office. HS 6/617 states, *"we have agreed that as soon as the Germans put out feelers of this kind, our Agents will immediately refuse to discuss any questions of peace terms with the individuals or groups concerned until they have received further instructions from London."* The files also reveal SOE's opinion that most of the approaches made by the Germans were calculated in order to serve the purposes of counter-espionage, espionage, to gain information on allied policy for peace terms and propaganda.

To complement this, the German Committee Minutes (HS 6/621) include the use by X Section of various German political organisations, such as the communists, social democrats and trade unions, in order to gain manpower and create a network of 'resistance'. Scholars will be able to research the role played in operations by the German working classes (who were thought to have anti-Nazi leanings), and related groups such as the International Transport Workers Federation (HS 6/647-648).

Sabotage missions behind enemy lines are also included in Part 3. The destruction of rail networks, machinery and the attempted destruction of the factory producing components for the V2 rockets (HS 6/662 and 663) are included and give fascinating insights into the workings of X Section in the final stages of the war. Operations DOWNEND, FORDWICK, FRILFORD, COLAN, CARHAM and CLINT can all be used to study the success/failure of missions in Germany.

Operations BRADDOCK I and II (HS 6/637, 719-722) detail the proposal to scatter four million incendiaries (from Lancaster bombers) over various locations in Germany after D-Day. Backed by SHAEF and the PWE, the devices came complete with full instructions written in 11 languages. The intention was for the incendiaries to float down and be picked up by anti-Nazis and forced labourers for use in sabotage attacks. The ensuing explosions, not to mention the waste of German resources in searching for them, would cause immeasurable disruption to the enemy. Judging from the files, the operation did not take place; it was deemed that the most suitable time for the operation to prove successful *"had passed"*.

Files concerning agents and double agents enable scholars to research the theories and existence of espionage, counter-espionage and counter-intelligence. Several operations were undertaken using neutral countries, such as Switzerland, as exit/escape routes.

HS 6/646 looks at the case of 'Lily' and 'Harry'. Both were German nationals operating in Sweden and used by the allies to gain intelligence. The papers show how SOE was suspicious of Lily's intentions and movement in German circles in Stockholm. File HS 6/649 studies the credibility and exploits of 'Sam' and 'Edward' - two Swedish sabotage 'agents'.

HS 6/702 documents the arrival of enemy agents in Britain. The discovery of the body of Jan Willem Ter Braak in Cambridge, fuelled speculation behind SOE's belief that "*The Germans have developed the informer system to almost a fine art.*" The file can also be used to study German contra-espionage methods and the use of 'agents provocateurs'.

In HS 6/699 scholars will be able to follow the progress of the Demuth Committee. As a joint venture with the PWE, SOE paid the marginal fee of £50.00 per month in order to support the Committee in their objective for the secret services to employ anti-Nazi civil servants, professional men and leading economic experts in espionage operations.

What the files undoubtedly prove is that SOE was actively pressing for a mission to assassinate Hitler and his chief subordinates. Known as Operations FOXLEY and LITTLE FOXLEY respectively, files HS 6/623-626 document the feasibility study made by Section X in 1944 to kill Hitler by sniper, poison or train derailment. Following on from a previously failed attempt within Germany to assassinate the ruler, the u-turn in Allied policy targeted Hitler's alpine retreat, Berchtesgaden, as the most obvious location for the mission to take place. SOE plans were supported by Duff Cooper. Reflecting this the documents include a full implementation and intelligence report, with details of the Führer's daily routine and eating habits, aerial photographs, maps and scale drawings, security personnel, air-raid shelters and even details of German uniforms. The plan, of course, never reached fruition - Hitler's failing strategies meant that he was more use alive than dead. Also, there was no wish to create a martyr cult. Plans to deal with Hitler's subordinates, including Goebbels found favour (LITTLE FOXLEY), but were never implemented.

Files HS 6/627-633 look at SOE intelligence reports on concentration and death camps. As the end of the war came into sight, finding out the fate of missing agents became a prime concern for SOE. The archives include reports from liberated agents, and the interrogation of suspects on conditions and whereabouts of colleagues. Atrocities concerning Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald are also included.

Documents HS 6/689 and 690 study the work of Military Establishment 42 (ME 42). As part of the German directorate, ME 42 was seen by some to be an extension of SOE. Its objective was to make the cross-over from resistance work to intelligence work by searching for missing agents after the war, in the prospect of securing a post-war role for SOE. The department never fully materialised - British and American troops liberated many agents before ME 42 could reach them.

The use of propaganda in the Second World War is a huge area of research in itself. One of the most successful operations ever undertaken is included in Part 3 in file HS 6/641. This documents the forged six-pfennig postage stamp portraying the head of Himmler. It was produced by the PWE in order to cause maximum disruption within the internal powers of the Third Reich. The stamp was used to send letters (all baring the German postmark) to various organisations and philatelists in Europe. Secret organisations such as SOE claimed ignorance, which only encouraged the press to believe that the stamps were produced in Germany and that Himmler would actually climb to complete power in the Reich. Files HS 6/694-696 also look at propaganda for Germany between 1942-1944, including forgeries, itching powder on German soldiers in central Crete, information rumours and the sexual defamation of the Nazi leadership.

The use of BBC radio broadcasts for propaganda purposes were of vital importance for SOE work in Germany. HS 6/637 documents instructions for the BBC to air a five minute broadcast every two hours. "*It is of the greatest importance that we, not BBC officials, should have the final say in what is transmitted to Germany.*" This demand made by SOE to control broadcast copy can be seen in the following extract:

"We must also be allowed the power to cut from all broadcasts such phrases as 'our fight is not against you but against Hitler' and to substitute such phrases as 'you, the German people, stand convicted before the whole world. You, the German people, by your cowardice or inertia have permitted your Government to launch the most bloody war in history.' "

Part 3 of this microfilm project will enable scholars to study:

- German politics and a post-war German Government
- SOE's relationship with OSS, SHAEF, DGER, PWE and the Foreign Office
- Underground organisations of the Nazi Government
- Sabotage of communication networks
- the role of the International Transport Workers Federation and the Internationale Sozialistische Kampf-bund personnel, in Germany, Switzerland and Sweden
- The role played by neutral countries such as Switzerland
- Propaganda
- Counter-intelligence and Counter-espionage
- The feasibility of assassination plots, such as Operation FOXLEY, the plan to kill Hitler
- The question of using French officers/escaped Prisoners of War, in the Allied forces

- SOE covert activities in liberated areas
- The future of SOE in a post-war Europe
- The training of agents in France (Centre 20)
- Prisoners of war and concentration camps

Due to the sensitive nature of the material, several files are still retained by the Department under Section 3(4). However, most documents have been released and are included in this project. The documents offered in Part 3 invite academics to study SOE in an area previously thought, by the London high command, to be out of reach. Was SOE successful in its operations in Germany? How feasible was the plot to assassinate Hitler? Should it have gone ahead? To what lengths did SOE rely on the German populace in order to carry out their missions? Did the work of X Section secure a role for SOE and sabotage work in a post-war world?

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Operation FORDWICK: establishment of a line between Denmark and Germany for agent infiltration (Folder 1)

HS 6/661 1944-1945

Operation FORDWICK: establishment of a line between Denmark and Germany for agent infiltration (Folder 2)

HS 6/662 1944-1945

Operation VIVACIOUS: to sabotage Bruno Hintze precision engineering works in Berlin, which was producing V2 rocket components, with full report and photographs (Folder 1)

HS 6/663 1944

Operation VIVACIOUS: to sabotage Bruno Hintze precision engineering works in Berlin, which was producing V2 rocket components, with reports and other details, German and French identity cards (Folder 2)

HS 6/664 1944-1945

Operation FRILFORD: to sabotage railway tracks from Hintschingen to Oberlauchringen; reports from agents on success

HS 6/665 1944-1945

Operation COLAN: to sabotage main railway line between Stuttgart and Heilbronn; reports of success by agents

HS 6/666 1944-1945

Operation FLECKNEY: acts of sabotage in region of Breslau

REEL 32

HS 6/667 1944-1945

Operation CLINT: sabotage of railway lines south of Baden, especially Singen-Hattingen and Sigmaringen-Tuttlingen

HS 6/668 1944-1945

Operation CALTON: to develop subversive activities of Edelweiss organisation in Ruhr and Rhineland area

HS 6/669 1944-1945

Operation CHALFONT: sabotage against new type of German U-boat

HS 6/670 1944-1945

Operation CARHAM: sabotage in Magdeburg area; later centred on Nuremberg, reports, February 1945

HS 6/671 1945

Operation COLBURN: sabotage of railway lines Gelnhausen - Schluechtern and Aschaffenberg - Gemuenden

HS 6/672 1945

Captain Strutt's TRIANGLE agents

HS 6/673 1945

Operation CARSTAIRS: sabotage in Halle area

HS 6/674 1945

Operation CHALGROVE: sabotage in Hamburg area; attempt to assassinate U-boat officers

HS 6/675 1945

Operation COLEHILL: sabotage in Berlin area

REEL 33

HS 6/676 1945

Operation CRESSWELL: sabotage by dockworkers and seamen in Hamburg/Bremen area

HS 6/677 1945

Operation CAREW: tactical sabotage on targets behind enemy lines

HS 6/678 1944-1945

Operations FANGFOSS and FIDDINGTON: sabotage in Flensburg and Kiel

HS 6/679 1945

Activities of MOUSE (alias of Musy) in Switzerland concerning organisation of escape lines for useful persons from Germany, with 6 German newspaper cuttings (2 folded)

HS 6/680 1945

Operation BRANSTON: sabotage in Luebeck area

HS 6/681 1945

FELSPAR: courier operation between Hamburg, Kiel and Flensburg

HS 6/682 1945

Operation CURLAND: sabotage of railway line Nordhausen/Blankenheim

HS 6/683 1945

Operation CREGINA: sabotage of railway line Eisenach/Bebra

HS 6/684 1945

Operation CROMER: despatch of two agents from Sweden to Luebeck to organise penetration of Nazi underground movement

HS 6/685 1945

Operation MARKINCH: to make attempts on lives of U-boat officers in Kiel area and to incite sailors and dock-workers to subversive activities

HS 6/686 1945

Operation CATMORE: sabotage in marshalling yards of Augsburg

REEL 34

HS 6/687 1945

Operation MIRFIELD: to sabotage vital machinery in electric railway transformer station at Pasing

HS 6/688 1945

Operation CLIXBY: infiltrating 3 agents through enemy lines to carry out tactical reconnaissance or sabotage

HS 6/689 1945

ME42: recruiting and disposal of agents (Bonzos); new SOE charter from SHAEF for action in Germany; political intelligence (Folder 1)

HS 6/690 1945

ME42: recruiting and disposal of agents (Bonzos); new SOE charter from SHAEF for action in Germany; political intelligence (Folder 2)

HS 6/691 1945

Internationale Sozialistische Kampf-bund (ISK) personnel and SOE collaboration in post-war Germany

HS 6/692 1940-1943

Early X Section work: Weekly and monthly progress reports

HS 6/693 1941-1945

Switzerland: possible contacts to form line of communication

HS 6/694 1942-1944

PWE productions; black propaganda with three newspaper cuttings (some in German and Swedish) (Folder 1) with examples of forgeries, rumours and sexual defamation of Nazi leadership

HS 6/695 1943-1945

PWE productions; black propaganda with 20 newspaper cuttings (some folded and most in German and Swedish) (Folder 2)

REEL 35

HS 6/696 1943-1945

PWE productions; black propaganda with German pamphlets and 16 newspaper cuttings in German and Swedish (some folded) (Folder 3)

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Retained by Department under Section 3(4)

HS 6/698 1940-1942

Retained by Department under Section 3(4)

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Demuth Committee

HS 6/700 1943-1944

Liaison with Directorate of Civil Affairs: provision of staff officer for Civil Affairs; Gauleiter school

HS 6/701 1941-1943

Agent in Switzerland: X/G/115 (J.Q.F.)

HS 6/702 1940-1944

Enemy agents; German counter-espionage methods, information for SOE agents; with Swedish newspaper cutting (folded)

HS 6/703 1942-1944

OSS and German émigré resistance groups

REEL 36

HS 6/704 1944-1945

SOE participation with OSS in operations NAPLES II, VARSITY, CHOKER II

HS 6/705 1944-1945

SOE Paris mission in liaison with DGER (Direction Générale des Etudes et Recherches) dealing with work into Germany

HS 6/706 1945

SOE Paris mission; DGER and its liaison with SOE, MI5, MI6, OSS, SHAEF; weekly minutes of DGER meetings; JUDEX missions; Devon Committee; Booster project; NORVIC mission; VICARAGE; Jedburgh mission ROSE (Folder 1)

HS 6/707 1945

SOE Paris mission; DGER and its liaison with SOE, MI5, MI6, OSS, SHAEF; weekly minutes of DGER meetings (Direction Générale des Études et Recherches); JUDEX missions; Devon Committee; Booster project; NORVIC mission; VICARAGE; Jedburgh mission ROSE (Folder 2)

HS 6/708 1944-1945

Paris mission and DGER: personnel and Centre 20 and training establishments

REEL 37

HS 6/709 1944-1945

Joint DLSSL/SOE intelligence and planning section (Détachement de liaison des Services spéciaux à Londres); plans to send French agents to Germany; operations MOLESEY and VICARAGE; communications; BBC messages and pigeon operations; methods of sabotage

HS 6/710 1945

Operation DOWNRIGHT 1A: dropping of stores; training stores; Centre 20; policy and supply to Direction Générale des Études et Recherches (DGER)

HS 6/711 1945

Operation NORVIC: to interrupt railways communication on Siegburg/Betzdorf line

HS 6/712 1945 Operation JAEGER/AIDAN: to provide French foreign workers near Turkheim; with wireless communications and ensure their cooperation with advancing Allied forces

HS 6/713 1945

Operations not completed: MATITA/PENDA (Augsburg area); MATITA/RUFUS (Turkheim); KOUPY/BIRINO (Munche); wireless operators

HS 6/714 1945

French short-term saboteurs under Commandant St Jacques

HS 6/715 1945

Goujon party and suggested targets in Germany

HS 6/716 1945

Bolingbroke mission: Goethals alias Godart

HS 6/717 1945

Lambert's mission: wireless operator sent to organise Belgian workers in Augsburg area

HS 6/718 1942-1945

Policy and planning: BRADDOCK I and II; general planning (including dropping of incendiary devices by air for possible use by POWs in an uprising)

REEL 38

HS 6/719 1942-1944

BRADDOCK I and II: progress reports and stock returns

HS 6/720 1942-1945

BRADDOCK I and II: communication with War Cabinet, Prime Minister and SHAEF

HS 6/721 1942-1945

BRADDOCK I and II: SOE Chiefs of Staff papers; with one German newspaper cutting and German leaflet

HS 6/722 1942-1945

BRADDOCK I and II: security section file

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE, 1940-1946

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HS 6/622

Long term role of German section of SOE. Memorandum dated 10 September 1944

"From all the general discussions taking place at the moment, it appears more than likely that the main long term role of the German section of S.O.E. will be in some way connected with C.I. work. It seems that we may be requested to use our resources to counter any underground movement arising in Germany.

With the approval of A/CD, I have already sent out instructions to my representatives in the field authorising them to use any suitable channels to obtain the fullest information about any underground movement being established in Germany and about possible methods of combating it. Special attention is to be paid to the various Youth Movements.

If this policy develops, it looks as if fully trained X Section personnel now in the field, and additional German-speaking S.O.E. personnel, may be eventually required for real active work in Germany.

This is a very definite change in our role, and if S.O.E. is to make itself really valuable to the C.I. Committee, then the personnel concerned will have to be highly trained in the work in question.

I strongly recommend that immediate steps should be taken to provide adequate training facilities at Group 'B' for this new type of work..."

HS 6/625

SOE memorandum arguing in favour of Operation Foxley

"At the Council meeting held on the 27th June 1944, I urged more vigorous action in the prosecution of operation FOXLEY. Since then an unsuccessful attempt has been made by a section of the Germans themselves to carry out this operation for us. By studying the German reactions it is possible to see more clearly what results may be expected from the successful execution of operation FOXLEY..."

There is abundant evidence to prove that Hitler is regarded by a large section of the German population as something more than human; it is this mystical hold which he exercises over the German people that is largely responsible for keeping the country together at the present time. As long as Hitler continues to live among them, the people will have faith and, having faith, they will remain impervious to logical argument or demonstrated fact...

One of the commonest arguments directed against the execution of FOXLEY is that, if Hitler is murdered, he will become a martyr. From the short term point of view this is unlikely to have any appreciable effect; from the long term point of view, whatever happens, it is obvious that Hitler will become a legendary figure and his mode of death will not materially alter the situation.

On the other hand, as long as Hitler remains alive, he will retain the outward loyalty of the majority of the Generals and General Staff owing to the oath they have taken to him personally. The Party will remain in power and the awkward Wehrmacht, composed of Army proper and S.S. Formations, will function, if not harmoniously, at least with a semblance of efficiency.

Although the majority of the senior officers of the German Army now recognize that they have been defeated in the military field, and the vast majority of the population are utterly weary of the war and have

more than an inkling that the military situation is nearly desperate, they still believe, or at least attempt to reassure themselves that there is yet hope. This belief, illogical though it may be, is based entirely on their faith in the genius of Hitler. Remove Hitler and there is nothing left."

HS 6/627

From a report on German 'Extermination Camps' (Vernichtungslager), May 4, 1945

"My official business in Lublin brought me into touch with a French captain, Maurice Lequeux, who had been captured by the Germans in 1943 while engaged upon sabotage work under the direction of London. I interrogated him closely and was most impressed, as was my colleague F/O Floyd, by his character and intelligence. What he told me about the concentration camp at Oswiecim, where he was imprisoned during 1944 and up to its evacuation by the Germans in January this year, was confirmed by another ex-inmate of the camp, Dr Olga Lengel, whom I also met in Lublin. Both these people carry tattooed on their forearms their concentration camp number.

Oswiecim (on the Vistula, West of Krakow) was a much bigger camp than Maidanek and far more people were murdered and burnt there. Instead of one furnace there were five, with five chimneys, as well as two ditches each 120 ft. long, 25 ft. wide and 12 ft. deep, in which the bodies were burnt. There were always four furnaces working (the fifth being in reserve for boom periods) and the ditches too were used continuously except for the two or three occasions each month when the ashes were emptied. At Oswiecim the ashes from the ditches and the furnaces were transported in lorries and emptied into the Vistula.

Oswiecim seems to have resembled Maidanek except that it was on a bigger scale and the work there was more rationalised. The principle was similar and the sequence - shower, gas, oven - was the same. The Germans introduced some refinements into their treatment of the prisoners. The inmates of any particular shed on which a 'selection' ('Auswahl') was to be held for that day's burning were always told some hours ahead in order that they could think about what was coming to them. The 'selection' was completely arbitrary, the inmates of the shed parading past a seated German who jerked his thumb left or right to indicate whether the individual was to be burnt that day or not. Children who were 'selected' were always sent to take farewell of their parents.

In many cases the victims were naked when they set out for the gas chamber. Captain Lequeux saw one parade of 2,000 women stark naked marching 'to the gas' with the German band at their head playing tangos and fox-trots. In cases where they were dressed, they were given numbered checks for their clothes in the shower room and, passing to the gas chamber, filed past a notice which said in several languages: 'Keep hold of your check as otherwise you may not get your own clothes back when you come out.' The people were packed so tight in the gas chamber that Captain Lequeux believes 75 per cent of them died of simple asphyxiation; the rest were finished off as at Maidanek, with Zyklon. They were so tightly jammed together that to pull the bodies out when the door was opened large iron hooks were used..."

HS 6/629

Plan for a Revolt in Dachau and Surroundings. PW Paper 25

"PW is certain that when the Allied armies are approaching and in any case before GERMANY collapses orders will be given to kill all the inmates of concentration camps. He is very anxious to do something for his former fellow-sufferers. The plan he proposes is as follows, and is based on his intimate knowledge of the camp in 1943:

a) The guard complement was 1 battalion Totenkopf SS. There are big barracks in the camp intended to house the Waffen SS, probably as much as a Standarte... In April 1943 and a long time previously these barracks were not inhabited, and PW feels certain that owing to the present man-power shortage they are still empty.

b) Inmates in 1943:

Russians 10,000

Poles 5,000

German political prisoners 3,000

Czechs 1,000

Members of the International Brigade in Spain brought from France 800

Priests, practically all of whom were Catholics, marked by a Cross and a P on their clothes 800

German 'Berufsverbrecher' (criminals),

asocial elements 500

Jugoslavs 300

French 200

Belgians 100

*-----
Total 21,700
-----*

Besides these there were about 3,000 prisoners working at other places on fatigue duties.

c) Actual plan:

The first thing would be to inform the prisoners who could be of military assistance in an uprising of their

impending liberation. PW would like to be dropped by parachute, and to contact Scharführer ANGERER, with whom he was on good personal terms and of whose full co-operation he is certain. For this purpose he would visit him at his home in the village of DACHAU. If PW wore SS or some other uniform he would not be at all conspicuous. If ANGERER was no longer there he would contact prisoners on fatigue duty in MUNICH or elsewhere. He would also send word to Hans MEILER, who knows all about everything and everybody in the camp, as he has been there for eleven years. MEILER was sent to DACHAU after an attempt on HITLER's life. MEILER is the Lagerläufer (camp runner) and thus has opportunities of seeing everybody. He is held in high esteem by the prisoners, and is a very energetic, capable, and politically reliable man..."

HS 6/639

Note by Lt. Col. H N Saunders on possibility of post-war resistance from Nazi underground movement, dated 22 June 1944

"3. We have received several reports, both from our own sources and from other sources, indicating that preparations are being made in GERMANY to organise 'underground' movement to carry on the fight in the event of defeat.

4. A recent report from an apparently reliable source indicates that HIMMLER was placed in charge of the preparations for post-war underground work.

5. The same report stated that 'short term plans envisage partisan fighting in GERMANY by SS, SA and Hitler Youth. Children are to be used for courier and intelligence work. Dumps of arms and ammunition, hand grenades, machine guns and small arms and ammunition, have been created in the ALPS, the BLACK FOREST, the THURINGIAN FOREST, the ERZGEBIRGE and the HARZGEBIRGE. The partisan movement is divided into GAUS, each of which will be able to function as an independent unit, with, however, co-operation between the leaders.

Long term plans include schooling, probably political, of the future leaders of the underground movement. This training is taking place mainly at the NAZI ORDENSBURGEN, and is believed to aim at providing political tactics for the fight to keep NAZI ideas alive.

The underground political movement will be financed by sums of money already transferred to SWITZERLAND.

The Party's intelligence service is to be run not by official or semi-official bodies, but only by commercial houses abroad which are already being penetrated by specially trained NAZIS'.

6. As the power of the SD (SICHERHEITSDIENST) seems to have been greatly extended, it seems reasonable to suppose that this all pervading department will organise and lead the underground movement throughout GERMANY..."

HS 6/641

The Himmler Postage Stamp. Letter from Lisbon from David Walker, appearing in 'The Daily Mirror', Tuesday, February 29, 1944

"A stamp collecting expert here has just shown me the most valuable stamp produced in the present war - a simple six pfennig German one, but bearing Himmler's head instead of the German Chancellor's. Some time ago, one batch of letters and cards arriving from Germany carried this stamp, but the issue must have been suppressed immediately.

According to the latest issue of the Swiss paper 'Journal de Geneve', to reach here, the discovery of this stamp has altered the balance of internal power in Germany.

The implication is that it formed part of a secret issue being made by Himmler himself in view of a future climb to complete power in the Reich.

The effect of the discovery of these stamps in Germany has been to reduce Himmler's power, leaving him Minister of Interior only in name, while increasing the influence of Martin Bormann, who is now the second most important figure in Germany. The German radio has admitted the authenticity of the stamp, and a complete purge has been made in the central postal administration at Stuttgart, whence the cards and letters bearing this issue all came..."

HS 6/662

Interrogation of 2nd Lt. Baker-Byrne, alias Robert Phillippe Bosquet, 28 December 1944. Operation Vivacious. Attempted sabotage of factory producing V2 rocket components in Berlin.

"Source was supposed to be dressed as an O.T. Meister of the Todt Organisation. He discovered that the O.T. people in Germany wear very shabby outfits, usually old Wehrmacht uniforms with no badges. In BERLIN, however, the O.T. workers are dressed as smartly as any unit of the German Army. They wear the badges of their rank and salute their officers. Source soon realised that his own dirty uniform, muddy boots and lack of badges would be very noticeable when he reached BERLIN..."

He also gathered that the Berliners do not consider the present air raids half so bad as those of 1943 and source feels that they should have one or two crushing raids of the 1943 type. When source said that the

war did at least one good thing in that everyone now had a job, he was told that many of the factories were not working full time because of the shortage of material. The factory on the corner (i.e. source's target), they said, was only working half time for this very reason. Some of these factory workers took sandwiches to this pub at lunchtime and ate them with a glass of beer. There were some 35 to 40 workers altogether. As the publican's dog became too interested in his chocolate ration which he was carrying in his Wäschetasche, source thought it safer to leave.

At 8.30pm source arrived at the target for action. He believes that the general idea of the plan he was to carry out was well-conceived, but his attempt failed chiefly because he found it impossible to carry out the job alone. It necessitated forcing three doors and preparing charges, all of which required at least one man to watch and one man to do the job. He had been told to find help locally if possible but, as his appearance, papers etc. were wrong, he had not time to do this as he wanted to get away as soon as possible. Source stresses that agents going into Germany should be well aware of the fact that the dress, equipment, documents and discipline of the German Army are 100% smart and efficient and that there is no slackening in any of these respects.

Source found that the main entrance to the building was locked, so took a side entrance through one of the blocks of flats. He had been told that the factory was on the first floor and from here he heard voices and saw lights. He went for a drink to a small pub about 800 yards away and over the radio heard a pre-air-raid-alarm - something to the effect that a strong force of enemy planes was approaching such and such a point in Germany. Some of the people rushed out to shelters and source made his way back to the target and waited approximately half an hour. He had nowhere to prepare his charges, so decided to prepare them inside the factory. The entrances to the flats were brightly lit and source noticed plenty of lights in the windows and also in the streets outside. There seemed to be no strict black-out. Source had prepared two pieces of strong wire for picking the door locks and examined the first of these which did not prove to be very tough. He went back to the main entrance to have another look round and suddenly heard some women shouting, 'Burglars', whereupon two policemen appeared. Source could have killed the two policemen, but he realised that it would take at least 10 minutes to pick the three locks and prepare his charges, by which time the alarm would most certainly have been raised. He decided then that the job could not possibly be done single-handed, so took the main entrance and walked out into Prenzlauer Allee and sauntered down the street, trying not to appear in a hurry. Fortunately, there were some heaps of debris on the pavement, also there were plenty of people about, so he was easily able to avoid two shots which were fired after him. He escaped via Belforter Strasse to Lothringer Strasse where he boarded a tram to Moritz Platz. He walked about 200 yards and threw away the two pieces of wire into a drain. He took another tram and alighted at the next stop where he had a beer at the nearest pub..."

HS 6/665

Report on the Interrogation of Johann HOCH alias Joseph HARLANDER on 19 May and 30 May 1945.
Operation COLAN

"1. MISSION.

The object of operation COLAN was to sabotage the following railway lines by means of simultaneous derailment of trains: -

1. The double track line BIETIGHEIM - HEILBRONN.
2. The double track line BIETIGHEIM - ILLINGEN.

...Mission 1 was to be carried out by two saboteurs, HOCH and TAPLICK. (The latter was arrested after the operation had been completed, as will be explained in HOCH's report.) Both operators carried the necessary demolition stores in two legbags. HOCH was dressed as a German Army Sergeant and TAPLICK as a German Air Force Corporal (Unteroffizier). Both operators had instructions to withdraw after the operation to Switzerland via MUNICH and SCHAFFHAUSEN...

3. MOVEMENTS AFTER LANDING, AND APPROACH TO TARGET AREA.

As he did not see his companions, HOCH made his way to the agreed rendezvous at 864575. On the way there he met TAPLICK at 856571...

Leaving TAPLICK at the edge of the wood, HOCH and VONDERHEIDT (the latter was responsible for Mission 2) decided to make a short recce. They saw what they took to be a radio location station consisting of four masts with some huts nearby (at approximately 859589). They also saw some disused A.A. positions and concluded that the troops had recently moved off. They returned to the original rendezvous and HOCH prepared some coffee and took the precaution of placing the Tommy cooker well into the ground so that the flame should not be seen...

Between 0400 and 0500 hours the three operators made ready to go to their operational bases. HOCH and TAPLICK left VONDERHEIDT at approximately 870565 and they proceeded in a S.W. direction towards the edge of the wood at 850542. On the road they noticed signs of military transport hidden in the woods. They exchanged words with an Army N.C.O. and learned that a division (whose number was 200?) was stationed in the neighbourhood...

An army car passed them and then a bus full of SS men. The SS Captain asked them where they were going and HOCH replied 'To our M.T. H.Q. in the next village.' He had the impression that the SS Captain was going to offer them a lift.

Suddenly they saw VONDERHEIDT crossing the road and making for a wood. (This was at approximately 8563.) They gave no sign of recognising one another, and HOCH and TAPLICK continued in an easterly direction but avoiding the villages of MICHELBAACH and PFAFFENHOFEN (9052). Shortly after seeing VONDERHEIDT they heard several shots and wondered if he had run into difficulties. They were controlled by a 'country' policeman to whom they outlined the details of their cover story; viz HOCH was on a duty journey to MUNICH via HEILBRONN and had been getting lifts as the railway services were so bad. TAPLICK elaborated his story of being shot down and was asked if he had reported the fact and given up his parachute. He replied in the affirmative but was not asked for the name of the aerodrome. The policeman was quite satisfied with these explanations and gave them directions for reaching LAUFFEN (0353) and KIRCHHEIM (0350).

After making a detour round the village of PFAFFENHOFEN, HOCH and TAPLICK crossed the main PFAFFENHOFEN - GUGLINGEN road in a southerly direction (at approximately 915528) and continued in an ESE direction until nightfall when they decided to sleep in some bushes at 9650...

4. RECONNAISSANCE AND ATTACK.

At 0500 hours on 24 February HOCH and TAPLICK made their way to an eminence overlooking the tunnel (at 0351), which was to be their objective, and made a recce of the neighbourhood to see if there were any signs of activity. They had a good view of the tunnel which was about 500 metres from their hiding place. To their consternation, however, they could see working parties at the northerly exit to the tunnel and it was obvious that the line had been damaged.

It was about 1430 hours and HOCH decided to make another recce. He emptied the operational stores out of his rucksack and left TAPLICK in charge of them. Making his way north of the tunnel (i.e. to approximately 025522) he came across a Sergeant patrolling the line. HOCH got into conversation with him and said that he had been walking from HEILBRONN in the hope of catching a train somewhere on the line which would take him to STUTTGART. He offered a cigarette to the Sergeant who explained that the tunnel had been bombed the previous afternoon and that a hospital train had been derailed. A party of foreign workers, directed by railway officials, had been detailed to clear up the damage. It was imperative, the Sergeant continued, for the line to be repaired by the evening of 24 February. He explained further that two sentries had been posted at each exit to the tunnel and members of the Volkssturm were responsible for watching the rest of the line between LAUFFEN and HEILBRONN. Agents had been operating in Germany and they had received orders to guard important railway lines.

HOCH left the Sergeant on the friendliest of terms and after making a short detour returned to TAPLICK (the time was now about 1630 hours). They rested now and thought out their plan of attack. At 1930 hours the foreign workers moved off towards LAUFFEN and at 2000 hours an engine came from LAUFFEN to fetch the hospital train which had been damaged. After 2100 hours traffic seemed to be normal again although the trains did not travel very fast.

Attack. As it was impossible to carry out an attack on the tunnel they chose one of the other selected favourable points, viz. a curve about 1500 metres north of the tunnel and just over 500 metres north of the Sergeant's patrol cabin. The point of attack was at approximately 022523 and they were able to find suitable cover in some bushes 2-3 metres high on the west side of the line. They prepared their charges and after watching for patrols (which did not cover the railway line itself, but only the paths at the side of the line) they laid their charges at 2110 hours. TAPLICK placed his charges (with 2 hours time delay) on the western line, and HOCH placed his on the eastern line. They both checked each other's charges to see that they were in order. The weather was fine although cloudy and they do not think they were observed by any patrols. The time-pencils were squeezed at 2130 hours..."

HS 6/696

Translated extract from 'Wertrauliche Nachrichten des nationalsozialistischen Fuehrungsstabes der Kriegsmarine', 29 December 1944, describing 'Enemy Subversive Activity' from file on PWE propaganda

"A quite devilish type of enemy subversive activity is the distribution of leaflets in the form of diaries and pamphlets in the guise of 'Reclam' editions, aiming not only at eliminating the German soldier and workman from the present battle, but also preventing him from pulling his full weight during the period of reconstruction after the war.

'Sickness saves!' is the main topic of these pamphlets and in the information pages of the diaries advice may be found on how a soldier or worker can through illness evade his duties. The enemy is here staking his hopes on man's baser self, on that moment when, finding himself in a difficult situation, his power of moral resistance has been sapped and he may threaten to weaken. It is clear to every decent man that such moments must be overcome. This is the enemy's chance. He does not say: 'Desert, then you will be out of all this', but concentrates on those who, lacking in courage or resolution, do not actually become deserters, but only seek to shun their present duties by simulating illness. The enemy looks upon these as his allies and tries to 'help' them by giving 'good advice' and he also attempts to entice others to malingering..."

HS 6/702

From a report on German Counter-Espionage Methods, compiled for the benefit of SOE agents

"6. The Germans have developed the informer system to almost a fine art. Not merely do they expect the local police to report to them anything of any C.E. significance, but they also employ an army of paid civilian informers who are chiefly paid on results. In many cases these police informers come from the

ranks of local Fascist parties and are, therefore, actuated by the fear of the hostile attitude of the bulk of the local population around them, as well as by personal ambition to achieve a position of local authority. In Norway, for instance, the Germans have often released criminals from prisons in order to use them as informers. They also offer rewards to casual informers (i.e. not regular paid informers), varying from small sums for the denunciation of a local mayor up to huge rewards offered for information about the killers of Heydrich.

7. The German C.E. organisation also, undoubtedly, employs black lists, and many of the names on these are based on denunciations made by local quislings...

8. Far more dangerous, however, is the German use of 'agents provocateurs'. All the evidence goes to show that he is making a very extensive use of these people and on an ascending scale. For instance, both in Norway and in Belgium there is plenty of evidence of fake escape organisations who pretend to offer facilities for escape to this country, with dire consequences to all who take the bait. It has been found that one man alone has been guilty of selling at least fifteen of his countrymen to the Germans in this way for the equivalent of a few shillings a head. There have been plenty of instances also of Gestapo agents calling on householders and pretending to be British pilots or allied agents of one kind or another. Where they have succeeded in deceiving the householder, the latter has had to pay the price. Even where they have not succeeded, however, they have made local inhabitants very chary of offering help to strangers, so that they have achieved at least some result for their German masters. At the other end of the scale, the Wehrmacht are alleged to have succeeded in inducing genuine unsuspecting patriots to establish sabotage organisations in order to attract to them members of other secret organisations...

10. The extremist form of provocation is the deliberate penetration of hostile organisations by means of persons who offer themselves for recruitment, even inside the enemy's territory. Here again German C.E. methods are extremely bold and, therefore, dangerous. At least one of the continental 'stellen' has specialised in sending agents to this country with no other object than to penetrate our organisations, and it must be confessed that their task is not always as difficult as it should be. The usual technique is to send over such agents as escapees, who are anxious to join the national forces of their country in this country, and trust to their being recruited by our secret organisation. The only remedy, of course, is the utmost care in recruiting...

11. One of the most dangerous forms of penetration undoubtedly is the offer of services locally, especially by somebody who has obviously been in one or other of the allied organisations and is, therefore, able to 'talk the language'. One of the worst instances recently consisted in the offer of technical help - in this case, W/T communication - of which the organisation at that time was desperately short. At Beaulieu the danger of accepting all such offers is constantly stressed, yet cases of acceptance do undoubtedly still occur in the field..."

HS 6/703

The "Other" Germans

"With the European War in its penultimate phase the tempo and pressure of events are forcing the German political emigration to show itself in its true colours. With few exceptions and regardless of their former party affiliations the refugees are rallying to the defence of the German Reich after it shall have been purged of the influences of the Nazi regime. The principal motives evident are an abiding fear of Soviet Russia and a keen desire to preserve the unity of the German peoples.

The Social Democrats are particularly vociferous. They look upon themselves as the logical successors to power in Germany and they plan to assume this power by means of a revolution carried out by the 'other', or 'good' Germans, which shall complete the work which the Revolution of November 1918 failed to complete. For the Germany which shall emerge from this convulsion they demand a 'soft' peace and a place of parity within the European comity of nations; as an alternative they conjure up the bogey of a Red Reich, a puppet state of the Soviet Union..."

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Publisher's Note - Part 4

"For Messrs Blunt, Bingham and Successors Ltd... you are trying to make business in Netherlands without our assistance. We think this rather unfair in view of our long and successful co-operation as your sole agent. But never mind whenever you will come to pay a visit to the Continent you may be assured that you will be received with the same care and result as all those who you sent us before. So long."

Hans Giskes, 1st April 1944 (HS 6/736)

Part 4 of this microfilm project documents SOE operations in occupied Holland, including material relating to the penetration of their Dutch circuits by the Germans. As the files reveal, this disaster not only left SOE high command defending its position to Whitehall, it also led to the tragic deaths of numerous agents and Dutch civilians.

The Germans began planting informants in Dutch resistance circuits as early as 1941, but it wasn't until the arrest of intelligence agent Herbert Lauwers in 1942 that their strategy brought success. Lauwers was captured carrying a list of ciphered texts and back messages that detailed bogus intelligence fed into the circuits by the Germans. They were deciphered on the spot, instantly exposing Lauwers as an agent. Unfortunately, London ignored the false security checks sent by Lauwers in subsequent transmissions. For the next 18 months the Germans, led by Abwehr Major Hans Giskes, triumphed in a radio war labelled by the Nazis as the 'Englandspiel' – the English game. Giskes presided over the arrest of more than 50 SOE agents dropped into Holland leading to the full infiltration of N Section, SOE's Dutch Division.

N Section was steered by various leaders throughout the war, including Blunt, Bingham and Dobson. Relations with their Dutch contemporaries, individuals such as Major J Somer (Dutch Intelligence Bureau) and M R de Bruyne (subversion operations) are documented throughout the files, most notably in HS 6/723. It reports that *"under no circumstances would he (Colonel Somers) consider instructing his agents to work on any but strictly SIS lines, and that SOE activities would certainly jeopardise the safety of his men."*

The material also looks at N Section's communications with SIS, Whitehall, the Dutch authorities, the RAF and the Dutch Resistance. Several files reflect SOE's opinion that the Dutch Government was slow to react to German occupation. The Dutch military element, keen to form a proper home front, conflicted with the Government's sensitivity on the welfare of the Dutch civil population in German hands; this crucial difference of opinion would lead to a definite lack of policy in the early years of occupation.

HS 6/724 reports top level planning and activities and stresses the objective of N Section: *"The purpose of SOE was to build up a disciplined force in Holland. We did not seek purposeless explosions, in fact they were the last thing we wanted, except to any special reason. Our hope would be to build up the forces as quietly as possible to function when the balloon went up."*

SOE's subsequent 'Plan for Holland', listed and referred to throughout the files, outlines the use of Dutch resistance groups, guerrilla warfare and sabotage on communication networks. Clear warnings on its implementation are evident; the plan should not prejudice D-Day and attacks should not take place if the result was likely to do more damage to the Dutch population than to the German war effort.

By using these documents, scholars will be able to research the primary issues, political and military repercussions and wider implications caused by the breakdown of SOE's Holland circuits. Controversially, the alleged non-disclosure by SIS to SOE that their Holland circuits had been turned can be studied using HS 6/748. Correspondence showing concern from other Allied authorities, such as the RAF, can also be found.

Files HS 6/750-769 document SOE's missions and operations in Holland, the majority of which were ill fated. Tragically, most captive agents were executed but the escape of two agents from Haaren prison in late 1943, eventually confirmed that for nearly two years Germany had indeed taken on the role as SOE's 'single agent'. The two agents, code named CHIVE and SPROUT, reached London (via Spain and Switzerland) in early 1944. Files HS 6/735-742 look at their interrogations and suggested interpretations of their escape. SOE's handling of the situation is reported in full; they question the plausibility of the couple's return to Britain due to discrepancies in their statements. Were they sent by the Germans to act as double agents or were they just innocent dupes?

"It is fair to assume that the Germans might reckon on SOE writing off their organisation in Holland (and) trying to start a new one. What person better qualified to do this than someone who had been in Haaren and knew German Contra-Espionage methods. It seems as though they had a good chance of success." (HS 6/735)

Files HS 6/749 and HS 6/773 cover the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) enquiry into the Holland situation. Academics will be able to research the findings of the Committee, its effects and ramifications on the role of SOE towards the end of the war. The report into the NORDPOL affair between 1943 and 1944, listing agents, arrests and reports on Abwehr activity can be found in HS 6/743-744.

Post-Englandspiel, the material suggests a definite increase in the presence and influence of 'rival' British secret service organisations (such as SIS) in SOE missions. As allied action in France escalated, SOE were still pressing forward with operations in Holland, although this time security and protection of agents was at the forefront as HS 6/727 illustrates:

"Very energetic steps have been taken to test this security and a few operations have been laid on with this specific purpose. A number of experimental sorties have been carried out in which agents have been blind-dropped to investigate the above."

Undoubtedly, the failure of operations in Holland put a strain on London's relations with the Dutch governing authorities. At the centre of this, the possibility of German penetration within the Dutch Resistance caused SOE high command to question their use in further operations. Relations with one of the four major resistance groups, the RVV ('Council of Resistance') and the movements of its dubious 'leader', 'KING KONG', (HS 6/728) gains in-depth scrutiny in the documents:

"According to all reports, the RVV is still the most suitable and efficient organisation for our purposes, in spite of doubts as to enemy penetration of this organisation, which I consider cannot be entirely ignored." (HS 6/727)

The LO ('Central Government Organisations for Help to People in Hiding'), the KP ('Central Government Fighting Group'), and the OD ('Order of Service') with its sub-group, the GDN ('Dutch Secret Service'), were the other prominent resistance groups in Holland. The NSV ('National Steunfonds') was an umbrella financial organisation which received money from the government-in-exile and conducted covert fundraising to finance KP and LO operations. Some groups within the Dutch Resistance, for instance the Eindhoven and Nijmegen Undergrounds, were established locally by individual Dutchmen, and did not have any links to the main four organisations described above.

Communications on all fronts were put to the test in September 1944. The success of Montgomery's plan to reach Berlin by bringing troops across the Rhine at Arnhem, relied heavily on co-operation between the Allies. Also known as Operation MARKET GARDEN, SOE's direct involvement can be found in Operations EDWARD, CLARENCE, CLAUDE and DANIEL (HS 6/732-733, 759 and 774). As historians are well aware, the advance was not a success and these files will help to answer questions such as: What caused the breakdown in communications? To what extent was the Dutch Resistance really involved in Arnhem? What was the role of the Jedburgh teams CLAUDE and EDWARD? Why were aerial photographs showing German armoured reinforcements of the Arnhem area ignored? If the British had heeded word from their agents in Arnhem, they would have been alerted to the presence of two enemy panzer divisions.

For those studying post-war plans for Holland, HS 6/731 describes the call for help by the Dutch Government in the reconstruction of the Dutch Contre-Espionage Service (under General Einthoven). Outlining the use of existing men in the short-term, it also gives a long-term policy for the employment of new agents.

In contrast, SOE also concentrated on anti-sabotage and anti-espionage in Holland after the retreat of the Allies. There are indications that Dutch resistance workers could pass as Germans in ferreting out "undesirable elements who might be hiding among the masses." As the file reflects "There is not one people in Europe which has a better knowledge of underground warfare than the Dutch, further most of them speak German and many are of race akin."

Concerns over the rising of pro-nazi regimes are also reported, as well as the possibility of forming Dutch 'squads' from the ranks of resistance fighters "to operate inside Germany in exactly the same way as the Germans operated against them." Backed by Allied intelligence, it was thought that such an undertaking would calm certain sections of the Dutch populous still seeking answers to the horrors experienced during the occupation.

Part 4 will enable scholars to study:

- SOE's relationship with the Dutch authorities, SIS, SAS, the RAF and Whitehall
- Dutch Resistance organisations
- The suspicion of 'KING KONG' and suspension of Dutch circuits in 1944
- The intended sabotage of communication networks
- Counter-intelligence and Contre-espionage
- The Joint Intelligence Committee enquiry and the NORDPOL affair
- SOE covert activities in liberated areas
- The future of SOE in Holland and the feasibility of operations
- Activities of the Abwehr and interrogation of Giskes and Huntermann
- SOE's involvement at Arnhem (Operation MARKET GARDEN)
- Collection of evidence and final telegrams by turned agents
- Interrogation of agents

These documents, brought together in Part 4 of this microfilm project, invite academics to study SOE at its lowest point. Did SOE have any successes in Holland? What really caused the penetration of their Dutch circuits? Why were agents' security checks ignored? Did lack of trust and the absence of communication with the Dutch Resistance add to the failure of Arnhem?

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HS 6/724

Minutes of a meeting with Prince Bernhard and Dr Gerbrandy, 13 May 1942

"Dr Gerbrandy came to see me to-day accompanied by Prince Bernhard. I said that S.O.E. had now reached a very important stage in its development. For months past we had been laying the foundations and we were now in a position to push ahead. We had the air and the sea transport: we had our wireless sets: we had our weapons. We were engaged in consultations with the Allied Governments in preparing secret forces in all the occupied territories.

It would be possible for us to work by ourselves, but we much preferred to work with our Allies, and I asked for the full co-operation and help of the Dutch Government. In this connection it was necessary that Brigadier Gubbins should be able to work in conjunction with Colonel de Bruyne. A close personal contact had been established between these two men, and Colonel de Bruyne had General Gubbins's confidence and I believed it to be reciprocated. In these matters personalities were very important, and it was essential that the two representatives of the Allied Governments should be men who had mutual confidence in each other. I was aware that there had been certain difficulties on the Dutch side with which I was not familiar, and it was in order to clear that matter up that I had asked for this talk.

Prince Bernhard replied that it was true there had been difficulties but these had now been cleared up. A new arrangement had been made by which he (Prince Bernhard) was placed in command of the entire S.O.E. and S.I.S. work on the Dutch side. Colonel de Bruyne would work under him..."

HS 6/724

Directive for Future Sabotage Policy in Holland, 8 May 1943

"PRESENT SITUATION

1. The sabotage organisation as planned is now complete. It comprises 5 groups containing 62 cells and totalling some 420 men. These groups are now well equipped with stores and are ready for action. It cannot, however, be guaranteed that the organisation will remain intact for very much longer. The recent decree by which 300,000 former members of the Dutch Armed Forces are to be conscribed in the German interest must inevitably affect this organisation. It is considered that this and any further similar decrees can only result in the gradual dissolution of the organisation, or, at least, in its weakening through the loss of valuable members.

2. In order to maintain the security of the organisation and prevent as far as possible reprisals against the civil population, only insaisissable sabotage has hitherto been carried out. German policy, however, as regards reprisals, has recently undergone a marked change and it is considered that they will, whenever possible, take no drastic action against the civil population in general for such acts of sabotage as do not constitute armed attacks.

3. The immediate adoption of a more aggressive policy is therefore essential, if the organisation so carefully built up is not to be dissipated without having achieved the object for which it was created.

FUTURE POLICY

4. You will extend your sabotage activities to include sabotage which is recognisable as such, but subject to the conditions laid down in paragraphs 5 - 7 below.

5. You will NOT undertake any activities which may prejudice your plans for 'D' Day.
6. You will NOT attack a target if the result of the attack is likely to do more damage to the Dutch population than to the German war effort.
7. No attack will be carried out which involves the use of arms to overcome the resistance of armed guards unless the target can be shown to be of vital importance.
8. The selection of targets will be based on the following order of priority.
 - (a) Targets directly or indirectly connected with the construction, maintenance and supply of U-boats.
 - (b) Fuel oil in storage or transit by water or rail. To achieve this attacks may be made against pre-selected trains subject to the condition in para. 5 above.
 - (c) Interference with inland waterways and railways, subject to the condition in paragraph 5 above.
 - (d) Mines producing bituminous coking coal, but NOT those producing domestic coal which will only affect the Dutch civil population.
 - (e) Ship building yards working for the Germans.
 - (f) Other establishments known to be doing work of importance to the German war effort..."

HS 6/726

Operations to Holland. PODEX/RUMMY/CRIBBAGE. Note dated 5 August 1944.

"These men were dropped successfully last moon period and were to contact a resistance group through a special contact, supplied by our opposite numbers. Initial contact was made through CRIBBAGE on 1 August 1944, PODEX and RUMMY gave the correct identity checks - CRIBBAGE used the correct procedure but reversed his figures; i.e. 8 and 16 on 1st and 2nd letter instead of 16 and 8 on 1st and 2nd letter. I have spoken to DYC/M who confirms that he is of the opinion that if anything was wrong, CRIBBAGE would have broken completely away from his conventions and that the error is due to an oversight.

PODEX confirmed having made contact and asks for material at three grounds - two of which have been turned down by A.M. RUMMY reported that a contact had died, which more or less confirmed news received by our Dutch friends, which reported that the individual in question was seriously ill.

Test questions have been put to all three agents and if satisfactory answers are received, I would like your authority to lay on such operations, possibly two or three, as can be arranged for this moon period, if still in time..."

HS 6/728

Notes on Operation 'Plunder' to be carried out by 9th US, 2nd British and 1st Canadian Armies for the crossing of the Rhine and advancing eastwards into Germany, north of the Ruhr. 14 March 1945.

"RESUME

38. In spite of recent drives by the GERMANS against Resistants, numerous arrests and deportations, and an extremely precarious food situation, the position of Resistance throughout HOLLAND is by no means unsatisfactory, and should be considerably improved by the arrival of the agents who are due to leave in the immediate future.

39. More arms are needed everywhere, and in particular GRONINGEN and DRENTHE will need agents and considerable deliveries of supplies before any assistance in the liberation of HOLLAND can be expected from Resistance in those provinces.

40. It would seem that in HOLLAND there are some 12,500 armed Resistants, but it is probable that when Resistance is called into action, many hundreds, if not thousands of men will be found to be in possession of some sort of weapon, and will come out into the open to assist in the liberation of their country."

HS 6/735

Suggested Interpretation of the Escape of CHIVE and SPROUT

"1. The Germans knew the manner of men they were dealing with, they must have got a very good idea of CHIVE's weakness when faced with uncomfortable consequences, and also of his desire to keep his family out of trouble.

2. By August 1943 the Germans must have begun to guess that they were nearing the end of their success in the game which they had been playing with S.O.E.

3. The Germans were already pledged to the sending of SERGEANT (KNOPPERS) to U.K. on the strength of an earlier message which they had sent over the GOLF W/T: they might have justifiably thought that the success of this venture would be problematical.

4. On reading the Morse signals interchanged between CHIVE and SPROUT they conceived a further plan.

5. In pursuance of this plan they arranged for an answer to be tapped back to CHIVE and SPROUT recommending them to go to a certain address.

6. *Their escape was then allowed...*

10. *While they were waiting for a reply the Germans laid on just that piece of intimidation which they knew would appeal especially to CHIVE i.e. they arrested his mother and sisters. It is worthwhile noting that the news of this reached him through Van BILSEN who arranged for his brother to visit him and tell him the story before he left.*

11. *Having done this a message was received from U.K. to the effect that they were to stay in HOLLAND, this message being brought by Van BILSEN.*

12. *The time which then elapsed would have been sufficient for Van BILSEN or one of his men to get to work upon them (it would most probably be the man with whom they were then staying) and give them any training or instruction that was necessary. They may have been turned round; on the other hand they may really have been encouraged to come back again ... being double agents or merely innocent dupes.*

13. *Van BILSEN then smuggled them to SWITZERLAND by a very 'genuine' underground line.*

14. *On this assumption the remarkable fact of the continued traffic from CHIVE could be accounted for: the Germans might think that it would be better - as they had already written off HAAREN and completely blown it - to go on with the traffic and make themselves look ridiculous, rather than to stop it and draw attention to any action which they might have taken with direct bearing upon CHIVE and his escape.*

15. *The many unsatisfactory features of CHIVE's story, his own very weak character and readiness to talk when in German hands all lend colour to this theory; the general impression is very greatly strengthened by his nervous bearing under interrogation, and his obvious relief when attention is turned from certain parts of the story. Throughout the two days interrogation he was often blushing deeply, fidgeting with his hands and at times sweating profusely; this was not fatigue as he would return to more normal bearing when on safer ground..."*

HS 6/736

From third interrogation of SPROUT (Diepenbroek), 18 March 1944

Interrogator: I am not interested in your opinions. We have had too many of your opinions. I am interested in the truth. I want to make it quite clear that you don't know the whole story. We have many ways of getting information from HOLLAND and we know that your story is not the whole truth, and we want the whole truth.

Sprout: I cannot understand, if the people here are so well in the know, how it is possible that I was in prison for 6 months, and how the Germans played their deception for two years.

Interrogator: Because the people there told them everything they knew, including their codes.

Sprout: It is very easy to say that when one is in ENGLAND.

Interrogator: You are very justified in saying it when we know that the Germans have been working the sets of all the wireless operators who were with you in HOLLAND.

Sprout: I know.

Interrogator: I want to make it clear that your story has not been accepted by the authorities as it stands.

Sprout: I would like to know what part is not accepted, and I will try to explain matters, but as far as I know the story is absolutely true and complete.

Interrogator: You repeat that? It is absolutely true and complete?

Sprout: Yes Sir. I am quite aware as regards details of barbed wire, etc., might have differed from URBINK's story. I have told as best I believe.

Interrogator: We have made allowances for that. Did you at any time have any suspicion that the Germans knew you were going to escape?

Sprout: On the contrary, if it were true that the Germans knew we were going to escape, why would we have our descriptions on the screen, and all the Gestapo have our descriptions, and also URBINK's home be taken by the Germans?

Interrogator: In fact they did everything but catch you. In a small town such as TILBURG do you mean to say the Germans could not have caught you if they wanted?

Sprout: They were not supposed to know we were in TILBURG. The Germans roped off various sections in TILBURG and checked everybody up..."

HS 6/743

From NORDPOL Investigation

"7. The 'turning' of EBENEZER.

Shortly after EBENEZER's arrest, KUP asked permission to visit him in prison, and on his return informed GISKES that EBENEZER was prepared to work for the Germans. GISKES maintains that no physical force was used to turn him. GISKES also personally visited him in prison, and with SCHREIEDER guaranteed his life as well as the lives of any subsequent Allied agents, who might fall into German hands through his treachery. EBENEZER, on accepting the proposal to work for the Germans, told both GISKES and SCHREIEDER that he had been assured by a certain Colonel BLUNT, before leaving the U.K., that in the event of his arrest he was at liberty to accept any proposal put forward by the Germans to save his life; for, at the most, it would be discovered within three weeks if he were working under control. EBENEZER accordingly accepted the German proposal and, on 18.3.42, sent his first message of German origin. This message requested further supplies and stated that the location of a previously agreed dropping point was too dangerous. (EBENEZER CXG 18.3.42 refers). Three further messages all dated 15.3.42 - CXG 14 containing information about a ship's crew, money and a reference to BRANDY, CXG 15 dealing with political and industrial information, and CXG 16 containing information about the position of the Prinz Eugen - all of which had been previously composed by EBENEZER and found on him after arrest, were allowed to go forward by the Germans...

8. Distribution of Functions.

GISKES was responsible for the general policy of playing back EBENEZER and subsequent W/T operators captured, but the more technical, detailed conduct of the traffic, i.e. preparing drafts of messages, seeing London signals received answers, keeping traffic on the right lines, and when necessary the notional killing of operators, etc., was the sole responsibility of HUNTEMANN, who was struck off all other duties until the termination of the traffic on 1st April 1944. The messages were drafted by HUNTEMANN and then taken to the Fu-B-Stelle of the Orpo which was always in close proximity to III F. The B Stelle was solely responsible for the enciphering and deciphering of all signals and for the actual transmission. In this connection it is interesting to note that only 2 S.O.E. W/T operators ever actually transmitted, namely EBENEZER for about 3 months after capture, and TRUMPET (see below). All traffic with these exceptions was conducted by trained operators of the B Stelle.

The actual arrest and custody of the agents were entirely Sipo responsibilities, but of course both GISKES and HUNTEMANN had access to them when necessary...

11. Arrest of LETTUCE, TRUMPET and TURNIP.

Early in April 1942 III F was informed by the Feldgendarmarie that a dead parachutist had been found in a field N.W. of Holten; it appears that he had hit his head on a stone water-trough on landing. From tracks in the neighbourhood of the body there were grounds for believing that other agents had landed at the same time. Early in May the Sipo, on information received from a certain Dr STEMKEL of the Inkasso and Hypotheken Bank, Utrecht, arrested Goswigen Hendrik Gerard RAS alias LETTUCE and Johan JORDAAN alias TRUMPET. The arrests were effected by the Sipo, and GISKES thinks that the informant acted unwittingly. About the same time the Sipo also arrested Leonardus ANDRINGA alias TURNIP on information supplied by a woman (name unknown) in Utrecht. This informant is thought by GISKES to have acted unwittingly.

Interrogation of the three agents produced the full story of the Dropping Operation on the 28th March and established the identity of the dead man, a W/T operator named JOHN alias SWEDE. The latter's signal plan was found on TURNIP which enabled the Germans at a later date to operate a notional, locally recruited operator named SWEDE.

Moreover, under interrogation the three captured men gave the numbers of Dutch S.O.E. agents who had completed their training and who could therefore be expected to be arriving in the not too distant future. In addition, personal descriptions, aliases, an estimate of the capabilities, together with a description of their future roles, i.e. W/T operator, saboteur, clandestine press, organiser etc. were obtained. Thenceforward the Germans devoted a good part of the interrogation of captured agents to the obtaining of this type of information, with the result that they generally knew whom to expect in the future; the information obtained enabled them to impress captured agents during interrogation with their seeming omniscience.

It must be remembered that towards the end of April, B-Stelle had been aware that clandestine transmissions were taking place, but they had been unable to decipher the messages.

12 LEEK and W/T Operator.

On the 5th April 1942 Barend Hloos alias LEEK was dropped blind with his W/T operator Hendrik SEBES alias HECK... It appears that during the drop the W/T set was damaged and although these two agents were not, like the others, apprehended immediately, they were never able to get in touch with the U.K. They were eventually arrested at a date unknown to GISKES and HUNTEMANN. HUNTEMANN recalls that after the arrest, London was asked for a replacement of the W/T set on another link, and this was furnished. The HECK transmitter was first operated on the 22nd August 1942 by the Germans, but HECK himself never operated...

Comment

In putting the above story together I have inevitably given some consideration to the question how far, what appears to have been a series of disasters, could have been avoided from the London end. I set out the results of that consideration, not in any critical spirit, but in the hope that a consideration of the following points may possibly be of use to those whose task it is to organise other similar activities. The

story is, I think, a fair illustration of the fact which is sometimes forgotten, that counter-espionage is very much easier than espionage, and that an espionage organisation in enemy-occupied territory is extremely vulnerable to penetration. If that penetration is skilfully done, it can remain undiscovered over a long period. These are inevitable risks...

What has struck me most has been first, the vulnerability of the organisation in Holland was apparently not appreciated; secondly that the probable or possible implications of minor mishaps upon the security of the organisation as a whole were not considered and thirdly that no steps were, so far as I can see, ever taken by means of trap questions or otherwise to find out whether the operators were or were not under control. With the exception of very few messages containing both true and bluff checks the traffic from the Field relating to the evacuation of KNOPPERS (GOLF and BROADBEAN) only contain bluff checks. Now, although the use of a true check ought not to be taken as evidence that an agent is operating freely, persistent absence of the true check ought, at least, to raise the presumption that the agent is under control. This inference was never drawn. Incidentally it says much for the quality of the agents who were sent to the Field that they did not apparently divulge their true checks to the Germans. Our experience in this country of combating German espionage activities has, I think, taught us that an agent's controller is always most unwilling to believe that his agent has been blown or has betrayed him and this may lie at the root of the failure to appreciate the true significance of the absence of signals showing the agents were operating freely. The arrest of JOHANNES also illustrates the same point. Although no doubt there are notable exceptions, it surely ought to be assumed as a working rule that if a man falls into enemy hands everyone with whom he has been working is compromised and all the information he has to give is in the hands of the enemy. Our experience of the German agents in this country and in the Field strongly supports that view. I do not know if anyone considered what were the chances of JOHANNES having been broken; and if so whether consideration was given to the question what facts and what other agents he was in a position to give away. It seems to me that if these matters had been given proper consideration the whole enterprise would have to have been abandoned; not because it was dangerous and involved risks, but simply because it was foredoomed to failure. Not only, however, does there appear to have been a failure to look the facts squarely in the face but also a failure when suspicion had once been aroused to test those suspicions. It would not I think have been difficult to have put a few trick questions on the traffic with a view to seeing whether the reaction was that which would be expected if the agent was not under control. In this connection it is worthy of notice that we know that some of the W/T operators who had been captured did not themselves operate on behalf of the Germans, their sets being taken over by the Germans for that purpose. No trick questions, however, ever seem to have been put even to the agents who were under suspicion..."

HS 6/759

Signals Out No. 20; from Jedburgh teams involved in Operation Market Garden

"Spent night in most forward position on S. bank of Rhine near DRIEL rpt DRIEL to contact CLAUDE and bring set. Crossing impossible. Jed KNOTTEBELT of CLAUDE slightly wounded, while with Div H.Q. Jed Claude ORR team with 1st Bde in town ARNHEM. Entire force reported eliminated by enemy action. Have not much hope for them but will find out at earliest possible moment. Clarence O.K. Will contact Daniel tomorrow with whom contact temporarily broken through break in L. of C. by enemy near UDEN. Purple Heart for Sgt Billingsly who got wounded in his eye diving into a foxhole."

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Publisher's Note - Part 5

The majority of the Italian SOE files concern planning and reports on activities supporting the Allied armies in northern Italy. The early files, prior to the invasion of Sicily and Italy, concern the armistice and surrender of Italian forces, SOE's role in these negotiations, political issues, discussions with the Foreign Office and planning under its guidance. SOE organisation in Italy, 1941-1945, is covered in a series of files: HS 6/775-780, 901-902 and 907. Folio 91 of HS 6/775 provides a map of Resistance Groups in northern Italy (and this is reproduced on page 120 of this guide). Further files, HS 6/781-784, cover the organisation of resistance groups, 1943-1944.

Files on individual Italian agents and supporters of SOE can be found arranged alphabetically in HS 6/806-811, 814-815. There are also many files on the liaison missions to the partisan forces behind German lines, with reports from British liaison officers on activities in each region, details of events and operations, observations on the political situation, political opinion, communist influence, the strength of resistance forces and general conditions in each area (see HS 6/830-874). Other highlights include material on Malcolm Munthe's SOE force, Special Force No. 1 in Florence, the Mallaby mission, Operation Colossus (the landing of parachutists for sabotage of bridges), Operations Atlow and Potato (on the sabotage of railways), and Operation Boykin (the kidnapping of double agents Ugo, Porta and Benuzzi). The relations between SOE and 8th Army are well covered. Sceptical and uninterested in SOE, for a long time 8th Army refused to countenance any assistance from SOE. However, the process of selecting, training and infiltrating organisers and W/T operators to contact the known resistance and guerrilla groups well to the rear of the fighting line continued. Other recruits were trained for tactical parties ready to support 8th Army. This foresight was justified when the Allied Armies commenced serious offensives and General Alexander called upon SOE for tactical assistance.

Part 5 of this microfilm project brings together all the detailed documents on SOE operations in Italy. A Memorandum of 1 July 1944 entitled "Assistance to Italian Patriots" identifies three distinct phases in SOE's work in Italy (see folios 182-186 in HS 6/776). Stage 1: Penetration was difficult whilst Italy was fighting alongside the Germans; results were hard to assess: *"a certain amount of sabotage and labour strife was reported but the chief value of this spade work was the maintenance of the spirit of anti-fascism and the creation of contacts which proved exceedingly useful later"*. Stage 2: Immediately after the fall of Mussolini and the Armistice was signed, a policy of collaboration between SOE and the Italian Command was agreed upon and a courier was sent to Rome with a skeleton plan of sabotage and resistance. *"One SOE party which had already been recruiting in Sicily was sent forward to Salerno and another party to Brindisi, each accompanied by wireless sets and operators. The former party moved on to Naples and established a base there. Broadly speaking the Naples party obtained its recruits from and through the anti-fascist political organisations and the Brindisi party from Italian army, navy and air force personnel through SIM..."* The Naples operation concentrated on providing sabotage parties to attack tactical targets selected by 5th Army; there was also some long term infiltration work. The Brindisi party concentrated on training groups for work well behind enemy lines. These went on to provide useful tactical support in northern Italy and for offensives launched by 8th Army. Stage 3: The final phase saw the creation of Maryland, the transfer to Italy from Algiers of the training, despatch, operational and signals centres, and the completion of a very close circuit.

This July 1944 document lists five major successes for SOE in Italy:

- SOE wireless links bore the whole traffic in communications leading up to the signing of the armistice with Italy. See files on: Richard Mallaby.

- SOE provided the sole communications link between the Italian Government and Rome officials. Over this link General Benoivenga received his instructions for assuming the position of Governor of Rome on its evacuation by the Germans.

- As the main assault of General Alexander's forces was launched, eleven coup de main parties (48 men) were dropped to attack specified targets and successfully carried out their missions. (The files on these attacks are to be found in HS 6/825- 829).

- When the German retreat beyond Rome began, instructions were given over SOE W/T links and by BBC broadcast signals to the patriot groups in the Appennines to begin their attacks on 16 specified road and rail targets. Most of these assignments were accomplished successfully.

- The strength and successes of groups in Piedmont, Lombardy and Liguria impelled the Germans to divert substantial forces to these areas.

Material in HS 6/776 reveals that from the outset the form of SOE action in Italy was a matter of debate both within Cabinet and in SOE itself. There were those who argued that the Italians were such half-hearted participants in the war on the side of Germany that SOE operations there could safely follow the pattern of those in occupied countries, that agents could be infiltrated and would find a welcoming band of anti-fascist patriots. Major (later Lt. Colonel) C. L. Roseberry, head of the Italian Section took a different view. He thought they should concentrate on establishing close contacts with the political forces opposed to fascism and endeavour to weld them into a coherent opposition in preparation for the day when military pressure weakened the hold of the fascists upon the country.

An obvious line of approach was through neutral Switzerland. It fell to the SOE representative, appointed to the Legation in Berne in February 1941, to explore the legitimate possibilities. The principal task was to find a nucleus of resistance with Italy itself; for 2 years he worked at this. Supplies were sent to groups via devious routes over the Alps and later dropped by the RAF into the lakes and lagoons of Northern Italy in special containers. Later on, SOE's organisation in Switzerland was penetrated by SIM (Servizio Informazione Militare).

Efforts were made to organise active resistance in Italy:

"Through go-betweens who travelled between Italy and Berne, SOE kept in touch with members of the Italian Royal family, the Vatican, Army circles and left wing leaders including Bonomi, Soleri and Croce and even the neo-fascists."

Consideration was given to the possibility of a coup d' état, co-ordinated with Allied action, by Dr Rusca, head of a publishing house in Milan. For political reasons, SOE was instructed to abandon this scheme; subsequently the British Government gave its approval, but by January 1943 the link had then been broken. Inside Italy, the formation of the Partito d'Azione (aimed at assembling under one party, the anti-fascist elements which were ready to risk action, irrespective of party labels) promised further opportunities. SIM got wind of it, but because such highly placed individuals were involved, SIM was scared of taking action. In June 1943 delegates were smuggled out of Italy to Switzerland where they were standing by to visit UK to discuss plans. Before they could make the journey, on 25 July 1943, Mussolini fell.

There were numerous Para-Military Operations. From the time of the invasion of Sicily in June 1943, a special SOE force under command of Major Malcolm Munthe, had gone forward with and often ahead of, the attacking British troops. Its adventures had been various and enterprising ranging from collection of enemy arms to infiltration behind German lines of Italian saboteurs. *"In the assault on Catania, Munthe himself approached the German positions in the guise of an old Italian peasant woman mounted on a donkey and accompanied by a British corporal masquerading as "her" husband. The Germans proved deaf to the old lady's pathetic appeals, to be fortunately, blind to the somewhat angular obesity which concealed a W/T transmitter strapped to "her" stomach."* During the four months from September 1943 to January 1944, Munthe's force carried out no fewer than 70 missions behind the enemy's lines in the Naples area.

With the signing of the armistice, the character of SOE's task had fundamentally changed. The time for political subversion was past; the aim was to give the maximum of tactical and strategic support to the advancing Allied armies. Italy, previously an enemy power, could now be regarded as an occupied country in process of being liberated. She still had her Laval - Mussolini, she had even her collaborating Marshal - Graziani; but she had also her forces of the interior - her Garibaldi and Matteoti brigades, her Femme Verdi, and countless other organised groups of partisans.

Commander Holdsworth settled near Bari, in southern Italy, in charge of a special force in constant touch with partisans and politicians. Just as in France, the Italian resistance was heavily politicised with a strong communist element. Through the communists, fascist power in the great industrial cities of Milan and Turin was undermined; through No. 1 Special Force arms were supplied to innumerable guerrilla bands in the Appennines and in the Ligurian Alps.

Whereas Munthe was engaged in tactical support of 5th Army, the Brindisi Mission set out on a long-term programme aimed at making an effective striking force out of the partisan bands in the rear of the enemy. With this in view SOE had entered into close collaboration with SIM immediately after the signing of the armistice. Couriers were sent to Rome outlining a plan for the sabotage of the German war machine and officers were nominated to take charge of various regions. SIM placed their resources and manpower and

their intelligence service at the disposition of SOE.

The next step was to infiltrate W/T operators with their sets. Within 3 weeks of the establishment of the Brindisi base, the first set came on air from Rome and the link thus formed provided for many months the sole reliable channel of contact with the anti-German forces in the capital. Through it, Military Governors were appointed and plans agreed for the taking over of Rome during the period of withdrawal of the Germans and the entry of the Allies. By the end of 1943, 6 W/T sets were working back and over 100 W/T operators, saboteurs and guerrilla organisers were in training. Rapid growth ensued (statistics of men and women involved vary from 30,000 to 80,000).

It was quite difficult for SOE to keep up with this growth and especially the need to supply arms and equipment. Principal resistance organisations included the CLN (Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale) and the CLNAI (CLN dell Alta Italia). In August 1944 the latter was recognised by the newly formed Italian Government as the body controlling resistance in Northern Italy. An SOE report comments: "Amid the confusion of aims and methods which inevitably marked this vigorous renaissance of the democratic spirit in Italy, SOE strove and still is striving to retain a substantial measure of operational control over its manifestations." At the end of September 1944, it had 63 Englishmen and 135 Italians operating behind the enemy's lines in Italy. Some 33 W/T operators were in regular communication with SOE HQ.

The scale of SOE sabotage operations in Italy was different to and more protracted than operations in France before and after D-Day. There continued to be difficulties in supplying so many scattered bands with adequate arms and ammunition. Another problem was the necessity of calling for action before organisation was complete. The prolongation of the Italian campaign placed an exceptional strain, physical and moral, on the patriot forces behind the enemy's lines. Sabotage on railway lines near Arezzo aided the thrust of 8th Army in early June 1944. In mid-July 1944 Polish forces of the 8th Army were pressing the attack on Ancona. SOE disrupted German supply traffic on coast road to the north. By night, on the evening of 17 July 1944, fourteen men came ashore from Italian submarine chasers, and attacked German troops in the rear, but bad weather curtailed the attack.

The experiences of an SOE detachment which, moving forward in close support of advancing troops, found itself in August 1944, in Florence, illustrate the hazardous responsibilities these detachments had to be ready to accept. The story of SOE No 1 Special Force operations in Florence is recorded in HS 6/790 and the activities of Macintosh, Lieutenant Henry Fisher and this SOE squad are also featured in Charles Macintosh's book, *From Cloak to Dagger* (Kimber 1982). An Italian officer made a perilous crossing of the historic Ponte Vecchio using the 'secret' passage which connects the bridge to the Uffizi Gallery at the top of the Palazzo Vecchio at its northern end. At the time the Germans were holding the northern part of Florence, the Allies the southern half. The failure of the Germans to block this passage had serious consequences for them. The journey across was made 3 times (once to run a telephone line across the ruin of the Ponte Vecchio, again with his SOE commanding officer, and a further time to smuggle a patrol to the other side). These efforts secured valuable intelligence about enemy intentions and allowed patrols to continually harass the Germans.

Rossano (Hodder and Stoughton 1955), published by Gordon Lett, provides his memoirs about the small private army he led in the hills above Spezia. One can find details on a myriad of other such stories in the files reproduced in this microfilm project. After the armistice of 1943, SOE's task became less a case of creating resistance in Italy, but more a role of sustaining and guiding a spontaneous movement to resist. Operation Noal, from July to September 1944, proved most effective. It is estimated that acts of sabotage cut the power supply available to the Germans by one half. The work of 'Anti-scorch' - the preservation of industrial plant, harbour facilities and public utilities from demolition by an evacuating German Army - was also carefully co-ordinated. In December 1944, SOE brought to Rome, from the various corners of occupied Italy, a delegation on which all the parties of the CLNAI were represented. The delegation reached agreement on a military basis with the Supreme Allied Commander and on a political basis with the Rome Government.

The SOE operations in Italy can be classified under three heads: guerrilla attacks against German and Fascist Italian personnel and supplies; isolated acts of sabotage against factories, electric power stations and communications; and co-ordinated attacks in strategic and tactical support of military operations. Attacks of the type listed in the first of these categories were not encouraged by SOE except in areas immediately behind the enemy lines. They were costly in men and materials and invariably provoked reprisals against the patriots and against innocent hostages.

Certain important codenames frequently appear in the material on Italy:

"MONKEY" - W/T connection run by Olaf (Richard Mallaby) between the Italian Peace Mission and the Allies.

"RUDDER" - codename for telegrams received from Rome through a code specially infiltrated immediately after the armistice.

"RANKIN" - Codeword for planning of operations in event of German withdrawal.

"MARYLAND" - Massingham's advanced HQ in Italy.

"DRIZZLE" - Maryland W/T station.

"ENTERPRISE" - Operation to link Petrini and other groups in Italy.

The full story of what SOE achieved in Italy is still waiting to be written. These files offer up many opportunities for new research, from the nature and profile of Italian recruits, the communist tendencies within patriot resistance groups, relations with CLNAI, to a more thorough assessment of the role and contribution of subversion and sabotage in the Italian campaign in World War II.

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HS 6/817 1943-1944

RUTLAND; Blundell Blue plan

HS 6/818 1943-1944

RUDDER mission; wireless contacts

HS 6/819 undated

HAIL mission and ABERCARN operation; (HAIL mission appears to have been led by Petrucci, shot by the SS in March 1944)

HS 6/820 1945

AILERON mission: interrogation of Oscar Cessari

HS 6/821 1942-1943 Kaffir group; propaganda; Battino brothers;

Giustizia e Liberta

REEL 55

HS 6/822 1943

Bulletin mensuel de Giustizia e Liberta (January, February, March)

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BOYKIN: kidnapping of Ugo, Porta, Benuzzi, suspected double agents in North Italian Resistance, February 1945

HS 6/824 1943

IZARRA: proposed exfiltration of General Gustavo Pesenti Coup-de-main and raiding parties (HS6/825 - 829)

HS 6/825 1943-1944

Operations by coup-de-main and raiding parties

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Operation POTATO; case study of railway sabotage methods, northern Italy; with photographs

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Operation LEYTON; to block enemy transport and communications on the coast road, Fano to Pesaro

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BLUNDELL VIOLET; working with Piacenza partisans in the Spezia region; with reports by Captain T D Gregg and Major Lett

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TURDUS; in Lunese area, with partisans

HS 6/833 1945

SMOKEY (SAS mission)

HS 6/834 1944-1945

RICCO; in La Spezia area, with partisans

HS 6/835 1945

INSULIN; in Piacentina area

REEL 57

HS 6/836 1945

INCISOR; in Val d'Aosta

HS 6/837 1945

HARRISBURG/SIAMANG; with partisans in Val Maria area, helping to co-ordinate anti-scorch measures to protect hydroelectric plants in the region

HS 6/838 1945

INDELIBLE/COTULLA; with partisans in Savona province

HS 6/839 1945

CHEROKEE/ANTI-SCORCH M3 (Folder 1) with partisans in northern Piedmont

HS 6/840 1945

CHEROKEE/ANTI-SCORCH M3 (Folder 2) with partisans in northern Piedmont

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M6; in Biella area

HS 6/842 1945

M11; in Asti and Piedmont

HS 6/843 1945

M12/TIBER; in Liguria and Genoa

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ENVELOPE BLUE (TOFFEE); in Reggio Emilia region

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HS 6/847 1944-1945

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HS 6/855 1945
HAPALE; with partisans in southern Piedmont

HS 6/856 1944-1945
CORONA/BANDON; in Piedmont and city of Turin

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EVAPORATE; in Modena and surrounding area

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FLAP

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HS 6/783

Cipher Telegram to Maryland 26.11.43

"Following for J. from A/DE:

1. Saw Colonel Gore today recently escaped from Italy via Voltri and Corsica with help of PIZZONI (son of General) and Doctor Balduzzi Repeat Balduzzi respectively President and Vice President of Fronte Nazionale Liberazione Northern Italy.

2. He states these are first class men in touch with all the Resistance Groups in the hills behind CHIAVARI, GENOA, VOLTRI etc which are full of Resisters including 200 at TORRIGLIA repeat TORRIGLIA where is German HQ for Ligure and 200 at Voltri.

3. He left nine officers and O.R.'s behind at Cabanne (Rezzoaglio) where fair landing ground situated with instructions re. Fires for operational planes and can also contract above named men.

4. States also that these men are able and willing at anytime to cut lines Piacenza/Parma, Sepzia/Parma, and Genoa/Spezia.

5. They can also assist considerably any landing in Genoa district asserting to have 200,000 workmen from ANSALDO and other works in Ligure all anti-German willing to act 6 states essential have one allied soldier as backbone to every nine Italians in the hills."

HS 6/784

Report on interview with Lieut. J. W. Younger of the Coldstream Guards ex POW.

"This officer, who spent several months with the Italian patriot bands . . . had well-balanced ideas of the potentiality of the bands, and had apparently also studied while he was with them, their political tendencies. He was with the 31st Garibaldi Brigade in the district of Salso Maggiore, Parma with HQ at Pellegrino, but had contact also with other Brigades in neighbouring districts. He considered that the patriots in this sector (Apennines) are excellent fighting material, providing they have sufficient arms and equipment. He stated also that although the Garibaldi Brigades were generally considered communist Brigades, this was not always the case: a large no. of men in the Garibaldi Brigade had no, or very little communist feeling. He stated also that the Demo-Christian party has a considerable number of followers amongst the patriots."

HS 6/789

Liaison with 8th Army: Operation Instruction No. 1 to Captain E R McDermott, RE commanding No 1 Special Force Liaison Unit, 8th Army Secret. 27 December 1944. Ref: MN/884.

"Information

1. 8th Army have requested that a small Liaison Unit be attached to them by No. 1 Special Force and 15th Army Group have approved this attachment.

2. Before departure you will ensure that you are acquainted with the location and potentialities of all patriot bands whose activities are of tactical importance to 8th Army.

Intention

3. You will command the No. 1 Special Force Liaison Unit attached to 8th Army and you will have the following tasks:

- (a) To study the use made by 8th Army of Partisans on their front and behind the German lines;
- (b) to examine the methods adopted and the organization required for this use;
- (c) to advise 8th Army of the contributions that a No. 1 Special Force Detachment could make if attached to them."

HS 6/790

Secret and Personal: To: Major Macintosh, D.S.O. From: Capt. Clark. J/2142. 23 November 1944.

"Just a few small points to add to your already manifold worries. We all know how harassed you have been and still are but I think that if the following can be attended to it would make life easier for both of us: -

(a) Some time ago a signal was sent to GORILLA and later a chaser to HOOLOCK asking whether you had any use for 10 trained Italian saboteurs who are tugging at the leash and ready to go anywhere and do anything. Neither signal, I regret to say, has been answered and unless you can take these boys on we will have to discharge them as there is nothing for them here. They are first-class material but rapidly deteriorating. Please let us have your 'yes' or 'no' as soon as possible.

(b) We assume that you are now controlling all your operations to ENVELOPE BLUE over your own link with Holland. Please confirm.

(c) In spite of (b) we would still like to be informed daily whether or not the STRACHAN operation is on "

HS 6/790

Subject: Operations with 92 Div. Ref: 1SF/G./1. To: Capt. Stewart. From: Major Macintosh. 13 November 1944.

"1. 92 Div. Asked if we could help with partisans on their immediate front.

2. We explained Major OLDHAM's position as follows:

(a) He commands the widely scattered and ill-armed LUNESE Div. of approx. 3500 men.

(b) He, through Major DAVIES, has expressed himself capable of co-operating with the regular forces if these were to advance.

(c) He was, at the time (7 November), concentrating some 500 men due East of CASTELNUOVO. He could concentrate more men of the Appuani Bde in the area given 4 days' notice.

(d) His daylight dropping ground was given by another courier (Lt. Bruno).

(e) It was estimated that he might cut the route used by the enemy for the supply of his troops in the MONTE ALTISSIMO area for 4 hrs with his present amn. supply, and that, with more amn. He could hold for some 24 to 48 hrs.

3. The information concerning Major OLDHAM's ground was passed to BASE on 6 November.

4. We informed Div that Major OLDHAM's forces might assist them to the degree shown in para. 2 above making the distinction between his possible action armed and his present limitations. We informed them that stores were ready always at BRINDISI for operations of this nature and that it might be possible to get a drop through Army. We also told them that we had requested a drop in the usual way but that there were many priorities to be considered..."

HS 6/791

From Operation Instruction No 102 by Commander No. 1 Special Force Top Secret. Ref: MN/930. 13 February 1945. This document deals with the possibility of a German withdrawal from Northern Italy and discusses what the role of No. 1 Special Force in liberated territory will then be:

"(i) to establish Report Centres for mission personnel in the principal cities of the north west evacuated by the Germans. Such personnel would advise the local CLNs on the restoration of order and maintenance of public services pending the arrival of AMG and would then place themselves at the disposal of the military authorities..."

(ii) to continue tactical work with 5th and 8th Armies during their advance towards the AUSTRIAN frontiers..."

HS 6/792

Operation HERRING

Brief for Commander Italian Special Air Service, 29 March 1945

"QUATTROCASE and MAGNACAVALLLO areas. Working mainly by night, with the special object of creating traffic jams which might make favourable targets for the air forces next day.

1. You have been nominated by HQ SOMTO to command a force of Italian parachute troops being raised by HQ Eight Army for Operation HERRING.

2. Outline of scheme: The force will consist of F RECCE SQN and volunteers from the NEMBO Regt. of the FOLGORE Gruppo organised as a company. All operational personnel will be volunteers and have already received parachute training. The number of volunteers likely to be available is not yet known.

3. For political reasons, these two sub-units will retain their identity and be self-supporting. A small BRITISH HQ which you will command, is being formed for the equipment administration, training and planning of the force. This HQ is purely temporary and will exist for a period of not more than six weeks or two months. No establishment exists for it against which promotions or increases of pay could be authorised.

4. The force is being formed by Eighth Army, which has delegated responsibility to 13 Corps. When formed it will come under command 15 ARMY GROUP for all purposes, though a call may be made on Army for any special assistance.

5. Operational Tasks:

Outline plans for alternative tasks for this force are being submitted to Army Group by Armies. A copy of the Eighth Army outline plan will be given to you as soon as possible.

6. In general, the proposals are that the forces shall be dropped in small parties of three or four men behind the enemy lines when he is withdrawing in disorder after a major defeat at the hands of 15 ARMY GROUP. Tasks of these parties will be to harass and delay the enemy's withdrawal by all possible means. It is accepted that, once dropped, parties must exist and operate without any further assistance living on and fighting with the equipment they take with them, and whatever they can find in the country. Parties would not be dropped unless the battle is fluid and there would be a reasonable expectation of their being over-run by our own troops within a few days."

HS 6/794

File on the RANKIN brief in the event of withdrawal of German forces. How should missions respond? There are documents relating to the following Missions: ANTIGUA, BANTRY, BARSTON I, BARSTON II, BEACON, BALLONET, BERGAMO, BEEBE, BERGENFIELD, BERIWIND, BESSEMER, BIGFORK, BIGBUG, BIGELOW, BILBRIGGS, BITTERROOT, BLACKFOLDS, BLANCHARD, BLATCHFORD, BOSS, CHARTERHOUSE, ENVELOPE, FLOORLIGHT, CHARLTON, LITTLEPORT, MAYO, RADLEY, SERMON, and WELBECK.

SOE policy is set out in detail in long briefing documents. One of these notes as follows (see folio 96):

"In future, some arrangements with ACC and AMG should be made by which the SOE mission has power to issue temporary circulation passes, car permits, and assume certain other alternative functions pending the arrival of the appropriate authorities. A firm policy for dealing with liberated partisan forces is necessary. This policy must provide for the disposal of large numbers of young men without home, work, or resources and must take into account that these men have in many cases been risking their lives during the enemy occupation."

A further note in parenthesis records: *"This question has to a large extent been solved by the setting up of the patriots branch of ACC to which two SOE officers have been lent."*

HS 6/795

Another file on the RANKIN brief covering the following Missions: FERRULA, PIEDMONT, CLOVER, CHARTERHOUSE, AMBLESIDE, CRESTON, CLARION, and BANDON. This material covers instructions to SOE officers in the field in the event of German forces withdrawing from area in which they are operating before the arrival of Allied troops. The possible scenarios would be largely dependent on local conditions and the state of order and discipline which had been maintained up to the arrival of Allied troops.

Observations from JQ dated 17 October 1944 comment on the Rankin brief as follows:

"Fully comprehend need for refraining activities in spheres which require handling by experts. Agree on difficulty exercising control without means backing it up. Also agree even if control were recognized in view of eventual arrival Allied troops Missions would find themselves in morass of problems to solve and decisions to make..."

There is also material on North Italian concentration camps at Fossoci (Carpi), Monte Chiarugolo, Castello, Gonars and Monegro.

HS 6/796

Partisans in Northern Italy.

This file mainly contains cipher telegrams including codename missions Pulpit North, Pulpit West, Pulpit South and Pulpit East. Much of the material covers the treatment of Partisans in Northern Italy:

Appendix 1 to 15 Army Group Operations Instruction No 5, 12 April 1945. Treatment of Partisans in Northern Italy.

"On their entry into Northern ITALY ALLIED troops will make contact with Partisans in numbers considerably larger than any hitherto encountered. These partisans have in large measure loyally obeyed

the orders of the Allies and have caused very concrete losses and embarrassment to the enemy; they have thus earned as good treatment as can reasonably be afforded them. In addition, in the absence of fair and yet firm treatment and, in the absence of positive and constructive employment, they might form a disillusioned and dangerous element under the disorganised conditions likely to exist during the period immediately following the withdrawal of the Germans and the arrival of the Allies"

This six page document (see folios 113-118) goes on to address a number of issues: Disarmament of Partisans, Independent Action by Partisans, Care of Partisans, Establishment of Partisan Centres, Food, Clothing, Pay, Hospitalisation, Rehabilitation, Collecting of Partisans, and Yugoslav Forces.

HS 6/799

Pickaxe Mission.

This file covers SOE/Soviet relations and the Pickaxe mission. A Memorandum of 17 April 1944 (see folio 4) sets out the background details:

"As you are probably aware, an agreement exists between SOE and its Russian counterpart for mutual assistance in the fulfilment of their respective roles...

The principal way in which the agreement operates on our side is the offer, from time to time, by SOE of its facilities for the infiltration of Russian agents into various areas of Europe... SOE, in carrying out such operations, is executing the policy of HMG under the immediate guidance of the Foreign Office..."

HS 6/800

SOE/Soviet relations; infiltration of Russian agents into Italy. Covering SOE/Soviet relations again, this file focuses on two Russian agents and their proposed infiltration into Italy; the main details being set out in a memorandum of 11 January 1943 (see folio 238) under the heading:

Andrei KALIAIEV and Alexandre FILIPOV

"...The following are the details of these agents' cover story for this country:

Andrei KALIAIEV, now known as Alberto ROSSI, an Italian Swiss, born at Bellinzona, Ticino, on 16 May 1898, a single man and an engineer by profession (this last is genuine).

Alexandre FILIPOV, now known as Alessandro FLORO, born at Capolago, Ticino, Italian Swiss and date of birth, 4 November 1910, a single man and an engineer by trade.

Both these men will enter Italy as engineers. They are both at present accomodated at 25 Crophorne Court, Maida Vale."

Such agents were infiltrated into Northern Italy, originally via the south of France, later through Gibraltar, with delivery by air or submarine.

HS 6/802

Dr Ugo's Plans to Penetrate the Allied Intelligence Service in Switzerland in the Summer of 1944. Extract from the Second Detailed Interrogation Report on SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Saevecke, Theodor, 24 June 1945, provides details of Ugo's original plan.

"...UGO submitted to source a plan whereby it was hoped to achieve a penetration of Allied Intelligence rings in SWITZERLAND. The plan involved the employment of MONTANELLI, Dorothy GIBSON and General ZAMBON, three anti-Fascists then in prison at MILAN.

MONTANELLI, GIBSON and ZAMBON were to be released, ostensibly through the influence of UGO, and to be conducted into SWITZERLAND. When they were there UGO was to enter SWITZERLAND himself, pose as their liberator and as an enemy of the Germans, and state his willingness to work for the Allies. He hoped in this way to secure an introduction to Allied intelligence circles."

Dorothy Gibson was an American. Both Ugo's original plan and his second plan failed.

HS 6/812

Translation of an article appearing in the Italian Patriot paper

"The Rain has ceased"... October. (see folio 78).

"General Alexander has sent another wireless message to the Italian partisans inviting them to arise and act, to hinder "by every means" the retreat of Germans.

"By every means . . ." But with rifles – when there are any – is it possible to fight against canon – with hand grenades – when there are any – can we hope to overcome flame throwers. Let the technicians reply, the war lords; let Alexander, Clark and that other Brazilian General who has now taken up his post, reply. Without adequate means it is not possible to make war and not even guerrilla warfare. Faith enthusiasm, will are not sufficient: arms are necessary, munitions are required. Many arms, much ammunition. It is possible to remain several days without bread, thirst can be supported, as can also the cold and the rain. But when the ammunition is exhausted one dies. How many brave youngsters have died thus with arms in their hands shouting their cry of Italy! How many patriots have been captured because it has been impossible for them to defend themselves been for lack of munitions..."

HS 6/814

Interrogations regarding the fate of the British officer, Captain John Armstrong, and other British prisoners. This file comprises papers regarding the fate and whereabouts of a number of different individuals. Included are case papers and interrogations regarding the fate of the British officer, Captain John Armstrong, and other British prisoners, Cooper, alias O'Mally, and Simpson. The following extract is from folio 74:

John Armstrong:

Report of a Conversation with Father O'Snedden of the International Prisoner of War Information Bureau in the Vatican Radio, now employed unofficially as chaplain to the New Zealand Forces Club, Albergo Quirinale, via Nazionale, Rome.

"15 August 1944.

1. Father SNEDDEN knew the British prisoner COOPER alias O'MALLY very well and on account of this Major Derry asked him to go to the Santo Spirito Hospital Mortuary to try and see if the unidentifiable body amongst the 14 persons murdered in the via Cassis was COOPER.

2. Father SNEDDEN states that he went along to the mortuary sometime between 5th and 12th June. There he spoke in the first instance to the custodian of the mortuary . . . SNEDDEN says that it was impossible to recognise any features, but that he was of the opinion that the body was slightly taller and a little more robust than that of COOPER as SNEDDEN had known him.

3. In a subsequent conversation with the second custodian (of the mortuary) father SNEDDEN was informed that on 3rd June two Englishmen were in via Tasso. One of them had been there all the time, and this was quite definitely COOPER. The other had been brought from some other place on 2nd or 3rd June, and it was generally understood that this second Englishman had come from Regina Coeli.

4. In Via Tasso on those dates there was a Capucin father, who was either a prisoner or a visitor. It was thought however, that he was a prisoner. It is said that one Englishman was loaded on the tumbrel, the occupants of which, to the number of 14, were subsequently murdered in the Via Cassia. This Englishman, either whilst he was being taken from his cell, or when he was being loaded on to the truck, gave his real name and home address to the Capucin monk, so that his parents might be informed.

5. Father SNEDDEN told me that he had repeated this information to Major Derry.

6. Father SNEDDEN also told me that the second custodian had said to SNEDDEN that the Capucin monk was in a bad way and was unable to speak at that time, as he had been beaten up."

HS 6/818

Top Secret. Memorandum from ISLD c/o 59 Area HQ, CMF to Brigadier C E R Hirsch; Copy to Major de Haan, No. 1 Special Force.

30 June 1944.

"1. A full investigation of the clandestine organisation RUDDER (which operated on behalf of the Allied and Italian High Commands during the German occupation of ROME) has now been completed.

2. It reveals that Colonel MONTEZEMOLO (pseudonym APLINO) and Captain VASSALLI (pseudonym RUDDER), were largely responsible for the development of this organisation.

3. Captain VASSALLI took the RUDDER code through the lines to ROME immediately after the declaration of Armistice. To him, therefore, is due the credit that the wireless sets in the capital were ever brought into operation. He thereafter devoted himself wholeheartedly to collecting Intelligence, under the orders of Colonel MONTEZEMOLO.

4. The latter, a senior Italian staff officer, formerly on KESSELRING's staff, was entirely responsible for the intricate system by which all informants were directed by one leader (in the first place himself) to whom all information was sent and by whom it was sifted before being transmitted to the Allies.

5. The activities of these officers finally led to their being, one after the other, arrested. Both were imprisoned in the VIA TASSO and submitted to gruelling interrogation. It is known that MONTEZEMOLO, at least was tortured. Neither betrayed his collaborators. Had either done so the organisation would certainly have been wiped out. Both were eventually shot.

6. It is felt that recognition of the services of these two officers to the Allied cause should be made to their families, and it is suggested that the most appropriate form would be letters of appreciation from General ALEXANDER..."

HS 6/823

Enemy double agent: Benuzzi. To: D/CE. From: J. J/IT/7702, dated 23 July 1945.

"Benuzzi has long ceased to be of interest to SOE except in so far as he might throw light on the double agents whom we might otherwise continue to trust. As Hoyer-Millar rightly says, we have now many other founts of information. There remains the question of his disposal. Undoubtedly the Italians can best deal with him, but there remains the question of the means employed to get him to the south. Several Italians

already know all about this, but that is different from having it aired in a public court... As far as I see, therefore, our only concern is the avoidance of publicity of our part in his abduction. Are we more likely to succeed in this by handing him to the Italians for "Justice" in the hope that the Italian Authorities can be primed in advance, so as to keep this matter quiet, or is it better just to let him go free and leave it to chance whether the Italians subsequently run him in, and make a case against him? This, I am afraid, I must leave to you."

HS 6/823

From Preamble to the Interrogation Report on the double agent OSTERIA, Ugo Luca, alias PARODI, Giovanni. 15 March 1945.

"Subject is an Italian of humble origins, and who may be described as largely self-educated. He was employed by the OVRA from 1928 until the fall of Fascism, and under the auspices of the Pubblica Sicurezza has been engaged in work of a very confidential nature for the enemy until his departure for Switzerland on 24 February 1945. He was employed by the Germans in detecting anti-German activities, but claims that he used his position to help the Allies. His work during the past few years brought him into touch with hundreds of individuals who are now engaged in resistance activities in Northern Italy and he is known to have interrogated many important prisoners..."

HS 6/826

Coup-de-main operations. Railway sabotage. Operation Potato. This file contains the story of Operation POTATO or PATATA, with various photographs relating to the mission:

Operation "POTATO". 8 June - 4 July 1944.

"This is the story of one of a series of some 50 coup-de-main operations carried out in the months of June and July 1944. At that time the 5th and 8th Armies were just beginning to push forward rapidly towards the Gothic Line. Enemy regrouping was taking place on quite a considerable scale and there was a great deal of movement of men and material from the North down towards the front and a great deal of cross-country movement as troops were switched from the East to the West and vice-versa.

The Allied Air Forces were concentrating on the interdiction of enemy lines of communication in the APENNINES, from the front just NORTH of ROME as far as the line of BOLOGNA. At the request of 5th Army Group a series of about 50 parties of Italian saboteurs were prepared to be dropped in the APENNINE area to attack targets which, because of their geographical situation, were difficult to strike from the air by fighter or by bomber.

Targets were chosen in consultation with the Army and Air Force Intelligence Branches and blind dropping grounds selected as near as possible to the target area. Parties consisted of 2, 4, 6, or 8 Italian saboteurs, volunteers from the Italian Forces. Each team was given a name (in Italian) such as "SOUP", "APPLE", "POTATO". Each had as its primary objective the cutting of railway track in one or several vital places such as junctions, culverts, small bridges, embankments, level crossings. As a subsidiary task, each group was required to attack main and secondary roads and enemy transport being used for the movement of personnel and material. On completion of their tasks groups were briefed to join neighbouring partisans..."

HS 6/830

From Report on Operation Blundell Violet in Spezia Province after 15 March 1945.

"Orders:

Major Henderson and Captain F. Williams were ordered to proceed to the field on 6 March 1945 for the purpose of:

- (i) Relieving Major G. Lett.*
- (ii) Liaising with and assisting Command IV Zone.*
- (iii) Collecting and communicating intelligence*
- (iv) Passing on to patriots the directives of the 15th Army Group."*

HS 6/830

Report on the "Blundell Violet" Mission by Major Lett, 5 April 1945. (see page 11).

"January 1st 1945:

Attack on Borghetto successful though few enemy casualties owing to fact that many had moved out of town before dawn owing lack of secrecy on part of partisans concerned in the attack. Returned to Rossano in the evening, found considerable confusion and terrorised population owing to bad behaviour of partisans, especially G. and L Colonel. Gave orders immediately for expulsion of all patriots from area for military reasons and closed frontiers of Rossano Valley to all persons without special passes made out by Colonel at Command, or self. Colonel moved back with command to VARESE.

January 2nd 1945:

Funeral of 7 US Airmen who crashed at Zeri 30th. Buried in cemetery Rossano; military honours paid by SAS. This crash made Huntsville very unpopular with RAF who refused to drop further re-supplies on that DZ..."

(The above is only a very brief extract from a very long and detailed document; however it serves to give a flavour of the material.)

HS 6/840

Report by Captain J P S Amooore.

"Mission CHEROKEE was parachuted on night 16/17th November 1944 to DZ ADSTONE, near ZIMONE (BIELLA), and consisted of the following:

*OC Major A Macdonald
Captain J Bell
Lieutenant (now Captain) Amooore
Sergeant (now Corporal) A W Birch...*

*Our drop was successful, though I landed in the middle of a pig-sty between two large pigs which climbed over the wall in their excitement; I had dropped fourth and last which accounted for my narrowly missing the roof of a farm-house situated outside ADSTONE DZ-this being achieved by pulling on the right-hand lift web which pushed me a yard to the right in time. DZ ADSTONE is not ideal for body dropping being rather too small. All other members of Mission landed well.
The DZ was attacked two hours afterwards by the FASCIST garrison of CERRIONE but the thrust was beaten off..."*

HS 6/850

Mission to Eastern Tirol and SW Carinthia, 18 August - 27 November 1944. Two Extracts from Top Secret Report by Major G R H Fielding. Local Italian background:

"As the mission was compelled to operate from Italian soil and it was entirely dependent on the good will of the Italian Partisans, it is necessary here to give an idea of Partisan organisation in the area. The Partisans are divided into two groups, the Garibaldis and the Osoppo. The Garibaldis are communist and an undisciplined rabble led by ambitious politicians who were not primarily interested in fighting the Germans but in founding and welding a strong political weapon for use after the war. They were extremely unhelpful and were never of the slightest assistance to the mission.

The Osoppo on the other hand comprised all shades of political opinion, and intended first to assist in ejecting the Germans from Italy and then to talk politics. Their officers were drawn mostly from the commissioned ranks of the Army, and their troops from the plains around Udine. The Osoppo were more than helpful and it was entirely due to their co-operation the mission was able to carry on at all."

First German Offensive and capture of Major Smallwood and WTO:

"On 12 October a German drive started in Carnia. The Partisans, who were very ill equipped, resisted for three days, and then melted to the hills or to their homes. Major Smallwood and his WTO were crossing the hills from Forni Avoltri to our dropping ground due south of Sauris to join me. Unfortunately Smallwood, in crossing the mountains slipped and in falling broke his left forearm and sprained his right ankle very badly. As he was being carried down the mountain he was spotted by a German patrol and compelled to surrender. His WTO, Sergeant Barker, very gallantly refused to leave him. All reports are to the effect that certainly their initial treatment was very good. Smallwood was last reported in hospital in Udine, but Sergeant Barker was presumably taken direct to Germany."

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE, 1940-1946

Series 1, Special Operations in Western Europe

Part 1: France: The Jedburgh Teams and Operation Overlord, 1944-1945,

Part 2: France: Political and Planning Files, Circuits and Missions, 1940-1947

Part 3: Germany, 1936-1945

Part 4: Holland, 1940-1949

Part 5: Italy, 1941-1948

Special Operations Executive Summary of Operations in Western Europe

This summary refers only to those operations with the fullest material in the files. For reasons of space it does not refer to every operation mentioned in the records. Similarly, the newly released records do not contain evidence on every operation which was mounted by the sections.

A(E)NEAS

Belgium, May-June 1944, field name Nicole, Graumont.

ARBORETUM

Belgium, 1944, agents executed, few details of exact mission.

AEMILIUS

Belgium, 3 August 1944, field name Lucie, Rockfort-Marche region.

AGAMEMNON

Belgium, January/February 1944, field name Suzanne, Tournai, liaison mission with Cufflinks mission, captured.

AGRIPPA

Belgium, 5 March 1944, field name Brooch, W/T mission.

AILERON

Italy, brief report only available in the files of an agent sent to Siena in March 1944, purpose unclear.

ALARBUS

Belgium, 3 June 1944, field name Locket, Ciney/Marche region.

ALCIBIADES

Belgium, 5 August 1944, field name Ida, Hal/Nivelle region, provision of instruction in sabotage.

ALMOUTH

Italy, February 1944, plans for blowing up of railway bridge over the Taro; the relevant file provides few clues to outcome.

ALOES

France, 1944, code name for resistance headquarters, Brittany, W/T communications to five departments of Brittany.

ALSATION

Belgium 21-22 April 1943, Briquet. Mission members killed on impact. Aimed at encouragement of resistance in industry.

AMPTHILL

Italy, March 1944, rail sabotage at Pedaso.

ANDROMACHE

Belgium, 2-3 June 1944, field name Valerie, Graumont, liaison with resistance, reception committees and sabotage; lands in Holland by mistake, with only one survivor.

ANTENOR

Belgium, 1944, field name Tiepin, Gemblaux.

APEMANTUS

Belgium, February/March 1944, field name Monique, Beauriang region, liaison with resistance groups.
ARMADA France, November 1943, sabotage of Le Creusot electricity power, also transformer stations and fuel depots.

ARMADILLO

Belgium, 6 August 1944, field name Gavotte, Ardennes region.

ARTICHOKE

Holland, June 1942, to destroy VLF stations at Kootwyk, the communications centre for U Boats in North Sea. An agent was to be exfiltrated, but the file provides no further details.

ASSOCIATION

Belgium, infiltration of agent to Belgium through Lisbon; paid off after attempt at usage 1941-1942.

ATLOW

Italy, April 1944, sabotage against railways in the Siena area, Asciano.

AUFIDIUS

Belgium, 1 April 1944, field name Colette, Ciney Marche, liaison mission with chief of zone IV, for organisation of zone, instruction in arms and explosives.

AUTOGYRO

Belgium, 1941, few details in files, mission cancelled after several failures.

BABOON

Belgium, 17 November 1942, PID mission to encourage peasant resistance.

BADGER

Belgium, February 1943, Liege region, reception committees, communication with Secret army; agent deemed 'irresponsible'.

BALAKLAVA

Belgium, September-October 1941, W/T support to Outcaste at Neufchateau, discovered by Germans.

BALLOONET

Italy 1944-1945, political and military mission to the east Tyrol and VIOLET south-west Carinthia.

BALTHAZER

Belgium, 1942-1944, field name Louse, aimed at paralysis of river traffic in Hainault region, later expanded to cutting of railway routes and destruction of communications in preparation for D-Day, working to Nelly.

BANDON VII

Italy, 1945, continued political and military liaison mission in Turin. Appears to have had the task of facilitating supplies by safeguarding Rivoli airport.

BASSIANUS

Belgium, May 1944, field name Violette, to work to Nelly, sabotage instruction, including derailment of trains.

BERGENFIELD

Italy, 1944-1945, political and military liaison mission to the TABELLA partisans, Udine area.

BERNARDO

Belgium, 4-5 July 1944, Brussels region, messenger to chief of Secret Army, field name Nina.

BIANCA

Belgium, 28-29 June 1944, field name Diane, sabotage instruction.

BLUNDELL

Italy, general name used to denote the various liaison missions to the Italian partisans in the north, 1944-1945.

BLUNDELL

Italy, 1944, political and military liaison mission to VIOLET Piacenza partisans, working in Spezia region. The relevant files contain reports by leaders Captain T D Gregg and Major Lett.

BORZOI

Belgium, 20 December 1942, Brussels and Tournai, to extend Flemish clandestine press, reception committees; agents escapes to Geneva, March 1943.

BOYKIN

Italy, plan for kidnapping of suspected double agents who were thought to be compromising the north Italian resistance. Although successful when carried out in February 1945, interrogation of the agents later suggested that the suspicions were unfounded.

BRABANTIO

Belgium, July or August 1944, field name Odette, principal delegate to occupied territory for organisation of sabotage.

BRADDOCK I

Germany, 1944, dropping of incendiary devices by air for possible and II use by POWs in an uprising.

BROADBEAN

Holland, February 1943, to collect mail from resistance groups in northern Holland and arrange transportation.

BUCKHOUND

Belgium, 1943, W/T support, military zone IV, Brussels.

BULLFROG

Belgium, May 1943, contacts with secret army and organisation of GOFER reception committees.

CAIUS

Belgium, August 1944, field name Stephanie, sabotage instruction to Huguette, Brussels and Liege region, captured, escaped.

CALF

Belgium, January 1943, aimed at the creation of links to secret army, Hainault, but a possible security breach.

CALPURNIA

Belgium, July-August 1944, field name Courante, W/T support to Huguette group, Hainault region.

CALVADOS

Germany, 1943, attempt to start a sabotage organisation in Hamburg and Bremen, using a German deserter, Kurt Koenig.

CANIDUS

Belgium, June 1944, W/T to Delphine mission.

CANTICLE

Belgium, March 1942, with Duncan, Mastiff, Incomparable; courier, and W/T support arrested; later agents reported to have been beheaded.

CAPHIS

Belgium, January 1944, field name Herminie, probably a stage mission, captured.

CARICAL

Belgium, 1942-44, PID mission, based in Liege, Charleroi, Brussels, to destroy records of the Office National de Travail to undermine the use of skilled labour by the German occupiers.

CASEMENT

A deception plan aimed at creating the belief that Germans were fleeing to Eire or Argentina to form a free German government. Suggested by the Spanish section during 1944, it did not go ahead through the lack of evidence of the Spanish escape connection considered necessary for its success.

CATO

Belgium, July 1944, field name Celeste, to provide a messenger link for communications from the Minister of Finance.

CAWDOR

Belgium, February-March 1944, field name Roland, accompanied by Necklace, to provide a courier service.

CAYOTE

Belgium, (?) May 1942, for organisation of motor sabotage, Brussels, accompanied by W/T mission Duncan.

CELESTE

Belgium, July 1944, carrying messages from the Belgian Minister of Finance.

CHEROKEE

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission to partisans in ANTI-SCORCH northern Piedmont.
M3

CHICKEN

Belgium, August 1941, field name Tante Caro, creation of organisation based on passive resistance and sabotage in the Antwerp area.

CHIRON

Belgium, April 1944, field name Sash, W/T mission; arrested.

CIMBER

Belgium, August 1944, field name Yvonne, transmission of microfilmed messages.

CISCO

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission, Modena-Reggio, aiming to create a secure base on the northern Apennines.

CITRONELLE

France, 1944, to assess Maquis Strength, Ardennes region.

CIVET

Belgium, 1942-44, also known as mission Stanley, report on strength of secret armies at request of Pierlot.

CLARIBEL

Belgium, March 1941, preparations for possible use of Belgium by enemy forces as a springboard for the invasion of Britain.

CLAUDIUS

Belgium, July 1943, to contact resistance groups - FIL, MNB, Group G, and offer financial support.

CLOWDER

Austria, 1943-45, establishment of an advance post to make contacts in central and eastern Europe, exploiting resistance movements, and looking especially to work in Austria and Germany.

COAL/TURTLE

Belgium, January 1943, abortive mission to steal German fighter aircraft, Brussels.

CODFORD

Name for all operations designed to prevent enemy states from seizing assets of neutral foreign countries.

COLAN

Germany, 1945, sabotage of railway between Stuttgart and Heilbronn, reports of success by agents.

COLLIE

Belgium, March 1942, mission for SOE and Belgian Surêté, to contact resistance, organise reception committees; exfiltration of leader of Legion Belge, but caused a subsequent quarrel between SOE and the Belgian government in exile over interrogation of leader of Legion Belge.

COLLOSSUS

Italy, February 1941, Landing of sabotage of bridges.

COMINIUS

Belgium, March-April 1944, field name Mitten, Huy, Ardennes region, W/T mission.

CONJUGAL

Belgium, September 1941, to organise sabotage and contacts, but captured.

COOLANT

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission to the partisans

COOLANT BLUE

north east of Udine.

CORDELET

Belgium, 1943-44, mission to social and democratic trade unionists, to encourage resistance, and organise a go-slow of Belgian workers in Germany.

CORIOLANUS

Belgium, April-May 1944, field name Handbag, W/T mission.

CORONA

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission, Piedmont.

BANDON

The files include a report on the HQ in Turin and the liberation of the city.

CROWD

Austria, 16 March 1945, investigation of general conditions of the underground socialist movement in the Sudetenland; fate unknown but thought to have been captured.

CURLING

Holland, 1944, W/T mission to chief operator.

DANBURY

Austria, 13 August 1945, sabotage of enemy lines of communication in Drau valley, based at Klagenfurt; eventually returned to Bari.

DARANUS

Belgium, April 1944, field name Agnes, investigation of Tybalt/ Claudius mission, information gathering on the efficiency of various groups, re-evaluation of sabotage missions.

DEFIANCE

Spain, 1942-43, attempt to build up 'traditionalist', probably Catalan, support in the Barcelona area.

DENVER

Austria, 8 May 1944, contact with resistance groups in Sudetenland and establishment of communications. All agents lost through betrayal.

DICING

Holland, (?) April 1945, Jedburgh team to represent special forces and act as liaison between resistance and paratroops in the Assen, Meffel and Coevorden area.

DINGO

Belgium, 1943-44, PID mission, to stimulate slow down in production in the industrial areas of Charleroi, possible security breaches by agent.

DOLABELLA

Belgium, July/August 1944, field name Ursule, work in organising reception committees with Simone.

DONALDBAIN

Belgium, August 1944, field name Foxtrot, W/T mission accompanying Odette mission.

DONUM

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission in east Piedmont.

DOWNEND

Germany, 1944, agent sent to create a sabotage organisation in the Ruhr and Frankfurt area, based on a nucleus of contacts with the ISK.

DRAUGHTS

Holland, January 1945, W/T mission, north Holland.

BACKGAMMON/ DRAUGHTS

Holland organising mission, 1944.

BEZIQUE / DRESSMAKER

France, 1943, sabotage of tanneries at Graulhet (Pau-Toulouse) and Mazamet (Carcassone); unsuccessful.

DRYBROOK

Austria, 13 August 1945, establishment of W/T links in east Tyrol; dropped in error to Germany and returned to UK.

DUNCAN

Belgium, October 1942, attempted infiltration of agent to Belgium via Portugal through a staged desertion; contact eventually lost.

DUNCERY

Austria, 24 April 1945, preservation of Zeltweg Aerodrome for the Allies, in the event unnecessary through work of local anti-Nazi groups.

DUVAL

Austria, 16 February 1945, to contact underground organisation in Salzburg and assist in sabotage; party captured.

EBENSBURG

Austria, 8 February 1945, organisation of local sabotage with Maquis; capture of Bad Aussee four days before US arrival.

ECHALOTTE

France, 1944, wireless bases in Moselle and Vosges area to augment existing radio circuits and to provide information to London from rear of German line.

ELECTRA

Austria, 23 March 1945, to contact the underground socialist movement, Vienna; W/T contact never established.

EMELIA

Belgium, August 1944, Mrs Olga Jackson, field name Babette, independent propaganda mission for undermining of morale in Brussels, Ghent, Liege, Antwerp, Charleroi; organisation of prostitution circuit aimed at German officers.

ENORBARBUS

Belgium, 1944, field name Polka, W/T support to Constantine mission.

ENVELOPE

Italy 1945, Reggio Emilia region, political and military liaison

BLUE (TOFFEE)

mission.

EROS

Belgium, August 1944, field name Reel, W/T support.

EUCALYPTUS

France, 1944, derived from Union, liaison mission, Vercors.

EUPHRONIUS

Belgium, May 1944, field name Arlette, sabotage instruction to Nelly in field, region Bierene.

EVANSVILLE

Austria, 7 February 1945, support to movement in Graz, and arrangement for agents in Italy; believed killed and underground organisation crushed.

EVAPORATE

taly, 1945, political and military liaison mission to Modena and area.

FALAISE

Tangier, 1941-42, destruction of an enemy wireless station used for providing locations of Allied submarines in the Straits.

FERRET

Belgium, 1942, plan to evacuate seven agents from Belgium, including Arboretum, presumed captured by Germans.

FERRET

Italy, June 1944, to land three A force agents north of Bonassola on the Ligurian coast and attempt a meeting with an existing ferret party.

FERRULA

Italy, 1944-45, Val d'Aosta, political and military liaison mission.

FLAMINIUS

Belgium, October 1943, field name Jacqueline, arrested mid-1944

FLAP/FIN

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission to southern Piedmont, despatched August 1944. Also appears to be known as Temple mission.

FLAVIUS

Belgium, 1943-44, field name Bib Red, W/T mission.

FLECKNEY

Germany, 1944-45, establishment of an organiser for sabotage in Breslau region.

FLOODLIGHT

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission consisting of Major W O Churchill, to act as British Liaison Officer to General Cadorna at the request of the CLNAI in northern Italy.

FORDWICK

Germany, 1944, establishment of a line for agents and information between Germany and Denmark.

FORTINBRAS

Belgium, 1943, field name Bracelet, little detail of mission provided in relevant files.

FOXLEY

Germany, 1944-45, plan to assassinate Hitler pressed by SOE and supported by Duff Cooper. A full implementation and intelligence report was drawn up but was not taken forward - Hitler's military strategy and decisions favoured the Allies and there was no desire to create a martyr cult. However, plans to deal with Hitler's subordinates, including Goebbels, found favour but were not implemented (Operation Little Foxleys).

FRILFORD

Germany, 1944-45, to sabotage railway track from Hintshingen to Oberlauchringen; reports from agents on success.

GAMBLING

Holland, 1945, Jedburgh team to Veluwe region.

GELA BLUE

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission to partisans in Vittorio Veneto.

GENESSE

Italy, 1945, military and political liaison mission to Oltre-Po, Pavese and partisans of Ligurian zone.

GIBBON

Belgium, 1942-44, PWE mission, organisation of carrier pigeon communication systems.

GLAMIS

Belgium, April 1944 field name Josephine, Huy, Andenne region, adjunct to Hotton sabotage group.

GRATIANO

Belgium, January, 1944, field name Ping Pong, W/T operator for Samoyede II, based Brussels.

GREENLEAVES

Austria, 2 April 1945, group based at Klagenfurt; dropped successfully but documents and photos captured; evacuated to Bari.

GREYHOUND

Belgium, 1942-45, organisation of escape routes through France to Spain (also known as WOODCHUCK and ANTOINE).

GRIFFON

Belgium, February 1943, field name Genon, sent in with W/T mission Badger to Huy region; 2ième Bureau agent sent to liaise with secret armies, eventually captured and sent to Dachau.

GUINEAPIG

Belgium, October 1943, field name Wig, with Flaminus, arrested.

GYPSY

Belgium, September 1941, to organise reception committees, VERMILLION courier routes, arrested (?) May 1942.

HAIL

Italy, date uncertain. Few papers are provided on this file, but the mission appears to have been led by Petrucci, shot by the SS in March 1944.

HAMSTER

Austria, 21 April 1945, arming of small resistance groups for attacks on road and rail transport; reported working in Klagenfurt.

HANGMAN

France, 1942, sabotage of pylons; training for the operation took place, but no indications are available from the file that the operation took place.

HAPALE

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission to the partisans, southern Piedmont; signals investigation mission.

HAPEVILLE

Italy probably 1945, little detail on the file, but likely to have been a liaison mission to the partisans at Bergamasco.

HARAS

Austria, 30 July 1945, to join Communist underground in Innsbruck, establish radio links. Unsuccessful, W/T not dropped and agent attacked.

HARRISBURG

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission to partisans

SIAMANG

Val Maria area, helping to coordinate anti-scorch measures to protect hydroelectric plants in the region.

HECATE

Belgium, (?) mid-1944, W/T mission to Huguette group, based in Brussels.

HECTOR

Belgium, Hector 2 captured. Otherwise little detail available in the file.

HELENUS

Belgium, August 1944, field name Jeannine, Brussels, sabotage instructor for Nola.

HERRING

Italy, April 1945, small parties of agents of Italian origin dropped to harass and disorganise enemy transport routes.

HERRINGTON

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission, northern Lombardy, to the partisans of Bergamasco.

HILLCAT

Belgium, August 1943, sent with Tybalt, W/T mission to Hector group.

HIRELING

Belgium, September 1941, arrested shortly after landing, escape, investigation by MI5.

HISTORIAN

Austria, 24 April 1945, attack against communication lines in Klagenfurt.

HOLLOWSHOES

Spain, 1942-45, building up of a network by Emilio Varas Canal. The group took its name from the latter's girlfriend who proved her ability to create hollow heeled footwear.

HOMESTEAD

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission, northern Lombardy.

HORATIO

Belgium, January 1944, field name Glove, Brussels, W/T mission for Hector II and Nelly, arrested May 1944.

HORTENSIUS

Belgium, January 1944, field name Valentine, sabotage of waterways, Wanneberg and Brussels region, arrested in April 1944.

HOUSEKEEPER

France, 1943, sabotage of canal lock at Lesdains.

IACHIMO

Belgium, 1944, field name Noemie, to contact resistance groups of MNB. No clue in files as to success.

IAGO

Belgium, January 1944, field name Scipio, provision of counter scorch organisation in Antwerp; investigation of security of Hector organisation under recent arrests.

IMOGEN

Belgium, July/August 1944, field name Alice, courier for Odette, successful mission.

INCISOR

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission to the Val d'Aosta area.

INCOMPARABLE

Belgium, March 1942, PID propaganda mission, to contact and obtain influence in sabotage organisation; no clue in these files as to its fate.

INDELIBLE

Italy, 1945, military and political liaison mission to partisans in the COTULLA Savona province

INDEPENDENCE

Belgium, April 1941, via Gibraltar; to contact any existing organisations and assess progress, advise on needs. No clue as to outcome.

INSULIN

Italy, March 1945, political and military liaison mission, Piacentina area.

INTERSECTION

Belgium, January 1942, captured shortly afterwards, investigation on use by Germans and possible arrest

of other agents.

IZARRA

Italy, proposed exfiltration of General Gustavo Pesenti.

JERBOA

Belgium, April 1943, Ghent, Sûreté mission, to limit industrial production, some sabotage of waterways.

JUNIUS

Belgium, May/June 1944, field name Parasol, W/T mission, possibly arrested.

KOALA

Belgium, June 1942, to stimulate a go-slow action to Beeringen coal mines to reduce output, also to prepare sabotage on railways and Albert canal.

KUYPER

Holland, October 1944, Lieutenant Dubois of Dutch army sent to organise reception committee and locate evading service personnel. Captured.

LABRADOR

Belgium, January 1943, 2ieme mission, to organise reception committees; later doubts as to security.

LACQUER

Belgium, September 1941, sent to liaise with Conjugal organisation.

LAMB

Belgium, April/May 1942, W/T mission, to the secret army.

LAVINIA

Belgium, March/April 1944, field name Victorine, organisation mission, sabotage against river traffic and locks.

LEAR

Belgium, August 1943, to assist Stanley mission in cooperation with the secret army.

LEMUR

Belgium, November 1942, British officer sent to try to resolve current impasse, to organise reception committees, Ghent region.

LEPIDUS

Belgium, May 1944, field name Waltz, W/T mission with Huguette, eventually captured.

LEYTON

Italy, July 1944, to block enemy transport and communications on the coast road, Fano to Pesaro.

LIGARIUS

Belgium, June 1944, field name Margot, liaison with Delphine, sabotage training; arrested July 1944.

LODOVICO

Belgium, May 1944, Namur region, field name Rosalie, sabotage instruction mission.

LUCULLUS

Belgium, January 1944, field name Gauntlet, Nivelles, W/T mission.

LUCULLUSS

Belgium, March 1944, field name Jeanette, shot down.

LYNX

Belgium, June 1942, Neufchatel area, W/T mission.

M 11

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission, Asti and Piedmont (existed under different leadership before this date).

M 12/TIBER

Italy, 1945, political and military liaison mission; a sparse file suggests activity in Liguria and Genoa.

M 6 Italy 1944-45, political and military liaison mission in Biella area.

MACDUFF

Belgium, May 1943, with Ibex and Seal, to find reception committees for Civer, to act as an adjunct to mission Stanley.

MAJORDOMO

Belgium, January 1942, with Mandamus, reports on arrests, including Laquer agents.

MALLABY/NECK

Italy, 1943 with a second mission 1945, the first W/T mission dropped by parachute to Lake Como, but was captured on landing. The agent, Richard Mallaby, also known as Olaf and Richard Tucker, provided a W/T link during the final surrender of the Axis forces in Italy after being captured during his second mission.

MAN FRIDAY

Belgium, January 1942, contact existing secret organisations, collect political and propaganda information.

MANDAMUS

Belgium, January 1942, to organise sabotage, passive resistance, arms dumps, possibly crashed after take-off.

MANDRILL

Belgium, 1943, PID mission to contact Cordier mission for the demoralisation of German support, reception of propaganda, Liège, Brussels, Ghent.

MANELAUS

Belgium, October 1943, liaison mission to chief of zone 1, field name Berthe.

MARCIUS

Belgium, February/March 1943, field name Necklace, W/T support to chief Osric; presumed arrested.

MARDIAN

Belgium, July 1944, field name Mathilde, to work with Celeste.

MARKET

Holland, September 1944, liaison missions for Arnhem operations, EDWARD, provision of W/T contacts with England during airborne operation CLAUDE, Market Garden. The four Jedburgh teams were Edward, Claude, CLARENCE and Clarence and Daniel.

DANIEL / MARMOSET

Belgium, January 1942, sabotage organisation for Periwig.

MARMOT

Belgium, September 1942, support to existing sabotage movement in Mons, Scheldt region.

MASTIFF

Belgium, March 1942, W/T mission with Incomparable; no reports received.

MENAS

Belgium, August 1944, field name Eugénie, to contact Samoyède II and Stentor organisation.

MENCRATES

Belgium, April/May 1944, field name Hortense, sabotage mission to Nelly.

MENENIUS

Belgium, August 1944, field name Simone, organisation of reception committees; arrives too late to fulfil mission.

MESSALA

Belgium, June 1944, to regain direction in field of railway dislocation, replace Nelly and organise sabotage structure, field name Huguette.

MINK

Belgium, 1942, chief steward in Belgian merchant navy, escaping to form sabotage organisation in Anvers region and await W/T.

MONGOOSE

Belgium, June 1942, to contact secret armies, arrange reception committees; established but no reports received.

MONTANO

Belgium, March 1944, reports on group G activities, investigation of Yapok, Fabius and Hector II missions, creation of PWE structure and sabotage central Brussels.

MOSELLE

Italy 1943-45, wireless operation, agent captured in Sardinia and AVOCAT possibly played back against SOE.

MOUSE

Belgium, March 1942, drops unoccupied France, arrested shortly after landing.

MULE

Belgium, April/May 1942, Free French recruit, to organise transport and sabotage in Antwerp.

MUSJID

Belgium, September/October 1941, contact organisations in east and west Flanders, creation of reception and sabotage organisations, organiser Aboretum, to be dispatched.

NEWSAGENT

Belgium, May 1943, with W/T operator Vampire, to organise reception committees and sabotage groups in Antwerp and Limburg.

NICANOR

Belgium, January /February 1943, field name Therese, support to chief Belgian organisers.

OPINION Belgium (?) 1941, mission to cultivate contacts in ecclesiastical circles, including the king's entourage.

OTHELLO

Belgium, June 1943, mission to organise agricultural resistance, develop clandestine press and the encouragement of the sale of produce direct to the population, thus undermining occupation controls.

OUTCAST

Belgium, September/October 1941, to work also into Luxembourg to contact existing groups or set up new ones, plan sabotage of power stations, industrial targets.

OUTHHAUL

Belgium, set for June 1941, did not take place, little information as to purpose in available file.

PANDARUS Belgium, March 1944, field name Cufflinks; to supply 90,000 dollars to secret army and aid building up to wireless network.

PANICLE

Portugal, 1941, planning for delay of any enemy advance into Portugal.

PATROCLUS

Belgium, April/May 1944, with Velutus and Publius, field name Bracelet, works to Osric, Brussels, but arrested June 1944.

PATRON

Belgium, 1944, proposed exfiltration of Prince Charles of Belgium, brother of the King; no progress by August 1944.

PERIWIG

Belgium, (?) 1941, sabotage mission, captured by Gestapo (few details in the file).

PERIWIG

Spain, 1944-45, a plan for the planting of evidence on captured Germans (who would presumably be allowed to escape) which would lead to the belief that the real German underground resistance movement was being organised from Britain. There is no evidence in the file to suggest that it went ahead.

PHILOTUS

Belgium, August 1943, establishment of organisation for reception and distribution of propoganda, attacks against pro-Fascists, and obstruction of work of collaborators.

PHRYNIA

Belgium, August 1944, field name Liliane, to Osric, communications, information and reconnaissance for the chief of the area.

PILCHARD

France, sabotage of Matisse works, Versailles, and BREWER Radio Paris at Allouis.

PLATYPUS

Belgium, August 1942, with Man Friday, mission with Belgian Surété and PWE to influence Belgian industry towards go-slow tactics, collection of economic data; status of mission questioned by 'C'.

POINTER

Belgium, July 1943, with Claudius, later W/T to Claudius, contact with escape organisations; but questions over contact with German agents.

POLONIUS

Belgium, January 1944, field name Belt, to Tybalt, north of Nivelles.

POMPEY

Spanish section plan for deception to suggest that the Allies intended to attack southern France or Greek islands.

POOL I and II

Italy, May 1944. Pool I was a landing on Elba near Capo San Andrea, with Pool II being the exfiltration of agents from the same place.

POTATO

Italy, sabotage of the railway line from Siena to Empoli and subsidiary roads, June to July 1944.

PRIAM

Belgium, May/June 1944, field name Hubertine, sabotage instruction mission.

PUBLIUS

Belgium, April/May 1944, field name Muff, W/T mission to Colette

PYX

Austria, 13 June 1945, Klagenfurt to Vienna; for creation of safe houses, contact with the resistance locally, sabotage organisation; delay imposed by partisans and capture of information; eventually return of the party to Bari.

RANKIN

Codeword for planning of operation in the event of German withdrawal from occupied countries.

RAT/GOAT

Belgium, April 1943, organisation of courier line for escapees and mail.

REGAN

Belgium, February 1944, field name Lining, W/T mission to Scipio.

RELATOR

Spain, 1941-43, name given to the training of a party of area commanders to be used in Spain; also appear to be known as Ali Baba and the 20 thieves. Their purpose was to delay the enemy in any advance into Spain.

REPROACH

Spain, 1941-43, general name for attempts to build up support among Spanish 'traditionalists' in the event of an invasion of Spain, in the Navarre area.

REYNALDO

Belgium, August 1944, field name Gabrielle, to contact chief of the secret army.

RHOMBOLD

Belgium, October 1941, Chevron area, W/T and sabotage.

RICCO

Italy, 1944-45, political and military mission to partisans; road party in the La Spezia area.

RODERIGO

Belgium, May 1944, field name Paulette, sabotage instruction to Nelly organisation, Lessines region.

ROSENCRANTZ

Belgium, September 1944, W/T mission, overtaken by Allied advance.

RUDDER

Italy, codename for telegrams received from Rome through a code specially infiltrated immediately after the armistice.

RUINA

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission to partisans, west Veneto. The file contains a detailed sabotage diary.

RUMMY

Holland mid-1944, to contact underground movements and report on security aspects after recent German successes against the circuits.

SABLE

Belgium, April/May 1942, east of Blois, to establish sabotage group near Antwerp, part of mission known as 'the Toughs', to disorganise transport, railways, communications.

SAINFOIN

France, September 1944, Pantarlier region, working behind enemy lines in advance of Allies.

SAKI

Italy, 1944-45, political and military liaison mission Liguria region.

SAMOYEDE

Belgium, May 1943, PID mission, for pre- and post- liberation work, jamming of German wireless installations, aim of helping Allies from D-Day in use of press, cinema and radio.

SAVANNA

and France, 1941, sabotage of Vannes aerodrome, and transformer JOSEPHINE B substation at Pessac.
SCULLION

France, 18 April 1943, independent French mission to sabotage Les Telots shale oil refinery.

SEAFRONT

Austria, 12 October 1945, establishment of safe route to Salzburg and encouragement of resistance in Salzburg; dropped to Germany by mistake.

SEMPRONIUS

Belgium, February/March 1944, field name Ernestine, assistance to chief of sabotage, organisation of reception of material, using business cover; no reports received from mission in surviving file.

SILKMERCHANT

Belgium, May 1941, organisation of passive resistance through liberal and social parties, eventually leading to sabotage.

SLING

France, 1944, attack on Paris electricity supplies by systematic destruction of pylons on three main lines; successful.

SOCRATES

Belgium, 1943-44, to organise financial aid to resistance organisations.

SOPHIE

France, June 1943, dispatch of assistant to de Gaulle's commissaire for France.

TEMPLE

Austria, 13 August 1945, establishment of contacts in frontier area; fate unknown.

TERRIER

Belgium, March 1942, Rochefort area, W/T mission suspicions of possible use of W/T sets by the enemy.

TIDDLEYWINKS

Holland, August 1944, to re-establish propaganda links, send messages to the underground press on behalf of the Queen; agent injured on landing.

TURDUS

Italy, 1944, Lunese area, political and military liaison mission to partisans.

TYBALT

Belgium, 1942-44, organisational mission to contact resistance CLAUDIUS groups, secret armies and FIL, the largest sub group in Belgium, and bring these within SOE coordination.

UNION

France, January 1944, to investigate Maquis strength, Savone region.

VARRO

Belgium, 1944, field name Delphine, mission to investigate arrests in Tybalt organisation.

VERGILLIA

Belgium, February 1944, field name Nelly, chief sabotage organisation working to chief of staff, SOE and Belgian Sûreté, with the aim of dislocating rail and road transportation on D-Day.

VIVACIOUS

Germany, 1944-45, agent (2nd Lieutenant Baker Byrne) sent to sabotage the Bruno Hintze precision engineering works in Berlin, active in the production of V2 rocket components. Not successful, but agent managed to return to Britain.

WARDEN

Spain, 1941, plan for the sabotage of eight enemy ships in Las Palmas harbour; no evidence that this was carried out.

YAPOK

Belgium, February 1944, with Montano and Volumnia missions, field name Shoelace; arrested and escaped.

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Abbreviations and Code Names

The following list provides details on the abbreviations and code names which occur frequently in the SOE records. It does not contain all the abbreviations and code names found in the files, but is included here for general guidance on some of the most common instances.

AD/B

Head of mission, Gibraltar; this abbreviation also appears to have been used for the SOE director of intelligence and security in London.

AD/E

SOE head of operations, north-west Europe (also known as London section). Headed by EE Mockler Ferryman from March 1943.

AL

SOE Airforce liaison section.

Barking

Albania.

BCRA

Bureau Central de Renseignements et d'Action (Free French Centre for Intelligence and Action).

BLO

British Liaison Officer.

BOA

Bureau d'Opérations Aériennes (France).

BRAL

Bureau de Renseignements et d'Action Londres (Free French, London office for Research and Action).

CD

Head of SOE; from August 1940, Sir Frank Nelson; from May 1942, Sir Charles Hambro; from September 1943, General Sir Colin Gubbins.

CDL

Comité Départemental de la Libération (French).

CEO

Chief Executive Office; Gladwyn Jebb to May 1942.

CFL

Corps Frances de la Libération (French).

CFLN

Comité Français de la Libération Nationale (French Committee of National Liberation).

CLN

Comitato di Liberazione.

CLNAI
Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale dell' Alta Italia.

CNR
Conseil National de la Résistance (France, National Council of Resistance).

COMAC
Comité d'Action Militaire (Military Action Committee of CNR).

DF Escape
section of SOE, working in north-west Europe.

DGSS
Direction Générale des Services Spéciaux (Gaullist Special Services Executive).

DMOS
Délégué Militaire Operations Sud.

D/R SOE
eputy head of operations, north-west Europe.

EMFFI
État Major des Forces Français de l'Intérieur (General Staff, French Forces of the Interior).

EU/P
Liaison section, Polish forces in France.

F
Independent country section for France.

FCNL
French Committee of National Liberation.

FFI
Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur (unified French forces, under General Koenig).

FIL
Front de L'indépendance et la Liberation, Belgium.

FTP
Francs-Tireurs et Partisans (French Communist resistance; literally sharp-shooters and partisans).

Group G
Belgium, small specialized sabotage group, an SOE creation, through Tybalt/Claudius mission.

GB 2502
Head of Tangier mission, Barbara Salt.

H
Iberian section; also denotes head of section.

ISRB
Inter Services Research Bureau.

ISSU
Inter Service Signals Unit.

Ilford
Austria.

M
Head of SOE operations section.

Massingham
SOE base near Algiers.

MEW
Ministry of Economic Warfare.

MGB
Motor Gun Boat.

MLN

Mouvement de Libération Nationale (Federation of the Earl of Murray with Northern resistance groups, France).

MNB

Mouvement National Belge.

MTB

Motorised torpedo boat.

MUR

Mouvements Unis de la Résistance (consolidation of Combat, Libération, and Franc-Tireurs).

N

SOEcountry section for the Netherlands.

OD

Orde Dienst (Holland).

ORA

Organization de Résistance de l'Armée (Army resistance organisation, disbanded by Germans, 1942, France).

Osric

Code name given to Brigade Blanches or Troupes Secrètes, General Gerard, Belgium.

OVRA

Organizzazione di vigilanza e repressione dell'antifascismo (Italy, organization for repressing anti-fascists).

OSS

Office of Strategic Services.

PCF

Parti communiste française (French Communist Party).

PCI

Partiti comunista italiano (Italian Communist Party).

PICKAXES

name given to Russian agents, to be infiltrated by SOE.

PWE

Political Warfare Executive.

RF

Free French/Gaullist Section of SOE.

SAP

Section d'atterrissage et de parachutage (Section for landings, parachuting, southern France).

SO

Minister of Economic Warfare, head of SOE; initially Hugh Dalton, he was succeeded by Lord Selborne in February 1942.

SOE/SO

Joint SOE/OSS group, working into north-western Europe.

SPOC

Special Project Operations Centre (Algiers).

SPU

Special Planning Units, Belgium.

STO

Service du Travail Obligatoire (France).

STS

Special Training Schools.

Surbiton

Yugoslavia.

T

Section of SOE working into Belgium and Luxemburg.

V/CD

Deputy to CD; H N Spurborg from September 1943.

V1 and V2

German weapons; V1 was a pilotless rocket aircraft and the V2 was a larger rocket missile, V standing for Vergeltungswaffe, or reprisal weapon.

X

Section of SOE concerned with work into Germany and Austria.

13 Land

Belgium.

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